

SYD1850

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/574, 02/01/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Friday an inquest was held before J.S. PARKER, Esq., coroner, on the body of Mr. **JAMES MAW [MAN]**, the well-known master of the *Cygnets* schooner, trading between Sydney and the Paterson River. It appeared from the evidence that Mr. Man was attending the Raymond Terrace races on Wednesday last, having ridden over from Lemon Grove, Paterson River, with Mr. **THOMAS SWAN**. Mr. Swan had a mare which he entered for the first race, and rode her himself; in the course of the race she stumbled and threw Mr. Swan over her head, and he was picked up insensible, but fortunately recovered. Towards evening Mr. Man made a match between the mare and another horse, to come off on the following morning, and although he knew she was a buck-jumper, he afterwards cantered her round the course, accompanied by Mr. **WILLIAM FEARLEY**, of Singleton. Observing that the mare looked skittish, Mr. Fearley called to Mr. Man to keep behind his horse, but the mare apparently got the better of Mr. Man, darted past Mr. Fearley's horse, and almost immediately after buck-jumped with great violence, throwing Mr. Man over her head; he fell on his head and rolled over twice, and on Mr. Fearley dismounting he found Mr. Man insensible, and bleeding from the nose and mouth. After supporting Mr. Man a short time, and finding he did not recover, Mr. Fearley rode into Raymond Terrace for assistance, when Dr. **CADELL** and others hastened to the spot, but found Mr. Man dead. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> December, two men named **JAMES ROSIN** and **BARTLEY DORAN** were proceeding from Maitland towards Messrs. Gorrick and Fleming's establishment, at Rutherford, in charge of two loaded drays. Rosin's wife accompanied him some distance, and then left and returned into Maitland. The two drays stopped some time at Chapman's and then proceeded onwards, Doran's dray being first, and Rosin, who was in liquor, being seated on the top of his own dray, which was loaded with about 25 cwts; Doran kept on his way, without looking behind him, till he found Rosin's team come up close behind him, when he looked round, but could not see Rosin; he was afraid to go far from the drays, but remained calling him for some time, when he took the drays on, supposing that Rosin had returned after his wife. Meanwhile some persons appear to have found Rosin injured, for Dr. **M'CARTNEY** was sent for, and on proceeding to the spot, found Rosin lying in Mr. Gorrick's paddock on his back, quite helpless, and complaining of great pain; he told Dr. M'Cartney that he had fallen off the dray, and felt the wheel go over him. Rosin was conveyed to the hospital, and closely examined, but no external marks of injury could be seen, although he complained of great pain on the slightest touch or movement of his body. Dr. M'Cartney treated him for concussion of the spine, but in spite of every attention Rosin gradually sunk, and died yesterday morning; Dr. M'Cartney was unable to state the cause of death without making an examination. Mrs. Rosin stated that she could find no marks of injury whatever on the body. The jury returned a verdict that Rosin was accidentally killed by falling off his dray when in a state of intoxication.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/574, 02/01/1850

DEATH FROM OLD AGE. - On Friday another inquest was held before the coroner, J.S. PARKER, Esq., at Raymond Terrace, on the body of **ROBERT PHAUP [PHAMP]**, an old gentleman aged about eighty years. It appeared that for the last twelve months Mr. Phaup had lodged at Mr. **HALL'S**, the Junction Inn, Raymond

Terrace, and had been usually cheerful and hearty, although feeble, saying that he had been forty years in the colony, and was eighty years old; On Thursday evening he eat a very hearty supper, and went to bed apparently in good health, but the next morning at seven o'clock he was found lying dead in bed; no noise had been heard during the night from his room, and he was lying in a quiet position, the clothes being quite undisturbed. Dr. **CADELL**, who had been called in on the first alarm being given, having looked at the body, certified that there were no marks of violence, and that in his opinion Mr. Phaup had died from natural causes. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the house of Mr. **HOOPER**, overseer on the Pickering Estate, near Merton, before **J.B. WEST**, Esq., coroner, touching the death of **JOSEPH HOOPER**, an intelligent little boy, about six years of age. It appeared from the evidence, that on Monday last Mr. Hooper, father of the deceased, was about to proceed to the river with a low heavy bullock cart or truck to fetch up some water, when his son who was standing by wished to have a ride, but his mother would not allow him to do so, and his father sent him back. The child commenced crying when his father drove off without him and Mr. Hooper had not proceeded above [??] hundred yards from the house when the boy, who was a very affectionate child, came running and crying after his father, unseen by his mother, and his father took him up and put him on the cart, and took him on it to the river, as he had done on several previous occasions. As they were returning home with a cask full of water that held 350 gallons, one of the wheels [surged?] from a low stump, and the child fell off the cart, and before his father could stop the bullocks, one of the wheels passed over his body; the poor child gave a slight scream and died instantaneously. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by accidentally falling off a water cart, and the wheel of it passing over his body. 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1849.

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.**

*(From the People's Advocate, Dec. 29)*

Thursday, December 27.

**FRANCIS POYNER** was indicted for the wilful murder of **DAVID FOLEY**, at Pittwater, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November last, by shooting him with a fowling piece, of which he instantly died. Verdict, not guilty. The trial took the whole of the day, and the evidence was entirely circumstantial. The prisoner was indicted for the crime in conjunction with one **THOMAS COLLINS**. The learned counsel for the prisoners, Messrs. **FOSTER** and **HOLROYD**, moved that the prisoners be tried separately, which was agreed to by the court. On the verdict of the jury being given, the Solicitor General informed the court that the Attorney General declined at present prosecuting Collins, and consented to his being admitted to bail on his own recognizance. The prisoner was ordered to be brought up on Friday.

**WILLIAM HUDSON** was indicted for the wilful murder of one **JOHN DONNELL**, at Vermont, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November last, by striking him with a blunt instrument on both sides of his head. The jury acquitted the prisoner of the murder, and found him guilty of assault; sentenced to be imprisoned in Darlinghurst Gaol with hard labour for six months.

**THOMAS COLLINS**, in charge for the murder of **DAVID FOLEY**, at Pittwater, was discharged on his own recognizance of £40, to appear when called on to answer the charge. The prisoner was in custody of the Sheriff on a warrant of having absconded from his bail, on a charge of robbing the late Mr. Foley. The prisoner was therefore retained in custody to be tried for that offence at the next Quarter Sessions.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/575, 05/01/1850

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Saturday

**THOMAS COLLINS** pleaded guilty to stealing various articles, the property of the late **DAVID FOLEY**, at Pittwater. Remanded for sentence.

**NICKY NICKY**, another aboriginal, was indicted for assaulting one **BULGOI**, an aboriginal, at the Coldstream River, on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1848, and for murdering him with a tomahawk. The evidence of a boy named **IRVING** fully established the fact that Nicky Nicky struck Bulgoi on the back of the head with a tomahawk, but left some doubt whether Bulgoi was alive when the blow was struck. Guilty; three years imprisonment.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday an Inquest was held at the Salutation Inn, before **ROBERT WAUGH**, coroner for the district, and a respectable jury, on view of the body of **AMBROSE O'BRIEN**, who was found dead and covered in bruises on the previous evening in Mr. **STEWART'S** garden. The enquiry excited considerable sensation, it having been ascertained that certain suspicious circumstances connected with the death of the deceased had induced the Chief Constable to proceed to the residence of two men in whose company the deceased had left Goulburn, and apprehend them for wilful murder. The prisoners were escorted into town on the same evening, and were yesterday brought up in custody before the coroner and jury. The jury having been sworn, the chief constable said he had received information on the previous afternoon that the corpse of a man had been brought into town, and on proceeding to the rear of the Salutation Inn, saw the body of the deceased (touching whose death the present enquiry was being held), carried into a shed at the back of the premises; the body presented many appearances of ill usage, and on enquiry, he (the chief constable) had heard that the deceased had left town in company with two men of the name of **ERBY**; he proceeded out to their residence, at Darby Murray's Flats; and on enquiring of them when they had last seen the deceased, they said they had not seen him since he left Woodward's Hotel on the afternoon of that day; a pair of trousers, which one of the Erby's had worn, was produced to him; they were stained with blood in several places; the prisoners had made a different statement afterwards; and having ascertained that they had been seen in company with the deceased, after he left Mr. Woodward's, he considered it his duty to apprehend them and retain them in custody to await the issue of the present enquiry. After some further evidence had been taken, the jury consulted together, and returned a verdict that the deceased had died from certain injuries received, but there was no evidence to show the manner in which they had been received. The coroner, in discharging the prisoners, said that the jury wished it to be understood that they did not consider there was any evidence offered that day which could in the remotest manner fix the crime of murder on the prisoners. *Goulburn Herald, Dec. 29.*

**INQUEST.** - On Thursday an inquest was held before J.S. **PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the Cottage of Content, East Maitland, on the body of **JOHN WARROW**. It appeared that Warrow, who was a man of colour, and called himself an American Black, got his living by selling brooms and charcoal, and had for some months lived in a Bark hut at the Four-Mile Creek; Warrow was much addicted to drink, and would spend on it nearly all his money, frequently taking home bottles of rum. He had been afflicted with a cough occasionally, and two or three weeks ago complained to two brickmakers, his nearest neighbours, that he felt great pain in his stomach; from this

time he never left his hut, and evidently got weaker, the two brickmakers kindly supplying him with food, but refusing to bring him any spirits; at different times they urged him to see Dr. **BROWN**, or go to the hospital, but Warrow refused, saying he did not like doctors or hospitals; on Tuesday evening one of the brickmakers visited his hut, and found Warrow weak, lying on the bare floor, with scarcely any clothing, and his fire out; he lit the fire, and promised to bring some broth in the morning, there being then tea and bread in the hut, but neither of which Warrow seemed to like. Next morning, however, Warrow was found to be lying dead, in the same position as when the brickmakers left him. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God, and that death was accelerated by intemperance.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

On the motion of Mr. **HOLROYD, THOMAS COLLINS**, who had pleaded guilty to an indictment for larceny, was allowed to withdraw the plea, and to plead not guilty.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/576, 09/01/1850

During the passage of the *Emma* from this to Hobart Town, one of the steerage passengers named **CHARLES BISSENT** jumped overboard in a fit of *delirium tremens*; a seaman named **THOMAS LANSDOWNE**, upon the alarm being given, immediately plunged after him, and in a praiseworthy manner, kept him afloat until assistance was rendered, which was done in a few minutes, as it was luckily a calm at that time. When taken on board, every means was taken towards resuscitation, but without effect, as he must have been dead when taken on board.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held at the District Hospital, Parramatta, on Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, on view of the body of **WILLIAM MILLER**, a married man, without family, who met his death at **HALKETT's** quarry, at the Field of Mars. **JAMES POWER** being sworn, deposed: I am a labourer, in the employ of the Surveyor of the Parramatta Roads Trust; I was engaged in excavating some road metal at the quarry, in the Field of Mars; the deceased, **WILLIAM FLINN, PHILIP M'DONALD, and ROBERT FEARNES**, were also at the same work; yesterday afternoon, between 4 and 5 o'clock, the deceased, Flinn and M'Donald, were working with pick-axes undermining the bank, when the top, which had been undermined, came suddenly down and caused the death of William Miller, who was working between Flinn and M'Donald; deceased died instantly; his head was crushed to pieces; Fearnese was on the top looking out to see if the ground was likely to give way; I was beside M'Donald and saw the earth give way; I called out to them to make their escape, which Flinn and M'Donald did, but the deceased got confused and ran the wrong way; Fearnese came down with the stuff, a fall of sixteen feet, which injured his ankle; there was thirty or forty tons of stuff; we expected it to come down, but not so soon; M'Donald received injuries in the leg and back; two other men were present and confirmed the above statements. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. - *Herald, Jan. 5.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/577, 12/01/1850

SINGLETON

SKELETON FOUND. - There is to be an inquest, at twelve o'clock, on some human bones, which were found the other day in the bush, at about two miles from Munimba lockup. The skeleton is, we have heard, perfect except the feet, which are supposed to have been carried away by the native dogs, with the boots on them. Although the bones are perfectly white, yet the wristbands and collar of a shirt were found

buttoned; it is consequently supposed to be the remains of some white man. January 10, 1850.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - At nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, Mr. **CHARLES DICKINSON**, publican, of the South Head Road, fell down and expired suddenly as he was going up stairs. During the same evening a woman named **WILLIAMS**, residing in Globe-street, was found dead in her bed by some of her neighbours. The latter, however, had for a considerable time been in a delicate state of health, and had been heard to complain of pain and illness. - *Herald, Jan. 10.*

**BODY FOUND.** - About six o'clock yesterday evening two little boys playing near the bridge, Rushcutter's Bay, dug out of the sand the body of an infant having the appearance of being strangled. It seemed to be about a week old. An Inquest will be held on the body today. - *Herald, Jan. 10.*

#### **BIRTH**

At West Maitland, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the lady of **R. PRINGLE**, Esq., of a daughter, still born.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/578, 16/01/1850

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - We are sorry to have to record the accidental drowning, yesterday afternoon, of Master **JOHN [C] WILKINSON**, the eldest son of the Rev. **S. WILKINSON**, Wesleyan Minister, of this town. The afternoon being very warm, the poor boy had gone to the river to bathe, nearly at the back of Mr. **BUSSELL's**, at a place much used by lads for bathing. Master Wilkinson it appears could not swim, and one or two of his companions observing that he was venturing out too far, called to him to come back, but he went on, saying that he could go farther out; in another moment he stepped on to the edge of a bank which exists at that point under water, and instantly slipped down out of sight. The other lads screamed out, and a little girl who saw the accident ran towards the street, and meeting with **CHARLES SMITH**, she called out to him that a little boy was drowned; young Smith instantly ran down, and the fatal spot being pointed out to him, he made for it, and dived two or three times, and finally found the unfortunate boy standing against the bank, as if he had been trying to make his way up it, the water being then about three feet over his head. The body was immediately brought to the surface and on shore by young Smith, and was carried to Mr. Wilkinson's house. Three medical men were quickly in attendance, and tried every means to restore the poor lad, but without avail, life being gone. The poor boy was well known, and much liked for his winning intelligent manner. He was, we believe, about ten or eleven years old.

**SUPPOSED INFANTICIDE.** - In our yesterday's issue we mentioned that the body of a male infant had been found alongside the South Head Road, in the vicinity of the toll-bar, by two boys who happened to be playing there. In the afternoon an inquest was held upon the body at White Conduit House, Rushcutter's Bay, at which Dr. **TIERNEY**, who had in the meantime made a *post mortem* examination, expressed his opinion that death had been occasioned by hemorrhage, in consequence of the umbilical cord not having been secured in the ordinary manner. The child, he stated, was strong and healthy, and had evidently been born alive. Upon the scalp there was a slight cut, but the brain beneath it showed no such appearance of compression as to lead to the supposition that this wound would have been fatal. There was likewise an injury to one of the eyes, but this the doctor was of opinion might have occurred after death. The body was wrapped in a piece of canvas, apparently the upper part of a bag, which had been cut or torn in a zig zag direction. The whole was tied tightly with a piece of twine, and compressed into the smallest possible spacer for the purpose of

concealment, and had in fact been apparently lying there undiscovered for a couple of days, as it was partially decomposed. The jury, under these circumstances, returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown. - *Herald, Jan. 11.*

#### BIRTHS

At Newcastle-street, East Maitland, on the 8<sup>th</sup> Jan., Mrs. **J. BURFIELD**, of twin sons, one still born.

#### BUSH FIRES.

... Two persons are missing, and it is greatly feared that they have perished amidst the burning scrub. These are an aged man named **JOSEPH CURRAN**, and a person known by the name of "**JOHN THE FRENCHMAN.**" The latter had also a horse with him. ... In addition to the disasters we noted yesterday, a man named **KELLY** had some horses burned, and we heard two of his children also.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/579, 19/01/1850

INQUEST. - On Tuesday evening an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER** on the body of **JOHN WILKINSON**, the poor boy whose death we reported in the *Mercury* OF Wednesday. The evidence given was nearly to the same effect as we published. A verdict of accidentally drowned was returned.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Wednesday morning a man named **JOSEPH ECCLES** dropped down in High-street, and almost instantly expired. Eccles had been for some months in the employ of Mr. **WAKELY**, and had that morning left him to go up country with the team of Mr. **DUNSMORE**. Dunsmore called in at the shop of Mr. **GRAHAM**, saddler, to purchase some harness, leaving Eccles standing by the lead horse of the team; he had scarcely got into the shop, however, when Eccles, who appeared quite well up to that moment, was seen to fall forward on his face, and remain quite still; the bystanders hurried up, and lifted him, and observed a little blood issuing from his mouth; a medical man passing at the time went to the spot, and perceiving that Eccles was seized with apoplexy he bled him, but in a few moments he expired. He was not an intemperate man, and had never been observed to be an ailing man. An inquest was held on the body the same day before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., and a verdict was returned of died by the visitation of God.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/580, 23/01/1850

INQUEST. - Yesterday an inquest was held at the Rose Inn, West Maitland, before the coroner, Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **MARGERITA GARDOLL**, a native of Germany. It appeared that Mrs. Gardoll and her husband had formerly been in the service of Mr. **A. WINDEYER**, of Kinross, and had latterly resided at Maitland, where they appeared very poor. On Saturday morning last Gardoll went to Morpeth, and his wife accompanied him as far as East Maitland, carrying with her a basket or box of cakes for sale; Gardoll left his wife in East Maitland, but when he subsequently returned to West Maitland he found she was not returned, nor could he hear of her, although he went to East Maitland and elsewhere to look for her; at six in the evening Gardoll again went to East Maitland, and then met his wife, who told him that she had fallen from the heat, and had been picked up by a carter, who afterwards told her that she had not been on the ground a minute when he picked her up; that she was afterwards some time in a house in East Maitland, where the people gave her a good deal of milk to drink, until she had somewhat recovered. All that night Mrs. Gardoll appeared very poorly, complaining of pains in her stomach, but she refused to allow her husband to call in a doctor; during Sunday night she became worse, and finally became speechless. Gardoll then called in Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, and subsequently two

other medical men saw her; they treated her for congestion of the brain, but she got worse, and died about eleven o'clock on Monday night. Gardoll said his wife would have been confined in about two months, but that she was healthy and well when she left on Saturday morning. Another witness, Mrs. **DUNN**, said that Mrs. Gardoll complained on Thursday of being very sore from carrying about the basket, and complained on Friday evening of great pain in her head. Dr. M'Cartney considered the cause of death to be congestion of the brain, but could not say how it arose. A verdict was returned of died by the visitation of God.

**MELANCHOLY DEATH OF A LUNATIC FROM EXPOSURE.** - On Tuesday last an inquest was held at Mr. Tapp's Union Inn, Church-street, Parramatta, on view of the body of **MARGARET SHEDBOLT**, late of Canterbury, near Ashfield. The coroner read a letter from Mr. **WHITING**, innkeeper, of Ashfield, stating that the deceased had left her house on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, and had not been heard of since, until the present time. **GEORGE SHEDBOLT** being sworn, deposed, I am the husband of the deceased; I am a cow-keeper residing at Canterbury; I have been to the Hospital, and seen the deceased; she was my wife; the last time I saw her, was on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant; she left her house and took with her a leg of pork, to carry to Mr. **MURRAY**, a neighbour of mine; on her return she went to Mr. Whiting's, the publican; at nine o'clock that day Mr. Whiting told me that she was gone to Sydney, as he had given her an order to go to the Infirmary, she having cut her hand very badly, and required dressing – it was much swollen; she took with her a joint of pork; she was bad in her mind for the last three months; she was not addicted to drinking; I never heard of her since until yesterday, when constable **CAUFIELD** brought me a letter from the hospital here; the letter reached me last night. **JAMES VENN**, in the service of Mr. **BLACKETT**, deposed, on Sunday last, about five o'clock, I was looking for my cattle in the bush, and heard a moan; I stopped to listen, and it was repeated; I proceeded to the spot and saw a female in a sitting posture against a log beside a creek; she said she was weak and not able to follow me, and as night was coming on she would lie down; she first said she had been three weeks from home; I procured assistance to take her to the hospital; her little finger was quite black, and the ring finger much swollen; she had a wound on the bosom and blood on the mouth; she was covered with large black ants; I think she was insane; she had but part of an old gown on. Mr. **WILLIAMS**, overseer to the Parramatta District Hospital, deposed, the deceased said she was three days and three nights in the bush, and kept the native dogs, who were howling round her all night, at a distance with a bough; she said the hawks hovered about her, and picked her; she wandered in her mind, and lived but thirty-six hours after being received into the hospital. Dr. **ROBERTSON** deposed: I saw the deceased on her coming to the hospital; she was in a state of great exhaustion, quite delirious, and no pulse; I said she would die next morning; she had ulcers in different parts of her body, which might have been produced by ants, hawks, or native dogs; they were not like wounds from a human agency; she had a wound on her elbow very deep, the little finger was in a state of sloughing, and the other finger was so bad I had the ring filed off; she died from exposure, exhaustion and starvation. The deceased was about 50 years of age, and quite insane. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. - *Herald, Jan. 18.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/581, 26/01/1850

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH.** - An inquest was held by **J.B. WEST**, Esq., coroner, at his residence, Muswell Brook, on the body of **JAMES WILLIAM NOBLE**, a servant in the employ of Mr. **TATE**, of the Bull's Head, St. Heliers, near Muswell Brook. It

appeared the man had been to the river with a horse and cart, and was returning home with two casks of water; he was sitting in the front of the cart, holding the reins, and was driving the horse rather fast, when by some means or other he fell off the front of the cart, the wheel of which went over his body. He was immediately removed to the hospital, and two surgeons were soon in attendance, but the man died during the night. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. January 22, 1850.

**DETERMINED SUICIDE.** - The magisterial inquiry alluded to in my last, was held on the body of **GEORGE PLATT**, when it appeared that Mrs. **BURNS**, in whose public-house he had stopped the previous night, observing him "looking rather wild," directed the servant to watch him. While, however, the man's back was turned for an instant, Platt snatched a knife off the table, and cut his throat; the servant then grappled with him, but the deceased being by far the more powerful of the two, threw the cook nearly into the fire, and gave himself a second gash, when he immediately fell. Dr. **DORSEY**, on being called upon, tried to stop the hemorrhage and sew up the two separate wounds; but all the arteries being severely lacerated, death ensued while the operation was being performed. The deceased had been drinking in the township for some days, and at the time he committed the act which sent him so prematurely before his Maker, he was suffering from *delirium tremens*. While suffering under the fits, he imagined everyone to be accusing him of the Kangaroo Point murder, for which **FIFE** suffered. It will, perhaps, be remembered that this was one of the men who were suspected of having been in some indirect way connected with that unfortunate tragedy. - *Ipswich Correspondent of the Moreton Bay Courier*.

**HORSE RACE. - SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock, a horse race for a new saddle took place in North Brisbane. Four horses started. One of the riders, named [**PATRICK**] **CONDON**, upon starting, lost one of his stirrups, when his horse bolted, and brought him in violent contact with Mr. **HAYES'S** house (sic), where he was thrown to the ground, and received a severe wound in the scalp on the back of the head - the skull is supposed to be fractured - and he was much bruised on the side, back, and left arm; he bled profusely from the left ear. He was immediately conveyed to the hospital, and attended by Dr. **BALLOW**, who reported him, last night, to be in a very dangerous state. Six men were required to hold him, and it was found necessary to secure him with a straight waistcoat. We hear, likewise, that a black fellow received a kick in the face from one of the horses engaged in the race. - *Moreton Bay Courier, January 12*.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - Mr. **FREDERICK WILLIAM HORNCastle**, whose interesting lectures upon music must be remembered by many of our readers, was on Monday found dead on the floor of his bedroom at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany, where he was at the time residing. An inquest was held upon the body yesterday, and an opinion having been expressed by Dr. **TIERNEY** that death had been occasioned by the rupture of a blood vessel, a verdict of death from natural causes was returned. - *Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup> January*.

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - A Mr. **O'CONNOR**, Storekeeper, of Ipswich, and who has only been a short time resident in this district, met with an untimely death on Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, whilst bathing in the River Bremer. The unfortunate gentleman, it appears, whilst walking on the river's bank, in company with his sister and the Rev. Mr. **DICKEY**, expressed an inclination to take a bathe, and at once jumped into the river, with his trousers and shirt on. Being an excellent swimmer, he easily made a safe passage across, but unfortunately on his return, his clothes must have in some way impeded his progress, for he was seen to endeavour to get his shirt off, and shortly afterwards to go down, melancholy to state, to come up no more alive.

His body was recovered during the evening, and on the following day interred in the Ipswich burial ground, his remains being attended to their final resting place by nearly three hundred persons. The feelings of his sister may be more easily felt than described. - *Herald Correspondent*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/582, 31/01/1850

DEATH FROM FIRE. - A coroner's enquiry was held on Thursday last, at Colleydar, Lake George, before **ROBERT WAUGH**, Esq., on view of the body of a young child, aged three years and a half, the son of Mr. **TUMBER**, a small farmer. It appeared from the evidence adduced, that Mrs. Tumber had occasion to visit a neighbour, and as a matter of precaution put her children, four in number, outside the hut. During her absence, deceased, and another of the children managed to get in again, and amused themselves by lighting sticks at the fire. The clothes of the deceased accidentally ignited, and on his running out of the hut, they blazed up. The father of deceased was reaping in a field close by, at the time of the accident, and observing by chance the blaze near the hut, ran up to it, when to his horror he found his child lying on the ground, with its clothes burning furiously. He quickly tore off the garments, but on raising the body found that life was extinct. - Dr. **GERARD** examined the deceased, and found several severe burns about the abdomen and thorax, quite sufficient to destroy life. A verdict according to the evidence was returned. - *Goulburn Herald, Jan. 26*.

MELANCHOLY CIRCUMSTANCE. - on Tuesday last the widow of Mr. Field, bootmaker, who met his death whilst bathing in the Wollondilly river, expired shortly after giving birth to a male infant. The poor woman has never held up her head since the melancholy fate of her husband, and her delicate condition appeared to hurry on her dissolution. - *Goulburn Herald*.

INQUEST. - An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at Mr. Oatley's, Sportsman's Inn, on the body of a man named **SYDNEY BINKS [BRINKS]**, who expired yesterday morning. It appeared, that about a fortnight ago the deceased went to fetch his wife home, who had been drinking, and in doing so he dragged and ill-used her, when a crowd collected, and some persons assaulted him. In consequence of the injuries received erisypelas in the head ensued, and caused the death of the deceased. From a deposition taken by Mr. **DAY**, Superintendent of Police, two persons, named **JONATHAN WHITING** and **SUSAN BROWN**, were apprehended. Two witnesses, whose evidence was very contradictory, were examined, and the jury adjourned till Wednesday next. - *Herald, Jan. 26*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/583, 06/02/1850

INQUEST. - On Sunday an inquest was commenced before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the Northumberland Hotel, on the body of a baby, the child of **ANDREW NEWELL**. It appeared from the evidence adduced on that day and yesterday, that Newell had been ill for some time, and had been under the care of Dr. **BOWKER**, at Newcastle; Newell returned on Thursday last, still ill, and bringing with him some medicine similar to that he had been taking at Newcastle. On the same night his wife was confined. Mrs. **JANE KELLY**, who attended on Mrs. Newell, found on the evening of Friday that the child appeared poorly and troubled with the wind, and she gave it some castor oil, and caraway water; the baby got worse, and the parents, who were both ill in bed, desired Mrs. Kelly to give the baby half a teaspoonful of the sleeping draught Newell was taking, Newell observing that it made him sleep, and would therefore make the baby sleep also. Mrs. Kelly had seen Newell take one or

two tablespoonfuls of the mixture during the day, and she did not think of the possibility on injuring the child, and she gave it half a teaspoonful. The bottle contained a solution of morphine. The baby went to sleep soon after taking it, but soon after awoke slightly convulsed, and from that time till morning lay in a state of half stupor. Mrs. Kelly then took it to Dr. **LIDDELL**, but it was too late; she followed carefully the directions Dr. Liddell gave her, but the child died in the course of the morning. A *post mortem* examination by Dr. Liddell showed that the child died asphyxiated, no doubt caused by the narcotic it had taken. The inquest was adjourned till yesterday for Dr. Bowker's evidence. Dr. Bowker certified that half a teaspoonful of the mixture was sufficient to cause the death of the infant, and that from the knowledge he had acquired of Newell's character during his attendance on him he felt satisfied Newell was entirely innocent of any criminal intention in recommending Mrs. Kelly to give the baby some of the mixture. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased babe came by its death from an overdose of morphine, which was administered in ignorance of its effects to the deceased babe by its parents.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - A man named **JAMES WILLS**, residing in Market-Street, dropped dead on Saturday night, in a public-house in George-Street South. A few minutes previous to his death he appeared in perfect health. Apoplexy has been stated by a medical man to be the cause of death. Mrs. **[JEMIMA] CLARKSON**, wife of a licensed victualler at the corner of Park and Elizabeth-streets, laid down on a sofa on Sunday evening and instantly expired.

**DREADFUL DEATH.** - A few days since the body of a man named **THOMAS FARRELL**, a sawyer, was found in Molong Creek in a very mutilated state: the intestines torn from the body and devoured, as there was no vestige of them on the spot. He was much addicted to habits of intemperance, and would work hard for three or four weeks, then report to a public-house and spend his hard earnings. For several days previous to his body being found he had indulged freely in strong potations, and one evening he had rushed out of the house he was in and taken to the bush, in an apparent state of madness; the inmates had often seen him do so before, when, after a few hours' absence, he would return; they therefore did not feel surprised at first, but after a much longer absence than usual they became alarmed, and feared that something serious had happened to him. It is supposed that he had fallen down in a senseless state, and had been attacked by native dogs. *Bathurst Correspondent of Herald.*

**FEARFUL DEATH.** - About ten days ago, a young man named **ROBINSON** came to an untimely end in the following awful way. He had been drinking in company with four other men (sawyers), at Hyam's public-house, till a late hour. At about ten o'clock the landlord made them leave, which they did, all more or less intoxicated, taking a quantity of drink with them, and returned to a spot in the bush – to finish their night's carouse. They kindled a fire at the foot of a dry oak tree, the butt of which measured about ten inches in diameter. Having drank the liquor, they all fell asleep near the fire, except one man, who then left the party and went home. In the course of the night, the root of the tree burnt away, and the tree fell across Robinson, who, at daylight in the morning, was found dead under it, the butt lying over his breast, his clothes all burnt off, and his body exhibiting a shocking appearance from the effects of the fire. His companions, it would seem, were in so stupid and beastly a state as not to hear the crash of the falling tree, although they were all lying pell-mell, within a foot or two of one another, Robinson's head actually resting on the body of one of the men. *Shoalhaven Correspondent of Herald.*

**SUICIDE.** - Yesterday afternoon, the body of a man was seen by some boys fishing from the Circular Quay, floating in the water with his head upward. On being brought ashore it was found to be the body of a man who went by the name of **DARBY BYRNES**, living in Phillip-street, and who obtained his livelihood by carrying water to the neighbours round about. It appeared that the unfortunate man had a quarrel with his wife on Tuesday last, he having been drinking, and on his leaving her, he told her that she would see him no more. He was not seen again till taken out of the water, when it appeared that he had buckled a strap round his neck, to which a flatiron was attached; and had also filled his pockets with stones, to facilitate his sinking. The body was removed to the dead-house, and an inquest will be held on it this day. *Herald, Feb. 1.*

**INQUEST.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Lemon Tree, public-house, Phillip-street, on the body of **JEREMIAH BYRNES**, whose death by drowning, was mentioned in the herald of yesterday. **MARY BYRNES**, the wife of the deceased, stated that for some time past he had been in a very depressed state of mind from not being able to earn enough to keep his family; he used to carry water and cut wood, and latterly he had had very little to do, and with their three children they had not sufficient to live on; he was a very sober man, and always anxious to work, but had of late often said he would drown himself if he could not get a better living. On Tuesday last, he was very much depressed and strange in his manner, and would not try to work, which was very unusual with him; she had no quarrel with him that day, and in the evening g she went out of the house a few moments, leaving him with the children, and on her return he was gone. The flat iron, fastened round his neck, was taken from the house. Dr. **TIERNEY** having certified that there were no external marks of violence on the body, the jury returned a verdict of "found drowned;" but under what circumstances he was suffocated by drowning was unknown. *Herald, Feb. 2.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/585, 09/02/1850**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the Angel Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **MICHAEL JENNINGS**, an old man of about 78 years of age. It appeared that Jennings, who was an ailing man, was trying to get employment, and meanwhile was stopping with Mr. **BALSER**, tinman. On Monday Jennings went into the cellar to get some grass to feed a horse, and did not returned, and Mr. Balser, hearing a groan, went down, and found that the old man had fallen down, and could neither speak nor stand. He got the old man up, and sent for Dr. **LIDDELL**, who attended, but found the old man was partially paralysed, and evidently dying; and about ten o'clock that evening Jennings expired. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Sunday morning last, Mr. **JAMES DARGIN**, who resided near Windsor, ate a comfortable breakfast, and having gone down the yard, as he was returning was suddenly seized with illness. He stopped short and called to his son to come to his assistance. His son and wife quickly came, into whose arms he fell, saying he was dying. He bade farewell to his wife, and soon became insensible. In the mean time, Mr. Surgeon **WHITE** had been sent for, as also Dr. **DOWE**. The former cut the temporal artery, which enabled the deceased to rally for a few minutes only, when he expired. Mr. Surgeon White had been in attendance on him during the last two months, and expected that his death would be sudden, and the deceased was perfectly aware of it himself. It appeared that a suffusion of blood on the brain had

caused apoplexy. Mr. Dargin was much respected and deeply regretted by all who knew him. *Windsor Correspondent of Herald*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/586, 13/02/1850

LETTER, from Aborigine **JACKEY JACKY**, saying he is not dead and was not killed at Singleton.

FATAL ACCIDENTS. - On Sunday afternoon a man named **JOSEPH MAHER**, a servant of Mr. **HRAGREAVES**, of New England, and who had come down the country with a load of wood, had married to a young woman [**ALCE KENNEDY**] in Maitland. On the following day he accompanied the team to Morpeth, and he and **WILLIAM COCKING**, the driver, loaded the dray with return goods; Maher principally seeing to the loading; Cocking observed to him that the goods did not look secure, as they were short of cord to fasten them properly, but Maher said they would do till they reached Maitland, where he would pack the dray afresh. About three o'clock the dray left the steamer wharf on its journey, Maher sitting on a chest of tea in front of the load the help keep the dray balanced, and Cocking walking by his leading bullock to keep them on the crown of the road; as the dray passed through the gateway a bystander saw the wheels catch the sill, which gave the load a shake, and brought down one or two loose cases from the load; these struck the pole bullocks and hastened their pace, and in another moment the dray got a little off the crown of the road, and the tilt sent off several cases, including the chest of tea poor Maher was sitting on, and he fell himself with it; as he fell he struck the shaft of the dray, and falling just in front of the wheel, in another instant it went over his head, crushing it so dreadfully that it exposed the brain; he never spoke more, and expired in a very short time. Cocking saw nothing of the accident, the whole taking up a brief space of time, and when he stopped the team on hearing the cries, he found his mate lying apparently dead. An inquest was held on the body the same evening, before Mr. **PARKER**, the jury exonerating the driver from all blame.

Yesterday, about midday, we are informed that an industrious small settler, named **GEORGE [JOHN] FIELD**, residing on the Hillborough estate, was engaged yoking up his bullocks, one of them being very restive, when a bullock unhappily jerked his head up quite suddenly as Field was reached over across him; the yoke-iron struck poor Field on the temple, and he fell senseless, and expired in a few minutes. Field leaves a widow and small family to mourn their sudden loss.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A youth, about 15 years of age, named **KELLY**, was accidentally killed last Saturday, on the Yass road, between the Red House and Gunning. It appears that he was accompanying a man and another boy in a cart in which there were two horses belonging to Mr. **LANGHORNE**. In mounting the shaft for the purpose of getting into the cart, the lad incautiously placed his hand on the horse's rump; the animal sprang forward, throwing the boy under the wheel, which passed over his body and killed him dead on the spot. The deceased was conveyed to Gunning the next morning, and the following day an inquest was held by **MAURICE ISIDORE BLAKE**, Esq., coroner for the district, when the jury returned a verdict of accidentally killed. - *Goulburn Herald, Feb. 9.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/587, 16/02/1850

SUDDEN DEATH. - In our last we mentioned that a report had reached us that **JOHN FIELD**, an industrious settler at Hillsborough, had been killed on Tuesday by a working bullock jerking his head up, and striking Field on the temple with a yoke-iron. An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq.,

coroner, when it appeared from the evidence of **MICHAEL WOODS** that Field's little boy ran to his place on Tuesday morning and told him his mother begged he would come over directly as his father had been knocked down by the working bullocks; Woods went over immediately, and found Field lying on the ground in the stock yard, his head supported by the woman who lived with him; Field was quite speechless, and Woods lifted him, and carried him into the house and placed him on a bed, and then went to a neighbour for assistance; the woman asked Woods to get Field to speak to her, but he remarked that Field was beyond speaking. A boy named **LONG** deposed that about an hour previous he heard one say "you're a liar." The inquiry was adjourned to allow the body to be examined by a medical man. On the following day Dr. **SLOAN** performed a post mortem examination, and found a slight abrasion of skin under the left ear, but neither there nor on the temple was there any fracture of the skull; he certified that death arose from sanguinous apoplexy; he did not consider the marks on the head indicated violence from any person or persons. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

**SHOCKING DEATH.** - On Wednesday afternoon a woman of loose character, named **CHARLOTTE JORDAN**, met with a fearful accident. She was riding in a covered dray from Morpeth, being helplessly drunk at the time, and when nearly opposite Mr. **HOWE's** her leg got entangled in the spokes of the wheel, and was immediately broken as the dray moved on, the part above the knee being fearfully crushed. She was taken on to the Maitland Hospital, and lay there till yesterday, receiving every attention from the medical men, but never recovering from the shock sufficiently to allow her leg to be amputated. Yesterday about one o'clock she expired. During her lucid moments she informed the authorities that she was in a state of pregnancy, and that she was a married woman, but had been living apart from her husband for a long time. A man named **GEORGE REYNOLDS** was in the dray with her at the time of the accident, and he was immediately apprehended. Evidence was taken before the bench in the case on Thursday, and yesterday, which we forbear publishing till the inquest has been held.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Monday, an inquest was held at Bluck's, the Family Hotel, Surry Hills, on view of the body of **THOMAS HEARD**. Deceased was seen near 9 o'clock on Saturday night, in a state of intoxication, on the rise of the hill near the Sheriff's Gardens, and inquiring the way to Baptist's Gardens. About 11 o'clock that night, a brick maker residing on the Riley Estate, heard a noise as of some one leaping from an elevation, and next morning saw deceased in Queen-street, lying dead within a yard of an embankment of some eighteen or nineteen feet above the road, from which several persons have fallen and injured themselves more or less severely; the road ends abruptly with the embankment. Dr. **TIERNEY** examined the body on Sunday, found some blood on the clothes, a large wound on the scalp, from which blood was oozing, and a deep wound of about an inch and a half in length under the chin; a fall from such a height as that described by the witnesses would produce concussion of the brain, and these wounds, with exposure to cold, were sufficient to account for death. The jury found a verdict of died from injuries accidentally received while in a state of intoxication. - *Herald, Feb. 14.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held on Monday last, at the residence of Mr. **HOWARD**, Brucevale, on the body of **JAMES MOLYNEAUX [is this MULLINCAMP?]**, a resident upon the Beverley Park estate, before the district coroner. Deceased and wife, on Friday last, had attended the funeral of a neighbour's child to Bathurst, and it was upon their return home, in company with several others, that the accident occurred which caused his death. Molyneaux and his wife were

travelling in a cart, and upon passing through a slip-panel behind Mr. **READ**'s house, on account of the proximity of the track, it is supposed that the wheel of the cart came in contact with one of the posts, thereby starting the mare and causing her to rush forward upon the side of the ridge, which is here very steep and stony, and in this manner upset the cart. Upon hearing the noise made by the fall of the cart, Mr. **HOWARD** and others, who were at a distance in advance, immediately returned and rendered prompt assistance. Mrs. Molyneaux was found to be uninjured, not having been struck by the cart in the fall, but to their amazement and horror Molyneaux was quite dead. He had bled profusely at the mouth. The Coroner was unaccompanied by a medical man. The jury inspected the body, and found that the neck was dislocated, the arm injured, and a considerable portion of one of the thighs slightly bruised, as also several bones broken. Verdict, accidental death. - *Bathurst Free Press, Feb. 9.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT AT CARCOAR.** - **PATRICK BURNS [BYRNE]**, a small settler upon Brown's Creek, near Carcoar, met with his death under the following circumstances:- On Sunday last, he had, in company with others, been to Carcoar, and partaken rather freely of liquor. He left for home between four and five o'clock in the afternoon. When about half a mile from the township, on the road rising the hill, he was cantering at a smart pace, and came in contact with a tree. The force of the concussion threw him from his horse, when he must have fallen perpendicularly against a stone, as the skull was fractured in the centre of the crown. An inquest was held over his remains, at Mr. Simpson's, Shearer's Arms, before **SAMUEL NORTH**, Esq., P.M., and a verdict of accidental death returned. - *Bathurst Free Press, Feb. 9.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/588, 20/02/1850

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - In the *Mercury* of Saturday last we mentioned the shocking accident that had occurred to a woman named **CHARLOTTE JORDAN**, and her subsequent death in the Maitland Hospital. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, at the hospital, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the close of which the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against **GEORGE REYNOLDS**, the man who was in the dray with the unfortunate woman, and Reynolds was thereupon committed by the coroner for trial at the ensuing Circuit Court. As the Circuit Court sits so soon we do not publish more than an outline of the case. It appeared from the evidence that Reynolds was in the employ of Mr. **HAMILTON**, and was with another man in charge of a dray and a team of bullocks; Reynolds had met Charlotte Jordan about Maitland, and she urged him to take her up country with her (sic). On Wednesday last Reynolds and his dray-mate, Charlotte Jordan, a man named **JOHN WILLIAMSON**, and a woman named **CATHERINE SANFORD**, went to Morpeth with the dray, which was covered with canvas; at Morpeth they had dinner and some drink, Reynolds and Jordan getting very tipsy, Jordan so much so that on their return she had to be lifted into the dray by Reynolds and Williamson. They all left Morpeth about three o'clock, Jordan riding inside the dray, Reynold's mate (a very deaf man) driving, and the other three walking; after some time Williamson and Mrs. Sanford got inside the dray. From this point the evidence of Mrs. Sanford and Williamson, as given before the coroner, varied from what they deposed before the bench, so that we do not now give either of their versions. The dray had got about two miles on the road from Morpeth when Mrs. **ROWE**, a married woman residing by the roadside, observed that it made a momentary stop as it came near her house, and then went on a yard or two; she had been alarmed by a woman's loud cry as the stoppage occurred, and as soon as the dray moved she heard such a cry that she ran round behind the dray

to look in to see what the matter was; she was then horrified to see Reynolds and Charlotte Jordan lying across the dray in an indecent condition, and Charlotte Jordan's left leg bleeding much from having got out between the wheel and the guard-iron. Mrs. Rowe called out to stop the dray, and Williamson jumping down stopped the team, and Mrs. Rowe and he got the poor woman's leg out of its dangerous position, and into the dray again. Even after this, however, a horseman riding up, and being told by Mrs. Rowe of what had occurred, looked into the dray, and saw most indecent conduct on Reynold's part. The poor woman was taken to the hospital, and her leg found to be fearfully crushed and broken above the knee, and she never recovered sufficiently to allow her leg to be amputated, but died about one o'clock on Friday.

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH.** - Yesterday an inquest was held at Rosebrook before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **BOURN RUSSELL**, a boy of seven years old. It appeared from the evidence that he was stopping with his uncle, Mr. **CAMPBELL**, and that on Monday morning young Russell and a son of Mr. Campbell, named **ALEXANDER [Campbell]**, rode together on ponies in a paddock for some time, young Russell being learning to ride; at length something startled the pony young Russell was riding, and he started off at full gallop, the other pony following him; Mrs. Campbell was alarmed at this, and sent another of her sons to endeavour to stop young Russell's pony, but young Russell was thrown off, and his foot catching in the stirrup, he was dragged for 300 yards before his boot came off and released him. When picked up he was quite insensible. Dr. **M'CARTNEY** was sent for, but on his arrival he found that the poor boy was dead, and had been so dreadfully injured about the head that he could not have lived above a minute or two after receiving the injuries. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

**SYDNEY NEWS.**

I am told that several accidents have occurred. A boat was capsized near Bradley's Head and sunk; there were six persons on board, five of whom were saved; the other, a person named **COOLEY**, was drowned. I am informed that a man named **MARTIN** and his wife, residing at Chippendale, were struck by the lightning while sitting at tea; the man was killed on the spot, and the woman so much injured that her recovery is very doubtful. It is also stated that a child was killed in the same house, ...

Three men were fishing between five and six o'clock in a boat off the Market Wharf; the boat capsized during the squall, and one of the men, named **JOSEPH HARPUR**, was drowned; the body is not yet found.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Saturday, an inquest was held at Driver's, the Three Tuns, King-street, on view of the body of **JAMES KINSLOWE**, then lying dead in the Infirmary. Deceased was received into the infirmary on the 31<sup>st</sup> December last, suffering from a compound fracture of the arm, received, according to his own account, while hooking bags to a chain at Barker's Mills; he said the bag slipped, and he was twice caught up and raised to the hoisting place; he lingered until Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, when he expired. **DONALD M'EWEN, M.D.**, deposed that within a week after the admission of the deceased into the infirmary, he was attacked with phlegmenous erysipelas of the fractured arm; when this was subdued, it was considered necessary to remove the arm, which was done, and the case proceeded favourably until Thursday, when diarrhoea supervened, under which and extreme debility he sunk. Verdict, died from the effects of injuries accidentally received. *Herald, Feb. 18.*

**FATAL ACCIDENTS.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held at Clarke's, the Circular Quay Hotel, on view of the body of **HENRY THOMAS**, THEN THERE LYING DEAD. **THOMAS MITCHELL**, watchman at Mr. **CAMPBELL'S** store,

deposed that about 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning, he was proceeding to the far end of the Quay, where Mr. Campbell has some oil, when a man, either as soldier or a marine, called out that his mate had fallen down the precipice; witness and another watchman got a light, and on searching, found the deceased lying at the foot of the precipice, but quite dead; the marine or soldier had then gone; the body was then removed to Clarke's public-house, and a doctor sent for, who saw the body in about an hour after its having been found. The jury went to view the precipice alluded to, which is at a very dangerous place, sixteen to eighteen feet high, on the edge of which the footpath runs. The whole of the way, indeed, from the Quay to the Fort, is very dangerous, and has no fencing or other protection to parties passing that way at night. The master-at-arms of H.M.S. *Meander*, deposed, that deceased was a seaman on board that vessel. Dr. **ALLEYNE** deposed that falling from the height described would produce the marks found on the body, and concussion of the brain, which in this case was in all probability the cause of death. Verdict – Died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, Feb. 15.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/589, 23/02/1850

IMMIGRANTS. - Yesterday a lad of about thirteen years old, named **EWEN CAMERON**, an immigrant per *Blonde*, died in the depot, from consumption. He had been ailing since the time of his arrival in the colony, and some little while back went to reside with some friends, hoping change of air would benefit him, but finding that he continued sickly, he returned to the depot, to be under regular medical treatment; he still continued to get worse, and died yesterday.

DEATH FROM LIGHTNING. - On Monday morning an inquest was held at Longford's, the Australian Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **FRANCIS MARTIN**. **WILLIAM ASKEW**, residing at Cooper's-row, Chippendale, deposed that about half-past five o'clock on Sunday afternoon, during the thunderstorm, he heard a crash, and ran out of his house; heard a little girl in Martin's house scream, "My father! My father!" and seeing the door open, witness went in and saw deceased and his wife lying on the floor; raised deceased and got some water, but he was quite dead; a Mrs. **GODDARD** picked up Mrs. Martin, and she is recovering; there was a strong sulphuric smell in the house; witness had no doubt that the lightning had struck the deceased; some of the bricks had gone from the top of the chimney, and the house next door is much shattered – the end is knocked out of it. Dr. **CUTHILL**, surgeon, deposed that from the appearance of the body he had no doubt that death was caused by lightning. Died by having been struck by lightning. *Herald, Feb. 20.*

ACCIDENTS, &c. - During the thunderstorm with which the city was visited on Sunday afternoon, a man named **MARTIN**, and his wife, residing at Chippendale, were struck by the lightning, killing the man and severely injuring the woman. ... About the same time, three men were in a boat fishing off the Market Wharf, a sudden gust of wind capsized the little boat, and one of the men, named **HARPUR**, was drowned. On Sunday morning, the body of a woman named **ROSANNA BRENNAN** [might be **Rose Moreton?**], was found drowned near the Flour Company's Wharf. *Herald, Feb. 19.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/590, 27/02/1850

On the 4<sup>th</sup> September last, and in lat. 0 [degrees] 35' N, long. 166 [degrees] 14' E., the barque *Millwood*, Captain **DEANE**, picked up a boat belonging to the *George Champlin*, Captain **SWAIN**, of Newport, with Mr. **FRANCIS**, the fourth officer of that vessel, and the boat's crew. They had been several days adrift without food or

water, and a youth of sixteen, named **PATRICK IRVIN**, said to be a native of Sydney, died in twenty-four hours after being taken on board the *Millwood*.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - Mrs. **BEADMAN**, who formerly kept an inn near Berrima, dropped down dead one day last week. Her death was produced by natural causes. *Goulburn Herald, Feb.23.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on board the ship *Anglia*, on Monday last, on view of the body of **JOHN W. COLLIER**, between fourteen and fifteen years of age, and an immigrant by that vessel to Sydney. **FREDERICK SAUNDERS**, Steward of the *Anglia*, deposed, that on Saturday morning he sent to the deceased about a gill of spirits, for which he had on several occasions during the voyage importuned him, without success. **OCTAVIUS ALFRED BABBAGE**, cabin boy, deposed that he was the messenger by whom the Steward sent the spirits to the deceased, who was cleaning knives for the cuddy at the time; did not see the deceased drink the spirits; about an hour after he was walking the deck without any appearance of intoxication. **CHARLES THOMS**, cook, deposed, that about half-past nine o'clock on Saturday morning, deceased fell, and appeared as if intoxicated, and threw liquor off his stomach. **WILLIAM COLLIER**, father of the deceased, deposed, that on Saturday morning, Thoms, the last witness, told him that his son was ill, on which witness went, took him off the deck, and laid him on a chest; in a quarter of an hour afterwards witness saw him again - he was asleep; deceased did not speak; witness did not think he was tipsy, nor was he aware of his having had anything to drink; after dinner, hearing that deceased was very ill, witness again went to him, and found him apparently in a fit, when he (witness) sent for a doctor; he died on Saturday evening. **SAMUEL KENNEDY**, M.D., and Surgeon Superintendent of the ship, deposed that about twenty minutes past five on Saturday afternoon, he was called to see the deceased; from the appearance he thought deceased was labouring under epilepsy, and treated him accordingly; but upon afterwards being informed that deceased had taken a quantity of spirits, he (Dr. Kennedy) was of opinion that that had brought on a fit of apoplexy, of which he had died. Verdict, died from the effects of having taken a quantity of spirits. *Herald, Feb. 27.*

**BATHURST. - FATAL ACCIDENT.** - A coroner's inquest was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, at Mr. R. Gray's inn, Kelso, on the body of **PATRICK MURPHY**, who had died the previous night; the deceased had been in the employ of Mr. **WILLIAM CUMMINGS**, at Winburndale; on the morning of that day he had left Kelso, mounted on a young spirited horse, and leading another; when within a short distance of the residence of Mr. **FORD**, at Kelso, the horse deceased was riding reared and threw the man, who falling on his head, his skull was fractured; when down, the horse kicked him in the chest. Doctors **O'CONNELL** and **MACHATTIE** attended him, but could render no effectual aid. He lingered for several hours, and then died. *Herald Correspondent.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Saturday, an inquest was held at Mrs. **SIMES'**, the Pilot Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **JOHN WILLIS REID**, a man of about 70 years of age, who met with his death in the following circumstances;- **THOMAS STANLEY** deposed, that on Friday he and deceased went with a cart to Cook's River for a load of wood; on their way home the mare made a rush, and when deceased went forward to stop the animal, she trampled on his foot, knocked him down, and the wheel of the cart went over his body; deceased was immediately removed to Trimley's public house, where, in about ten minutes from the time of the accident, he expired. Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, Feb. 25.*

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - On the afternoon of Thursday a carrier named **EDWARDS** was proceeding along the Singleton road with his dray and team, and stopped behind for a time at the foot of Harper's Hill, allowing his son, a boy of twelve years old, to drive on the dray; when he overtook them again, however, he was shocked to find his son lying on the road, almost insensible. The poor lad stated that as they were proceeding up the hill one of the wheels got suddenly into a rut, and the jerk threw him off, when one of the wheels passed over his body. Medical assistance was sent for, and Dr. **M'CARTNEY** went out, and found the poor boy's extremities quite paralysed, and marks of injury on the face, head, and side of the chest, as if the wheel had come heavily against and grazed him, rather than gone over him. Dr. M'Cartney remained with him till the evening, and then returned to a patient at Lochinvar. Yesterday morning he again went to see young Edwards, and found him so seriously ill as to require constant attention, and he therefore directed the father to have him brought in to the hospital.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/591, 02/03/1850**

**MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT.**

Five cases have been added to the Circuit Court calendar since our publication of Wednesday week, as follows:- **GEORGE REYNOLDS**, manslaughter, committed by the coroner; ...

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday (Wednesday) an inquest was held at Mr. Neal's, the Cross Keys Inn, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., and a jury of twelve, touching the death of **CATHERINE GOULDING**, an old inhabitant of this district, and generally known by the name of Mrs. **HUNT**. The jury having viewed the body, proceeded to examine the witnesses; **ANNE HUNT**, the daughter of the deceased, **MARY JONES**, a next door neighbour, and Dr. **STOLWORTHY**, when the following evidence was adduced. On the evening of Tuesday, at about four o'clock, deceased's daughter had left her at home, washing, but on her return found that she had gone into Mrs. Jones's, next door, the worse for liquor. Upon going in after her she found deceased lying on the bed, with her face downwards, and breathing heavily. Witness turned deceased over on her side, when shortly after deceased drew one very long breath and expired. Mary Jones deposed that on the evening mentioned deceased came into her house intoxicated, when she persuaded her to return home, which deceased would not do, but sat down upon a chair, from which she shortly afterwards fell off on to the floor. Witness obtained the assistance of two young girls, and had put her on to the bed. Deceased's daughter afterwards came in, and presently discovered she was dead. Dr. Stolworthy's evidence went to show that on the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup> deceased's daughter came for him, requesting him to come and see her mother, who she said was either dead or dying. Upon his arrival there he found her mother quite dead, and the mouth covered with froth. It was his opinion that deceased died from suffocation. The jury retired for about five minutes, and returned with a verdict of died from suffocation while in a state of intoxication.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was on Tuesday held at Mr. Driver's, Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM SMITH**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. On Sunday evening deceased was found by constable **KENNY**, lying in a gateway at the lower end of Market-street, quite insensible, and smelling strongly of liquor; he put deceased in a cab and drove to the Infirmary, where he was seen and attended to by Messrs. **NATHAN** and **HOUSTON**, but without avail, as he died early on Monday morning. Mr. Nathan, surgeon, deposed that in his opinion the death of the deceased was the result of congenital apoplexy,

produced in all probability by intoxication – in accordance with which evidence the jury found their verdict. *Herald, Feb.28.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/592, 06/03/1850

INHUMANITY. - An inquest was held yesterday at the gaol, Darlinghurst, before **JOHN RYAN BRENNAN**, Esq., on the body of **ANN TELL**, then and there lying dead. From the evidence of **SUSAN MACNAMARA**, residing in York-street, aunt of the deceased, it appeared that deceased was the wife of Mr. **JOHN TELL**, who formerly kept a public-house at the corner of Pitt and Market-streets, but who a short time since went to California. The deceased had had six children, only one of which was now living; she was about four months gone with child. Her husband left her without any means of support; she employed herself in doing needlework, but her health failed her from fretting at her husband's absence, and the want of proper nourishment; she was turned out of her lodgings on Wednesday, not having the means to pay for them. On Tuesday witness went to the Asylum with deceased; she said she was sure if Mr. **STACK** would take her in she would recover, as it was only weakness she was suffering under; he refused to admit her, and told her to take her to the hospital; he gave witness an order to the infirmary, from whence she was sent to the Colonial Secretary's office, where witness got a signed paper; they refused to take her into the Infirmary, and they kept deceased and witness waiting there from twelve until four o'clock; it was Mr. **HOUSTON** who refused to receive deceased; he said she was deranged, witness told him it was weakness; the deceased fainted in the street; that night she slept in her lodgings; on Wednesday witness went with deceased again to the Infirmary; Dr. **TIERNEY** was there, who wished her to be taken in, but Dr. Houston refused; Dr. Tierney directed deceased to be taken to the Police-office for protection. On Thursday she was brought before the Mayor, who sent a constable with her, stating that he (the Mayor) would pay all the expenses. Dr. Houston still refused to take her in, and she was returned to the police office, when the Mayor again sent her to the Asylum, with an order for admission there; but a stout man (she believes Dr. **RUSSELL**) said, "Go away, go away, you won't be taken in here." Witness went to both places with the deceased, whom the Mayor afterwards sent to the gaol for protection. She subsequently died there. The coroner stated, that on account of the information in the case, it was necessary to sift it to the bottom, he was therefore compelled to adjourn it till two o'clock on the following day, Saturday. *Herald, March 2.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/592, 06/03/1850

THE DEATH OF MRS. FELL. - On Saturday the inquest on the body of this unfortunate woman (the report of the first day's proceedings will be found on our fourth page) was resumed. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. **E.M. STACK**, master of the Benevolent Asylum, Dr. **J.C. RUSSELL**, resident surgeon of the Benevolent Asylum, Dr. **H. HOUSTON**, house-surgeon of the Sydney Infirmary, Dr. **TIERNEY**, Dr. **RUTTER**, Dr. **O'BRIEN**, and **EDWARD HONNER**, dispenser at the gaol, that on Tuesday last Fell was taken to the Benevolent Asylum by her aunt, but Dr. Russell considering that she was labouring under an aberration of intellect, she was refused, as not being eligible by the rules of that institution; Mr. Stack gave her a subscriber's order for her admission to the Infirmary; there one of the district surgeons saw her, and pronounced her not a fit inmate for that institution; an order for her admission from the Colonial Secretary was procured, conditional on her being a fit subject for treatment, and with this order the unfortunate woman was again taken to

the Infirmary on Wednesday, but Dr. **M'FARLANE** pronounced her not a fit subject for admission, and Dr. Houston gave her a note recommending her admission into the Benevolent Asylum; this note was counter-signed by Mr. **ALLEN**, but the poor woman was refused admission by Dr. Russell, who scored on the note "case of mental aberration;" the Mayor now again appealed to, and he humanely gave her a note requesting her admission in to the Infirmary, and promising to pay every expense himself; Dr. Macfarlane, however, was not there at the time, and Dr. Houston refused to take her in on his own responsibility; Dr. Tierney, who had also tried in vain to aid the poor woman's admission into one or other of the institutions, saw her friends with her in the street on Thursday; after this last appeal, in a state of despair, and on his recommendation she was at last taken to the police office for protection, and was placed in the watch-house; Dr. Rutter saw her lying here in a state of complete prostration and insensibility, and he immediately saw the Superintendent of Police, and suggested that, as neither of the public institutions would receive her, she should be committed as a vagrant, in order to her (sic) admission into the gaol hospital, which was done; Dr. O'Brien, hearing of this, gave instant instructions that on her arriving at the gaol she should be placed in the hospital, and nourishment be given her, as he would be away himself on duty all night; Honner, the dispenser, complied with Dr. O'Brien's instructions, but the poor woman was past all human help, and could not take any nourishment, and when Dr. O'Brien saw her early next morning (Friday), he found her in a dying state, and in a few hours afterwards she expired. Dr. Tierney and Dr. O'Brien performed a *post mortem* examination, the result of which was the conviction that the poor woman died rather of exhaustion than of any particular disease. The jury found that Ann Fell died of exhaustion, arising from want of proper nourishment and timely necessary medical attention, accompanying their verdict with the following rider: - "The jury wish to express their sense of the impropriety both of Dr. Houston and Dr. Russell's continued refusal to admit deceased into either the Infirmary or the Asylum, on the orders of the Mayor and the Colonial Secretary." *Abridged from the Herald, March 4.*

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.**

**THURSDAY, February 28.**

**MOSES JONES** was indicted for the murder of **MARY ANNE PANTONY**, otherwise **MARY ANNE JONES**, at George's River, on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. The following evidence was given:- **JAMES SHEPHERD**, constable in the Liverpool police, deposed that he knew the prisoner and Mary Anne Pantony; they lived together in a house at George's River; on the 11<sup>th</sup> December he went with the chief constable of Liverpool to prisoner's house; the prisoner was not at home, but his son was, and he took them about four miles into the bush, to a place called the Chain of Ponds; there they found a dress, and the skull bones and other partial remains of a human body; the dress was like the one in which the late Mary Anne Pantony used to dress; the flesh had been gnawed off the bones by dogs. There were no marks on the skull; there was a quantity of long hair mixed with grey on the ground; the deceased had similar coloured hair; the body was found on a by-road, about half-way between Brydall's inn and the river; the clothes produced were the same as those witness found by the body; there were five or six teeth in the skull; knew the deceased wanted teeth in the front of her mouth; from information received, he went immediately to a person named **WALLACE**, at Bankstown, where he found the prisoner, and took him in charge, and when the chief constable came up, took him to Liverpool; on the road he said they were treating him very bad, and that they would have to prove it against him yet, as they did not see him do it. The chief constable corroborated this evidence.

**JOHN JONES**, son of the prisoner, was called, but appeared to be of such imperfect intellect that the Judge declined to take his evidence, though expressing a doubt whether the boy was not shamming. The prisoner was acquitted and discharged.

**MANSLAUGHTER.** – A female named **MARGARET LYNAM** was on Wednesday committed for trial, by a coroner's jury, for having caused the death of an infant of about three weeks, named **GORMAN**. The evidence disclosed about as great a scene of depravity as can be imagined. It appeared that late on Monday afternoon the prisoner, being seen with the infant in a half naked state near the residence of its parents in John-street, and at which time she was greatly intoxicated, she was prevailed on by a neighbour to go into Gorman's house, and some hour or two afterwards was observed to be lying asleep on a sofa. In the course of the subsequent hour an elder brother of the deceased's, on returning home, found the infant dead, having been suffocated by the prisoner's over-laying it. The father, on being examined, admitted that both he and his wife had been throughout the day in a helpless state of intoxication, and that they had to be awoke from a drunken sleep to be told of the death of the infant. *Bell's Life, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held on Tuesday, and by adjournment on Wednesday, at Mr. Driver's, the Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on view of the body of a man named **RICHARD MATTHEWS**, then lying dead at the Infirmary. He was taken to the Infirmary on Saturday evening, in a state of insensibility, having a cut on the left arm and another on the head; he was attended by Dr. **NATHAN** until Monday evening, when he expired. From the evidence of **OWEN MALEY** it appeared that on Saturday the deceased was at work on a building near the gaol, which was undergoing some repairs; he had been drinking all day; and in the afternoon, on descending a ladder with a hod on his shoulder, he missed his step (about the sixth from the bottom), and fell against the door-post, inflicting the wounds on his head and arm. Verdict, died from injury accidentally received while in a state of intoxication. *Herald, March 1.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/593, 09/03/1850**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - **PATRICK MURPHY**, late overseer to Mr. **CUMMINS**, of Clear Creek, met his death under the following circumstances:- Shortly after noon he was discovered lying on the ground near Mr. **FORD**'s garden, at Kelso, in a state of insensibility. Several of the neighbours quickly arrived at the spot, and lifting him from the ground, were carrying him home, when after proceeding a short distance, he wished to walk. After proceeding a few yards, he was unable to do so, and was conveyed by the men to the house of Mr. **RILEY**, of Kelso. Upon entering the house, he exclaimed that he was a dying man, and so it unfortunately proved, for he breathed his last the same evening (Tuesday). The exact manner in which the accident occurred is not known, but the horse he was riding was found a short distance from where he lay with the bridle bit broken. Drs. **MACHATTIE** and **CONNELL** were quickly in attendance, and upon examining him, found the imprint of a horse's hoof upon his breast, which shows that in addition to being thrown, he must have been either kicked or trampled upon by the horse. A severe concussion of the brain had also occurred. His sufferings were very severe up to the time of his death, and he was unable to utter a word after entering the house. An inquest was held over his remains before the district coroner on the following day, and a verdict of accidental death recorded. *Bathurst Free Press, March 2.*

**MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT.**

Friday, March 8, 1850

(Before his Honor Mr. Justice Therry)

**GEORGE REYNOLDS**, committed on the coroner's warrant on a charge of manslaughter, was discharged by proclamation, on the motion of Mr. **PUREFOY**.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Thursday an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the Cottage of Content, East Maitland, on the body of **RICHARD ARRISS**. It appeared that deceased, who was between 34 and 35 years old, had long been labouring under a disease of the heart, which caused him on the slightest exertion to become quite exhausted, so that he had to rest for some time to recover himself; he often complained also of palpitation of the heart. Arriss was not however under medical treatment, but resided at the butcher's shop of Mr. **CLIFT**, East Maitland, where he was employed as a cook, more to provide him with a home than for the amount of work he was able to do. On Wednesday evening Arriss appeared cheerful and easier than usual, but on Thursday morning, before breakfast, he appeared to be suffering much pain about the heart; he recovered again, and cooked the breakfast, of which he partook heartily. During the morning he appeared much as usual, and at one o'clock served up the dinner; he then went back to the kitchen. **RICHARD STAMMERS**, employed at the shop as butcher, at this time left the premises to carry a newspaper to a person, and was away about ten minutes; when he returned he went to the kitchen and was surprised to see Arriss lying on the floor, his head lying towards the fireplace, and a stool just behind him, as if he had been sitting on it, and had fallen forwards. Stammers lifted him, and found that he could not speak, and indeed appeared quite dead; Stammers ran for Mr. **JOSEPH CLIFT**, who was in the shop, and who came instantly, and had Arriss placed on his bed, but he was quite dead; from his position on the floor the witnesses thought he must have died as soon as he had fallen, without a struggle. The sum of £2 was found in his pockets. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Thursday, early in the afternoon, two men, named **PATRICK SHEA** and **ROBERT PATSFIELD [PATEFIELD]**, bullock-drivers in charge of drays belonging to Mr. **W. DANGAR**, stopped with their teams at the Red Lion public-house, Lochinvar; the men were accompanied by a female, a blind man, and a black boy, and all of them except the boy went into the public-house and drank rum until they were intoxicated, Patsfield becoming very drunk; when they left the inn they took a bottle of rum with them to drink on encamping. Patsfield's team was first off, and he had gone but a short distance on the road when a person named **ALEXANDER BOURKE** met the dray; Bourke saw that the black boy was driving the team, that the blind man was sitting on the top of the dray, intoxicated, and that Patsfield was sitting on the pole, so intoxicated that he was swaying about from side to side, in such a dangerous manner that Bourke called to the black boy to put Patsfield on the top of the dray for protection; the black boy, however, did not appear to observe the cry, and the dray passed on. Constable **JAMES DWYER** had seen the drunken bullock-drivers at the inn, and he and the innkeeper had in vain tried to persuade Patsfield to stop for the night, as he was so drunk; Dwyer had gone home, leaving the party at the inn, and returning was alarmed to find that Patsfield was off with his dray, for he was certain the man was not in a fit state to take care of himself, much less of a dray; he therefore hurried after the dray, and met Bourke, who told him what he had seen, and that he thought the man not in a fit state to travel; Dwyer hastened on, but only got sight of the dray at the moment that he heard a cry from the black boy; on getting to the spot Dwyer was shocked to see Patsfield lying in the road, his head literally crushed in, and his brains scattered; the unfortunate man was of course quite dead, and the black boy said he was riding on the pole before he fell; on

Dwyer's rising from examining the body he was surprised to see that the black boy had bolted, no doubt through fright, nor had anything been seen of him up to last evening. The blind man was so drunk that he could give no account, and Shea and his dray were so far behind that he saw nothing of the fatal occurrence. An inquest was held on the body yesterday before Mr. **PARKER**, and Dr. **M'CARTNEY** certified that the fracture of the head must have caused instant death, and was such a fracture as would be caused by the wheel of a dray passing over the head. A verdict was returned that deceased came by his death by falling off his dray when in a state of intoxication. **MISSING CHILD**, aged 3, Matthews, 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Barraba.

**INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS.** - The insolvent, **JOHN FELL**, not appearing, his application for a certificate was struck out.

**SYDNEY INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.**

At the monthly meeting of the directors of this institution, held yesterday (Tuesday), the Honourable **E. THOMSON**, President, in the chair, the case of the unfortunate Mrs. **ANN FELL** was brought under notice of the meeting, when, upon the motion of Mr. **SAMUEL LYONS**, seconded by the Reverend **A.A. ATTWOOD**, it was "Resolved that the case of the late Mrs. Fell be referred to the weekly committee to make all due enquiry respecting it, and the alleged conduct of the house surgeon, and report the result to the next monthly meeting." We are glad to find that the committee are acting in this matter, for the public feeling is too strong to allow it to be slurred over. Herald, March 2.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/594, 13/03/1850**

**ATTEMPT AT MURDER, AND SUICIDE.** - Intelligence has been received in town of a frightful catastrophe at Drayton, and which, it appears, was the result of drunkenness. A man named **JEREMIAH MALONEY [MAHONEY]** had been drinking to excess, and on Sunday evening last, during a fit of *delirium tremens*, applied to Mr. **MEHAN**, of the Downs Inn, for liquor, which Mr. Mehan refused to supply; whereupon Maloney went out to the verandah, and took from a bundle which he had placed there a loaded pistol, and levelling it at Mr. Mehan, fired. The ball passed through Mr. Mehan's leg, at the back of the knee. The wretched man then took a second pistol from the same place, and shot himself in the head. We are informed that he lived for nine hours afterwards, under the treatment of a medical gentleman at Drayton; at the end of that time he expired. Our informant states that the wound in Mr. Mehan's leg is not dangerous, being above the knee joint. *Moreton Bay Courier, March 2.*

**INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on Monday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **JANE VAUGHAN**, a girl aged six years and a half, daughter of **MATTHEW VAUGHAN**. It appeared from the evidence that Vaughan had been seen burying the body on his own ground, and by himself, about Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> March, and the circumstance was mentioned among the neighbours, and it was also reported that the little girl had been seen well, and playing about, twenty-four hours, and that Vaughan had called in no medical man when she was taken ill. These reports reached the coroner's ears at the close of the week, and he immediately had the body exhumed, that an inquest might be held. It appeared, however, that Vaughan did, about Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup>, apply to Mr. **NAINBY**, druggist, for advice, telling Mr. Nainby that she had been unwell for some time, and that, hoping to benefit her, he (Vaughan) had given her a dose of rum, or rum and water, and that ever since she had been insensible, or else in a fit. Mr. Nainby gave Vaughan some medicine, telling him that the quantity of rum he mentioned was not enough to injure the child but that

he did not approve of giving children rum. No positive evidence as to when the child died or was buried was adduced. Dr. **WILTON** performed a *post mortem* examination, and found the lungs, stomach, and bowels very much diseased, but no so much but what medical skill could have effected a cure; he found no trace of any spirituous or noxious article, and although great neglect must have been exhibited by the parents, he felt no doubt that death was the result of natural causes. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, and attached a rider strongly blaming the father for not having called in medical assistance when the poor girl was taken dangerously ill.

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - An inquest was on Saturday held at Mr. Frawley's The Harp of Erin, York-street, on view of the body of **JOHN MURRAY**, then lying dead in the receiving warehouse. Deceased was found between one and two o'clock in the morning, by Sergeant **HIATT**, of the Sydney police, on a heap of stones in Goulburn-street, in a state of insensible and helpless intoxication. A barrow was procured, and deceased conveyed to the watch-house. He was placed in a cell, and at about six o'clock Sergeant **CUNNINGHAM**, the watch-house keeper, went in to ascertain his name, but finding him still speechless, had him removed to the guard bed; as deceased was then getting worse, he was taken into the hall, and Mr. **RUTTER** was sent for, who was immediately in attendance; deceased lingered until about half-past three P.M., when he expired. Mr. Rutter, medical practitioner, deposed, that from the history of the case, and the appearance, in his opinion the deceased was labouring from an attack of apoplexy, which caused his death. Deceased was about fifty years of age, and had but recently arrived in Sydney in charge of a team belonging to Mr. **BLACKMAN**, of Mudgee. The jury found a verdict of died from apoplexy while in a state of intoxication. - *Herald, March 11.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/595, 16/03/1850

**A CASE FOR POLICE INTERFERENCE.** - We are sorry to learn that the waterhole at the corner of Elgin and West-streets (Early's Terrace), West Maitland, is again in a state dangerous to human life. It will be recollected that on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 1848, [inquest 16/08/1848] the dead body of a little boy, named **JAMES M'CARTEN [M'CARTER]**, was taken out of this hole. Some time before this fatal occurrence **JOHN TURNER**, the well-known omnibus driver, had purchased the allotment of ground at the corner of Elgin and West-streets, and found that his allotment extended into about the middle of what was then an exposed and open waterhole, of considerable depth in the middle, (having years since been dug by brick-makers), and the bottom so retentive that during the seven years we have been in Maitland the water hole has never been dry. Turner was naturally desirous of making the whole of his ground available, particularly as the corner included in the waterhole was a good building situation; he therefore endeavoured to fill up the hole, and unfortunately took advantage of a large heap of stable manure lying at the back of the Albion Inn, and threw in load after load of this manure. A consequence followed which he had never anticipated; after he had persevered for a few weeks the hole, to all appearance, looked as if rapidly filling up, and in a short time the surface presented the appearance of an extensive surface of stable manure, no water being visible except at a small spot in the middle. In the *Mercury* of 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1848, we recorded that no less than seven accidents had happened that week, by persons, deceived by appearances, inadvertently walking or riding on to this surface, and finding on a sudden that they were sinking in a body of water beneath, and were so entangled and embarrassed by the mixture of manure, straw, and water that they could scarcely make

any effort to save themselves. Fortunately in each case help was at hand and they were assisted out; in one case a young woman walked on and suddenly sunk up to her neck, and had not her cry been heard, and great promptitude been displayed by the persons who ran to her assistance, she must have been quickly smothered. The poor boy, James M'Carten, On Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, left his home to go to the Maitland races, and was last seen in Elgin-street, sunning along in boyish glee; from that moment he was never seen alive, but some days afterwards it was reported that a cap had been seen in the waterhole, and on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> August the hole was searched, and his dead body found nearly in the middle, where the water was many feet deep under the straw. In all human probability the poor boy had run on to the mass of manure, and had suddenly sunk underneath, where no human aid could reach him. After this fatal occurrence Turner and two other persons fenced in the hole, and in consequence of the request of the coroner's jury, Mr. **DAY**, our then police magistrate, represented the matter to the government; and with their sanction he closely paled round the waterhole, if such it could be called. Since that time Turner resold his ground, and two dwellings have been put up on it in West-street. Recently, some one has removed the portion of the paling fence which stood on private ground, and although as paling fence has been run to the hole even with the lines of Elgin-street and West-street, yet an opening has been left at which any person can enter, and even if this were closed, the children of the families inhabiting the two dwellings have free access to the banks of the hole, which still presents the appearance of mixed dung and water. On Friday evening, the 8<sup>th</sup>, we hear that a little boy, whose parents live in one of these dwellings, got too far on the hole, and he was saved with difficulty. And we feel persuaded that other accidents will be caused by the deceptive appearance of the hole unless it is again fenced closely in. As that locality, in consequence of the Bourke-land sale, has increased in value as a building site, we suggest to the present proprietor whether it would not pay him to fill the hole up, and make it firm ground, not using manure for the purpose, of course, but broken bricks, coal cinders, or any firm rubbish.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - Last evening, about six o'clock, an elderly man, named **JOHN O'KEEFE**, who had been for the last fortnight hanging about a house in Port Maitland, West Maitland, in a state of drunkenness, and had latterly exhibited a singular manner in roaming about, was seen to walk quietly into the river, opposite Mr. **M'DOUGALL**'s, and to feel his way with a stick, till he suddenly disappeared on reaching the deepest part of the river. A woman, who from a distance had noticed with surprise the singular action of the old man, instantly gave the alarm, and the neighbours hurried to the spot, but from the swift current just below the falls they could not for some time succeed in finding the body. At length with a long pole Mr. **WILLIAM LLOYD** felt the body in about ten or twelve feet of water, and it was immediately raised, having been under water about half an hour; the old man was quite dead. The deceased was recently a shepherd in the employment of Mr. **T. CRAWFORD**, of the Wollombi, and had left about three weeks since, and come down to Maitland. He was an old inhabitant of the colony, having been here since early manhood, and has, we believe, left no relatives in the colony. An inquest will probably be held on the body today.

**REPORTED DISCOVERY OF A MURDER ON THE WILLIAM RIVER.** - About May, 1844, the wife of a blacksmith named ----- **MULDOON**, who resided at Penshurst, Upper Paterson, left home to visit her father, ----- **CAMPBELL**, who resided near Seaham, on the Lower William River. The rivers rose, and she was away some little time, and her husband became enraged, and uttered threats of beating her

on her return for being so long. At length Muldoon also left home, apparently to go for his wife, who was about the same time on her return home, accompanied by her brother, and a man named **RAFFERTY**, who had lived at Penshurst in great intimacy with her. Muldoon called at a friend's house on his way, early in the morning, and conversed for a few minutes, and then proceeded on, but was never seen again. Suspicions were excited against his wife and Rafferty, increased by Mrs. Muldoon's being possessed of a watch believed to have belonged to her husband, but nothing could be found of Muldoon or his remains, nor was anything brought home to the suspected parties. Quite recently, in a singular manner, Mrs. Muldoon, who has since her husband's disappearance lived with Rafferty, has been led or frightened into making a statement which has caused the apprehension of Rafferty and her brother, the first on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Muldoon, and the second of being present. Subsequently young Campbell has taken the chief constable to a spot about two miles beyond Oakendale, where some bones were found, and on the bones an inquest was commenced before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on Thursday, and a warrant issued for Mrs. Muldoon's apprehension. The inquest was then, we believe, adjourned for a week.

**DEATH OF CAPTAIN STANLEY, R.N.** - We have the painful duty of announcing the death of Captain **OWEN STANLEY**, of H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, which took place yesterday morning. Captain Stanley's health had been gradually giving way under the fatigue and anxieties attendant upon the arduous duty of surveying in a tropical climate; on his passage from the Louisiade Islands to Sydney he was very ill; at Cape York he first heard of the death of his brother, Captain **C.E. STANLEY**, R.E., and on his arrival in Sydney he was informed of the death of his father, the late Bishop of Norwich. These bereavements preyed on his mind, and acting upon a system already much debilitated, ended fatally, the gallant officer having been seized with an epileptic fit yesterday morning, and died about eight o'clock. Captain Stanley was well known and much respected in Sydney, where he had a large circle of friends. *Herald, March 14.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/596, 20/03/1850

**SUICIDE.** - On Saturday an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **JOHN O'KEEFE**, the old man whose death by drowning on Friday evening we recorded in Saturday's *Mercury*. The facts are nearly as we gave them. It appeared from the evidence that O'Keefe had, since he left Mr. **CRAWFORD's**, been living in Maitland, keeping about the houses of two women, Mrs. **LUG [LUGG]** and Mrs. **PERCOX**, residing at Port Maitland, getting drunk in their houses, and subsequently being seen lying out on the grass in the sun and dew; this occurred several times, and at length O'Keefe wandered in his conversation, and did not appear to know what he was doing; Mr. Crawford had paid his wages into the hands of Mr. **C. FLOOD**, residing at Port Maitland, and O'Keefe had drawn sums from time to time, and one day last week, in the presence of witnesses, he drew the last sum; O'Keefe was after this seen drunk for the last time in company with these women, although he had been warned to keep away from them; on Friday morning Mr. Flood saw the poor old man lying on the grass as usual, and on speaking to him, found he had had nothing to eat, and at Mr. Flood's invitation the old man accompanied him home, and got breakfast; Mr. Flood advised him to go back to Mr. Crawford's employ, but the old man appeared to have lost all recollection of who Mr. Crawford was. During that day he wandered about, and in the evening about six was seen by two witnesses to kneel down at the river side as if to drink, and, on rising, to walk

quietly into the water, feeling his way with his stick, till he suddenly disappeared; an alarm was given, but it was nearly an hour before the body was recovered, by Mr. **LLOYD**, quite dead. No money was then found in the old man's pockets. The jury returned the following verdict – "We find that the deceased, John O'Keefe, destroyed himself by drowning, while labouring under *delirium tremens*, and we beg to bring the conduct of the females, Mrs. **LUG** and Mrs. **PERCOX**, under the notice of the coroner, to be reprimanded or dealt with as he thinks proper." We believe the coroner intends bringing the conduct of these woman before the bench.

**CHARGE AGAINST AN INNKEEPER.** - Yesterday **SEPNCER BUTLER**, licensed publican, appeared before the bench, charged with a breach of the Licensing Act, by supplying a glass of rum to **ROBERT PATSFIELD**, Patsfield being drunk at the time. This charge was brought against Mr. Butler, of Lochinvar, in consequence of the circumstances that appeared on the inquest on the body of the unfortunate man, Patsfield, who it will be remembered was killed just beyond Lochinvar by the wheel of his own dray passing over his head, he having apparently fallen off the pole while drunk. The only witness called was constable **JAMES DWYER**, who however had not seen any liquor served to Patsfield or his companions at Mr. Butler's, so that he could not state whether Patsfield left more drunk than he entered it. The bench dismissed the case, the police magistrate telling Mr. Butler that he had thought it his duty to bring it forward, and that whenever similar cases were made public in any way he should deem it his duty to cause the publican to be prosecuted.

**FUNERAL OF CAPTAIN STANLEY, R.N.**

[This officer's death set off a wonderful scramble, and squabble, over 'seniority' in command, with officers and orders, counter-orders, and even ships flying about in all directions!]

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/597, 23/02/1850**

**DISTURBANCE IN A CHURCH AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE DURING THE SERVICE.** - On last Sunday afternoon, shortly after the commencement of the service, a person named **JOHN M'GRATH**, or **THOMPSON**, entered the temporary Presbyterian Church, corner of Pitt and Bathurst streets, and advanced nearly up to the pulpit, when he threw himself down, exclaiming, that he was a lost sinner, &c., and appeared to be in a state of mental derangement; he was requested to sit down and be quiet, or that he would be turned out. He took a seat and remained quiet in a low melancholy mood, and constantly putting his hands in his pockets. Fortunately, Mr. **GRANT**, who sat in the seat behind him and was watching his movements, saw the end of a razor sticking out of one of his pockets, which he had the presence of mind instantly to abstract, fearing that the owner might make some dangerous use of it either upon himself or some of the congregation; the man kept quiet for some minutes longer, but was continually feeling in his pockets as if for something he might have. In a minute or two after this, he took out a knife and made several attempts to stab himself before any one could reach him, but he was at length secured, and handed over to Inspector **PEARCE** and some constables who were promptly on the spot, who with difficulty conveyed him to the watch-house; fortunately the knife was very blunt, so that he did not do himself much damage – had the razor not been secured, he would in all probability have destroyed himself. The scene in the church baffles description – the service was obliged to be immediately abandoned. The unfortunate man was yesterday brought before the Mayor and Mr. **GILCHRIST**, and ordered to find sureties for his good behaviour for six months. He stated to the bench that he left his

house yesterday with the intention of going into the bush to put an end to his life, and that it was by mere accident he entered the church. *Herald, 19<sup>th</sup> March.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held at Mr. Driver's, the Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS YARD**, about thirty years of age, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary, where he was received on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, and died on Friday evening. From the evidence it appeared that deceased was cook on board the *Penyard Park*. On Friday week he had occasion to go to the coal hole, and in a few minutes came up on deck limping, and said that he had fallen down with the basket underneath him; on Sunday, he complained of severe pain across his loins, and was unable to perform his work; he lay in his berth, very ill, until his removal to the Infirmary; deceased was quite sober at the time of the accident. Dr. **MACEWEN** deposed that deceased came to his death by rupture of the urethra, and the consequent extravasation of the urine; a fall such as had been described would produce those injuries. Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, March 18.*

#### OBITUARY

**DEATH OF JANE EVERETT**, 57 years in the Colony, later midwife and nurse.

**THE LATE MRS. MOUNTFORD CLARKSON.** - It will be recollected by the readers of the *Herald* THAT ABOUT SIX WEEKS SINCE Mrs. **MOUNTFORD CLARKSON** died very suddenly, which at the inquest was attributed to her having eaten heartily of a dish to which she was partial, and which in her weakly state would be likely to cause death. Yesterday, in consequence of reports reaching the coroner attributing her death to another cause, Mr. **BRENAN** issued his warrant for the exhumation of the body with a view to analysis of the contents of the stomach. *Herald, March 19.* [Marriage 36B/1850: Mountford Clarkson to Mary Smith.]

#### THE MURDER OF THOMAS MULDOON.

Inquest by **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner; 3 columns.

**INQUEST.** - In the *Mercury* of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant we reported that a poor boy named **MATTHEW EDWARDS** had been received into the Maitland Hospital, having been seriously injured by, as he stated, his falling off his father's dray, and the wheel going over his chest, as the dray was going up Harper's Hill; his father was at the moment engaged in bringing up a stray bullock, and did not observe the accident, nor hear of it till he found his son lying on the road. In the hospital no external marks of injury could be observed on young Edwards, except a very slight mark on the chest, and a bruised line on the neck, which the poor lad said was where the wheel went over; one leg was, however, paralysed from the hip downwards. The boy lingered on until he expired on Tuesday morning last. An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday morning, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, when the above facts were stated; Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, who was first called in to see the patient, and subsequently attended him in the hospital, said that the marks of injury were not such as would enable him to state the cause of death. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, from injuries received from a dray wheel passing over deceased's chest.

**THE LATE ATTEMPT AT MURDER, AND DETERMINED SUICIDE, AT DRAYTON.** - We have received from our correspondent the following particulars of the above awful event, which was briefly reported in our last. It will be seen that our first information was correct in the material points, but that there was a mistake in the man's name:- On Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, this place was the scene of a most fearful tragedy, which threw the whole of the inhabitants into a state of the greatest consternation. A man named **JEREMIAH MAHONEY**, who had been drinking about here for some days previously, was in Mr. **MEHAN**'s taproom on the day

alluded to, and made several applications for grog, which were invariably refused. Being highly incensed at this, he became very disorderly, and was turned outside the taproom. After leaving the tap, he remained some time on the verandah, and spoke very violently against the landlord for refusing to supply him. After talking for some time, he went to the paddock, caught his horse, and brought him in front of the tap door, and saddled him. It was remarked by parties about the place that he had a brace of pistols, but as it is not unusual for bushmen to be armed, and as the man appeared to be quite sober, no evil consequences could be anticipated by his possessing them. On the eve of his departure (as it was thought) he took a bag out of this bundle, containing about three pounds of sugar, and threw it at the tap door. This passing unnoticed, he threw stones at the tap, on which Mr. Mehan came out, and seating himself by the door, told Mahoney that if he did not desist and leave the premises, he would send for the constables and put him in the lock-up. This, instead of acting as a sedative, inflamed him the more; and at last Mr. Mehan despatched a messenger for the constables. Scarcely had the man started on his errand, when Mahoney took up one of the pistols, which were lying on the verandah at the time, and, at a distance of about seven feet, fired at Mr. Mehan; the ball took effect about an inch above the inside of the left knee, and then, horrible to relate, with the greatest coolness, and before any of the paralysed spectators could interpose, he snatched up the other pistol, stepped back about two paces, and placing it with his left hand to his forehead, pulled the trigger; the ball entered about half an inch above the left eyebrow, but must have taken an upward tendency, as he survived nearly sixteen hours after he shot himself. In a few seconds after the shots were fired, Dr. **HOPKINS** was on the ground and took the necessary steps for stopping the haemorrhage of Mr. Mehan's wound. On examination, it appeared that the ball had entered in a slanting direction, and, passing under the bone, had come out three inches higher up on the other side, fortunately without materially injuring the bone or any of the larger blood vessels. Considering the close proximity of the parties, Mr. Mehan's escape was very narrow, and was probably owing to the fact of the pistol being wretchedly out of repair. The lock and trigger were very dirty and rusty, and the effort made in discharging the weapon must have distracted the line of aim, and have considerably depressed the muzzle, otherwise I cannot account for the ball having missed Mr. Mehan's body. Under the care of Dr. Hopkins I am glad to inform you that Mr. Mehan is rapidly recovering. Mahoney being removed on a stretcher to an out house, shortly after he recovered his consciousness, and being asked by the chief constable if he knew what he had been doing, replied "Yes," and added, he was sorry to hear he had not shot the b----- b-----.

He spoke very coherently on every subject that was mentioned, and gave the chief constable an accurate account of the different items of property in his bundle, which, on subsequent examination, was in the minutest particulars found to be correct. On being asked whether he would not allow the prayers of his church (being a Roman Catholic) to be read him, he refused, stating that he considered it all gibberish, and that, at all events, it could be of no use to him. He told the chief constable where he had loaded his pistols; in fact, gave a history of his life, and if his tale can be credited, from his early youth he must have been an abandoned and dissipated character. He shot himself at about five o'clock p.m., at about six he recovered his consciousness, and from that time until twelve o'clock he was perfectly sensible; the most sceptical, hearing him talk, could not doubt it. About the last mentioned hour he was asked again why he fired at Mr. Mehan, and if he felt any contrition for his acts. He replied that he shot Mr. Mehan because he refused to give him a glass of rum on trust, and that, far from being sorry for having shot him, he was only sorry that he did not make

a complete job of it, and also kill the constable who was coming to take him to the lockup. He recognised the chief constable by his voice (I think after he received the ball he lost his sight), and told him that he had been talking with him at the butcher's some days before, which was correct; and it was the more remarkable as it was the only time they had ever met. Shortly after, about one o'clock on Monday morning, he fell into convulsions, which did not cease until nine o'clock, and then he died, suddenly in great pain. The above particulars were elicited in the course of an inquiry which was held before **CHARLES MALLARD**, Esq., J.P. The man was from thirty-six to forty years of age; had a very determined stern expression of countenance; and, by his own account, had been nineteen years in the colony. *Moreton Bay Courier*, March 9.

**THE LATE MRS. CLARKSON.** - In our yesterday's issue we mentioned that the body of the late Mrs. **MOUNTFORD CLARKSON** had been exhumed, by the order of the coroner, in order that further enquiries might be made relative to the cause of her death. Yesterday a Jury was impannelled at Mr. Nixon's, Museum Hotel, for the purpose of the inquiry. After the Court had been opened in due form, the coroner stated that he had directed the body of the late Mrs. **JEMIMA CLARKSON** to be exhumed, in consequence of circumstances which had transpired since the first enquiry of a peculiar nature. It would not, at that stage of the investigation, be expedient to state what those circumstances were; but they would be fully explained to the jury at their next sitting, after the contents of the stomach should have been properly analysed. For this purpose an adjournment of a week would be necessary, and he did not purpose, therefore, to do more than initiate the enquiry on the present occasion. The Coroner having concluded, the jury retired to view the body. On their return to the jury-room the body was identified as that of the late Mrs. Clarkson, by **WILLIAM JARDINE**, who had placed her in her coffin at the time she was interred, six weeks ago. The coroner then directed the body to be re-interred, and adjourned the inquest until Tuesday, second of April, to afford time for analysing the contents of the stomach. The jury were bound over to attend in the usual manner; and before discharging them for the day, the coroner cautioned them most impressively not to pay the slightest of attention to any reports which might reach them in the interim with reference to the matter. *Herald*, March 20.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the Maitland Mercury.

SIR - My attention having been called to a report of an inquest which appeared in your paper of the 15<sup>th</sup> instangt, held on the body of my daughter, **JANE VAUGHAN**, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., wherein it is stated "that I had been seen privately burying the body on my own ground about Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> March;" may I beg the favour, in justification of my character, and as a means of alleviating me feelings and those of my affected wife, that you will give insertion to the following facts.

My child died on the night of Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, at twelve o'clock. The next morning, at six o'clock, I went to Mr. **HOUSHOLD**, an undertaker residing at Hinton, and who has charge of the burial ground. I informed him of her death, and agreed with him for making her coffin and opening the ground. The funeral took place on Wednesday evening, at five o'clock, in the presence of Mr. Household and several other persons.

Your report also stated "that there was no positive evidence as to when the child died or was buried."

Now I positively assert that the coroner asked me those questions before the jury, and that I answered them correctly; and that if he had any doubt of the truth of my statement he could have examined Mr. Houshold, who was in attendance, and to whom he gave directions to have the body exhumed, but that he did not do so.

As to the rider placed to the finding of the jury, in which they are made to attach blame to me for not having called in medical assistance, &c., I beg to state that the child was ailing since the month of August last, and that she had been seen several times by a medical man; and on the night of her decease, having been informed that Dr. **BROWN** was at Hinton, I went in search of him to several places (accompanied by my brother), but did not succeed in finding him, otherwise I would have solicited his assistance. On returning to my house the child died in my arms, after having been taken out of a hot bath.

I beg to refer you to the attached certificate of Mr. Houshold's, in proof of the correctness of my statements –

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

His  
Matthew + Vaughan  
Mark

-----  
Hinton, March 19, 1850

I hereby certify that the above named Matthew Vaughan called on me at 6 a.m. on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, informing he of the death of his daughter, Jane Vaughan, and requesting of me to make her a decent coffin, and about 4 p.m. the same day it was conveyed to his house in a cart; I followed, and saw the child put into her coffin, decently dressed; there were several persons present; it was then put into a cart, followed by myself and four other persons to the burying ground at Hinton; was there decently interred, in the presence of myself and several other persons.

R. HOUSHOLD,  
Undertaker.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/598, 27/03/1850

CHARGE OF BEING COMMON SCOLDS. - Yesterday **MARY LUGG** and **LOUISA PERCOX** appeared before the bench, charged with being common scolds. These were the two women whose names were mentioned in the report of the inquest on the body of **JOHN O'KEEFE**, published in last Wednesday's *Mercury*, and they were now brought before the bench by the Coroner, in consequence of the rider the jury appended to their verdict. Mr. **PARKER** deposed to the nature of the evidence then given before him, and he called two witnesses, who, however, could not state anything positively of the two women of their own knowledge, further than that they were often heard quarrelling and using indecent language, and that the unfortunate man O'Keefe was frequently seen drunk about their houses. The bench dismissed the case for want of sufficient evidence, cautioning the women with regard to their future conduct.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

[From Our Correspondents]

WOLLOMBI

CORONER'S INQUEST. - On Friday last an inquest was held by the coroner, Major **SULLIVAN**, J.P., and a jury of twelve, to inquire into all particulars touching the death of **JOHANNA BOCOCK**, a girl of about ten years of age, then lying dead in a house in the township. The father, mother, and a sister of the deceased, with Dr.

**DUMOULIN**, were examined, from the evidence of whom it appeared that on Patrick's Day last the girl was seated with her sister on her father's dray, returning to Watagan Creek from Maitland, her father driving the team, and her mother walking a little way behind; that when within two miles of the township the girl, unknown to her father, jumped off the dray, and, unfortunately, in so doing, fell behind one of the pole bullocks, from which she received a kick in the head, which fractured her skull. Dr. Dumoulin was quickly in attendance, who, on examining the wound, pronounced her case as hopeless. She was then conveyed to the township, where she lingered until the morning of the inquest, when she expired. No blame could be attributable to the parents in this melancholy affair. The poor mother appeared in a state bordering on distraction. Verdict, accidental death. March 26, 1850.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - On Wednesday last, Mrs. **PHILLIPS**, a resident at Balmain, near the waterside, went to visit a sick neighbour, leaving the house and three young children in charge of her eldest daughter. About noon, the girl had to fetch some water, and on returning missed her brother, **GEORGE**, two years of age, and sent one of the others to look after him, the messenger returned with the intelligence that he was in the water. The poor girl made an alarm, when **THOMAS LANGFORD**, who was at work near the spot, rushed into the water and secured the body, but life was extinct. An inquest was yesterday held at Marshall's, the Balmain Hotel, when a verdict of accidental drowning was returned.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/599, 30/03/1850

**THE BLACKS ON THE CLARENCE.** - The sheep station of Mr. **THOMAS SMALL**, sen., of the Clarence River, was attacked in February by the blacks, and the hutkeeper, **JOHN GREY**, an exile, killed, the station plundered, and a number of sheep killed; and also a number of cattle killed at the head station. The station of Mr. **AITKEN** was also attacked, and a woman so severely beaten that fears are entertained for her recovery. *Sydney Morning Herald*.

**DEATH OF AN AGED BLACK WOMAN.** - On Wednesday morning an aged black gin, named **MAMMY**, was observed lying dead under a tree on the bank of the river, at the back of Mr. **LAWLESS'S** premises, West Maitland. In the course of the day an inquest was held on the body before the coroner, **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., when it appeared from Dr. **EDYE**'s evidence that her neck was dislocated, which had caused death; the old woman was perfectly blind, and it was supposed must have fallen down the bank, but no person appeared to have known of the accident till the body was seen lying there in the morning. The jury returned a verdict of death from dislocation of the neck, but how that occurred there was no evidence to show.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Thursday evening, about eight o'clock, **JOHN TINLING**, a pensioner, residing at Hinton, took his horse to water, and afterwards gave him some hay near his own door; at this time three boys were playing near, one of whom was **STEPHEN TINLING**, nearly eight years old; Mrs. Tinling called to her son for some reason, and he ran towards the door, passing close behind the horse, who kicked out, and struck the lad above the left ear; Mrs. Tinling ran out on hearing a cry from her son, and picked him up, and took him in-doors; he was then quite able to walk, and Tinling having examined the wound made by the kick, thought it did not appear serious, and the boy not complaining much, Tinling gave him a little spirits and water and put him to bed. At about half-past ten o'clock, Tinling went to bed himself and took his son in his arms; he fell asleep, but was awakened between twelve and one o'clock by the movements of his son, whom he found dying, and who expired in a few minutes afterwards. An inquest was held on the body yesterday, before Mr.

**PARKER**, when evidence to the above effect was given, and a verdict returned of accidental death by a kick from a horse.

**MRS. A HUGHES HALLETT**. - This lady left the colony for California in the *William and Mary*. The sureties, it is said, have paid the amount of their respective bonds. The result proves that the case was one in which bail ought not to have been granted. *Herald*, 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**FATAL ACCIDENT**. - We regret to state that a youth, aged 17, named **FRANCIS GRANT**, was thrown from his horse on Collector race course, on Tuesday last, and killed on the spot. It appeared from the evidence adduced at the inquest held on the body, that deceased, in company with a stockman named **WILLIAM JONES**, were riding round the course after the races were over, when suddenly turning inside the circle, the horses sunk in the loose black earth, and falling, pitched their riders. Grant was thrown on his head, and his horse fell on top of him; he was instantly killed. Jones was much injured by the fall, but we believe not seriously. *Goulburn Herald*, March 23.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/600, 03/04/1850

**MRS. ANGELINA HUGHES HALLETT**. - "This lady left the colony for California in the "William and Mary." - *Sydney Morning Herald*, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Did she, indeed? Oh! Mr. *Herald* - Mr. *Herald*, Oh! - you must or ought to know better. At any rate we do, and we repeat that Mrs. Hallett is at the present moment residing *within rifle shot of the George-street police-office!* We distinctly impeach our contemporary's veracity in such statement. The second asseveration of our elder brother, that "the sureties of the lady have paid the amount of their respective bonds," is equally true - i.e., altogether false. One of them we know to be *non est*. - *Bell's Life*, March 30.

**CORONER'S INQUEST**. - An inquiry was yesterday held by the Coroner, Mr. **J.R. BRENNAN**, on board H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, on view of the body of **JOHN WILLIAM ROWE**, about 40 years of age, then lying dead on board that vessel. Lieutenant **H.G. SIMPSON** deposed that the body, the subject of the inquiry, was that of **J.W. ROWE**, who was cook on board the *Rattlesnake*; about ten o'clock this (Tuesday) morning he was informed that one of their men was drowned off the jetty at Macquarie Fort, when he had a boat manned and proceeded thither; found there the body of the deceased lying at the bottom of the water, with the clothes on, and quite dead. **EDWARD JACKSON**, a seaman on board the *Rattlesnake*, deposed that about a quarter before ten on Monday night he saw deceased at the Circular Quay Hotel, not quite sober; on parting, deceased went towards the vessel and witness proceeded up the town. **JOHN MATTHEWS**, a seaman on board the *Rattlesnake*, found the deceased's cap on the jetty about a quarter past eleven, about a dozen yards from the spot where next morning the body of the deceased was found. Assistant Surgeon **SLOSS**, of H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, was of opinion from the evidence and the appearances of the body that death was the result of suffocation from drowning. Verdict, found drowned, but how or by what means there is no evidence. *Herald*, March 27.

**CORONER'S INQUEST**. - On Thursday last, an inquest was held at Hancock's, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS OLIVER**, then lying dead at the Benevolent Asylum; **JOHN BELL** being in custody. It will be recollected that Bell was apprehended by Inspector **M'COOK** on the 18<sup>th</sup> instant for a violent assault on Oliver, a man of from 60 to 70 years of age, when Bell stated that he and Oliver had had some words the previous evening about money matters, when he was collared by the old man, and in self-defence gave him a push which caused him to fall against a

window sill, immediately after which, he (Oliver) rolled up his bed and clothes and walked away. Oliver was found in an empty house at Cook's River, in a state of insensibility, the next morning, whence Mr. M'Cook had him removed to the Benevolent Asylum, where he lingered until last Wednesday, when he expired. From the evidence adduced it seems highly probable that the old man was beat by someone subsequently to his leaving Bell's house, for it would be next to an impossibility that he should have carried away anything from the house had he there received such a beating as would produce all the external marks of violence which were spoken of by Mr. Surgeon **RUSSELL**, who "never saw a body exhibiting more marks of violence than did that of Oliver." There was, however, no evidence of him having been in any company after leaving Bell's house. The jury found a verdict of manslaughter against John Bell, who was thereupon committed by the coroner to take his trial on that charge. *Herald, March 30.*

**SYDNEY NEWS.**

The town is in a great state of excitement from the circumstance of Mr. and Mrs. **CLARKSON** being in custody on the coroner's warrant, in consequence of poison (sulphate of zinc, I am told) having been found in the stomach of the late Mrs. Clarkson, whose body was exhumed about a fortnight since. Evidence will be taken relative to this matter at an adjourned inquest to be holden to-morrow at the Museum Hotel, Woolloomooloo road. Two other persons have since been apprehended.

It is reported that on Wednesday night last a seaman belonging to H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, as he was going towards Fort Macquarie, in order to get on board his vessel, saw two men closely pursuing another, whom they overtook, and having stabbed him threw the body into the water. The sailor ran after the two men, who outstripped him and escaped. Diligent search has been made for the body, which has not yet been found. [see later, Maitland Mercury 8/602, 10/04/1850]

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - A man named **SPENCER**, residing in Cumberland-street, but who had been employed on board the *Ajax*, lying in Neutral Bay, on board which vessel he had been accustomed to sleep during the period of his employment, was between eight and nine o'clock on Thursday evening discovered, as he lay in his bed, to be in a fit, and to have lost the use of one side. He was brought on shore as quickly as possible, and put into a cab for conveyance to his own house, before reaching which, however, he expired. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict returned of died by the visitation of God. *Herald, April 1.*

**THE LATE MRS. CLARKSON.** - The gentleman to whom is committed the task of analysing the stomach, &c., of the late Mrs. **JEMIMA CLARKSON**, having made affidavit that she came to her death from the effects of poison which had been administered to her, the coroner on Saturday issued his warrant for the apprehension of **MOUNTFORD CLARKSON** and **MARY ANN CLARKSON**, late **WILSON**, on suspicion of having caused the death of the unfortunate woman. *Herald, 1<sup>st</sup> April.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - A man named **[JOHN] DEVINE**, residing in Ipswich, met his death on Monday last in a most distressing manner. He was carting water, and the horse he was driving, being what is commonly called a "jib," refused at first to start with the load, but at length, making a rush, jammed the poor man between a post and the point of one of the shafts, which struck him in the breast, and inflicted an injury of which he died soon afterwards. The unfortunate deceased has left a large family. *Moreton Bay Courier, March 23.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Tuesday an inquest was held at Oatley's, the Sportsman's Arms, Pitt-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS SMITH FITCH**. Between 7 and 8 o'clock on the preceding evening deceased was passing along Pitt-street, when he fell down in a fit; he was removed into Oatley's public-house, and Mr. Surgeon **NELSON** being sent for, he was in immediate attendance. Mr. Nelson deposed that he found the deceased labouring under severe pain over the region of the heart, and in violent cold perspiration; the countenance perfectly blanched, and no pulse at the wrist; he sent for Dr. **FULLERTON**, with whom he consulted, and such remedies were adopted as it was thought requisite. About three o'clock he died, the result of natural causes. A verdict was found in accordance with Mr. Nelson's evidence. *Herald, April 4.*

**SYDNEY NEWS**

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.**

**MARGARET LYNAM** was indicted for causing the death of a male-infant, by overlaying it while she was in a state of intoxication, at Sydney, on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. This case was fully reported at the time. **SAMUEL** and **MARGARET GORMAN** were left laying intoxicated in their house, when the prisoner, who was also intoxicated, was seen carrying about the child, and afterwards sitting in Gorman's house with the child on her knee; subsequently, a lad, a son of Gorman's, entered the house, and saw prisoner get up from the bed and run out, and the lad, on looking at the bed, found the baby lying there, dead; the prisoner came in again immediately after crying, and saying she had laid on the child and killed it, and must suffer for it. Guilty; twelve months imprisonment. *Abridged from the S.M. Herald.*

**THE LATE MRS. CLARKSON.** - The adjourned inquest upon the disinterred remains of the late Mrs. **CLARKSON** was held yesterday, but was further adjourned until Friday next, without any evidence being taken beyond so much as was necessary to bring the husband of deceased and his present wife legally before the court. The whole of the jurors attended punctually at the Museum Hotel, and the Coroner proceeded at once to re-open the investigation, by stating his intention to confine the evidence on that day to such testimony as was necessary to bring into formal custody the persons whom he had caused to be apprehended on suspicion of having been accessory to Mrs. Clarkson's death. He then called constable **SINGLETON**, the police officer attached to his department, who deposed to the arrest of Mountford Clarkson, and Mary Ann, his wife, on Saturday last. Witness was in company with Inspector **PEARCE** and one or two other constables when he apprehended them, and at the time of so doing, he read the warrant wherein the accusation which led to their apprehension was set forth. Clarkson, who was in bed when they went there, declared his innocence. Mrs. Clarkson also, who seemed much agitated, denied knowing anything about the matter. Witness had known Mountford Clarkson for many years, and believed him to have been the husband of deceased. Believed the prisoner Mary Ann Clarkson to be the present wife of Mountford Clarkson. She said she would go anywhere with him, to an iron-gang if necessary. Before the examination of this witness, Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson arrived from the gaol in a cab, and were placed before the court. They declined, however, to put any questions to the witness, reserving their right of cross-examination until the adjourned sitting, when the case would be more fully gone into, and the prisoners would be defended by counsel. It was intimated that Mr. **NICHOLS** had been retained to defend them, and that Mr. **HOLROYD** would watch the proceedings at the inquest on their behalf. The Coroner informed them that they were both charged with the wilful murder of Jemima Clarkson, but that from the nature of the information then before him it was necessary that they should be further

remanded to gaol until Friday next, to afford time for still further enquiry. He did not intend, he said, to proceed to the examination of witnesses on that day, inasmuch as there were one or two who could not on that occasion be brought before the court; but when the case was gone into in detail, the witnesses might all be cross-examined by the prisoners or their counsel; and that if the case seemed to require it, he should have no objection to hear witnesses for the defence. Although he properly abstained from going into detail on that occasion, he felt bound, he said, to state that he had sufficient evidence before him to warrant him in pursuing his present course. He had thought it prudent to abstain from taking any portion of the evidence that day for two reasons – first, because these partial enquiries had a tendency to defeat the ends of justice; and, secondly, because it was unjust to the prisoners to make public evidence as to facts which might tend to inculcate them, without at the same time going into other evidence which might have a reverse effect. He believed that on Friday, the day to which the inquest would be adjourned, the whole of the evidence might be gone through, and the case terminated one way or another. With reference to Mrs. **PICKERING**, who was now present and in custody, the coroner stated that he did not mean at present to bring her formally before the court. She had been arrested in consequence of some fugitive words which had escaped her, tending to afford grounds for belief that she had a personal knowledge with reference to the hidden circumstances of this melancholy affair. Perhaps at the next sitting of the court he might put her in the witness box, or it might be that he might deem it necessary to place her at the bar, if upon enquiry among other witnesses it should appear that the suspicion against her assumed a more grave aspect than at present. The inquest was then adjourned until one o'clock on Friday next, when it will be held at the police office, George-street, and the prisoners were remanded to gaol. Their demeanour throughout was tolerably collected, and both repeatedly protested their innocence. The case caused much excitement. The room in which the court sat was crowded to excess, and great numbers assembled in the street. By the latter the prisoners were saluted with yells as they entered the carriage for the purpose of returning to gaol. In dismissing the jury, the coroner again cautioned them most strongly against allowing their minds to be prejudiced by any of the current reports having reference to this case. *Herald, April 3.*

THE CASE OF THE LATE MRS. FELL. - The board of directors of the Sydney Infirmary, at a full meeting held yesterday, adopted unanimously a report of the weekly committee respecting the case of the late Mrs. **FELL**, which had been referred to the committee. The report stated that the committee had received the written statements of Doctors **MACFARLANE** and **TIERNEY**, and of Dr. **HOUSTON**, the House Surgeon, and they were of opinion that Dr. Houston was justified in his first refusal to admit Mrs. Fell, because the case neither required medical nor surgical aid; that the statements of Mrs. Fell's aunt on the following day, to the physician of the week, that her case was one of pure destitution and not of disease, justified the physician in deciding that the case was not one for admission into the Infirmary; that after that decision Dr. Houston was bound by the rules not to admit Mrs. Fell without further direction from the physician of the week; but the committee, nevertheless, in a case that became so pressing, and where the patient had been repeatedly refused by the Asylum, and had been also recommended by different parties for admission into the Infirmary, regretted that the House Surgeon should not have ventured to disregard the strict letter of his orders, and admit Mrs. Fell, in the confidence that the step would be approved by the committee. Finally, the report recommended that in future power should be given to meet such extreme cases, and the following resolution was adopted

by the meeting, nearly in the words of the concluding paragraph of the report:- "In consequence of the painful occurrence connected with the case of the late Mrs. Fell, and in accordance with the recommendation of the weekly committee, the board of directors give full power to the Secretary, or chairman of the weekly committee, to order for admission into the Infirmary any doubtful or urgent cases such as Mrs. Fell's, until proper provision can be made for them, either under the advice of the medical officers, or by correspondence with the Benevolent Asylum; all such cases to be reported to the weekly committee for their approval." *Abridged from the Herald, April 3.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/602, 10/04/1850  
SYDNEY NEWS.

The particulars of the inquest as to the death of the late Mrs. **CLARKSON** you will find fully reported in this day's *Herald*. Clarkson and his wife were both in custody; the former was discharged and the latter committed to take her trial for murder. Any comment upon this matter would, in the present state of affairs, be improper.

THE INQUEST ON MRS. CLARKSON

*(Abridged from the S.M. Herald, April 8.)*

The adjourned inquest on the body of the late Mrs. **CLARKSON** was resumed on Friday, in the police-office, and concluded on Saturday evening. On Friday the Coroner commenced the proceedings by detailing the circumstances of the case. Jemima Clarkson, wife of Mountford Clarkson, died suddenly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and an inquest was held on her remains the following day, and a verdict of death from natural causes was returned, no suspicion appearing, nor a *post mortem* thought necessary. Near Mr. Clarkson's house resided a person named **HENRY CANNY**, with whom had lived for many years a woman known as Mrs. Canny, and who had had children by Mr. Canny. Mrs. Clarkson and Mrs. Canny, it appeared in evidence, had been on such friendly terms that they frequently exchanged or sent each other presents of delicacies such as tarts, &c. Within a very short time after the death of his wife Jemima, Mr. Clarkson married Mrs. Canny. Rumours were circulated that the first Mrs. Clarkson had been poisoned, and these rumours gathered such strength that Mr. **BRENAN**, the Coroner, had her body exhumed, and an inquest was commenced on it (on the 18<sup>th</sup> March), after which the body was opened, the stomach and other necessary parts removed, and handed to Mr. **NORRIE**, the analytical chemist, to be analysed. The body was then re-buried. The result of Mr. Norrie's analysis having been made known to the Coroner, Mountford Clarkson and Mary Ann Clarkson, his wife, were apprehended on the charge of poisoning Mrs. Jemima Clarkson. Subsequently, a Mrs. **CATHERINE PICKERING** was apprehended in consequence of some words she dropped, but on the resumed inquest she was examined as a witness. Mr. **HOLROYD** attended to watch the proceedings for the prisoners; Attorney, Mfr. **G.R. NICHOLS**. The evidence taken was very lengthy, and the following is only an abstract of it.

Mr. **JAMES S. NORRIE**, analytical chemist, deposed that he was present on the 18<sup>th</sup> March at the opening of the body by Dr. **TIERNEY**, assisted by Mr. **BENNETT**, surgeon, and received from them the entire stomach of the deceased, and some portions of the muscular parts of the chest, and on the following day he received from them also the liver; of these witness commenced an analysis on the 21<sup>st</sup> and continued it for ten days, conducting it throughout himself; Dr. Tierney and Mr. Bennett were present at the commencement of the analysis, and an assistant of witness's, and a youth in his employ, were also present occasionally. Mr. Norrie described at great

length and very minutely the methods of analysis he pursued. The result Mr. Norrie stated to be that he found traces of zinc in the undigested contents of the stomach, and also in the cellular tissues of the stomach, and in his opinion there was probably more than five grains altogether in the substance he analysed, but he could not positively swear that there was half a grain, although he believed he might safely do so; the quantity thus found was an indication that a much larger quantity had been taken, but how much it was impossible for him to say, sulphate of zinc being a very soluble salt; he had not the slightest doubt as to the presence of zinc in the stomach; the taste of the poison was astringent, austere, and metallic, and very perceptible when taken pure, but he could not say whether the flavour could be detected in a quantity of sweetened apple. This witness underwent a lengthy cross-examination into his education as a chemist, the received doctrines as to poisons, &c.

Mr. **DANIEL JOSEPH TIERNEY** described the post mortem examination, and the handing of the stomach, &c., to Mr. Norrie. A quantity of white particles were observed lining the coats of the stomach, but no other appearance of disease, except some patches of inflammation. This witness was examined and cross-examined at great length respecting the quantities and effects of sulphate of zinc. It was frequently administered as a means of expelling other poisons from the stomach, being a quick and violent emetic; never knew a case of death produced by it, but there were two French cases, meagrely reported, wherein it was stated that death was caused by taking sulphate of zinc; the larger the dose the more immediate and great would be the vomiting; witness had himself given half a drachm to a man who had swallowed arsenic, and it produced violent vomiting, and in three days the man was able to go about his business; had known several cases where it had been taken by mistake for salts, but never knew death to follow from it. The late Mrs. Clarkson was a woman of plethoric habit, and violent vomiting in such a person might produce apoplexy.

Mr. **GEORGE BENNETT**, surgeon, gave evidence as to the post mortem examination. Witness had been the medical attendant on the Clarkson family for some years, and was called to attend Mrs. Clarkson on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, but she was dead when he arrived; Clarkson said his wife had eaten very heartily of roast pig for dinner, and was taken very ill with vomiting, and witness knowing that she was a gross feeder was then of opinion that she died from apoplexy; witness still thought that her death was caused by apoplexy, and from the minute quantity of zinc found should say it had no effect in causing death; if deceased expired in the act of vomiting it is very possible her death resulted from the emetic taken; the finding a small quantity of zinc in the stomach might result from it having been taken accidentally. Sulphate of zinc had so strong a taste that even a small quantity must be detected in food. Witness thought it would have been much better to have had more than one practical chemist in a case of this kind. Cases were reported wherein large quantities of sulphate of zinc had been given, without injurious effect. Witness had often administered it in small doses as a tonic. Mr. Clarkson and his wife always appeared to live together comfortably and happily.

From the evidence of **JOHN CORCORAN** and **HENRY LODER**, it appeared that Mrs. Clarkson was perfectly well up to twelve o'clock on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, but complained of sickness in the afternoon. In the evening Loder went to the house about eight o'clock, and Mrs. Clarkson requested Loder to stop in the bar a few minutes, as she felt unwell, and had been very bad all the afternoon, which she thought was through eating some roasting pig; she left the bar, and Loder in a few minutes heard a slight noise in the adjoining room, and going there he saw Mrs. Clarkson lying on the sofa, with her head hanging over the edge; Loder raised her

head and placed it on the sofa, and she expired in about half a minute. A doctor had been sent for immediately. She had not left the bar three minutes before she died. Corcoran had also heard from Mr. Clarkson that afternoon that he was very unwell as well as his wife.

Another column.

The Coroner expressed his opinion that there was no case against Clarkson, and directed the jury to acquit him.

A verdict of not guilty was then given and recorded in favour of Clarkson, who was discharged.

...In a few minutes afterwards the prisoner was supported into the Court in a very exhausted state, and the foreman of the jury announced the verdict of the latter, that the female prisoner was guilty of the wilful murder of the late Mrs. Clarkson.

She was then committed to gaol under the Coroner's warrant to await her trial upon the charge.

CARCOAR.

DREADFUL OCCURRENCE. - On Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> March, a tragic occurrence took place at the shop, of forge, of a blacksmith named **GORRINGE**, in this township, which has caused a melancholy gloom, the recollection of which will not be easily effaced from memory. It happened that on the day in question, the servant man of a Mr. **LODGE** brought a horse to the forge, apparently suffering from the gripes, or some internal ailment; and as Gorringe did not like to trust to his own skill in the matter, he went to Mr. Neville's inn, for the purpose of getting the assistance of some man there, who has the repute of being skilful in horse and cattle diseases. During the time Gorringe was away, Lodge's man was alone in the smithy with a young man named **REUBEN HOADLEY**, an apprentice to Gorringe, and seeing a gun in the forge, took it up, and presenting it at the poor boy, shot him dead on the spot. The man immediately came down to the Court-house, where Mr. **NORTH**, the police magistrate, and Mr. **ROTHERY**, were sitting in Court of Requests, and gave himself up, stating that he had "shot Hoadley's son." Dr. **BELL**, who happened to be down in the township at the time, and seeing a number of persons mustering at the spot, was immediately in attendance, but only to pronounce the accident fatal, for the appearance of the wound was sufficient to indicate its nature; the whole forehead was blackened, and an opening of an inch or more in circumference on the left side, immediately above the eye, into which the doctor passed one of his fingers as far as he could reach. An inquest was held at the Australian Arms Inn, Mr. Neville's, the same evening, at eight o'clock, when, after the evidence of several persons was taken, and a certificate from Dr. Bell received, the jury, after a short deliberation, found a verdict of involuntary manslaughter, and the prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next sittings of the Circuit Court, at Bathurst, which takes place on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, and at which several witnesses were bound over to appear. *Herald Correspondent.*

BATHURST. - MANSLAUGHTER. - An inquest was held on Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, at Mount Pleasant, the estate of Major-General **STEWART**, on the body of a man named **CORNELIUS HAGGARTY [HEGARTY]**, killed the previous evening. From what we could make out of the evidence, it appeared that the deceased, a man named **JOHN M'PHERSON**, and some others, had been regaling themselves in a stable with some of Heathorn's XX. Deceased and M'Pherson, about 7 p.m., rushed from where they had been indulging, and went to the kitchen, when the deceased said to M'Pherson, "Jack, you are the first man on the farm that I will fight with," and made a show of doing so; a scuffle followed, and many blows were exchanged; eventually M'Pherson hit the deceased a blow which knocked him down, and he fell

on his head on a chopping block, and soon after he expired. The evidence of the several witnesses examined was so contradictory, and at variance, that the jury felt puzzled to come to a fair conclusion of the affair. Several of them expressed in strong terms their opinion that some of the witnesses had perjured themselves with a view to screen the man charged with the manslaughter, and others of the jury were for acquitting M'Pherson from the charge; they ultimately, however, agreed in their verdict. The first witness called was the cook, who was in the kitchen during the whole fray, who stated that after some wrangling between the parties, deceased said, "----- Jack, you are the first man on the farm I will fight on the farm," and placed himself in a fighting position; the prisoner struck the deceased a violent blow, which knocked him down, and in falling his head came in contact with a chopping-block; he arose and staggered a few paces, and then again fell; witness went to raise him, when he found he was dead. In answer to a question from one of the jury, the witness said it was possible that the deceased might have tripped against the leg of a table, but if he did so he did not see it. Other evidence was also taken. The body was dreadfully bruised and mangled; on the crown of the head was a severe contusion; on the right side of the neck another, and on the left a blood vessel had been ruptured, and the face dreadfully disfigured and discoloured from bruises. Dr. **BUSBY** attended the inquest, and certified that the contusion on the top of the head or the rupture of the blood vessel might either have caused death. The jury, after a long consultation, returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the prisoner was committed for trial. *Herald Correspondent.*

**MURDER AT WIDE BAY (QLD): JAMES MARSDEN.**

**REPORTED MURDER**, affidavit by the seaman of HMS *Rattlesnake*. **WILLIAM HOWARD WITNESS.** [See 8/600, 03/04/1850]

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.**

*Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April.*

**JOHN BELL** was indicted for the manslaughter of **THOMAS OLIVER**, by assaulting him on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1850, and inflicting on him divers mortal wounds and bruises, whereof he languished till the 27<sup>th</sup> March, and then died. It appeared from the evidence that Oliver was an old man, addicted to drinking, who had for nine months resided in Bell's house, cutting wood for his bread; on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> March Oliver, Bell, and other persons were in Bell's house, intoxicated, and Oliver being abusive. Some angry words occurred between him and Bell, and a scuffle followed between them, during which it was sworn no blows were struck, but which ended by Bell pushing the other from him, when Oliver fell on a sofa and his head came in contact with a projecting piece of wood; Bell then told Oliver that if that was all the return he made for his kindness he had better be off, Oliver gathered up his clothing and bedding, and left the house in spite of Mrs. Bell urging him to stop till the morning, and not to mind what Bell said. At this time it was late at night, and the witnesses in Bell's house, and another witness, at whose house Oliver called and left his bedding, but did not stop, all agreed in stating that although Oliver's face was bruised, he was nothing like so much bruised as he appeared to be next morning, when found lying insensible in an empty house. Bell, it was deposed, did not leave his house during the night, and there was no evidence as to who inflicted these further injuries on Oliver. Subsequently, Oliver was taken from the empty house by the police, and placed in the Benevolent Asylum, and Dr. **RUSSELL** found Oliver much bruised about the head, his mouth injured as if from a kick, and his ribs also bruised; Oliver died on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, and his death was found to be caused by an extravasation of blood on the brain, occasioned apparently by a blow on the left

temple; Dr. Russell believed that Oliver must have been severely beaten, judging from the bruises on his body; it was possible the injury on the temple might be occasioned by a fall. Oliver, it appeared, while lying ill in the Asylum, had said that Bell had not beaten him in that way, and again that if Bell had he was a wretch; and at another time Oliver had said that Bill the soldier beat him, but this was said when the wardsman thought Oliver barely conscious what he said. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and Bell was discharged.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/603, 13/04/1850

CASTLEREAGH RIVER.

A CHILD DEVoured BY NATIVE DOGS. - A sad occurrence took place in this neighbourhood lately. On Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, a shepherd named **PETER STANDLEY**, in the employ of Mr. **ROUSE**, at Marian Park, proceeded from the hut for a load of wood, and was followed by his daughter, a child of about five years of age. The child missed the dray, and was lost, and although for eight days the father and a number of friends on foot and horseback searched for her she could not be found. At length on the tenth day her father and another shepherd took their flocks into the neighbourhood of the last track, and one of the sheep-dogs was observed rolling about on the ground; they went to the spot, and found there the mutilated bones of the poor child, and near the place were found her frock and bonnet. Her remains were collected and interred at the station. Coonabarabran, April 6, 1850.

FOUND AT LAST. - Mrs. **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT**, *alias* **ELLIOTT**, *alias* **ELYARD**, whose case has excited so much interest, is, through the intelligence and activity of Mr. **BROWN**, the Sheriff's bailiff, safely lodged in Darlinghurst Gaol. Yesterday Brown received information that this woman was residing at the house of a person named **CORMACK**, near Botany. He procured a bench warrant, and taking with him constables **WALLER** and **WILSON**, they effected a quiet entry into the house, and after searching some time, Wilson found the fugitive concealed in a box only three feet six inches long, eighteen inches deep, and two feet wide; she was covered with some table linen, and could only have concealed herself as the party approached the house, for there was no means of ventilation, and when taken out of the box she was nearly fainting, and it was some time before she was sufficiently recovered to dress herself. She was brought into Sydney and conveyed before Mr. Justice **THERRY**, who sent her to Darlinghurst Gaol, to await her trial for abduction. His Honor signified that bail would be taken, herself in £600, and three sureties in £200 each. We trust the crown law officers will see that the bail this time are men of substance, not men totally without means, as was the case when she was before admitted to bail. *Herald, April 11.*

THE SURETIES FOR MRS. C.A. HUGHES HALLETT. - Previous sureties estreated.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/604, 17/04/1850.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - An inquest has been commenced at the Paterson before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **JAMES TAYLOR**, and adjourned till tomorrow. It appears that Taylor was an old resident in the Paterson district, and a man of some means, having recently purchased a house at Paterson. On Saturday last he was at Paterson in company with two other persons, named **RAG [RAGG]** and **JONES**, and left the township in the evening with them on horseback, taking three bottles of rum with them, Rag being drunk, but the other two sober; at the school-house, near Clark's-crossing, they stopped for some time, and had a glass each from

the second bottle of rum, one, a ginger-bottle of rum, having been finished before reaching there. When they left the school-house Jones left in one direction, and Taylor and Rag went on together towards the regular crossing-place; Rag afterwards reached home safely, but nothing more was seen of Taylor. On the following morning a resident on the Allyn found an old horse in his corn, and sent him on to Mr. Brown's, of Coulston, where after some delay he was recognised by some person as Taylor's horse. Search was now made in the neighbourhood where the horse was found, and the tracks of a horse were seen proceeding from the crossing-place (which he had not crossed) along the river through some ground remarkable difficult from being thickly covered with old fallen wood, and terminating at the junction of the Paterson and Allyn Rivers. Just at the junction there exists in the bed of the river a singular deep hole, so deep that it is popularly believed that it is bottomless, and it is said that a kind of whirlpool motion is occasionally observed in it; this hole is only six or eight feet in diameter, the whole bed, at this dry season, being perhaps twenty feet or more broad. After considerable search the body of poor Taylor was discovered in this hole, about fourteen feet below the surface, the witnesses stated, but they were quite positive that there was no bottom a long distance below that. No scratch or wound of any description was found on Taylor's body, but there was nothing to account for his getting into this hole, which is well-known, and quite out of the regular track, while his horse is stated to have taken him safely home on more than one occasion when Taylor was not in a fit state to find his own way. Taylor's saddle was deeply scratched at one place, as if his spur had dragged across it as he came off.

**A CHILD DROWNED IN A TUB OF WATER.** - It is reported that last week a child was drowned in a tub of water. The parents it is stated reside on the Coulston estate, Gresford, and one day they were both away from their house for a short time, and when the mother returned she was shocked to see her child resting in the tub, head downwards. On taking it out she found it dead. We have not learnt whether any enquiry took place about the sad occurrence.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - **HENRY COOK**, an apprentice to Mr. **CLARK**, of Castlereagh-street, was bathing yesterday afternoon at Bondi with some other boys, when he got amongst the breakers, and was drowned. The body has not been found, and it can scarcely be expected to be recovered from such a situation.

**SYDNEY NEWS.**

**JAMES GRIFFITHS**, in custody for assisting **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT** to evade the police, and **MARY ANN CORMACK**, for harbouring her, are remanded till to-morrow.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An old man, named **CHARLES BRADFORD**, who was put in the lock-up on Wednesday night for protection, was brought into the police office on Tuesday morning [??], very faint and weak, and having been removed in a chair died, when crossing the court-yard towards the watch-house. He was covered with sores, and crawling with vermin. An inquest was held on the body in the afternoon, and a verdict of "died from the visitation of God" returned. *People's Advocate*, April 13.

**THE LATE MRS. FELL.**

The attention of the Acting Committee of the Benevolent Society having been, by the Secretary, directed to certain statements made at the inquest held on the body of **ANN FELL**, relative to the non reception of the deceased into the Benevolent Asylum, a meeting of the General Committee was convened for the purpose of investigating the circumstances attendant thereon, when, after carefully perusing the depositions taken

at the inquest, and examining the statements made by the Master and Resident Surgeon, and also several other persons connected with the transaction, they resolved: "That it appears that whilst the general order under which Mr. **RUSSELL** acted sufficiently justifies his refusal to receive any case that he conceived labouring under insanity, they cannot help expressing their opinion that he was blameable in not minutely attending to the symptoms of Mrs. Fell's case, which in all probability would have led to a different result." And to prevent as far as possible the recurrence of such lamentable circumstances, the General Committee at a subsequent meeting further resolved: "That the Resident Surgeon shall have no power to refuse a single patient for medical treatment who is put under his care by the Master of the Institution, even although he (the Surgeon) should not consider it to be a proper case; and that where any doubt exists as to it being so or not, the decision shall rest with the gratuitous medical officers of the Institution, and, 2<sup>nd</sup>, That no case ordered by the Secretary for admission into the house under existing rules be refused as unsuitable, without previous consultation by the Master with him, or if practicable, with the Acting Committee." *Herald, 15<sup>th</sup> April.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/605, 20/04/1850

#### SYDNEY NEWS

The Judges have also allowed bail to the female prisoner **CLARKSON**, committed on the Coroner's warrant for wilful murder; her husband in £200, and three sureties in £80 each, or four in £60.

INDECENT LANGUAGE. - Yesterday **LOUISA PERCOX** appeared before the bench, and was convicted of using obscene language in the street, on constables **BROMHEAD** and **POOL** interfering to prevent a fight between her and another woman; she was fined 40s. and costs, or in default two months' imprisonment.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - On Monday last, an inquest was held at Hancock's public house, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of a female, **NAME UNKNOWN**, apparently between 40 and 50 years of age, found at Rose Bay on Saturday last, apparently drowned. Mr. Surgeon **RUSSELL** deposed that from the appearance of the body, and from a *post mortem* examination which he had made, he judged that death was caused by suffocation from drowning. Verdict, found drowned, how, or by what means, no evidence appearing, the jury cannot say. *Herald, April 17.*

#### CONCEALING A FELON.

**JAMES GRIFFITHS** and **MARY ANN CORMACK** were yesterday brought before Alderman **EGAN** and Mr. **CAMPBELL**, to answer a charge of having assisted Mrs. **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT**, otherwise **ELYARD**, otherwise **ELLIOTT**, to evade the police. Mrs. Hallett, it will be recollected, was committed for trial on the charge of stealing a girl of five years old, named **JULIA BROWN**, and was subsequently admitted to bail before one of the judges, but absconded before trial. A bench warrant was then issued for her apprehension, and after some time she was apprehended in a house at Botany, in the occupation of Mrs. Cormack; Griffiths was in the house at the time, and it was proved that Mrs. Cormack denied that Mrs. Hallett was there, and that Griffiths was seen sitting on the box, or else by the box, in the which Mrs. Hallett was at length discovered; and that Mrs. Hallett was covered over in a manner which she could not have effected by herself. It was also proved that Griffiths had been seen at Mrs. Hallett's residence before and after Julia Brown was taken there, and that the little girl had been taught by Mrs. Hallett to call Griffiths "papa." The prisoners were committed for trial, but allowed bail. *Abridged from Herald, April 17.*

**AWFUL DEATH.** - A man named **RICHARD JOHNSON**, (the servant of Mr. **M'DERMOTT**, an innkeeper of this town) for some time past had led a very intemperate life, but on Thursday (the 11<sup>th</sup>) the wretched man consummated his misery by getting so beastly drunk that when he was left in the kitchen to go to bed he by some means or other fell into the fire, and was so frightfully burnt all over the stomach, back, and arms, that he died in about twelve hours after the accident occurred. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday last, and from the evidence adduced it appears that the first person to hear the cries of the unfortunate man was a Mr. **GEORGE ARMFIELD**, who resides a distance of at least 200 yards from the inn; he immediately ran to the spot, and seeing the man's clothes all on fire, he threw a bucket of water over him; and having extinguished the fire, he ran for the assistance of Dr. **ALLAN**, who at once proceeded to render every necessary medical aid; but that gentleman stated in his evidence at the inquest, that the man was so terribly burnt that all earthly aid was useless. *Berrima Correspondent of Herald.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/606, 24/04/1850

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Saturday an inquest was held at the Fitzroy Hotel, Maitland, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **ALICE BOARDMAN**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Boardman had been for some time under medical treatment, but got suddenly worse on Friday; Dr. **SLOAN** was sent for, but she died very shortly after; her husband, it was deposed, was frequently drunk, and was known to quarrel with her. Dr. Sloan performed a *post mortem* examination, and found not the slightest mark of violence on her body; the bowels were much inflamed, and there was extensive disease in the womb and ovaries, and in Dr. Sloan's opinion this was the cause of death. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God.

**PROBLEM WITH JUROR AT INQUEST.** Connects with next entry.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - In the *Mercury* of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant we published the particulars of the commencement of an inquest at Vacy, Paterson, on the body of **JAMES TAYLOR**, which had been found in a deep hole at the junction of the Paterson and Allyn Rivers. The inquest was resumed on the 18<sup>th</sup>, before Mr. **PARKER**, and from the evidence of **WILLIAM DAGG** (not **DAG**), the man who was last in company with Taylor, it appears that Taylor and Dagg did cross the river at Clark's crossing-place, and ride together, as Dagg believed, a distance of two or three miles further; here, after taking a parting glass of rum from Taylor's bottle, they parted, Dagg being quite drunk, and Taylor tipsy, but as Dagg believed quite able to ride home and to know what he was about; and Dagg stated that Taylor must, after they had parted, have ridden back to Clark's crossing-place; Dagg, after leaving Taylor some time, fell off his horse, and slept, but was awoken by his horse's pulling at the bridle in the middle of the night, when he mounted and rode home. It appears from other evidence that Taylor must have ridden for some distance down the river from Clark's crossing-place (not his right course home), and that on the bank becoming difficult, the horse got down into the bed of the river, then running about ankle deep; that the bed there was so much encumbered by fallen timber that it was barely possible for a horse to get along, and that at one or two points marks were found as if the horse had tried to turn round and go back, but had been prevented by his rider; the track led to the deep hole (found to be fifteen feet deep), out of which was projecting the branch of a dead tree, which it is supposed caught poor Taylor's leg, and dragged him off the horse, when he fell into the hole, for the track of the

horse was found ascending the bank close by. A relation of Taylor's, who assisted at finding the body, stated that although he felt convinced from all the circumstances that poor Taylor must on this occasion have been so intoxicated that he lost all recollection of where he was, or what he was doing, yet that it was many years since Taylor had been so overcome with liquor as to be unable to know what he was about. Taylor left a wife and six children to mourn his loss. The money found in Taylor's pockets corresponded very closely with what he was known to have received in Paterson, allowing for what he spent in liquor. The jury returned a verdict that deceased came to his death by suffocation from drowning, and that it was their conviction that the deceased must have been very much intoxicated at the time, not knowing what he was about, to have ventured where his body was found.

INDECENT LANGUAGE. **MARY LUGG** and **MARY MAGUIRE** were brought before the bench, and pleaded guilty to the charge of drunkenness; Lugg was fined 5s. or 24 hours in the cells; ...

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/606, 24/04/1850

SYDNEY NEWS

BIRTH.

At Neotsfield, near Singleton, on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, the wife of **H. DANGAR**, Esq., M.C., of a son, which only survived a few hours.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/607, 27/04/1850

THE LATE MRS. CLARKSON. - The Attorney General this day moved for and obtained from their Honors the Judges an order for the re-exhumation of the remains of the late Mrs. **CLARKSON**. The motion was based on the several affidavits of the Coroner and Doctors **TIERNEY** and **a'BECKETT**, the two latter gentlemen being of opinion that the body had not yet arrived at such a state of decomposition as to prevent the possibility of detecting whether or not death was occasioned by poison. Their Honors would not express an opinion as to whether or not the Coroner had the power of ordering the re-exhumation, but they felt assured that it was within their own jurisdiction to order such a proceeding through the medium of their own officers. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to superintend the exhumation, in conjunction with the Coroner, attended by the two medical gentlemen above named, and by whom, and three practical chemists, the process of analysis was to be carried on. It was further intimated by the bench that this matter should be conducted in such a way that public decency may not in any way be offended. I understand that Messrs. **NORRIE**, **PORTER**, and **GRAYLING** are the chemists who will be engaged in this analysis.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/608, 30/04/1850

THE PATERSON MURDER CASE – SUPREME COURT, SATURDAY –

*The Queen v Campbell*

This was a rule *nisi* for a writ of *habeas corpus*, with a view of the prisoner being bailed. Mr. **PUREFOY** now moved that the rule be made absolute. The Attorney-General opposed the motion, arguing shortly on the depositions, that sufficient appeared on them to prevent the Court from interposing, and letting him out on bail. If the prisoner (charged with the murder of one Muldoon) were bailed, the public at large would be taught that, after all, murder was not such a terrible crime. His Honor the Chief Justice said it was important that the public should know that the mere concealment of a murder is in itself criminal, and subjects the party to punishment. This would appear to be a case of misprision of murder, so far as **CAMPBELL** is concerned. His Honor the Chief Justice said, in delivering judgement, it was

important to lay down the principles on which the Court would act in entertaining such motions for the future. The time of the Court had been occupied during the term by three of these novel applications. It was necessary that they should not be unduly encouraged. The principles the Court would wish to lay down were these – first, that they were not bound to grant bail except where there was no charge of felony on the depositions, and an informal one. If informal only, the Court will clearly not bail, but cure the informality; secondly, that whether bail would be granted or not would be discretionary, and when exercising that discretion they would be guided by the probability, supposing bail were granted, that the prisoner would appear and take his trial. It had already been laid down by this Court that the depositions would only be looked to, besides affidavits, and as to the state of the prisoner's health, the condition of his family, &c. In a case of murder, however, where the Attorney General has filed an information, the Court would not grant bail. His Honor then, referring to the circumstances of the case, said the result the Court had arrived at was, that the prisoner should be bailed, himself in £200, and four sureties in £60 each; one week's notice to be given to two magistrates at Maitland, one of whom was to be the police magistrate. *S.M. Herald, April 29.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, in the house of **JOHN CHILLINGTON**, residing at Porphyry Point, William River, on the body of an infant named **HENRY CHILLINGTON**, about eighteen months old. It appeared from the evidence that Chillington was a labourer, residing on the estate of Mr. **CARMICHAEL**, and that on an evening about the 18<sup>th</sup> April he and his wife were in their house, and were just about going to supper; Mrs. Chillington had just taken up some boiled beef, and left the pot it had been boiled in, and which she had just taken from the fire, near the fireplace. The little boy was at this time playing about the spot with a little dog, on which he would frequently sit down; the backs of the parents were turned to them for a few moments, when they heard a scream, and looking round, were shocked to see that the little boy had fallen backwards into the pot of scalding water. His mother got him out instantly, and finding that the poor child was very much injured, the parents took him instantly to Mr. Carmichael's, when Mrs. Carmichael dressed the wounds, and gave them medicine and a lotion for the child. The little boy appeared much easier after this, and the parents hoped he was mending, until Sunday last, when Chillington was alarmed by observing that a great change had come over him; he ran out to get a neighbour's assistance, but before his return the little boy had expired. In answer to questions by the jury, Chillington said he had not gone for a doctor because Mrs. Carmichael, who supplied medicine and aid to all the poor neighbours, had, he thought, done all that could be done for the poor boy, and because he himself was poor, and could not afford to get a doctor from Maitland, the nearest place. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

**ANOTHER MURDER BY THE BLACKS.** - From a gentleman who arrived in town this week we have received intelligence of another murder committed by the native blacks in the Burnett district about a fortnight ago. The victim was a Coolie shepherd, in the employment of Mr. **G. SANDEMAN**, at Burrandowan. He was killed whilst out with his sheep, having been speared in the back of the neck, and afterwards tomahawked. As the body was not stripped, nor any of the sheep taken away, the murder is believed to have been caused by revenge for the deceased having ordered some of the natives from his hut on the previous day, when they had been importuning him for flour, and upon which occasion they showed much violent conduct. The murderers were tracked for some distance from where the body was

found, but up to our informant's departure none of them had been overtaken. The settlers are crying loudly for the native police, and we hope that our frequent representations on this head will have the effect of inducing Mr. **MARSHALL** to visit the district with his corps immediately. Since our last notice of the necessity for the police at Bunya, Mr. **HALY**'s station has been twice robbed of sheep by the natives, and although no murder has yet been committed there, such outrages may be daily looked for. Some of the settlers are most indignant in their complaints, and declare that they will resist payment of the money, from which the native police is maintained, if their wants are not promptly attended to. *Moreton Bay Courier, April 20.*

**GUNDAROO – ATROCIOUS OUTRAGE.** - On Tuesday evening last, at the house of a man named **BLOOMFIELD**, at the Black Creek, certain parties were dram drinking. Amongst them were the above named individual, a man by the name of **NUGENT**, two others, namely, **PETER KEAN**, commonly known by the cognomen of **BLACK PETER**, and **JIM BARBER**. Barber had a quarrel with the man Nugent while they were emptying the bottles, but Nugent, having some previous knowledge of Barber, moved away and left the others to contend with Barber. This fellow, not being able to ferret out Nugent, seized upon poor Black Peter, and cried out, "as I cannot find that 'scourger' I'll give you the roasting I intended to give him," and thereupon he seized the unfortunate man, layed him (face downwards) upon a blazing fire, rolled the flaming logs over him, and lest he should not be sufficiently broiled placed his foot on the sufferer's back, taking, at the same time, the fire shovel, loading it with the red embers and ashes, and throwing it over the abdomen and lower parts of his victim. These parts are all in a state of putrefaction, the eyes completely burnt out; his face roasted from the lower cartilages of the nose up to the hair; his teeth dropping out from the upper jaw from the fury of the flaming element, and altogether such a lamentable spectacle of wanton and unprovoked destruction was never looked on. The unhappy man is not likely to survive the brutal treatment he has received. We expect Barber a prisoner in Queanbeyan every day. *Queanbeyan Correspondent of the Goulburn Herald.*

**THE LATE MRS. CLARKSON.** - The remains of the late Mrs. **JEMIMA CLARKSON** were again exhumed on Thursday evening in performance of the order granted on that day in the Supreme Court, and such parts of the body having been recovered as are necessary for the conduct of the analysis have been provided but it is proposed to have it conducted by three practical chemists on behalf of the crown, and to afford the accused an opportunity of being represented during the conduct of the analysis by a medical man. *Herald, April 27.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/609, 04/05/1850

#### SYDNEY NEWS

The analysis of the remains of the late Mrs. **CLARKSON** is progressing, but not under the superintendence of the parties first named. Mr. Surgeon **BENNETT** has taken the place of Dr. **a'BECKETT**, and Mr. **ABRAHAM**s acts with Mr. **PORTER**, in place of Messrs. **NORRIE** and **GRAYLING**. The present Mrs. Clarkson (the party accused) has not yet availed herself of the permission to appoint a medical supervisor on her behalf, to look after the proceedings in this matter.

**INFANTICIDE – BATHURST.** - An inquest was held at the Black Bull Inn, Bathurst, on Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> April, on the body of a new-born infant, found in a well on the premises of Mr. **MOCKETT**, in Hewick street. From the evidence of Mr. Mockett, it appeared he discovered the water in the well had become tainted. He

caused a man named **LEVIN** to be lowered down the well, who found the body of a male infant floating on the surface of the water. It was drawn up, and found to be in a very decomposed state, and appeared to have been in the water several days. A woman named **ANN MORCOMBE**, who had been in his employ for some time past, had been discharged about as fortnight before. He observing that she appeared to be in a forward state of pregnancy, suspicion fell on her. She, and another woman named **JANE DOWNEY**, were apprehended. It appeared also from the evidence, that about eight days previous to the discovery of the body, the prisoner Morcombe had called at the residence of her late master, in company with Downey, and a man with a wheelbarrow to take her boxes away. On this occasion she was observed by Mr. Mockett to be leaning on a gate-post. He did not notice at the time of the circumstance, but on the following day his cook called the attention of Mr. Mockett to some stains on the seat and floor of a water-closet, where Morcombe had been seen to enter, and which stains were traced to the gate where the prisoner had been seen standing by Mr. Mockett. There was nothing at all to connect Jane Downey with the transaction further than she was in Morcombe's company when she went to Mr. Mockett's for her boxes. Dr. **MACHATTIE** attended, and stated that he had examined the prisoner Morcombe, upon whom there were every symptoms of a delivery within ten or twelve days. He had also examined the body of the infant, and as far as its decomposed state would enable him to judge he had no doubt it had been born alive, and that death had been caused by suffocation. **ANN MILLER** deposed, that she was present at the medical examination, and that immediately after, the prisoner told her that Mrs. Downey had no knowledge of her delivery. The coroner recapitulated the evidence at some length and perspicuity, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Ann Morcombe. Downey acquitted.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/610, 08/05/1850

MASTER AND SERVANTS ACT. - Yesterday one case under this act came before the bench: **JOHN BORTHWICK** v **JOSEPH PERCOX**. ... and it appeared that Percox had been employed as the driver of the Singleton mail, ... Percox said in defence that he was miserable, being left with four small children to look after, and his wife being in trouble, ... they therefore sentenced him to two months' imprisonment.

#### SINGLETON

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held yesterday in the bush, about a mile beyond Mr. **LETHBRIDGE**'s "Mundiwa" sheep station, and eleven miles from Singleton, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., J.P., Coroner for the district of Patrick's Plains, and a jury of five, touching the death of **JOHN ROSE**, a respected inhabitant of Singleton, and well-known as an industrious, hard-working man. The jury (who were all summoned from Singleton) having been sworn, viewed the body, which did not present the appearance of much external injury, but upon pressing against the left side the ribs appeared to be all broken, crunching under the weight of the hand; the left leg was also broken above the ankle. From the evidence of **JAMES LEE**, a shepherd in Mr. Lethbridge's employment, and of **JAMES JACKSON**, a splitter, it appeared that on the day previous (Sunday) deceased and he were sawing down a large iron-bark tree, and having sawed sufficiently through, Jackson placed a wedge into the cut, when having struck it a few times with the maul the tree showed indication of falling; Lee and Jackson then retreated, cautioning poor Rose to do the same; he, however, would not stir from the butt of the tree, telling them that was the safest place. The tree fell in a contrary direction to where deceased was standing,

when, melancholy to relate, the tree in falling struck off a large limb of another tree still further from deceased (and beyond the falling tree), when the branch rebounded, and struck him to the ground. Lee and Jackson immediately ran to his assistance, and upon lifting him from underneath the prostrate branch he immediately breathed his last. The deceased was forty-three years of age, and unmarried. Verdict, accidental death by the falling of a branch of a tree.

CLARENCE TOWN

**MURDER AMONG THE BLACKS.** - An inquest was held here a few days ago, on the body of a black gin, named **MARIA**, who had been found lying dead in a stable. It appeared from the evidence that the woman had been murdered by her husband, whose name is **JEMMY**. For some little time before the outrage occurred a large number of blacks were observed about the township, and their proceedings seemed strange and unaccountable, exciting mirth in some minds and fear in others; and I must say at this time, and during the extraordinary behaviour of the mixed mob previous to the murder, which arose from passion, I entertained great fear of what the result would be. Jemmy is still at large. May 4, 1850.

**MRS. A.M. HUGHES HALLETT.**

The case of Dr. **DUIGAN**, charged with aiding and counselling a felon (Mrs. **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT**, alias **ELLIOTT**, alias **ELYARD**) to evade the police, is postponed, at the request of the defendant, till to-morrow.

**RICHMOND RIVER.** - Mr. **JOHN FARRELL**, ship-carpenter, was downed at the Richmond River on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo. The deceased left the settlement at night for the purpose of pulling some distance up river, and it is surmised he must have fouled some of the rafts, and in endeavouring to clear the boat have fallen overboard, as the hat he wore when last seen alive was picked up on a raft of timber. The body was found a few days afterwards with a deep cut over the right eye. *Herald, May 4.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/611, 11/05/1850

SYDNEY NEWS

**EVADING THE POLICE.** - Mr. **THOMAS RUSSELL DUIGAN** yesterday appeared at the Police-office, before Alderman **FISHER**, to answer an information exhibited against him by Mr. **WEARIN**, Chief Inspector of Sydney Police, for having harboured, aided, and counselled one **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT** (alias **ELLIOTT**, alias **ELYARD**), she being at such time a felon, endeavouring to evade the police. Mr. **LITTLE** conducted the prosecution, and Messrs. **NICHOLS** and **ROBERTS** the defence. It will be remembered that Mrs. Hallett, having been committed for trial on a charge of child-stealing, and committed to bail, had absconded before 26<sup>th</sup> February, when she ought to have appeared to take her trial; that a bench warrant for her apprehension was issued, and that she was apprehended at Botany on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, concealed in a box in the house of a person named **CORMACK**. From the evidence now given it appeared that a carpenter named **WATSON** had been some time ago employed by the defendant, Dr. Duigan, to carry a box from Dr. Duigan's house to a house at Strawberry Hill; and that afterwards on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, Watson was summoned to Dr. Duigan's house by a message, and going there he found a person in male attire, whom Dr. Duigan requested Watson to take care of for an hour and a half; Dr. Duigan then said to Mrs. Duigan, "We had better tell Watson all about it," and he then told Watson the person referred to was Mrs. Hallett, whereon Mrs. Hallett burst into tears; Watson took Mrs. Hallett to his house; afterwards Dr. Duigan called and said he was too busy to be able to take Mrs. Hallett away then, but he would come at night with a gig and take her away; Mrs.

Hallett, however, got impatient at length, and at her request between nine and ten at night, Watson took her into Kent-street and left her there. Dr. Duigan came about half-past eleven, and appeared surprised and annoyed at Mrs. Hallett's having left, saying "She'll think I want to get rid of her." The box Watson took to Strawberry Hill was the same, he deposed, that it was stated Mrs. Hallett was found in at Botany Bay. Mrs. Watson's evidence corroborated her husband's in what she stated. Mr. Nichols contended that there was nothing to show that Dr. Duigan was aware that Mrs. Hallett was a felon endeavouring to evade the police, which was the material part of the charge; the evidence simply proving that he had harboured her for a minute or two. The bench committed the defendant for trial. *Abridged from S.M. Herald, May 8.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held at Dickinson's, the Sportsman's Arms, South Head Road, on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, and Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> April, and on yesterday the 6<sup>th</sup> May, on the body of **THOMAS OLIVER O'DONNELL**, an infant of about two months old, who died on the night of 23<sup>rd</sup> April, of convulsions. The inquest was adjourned in consequence of a suspicion that improper medicine had been administered, or that medicine had been administered in too large a dose, neither of which suspicions, we are happy to say, were borne out by the evidence. The jury found that Thomas Oliver O'Donnell "died from convulsions caused by the visitation of God." *Herald. May 7.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - In the *Mercury* of the 17<sup>th</sup> April we mentioned that a man named **THOMAS THOMAS** had met with a very serious accident by the wheel of a dray going over his body; he having, it was stated, fallen or slipped off the dray as it was proceeding along the road between West and East Maitland. A passer-by informed Dr. **SCOTT** of the circumstances, and Dr. Scott immediately hastened to the spot, and found Thomas in such a state, the wheel having apparently gone over his loins, that he directed his immediate removal to the hospital. This was done, and Dr. Scott and Dr. **M'CARTNEY** tried every means for relieving Thomas that could be devised, although they, and the other medical men who saw him, thought his case a hopeless one. Thomas gradually sunk, and died on Tuesday last. An inquest was held on his body on Wednesday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when the above evidence was given, and Dr. Scott certified to the constant care and attention to Thomas displayed by the hospital attendant, assisted by a convalescent patient. No evidence was obtained as to the exact way the accident happened, the bullock driver and black boy who were with the dray having since returned up the country, but a witness named **CHARLES PRIEST** deposed that he saw the deceased on the dray as he rode past, and that hearing a shriek when he had got thirty yards off, he looked round, and saw a man lying in the road, but supposing it was a drunken man, took no notice, and went on. The jury returned a verdict that death was caused by a dray-wheel passing over deceased's body, but that how the accident occurred they had no evidence to show; and that they were perfectly satisfied that every attention was paid to the deceased in the hospital.

**INQUEST.** - On Tuesday morning an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the Hinton Hotel, Hinton, on the body of **HECTOR LAMONT**. Lamont it appeared had died about Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, and was buried, but in consequence of a statement made to Mr. Parker that it was stated by parties residing at Hinton that Lamont had imputed his illness to injuries he received in a fight some two months before, Mr. Parker ordered the body to be exhumed, that an inquest might be held on it. It appeared from the evidence that on the 18<sup>th</sup> February last Lamont, who was working with **SAMUEL M'DONALD** as a fencer, had gone to Morpeth to borrow a dray for M'Donald, but had stopped at the Victoria Hotel, Hinton, on his

way back. **GEORGE DUNCAN** deposed that he was in the inn when Lamont came in, and that Lamont was then drunk; that there had been no fighting in the room previously, but that while a man named **MATTHEW VAUGHAN** was singing a song, Lamont took some offence at it, and he and Vaughan came to blows, Lamont striking the first blow; Lamont, it appears, got the worst of the fight, but Duncan deposed that he did not see Lamont knocked down, nor did he see any other person strike or kick Lamont while fighting with Vaughan; about a month afterwards Lamont asked witness if **CHARLES LAWN** struck him, witness said he did not see him do so; not had witness told any one else that he did see Lawn strike Lamont; Duncan deposed also that about a month before Lamont's death, he (Duncan) helped to put a bag of flour (containing one hundred lbs.) on Lamont's back, which Lamont walked to his own house, a quarter of a mile off. No other witness who was present at the fight was called, but it appeared that for some [ ] three weeks after the fight Lamont was unable to do any work, and complained that his ribs were broken, although Lamont himself does not appear to have attributed it solely to the fight, but partly to having got a sudden jerk by M'Donald's dray coming in contact with a stump while he was riding on it, about two days after the fight; after the first fortnight Lamont appeared to get better, and worked as usual, although still complaining of pain in his arms and shoulders.

Lamont told his wife that his ribs were broken, and she observed two swelled spots on his ribs, which he said pained him much when pressed, and which he told her were caused by the jerk when he got on the dray. Lamont told M'Donald that George Duncan told him that Lawn struck him in the fight, and Mrs. Lamont deposed that Duncan told her husband in her presence that Lawn and other persons had struck him. Mrs. Lamont stated that after her husband brought home the bag of flour on his back he did not complain of pain, nor appear the worse for it. About three weeks before his death Lamont took cold from getting wet, and his cold continued getting worse, until he had to abstain from work, and finally Mrs. Lamont begged M'Donald to go for Dr. **BROWN**, as her husband was worse. M'Donald went and obtained some medicine from Dr. Brown, and Dr. Brown visited Lamont on the Monday morning, but Lamont died on the Wednesday or Thursday following. Mrs. Lamont stated that her husband was occasionally delirious in his last illness. Dr. Brown was not examined as a witness, nor was anything further adduced as to the last illness of Lamont, except that Mrs. Lamont said that her opinion was that he died from natural causes, and not from violence. Dr. **WILTON** performed a *post mortem* examination, and found that none of Lamont's ribs were or had been broken, but he found his liver very much diseased, gorged with blood, very soft, and on the left side, immediately under the upper end of the stomach, he found an immense quantity of blood, which he thought might have escaped from the blood-vessels near the part; this, and the diseased state of the liver, were in his opinion the causes of death; there was no mark of violence, but he found three or four large spots of inflammation on the lower part of the bowels; what occasioned the appearances he found in the body it was impossible to say, with certainty; a blow or kick would produce such appearances, or, in the then state of the liver, any intemperance, a hearty meal, or violent exercise, might produce them; a cold would not; any violent blow received by the deceased would probably have accelerated his death; a man might live for some time in that state, and might carry a heavy weight for a great distance. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

**FATAL ACCIDENT WITH FIRE-ARMS.** - On Monday an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, at the Lamb Inn, Dunmore, on the body of **JOHN**

**WILLIAM FIELD**, a lad of about fourteen years old, and in the employ of Mrs. **STACE**. From the evidence of Mr. **JAMES STACE** and Mr. **ROBERT MUIR** it appeared that on Sunday afternoon divine service was celebrated at Mr. Stace's house by the Rev. Mr. **PURVES**, and that while it was proceeding Mr. Stace was called out by his son **HENRY WILLIAM STACE**, to see young Field, who he said was badly hurt; Mr. Stace asked Mr. Muir to go with him, and they went to the house of James Stace, junior., about a quarter of a mile off, where they found the poor boy lying insensible, and bleeding from a perforated wound in his head, above the left ear; Mr. Muir probed the wound with his finger, and found it so deep that he was convinced that the lad could not live; Dr. **BROWN** was sent for, but the lad died almost instantly after he arrived, never having recovered his senses. To Mr. Muir's and Mr. Stace's enquiries, Henry Stace replied that Field met with the wound by falling into the fire place, when his head, Stace said, came in contact with an upright stick, which he pointed out, sticking between the bricks. Field's father, who had been sent for, did not arrive till the poor boy was dead, and the same tale was told to him by Henry Stace and by **WILLIAM GOULD**, a youth of nineteen years of age. Blood was observed in the fire-place, about this stick, which appeared to corroborate the statement. The next morning however Field observed that the inner part of his son's left hand was blackened, as if with smoke, and he immediately suspected that a gun must have been fired off to cause this, and that the wound was probably caused by a gunshot. When the inquest was held, Mr. Stace, Mr. Muir, and Mr. Field deposed as above, Mr. Muir adding that he heard no discharge of a gun during service. Two woman residing nearby were afterwards examined, and both deposed that they had heard a gun discharged during the service, they being at the time in their own houses, and one of them residing close to James Stace's jun., neither of the women had heard any quarrelling. Further enquiries were now made, and at length Gould admitted that young Field had been shot, and he deposed that he was in company with Field on Sunday, when deceased whistled for Henry Stace to help him disengage a bullock, and subsequently while in the house Field noticed a gun in the bedroom, and brought it out, and commenced sky larking with it; Henry Stace told Field to put down the gun; Field did not do so, when Henry Stace attempted to take it away from him, when the gun went off; Field instantly fell in the chimney corner, and Henry Stace picked him up, and asked him what was the matter, but Field made no answer; Gould now observed blood running from Field's head, and Henry Stace went to tell his father what had occurred. Gould said he had been afraid to say before now Field was hurt. A *post mortem* examination by Dr. **LIDDELL** showed that the perforated wound above the left ear penetrated through the skull, and that the middle lobe of the brain towards the base was destroyed, numerous specula of bone and small pellets of lead being imbedded in the brain; and other pellets of lead were found between the scalp and external surface of the skull around the injury; the left ear was blackened, especially within the ear, and the left hand was also blackened inside; from these indications Dr. Liddell had no doubt death was caused by a gunshot wound, and he was of opinion the gun must have been held by Field near the muzzle, and that the muzzle of the gun must have been very close to Field's head when the gun went off; no blow or fall on any body could have produced the injury; the wound must have caused almost instant death. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by the accidental discharging of a gun during a scuffle with Henry William Stace, and they appended a rider that considerable blame was attachable to William Gould and Henry William Stace for their conduct in concealing the circumstances.

TAMWORTH

**A CHILD BURNT TO DEATH.** - Last Saturday week, a son of Mr. **HANNAFORD'S**, poundkeeper, was playing near a burning log, when his clothes caught fire, and before his parents, who ran immediately to his assistance, could extinguish it. The unfortunate child was so dreadfully burnt that he only survived a few hours.

**A BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.** - On Saturday last, at Goonogoono, **DAVID**, a boy about nine years of age, son of Mr. **SMITH**, late a miner at Newcastle, accidentally shot himself with a carbine, which he had loaded the previous evening with about forty slugs, to shoot cockatoos. Dr. **JENKINS**, of Tamworth, having been sent for, found that the slugs had passed completely through the right lung, and most of them were to be seen in a sheet of bark covered the roof of the hut. The poor little sufferer, notwithstanding this dreadful accident, is alive, and at present doing well.

**INQUEST.** - On Sunday last the postman brought information to the police that a man was found dead under a dray near Mr. Single's inn, Weril's Creek. At an inquiry held next day by Dr. Jenkins, it was proved in evidence that the deceased's name was **FRANZ GEHRIG**, a German; that he had been unwell for some months, and was now on his way down the country to a hospital, but that he died suddenly on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - On Monday evening last **GEORGE BUDDLE [RUDDLE]**, a carrier, was discovered by a blackfellow lying in the bush near Tamworth, having been thrown from his horse early in the morning. He was when found sensible, but unable to move hand or foot. The ants were attacking his eyes, and would probably have destroyed him alive, had not the blackfellow, who was in search of horses, passed near him. The poor man was removed as soon as possible to Dr. Jenkins's hospital, where he is now lying in a precarious state.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/613, 18/05/1850**  
**SYDNEY NEWS**

About half-past three o'clock this morning, a young man named **SAMUEL BEAN NICHOLSON**, lodging at Mr. **GROCOTT'S**, stationer, in George-street, and who it appears had been lately imbibing rather freely, leaped from his bed and, exclaiming the house was on fire, attempted to lower himself from the attic window by a rope, which he had fastened to the bed-post; his weight broke the cord, and he fell on the pavement, dying almost instantly.

Last night, about eleven o'clock, **ROBERT COLE**, a seaman belonging to the ship *John Knox*, lying at the Circular Quay, fell off the gangway, and was drowned. His body was found about half an hour afterwards, but life was extinct.

**QUEANBEYAN. - THE BURNING CASE.** - On the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant **JAMES BARBER** was brought before the Queanbeyan bench, and was committed for trial. This was the man charged with the cruel roasting of the old man, **BLACK PETER**, on the 16<sup>th</sup> April. The evidence now given proved that there were several persons drinking together in a hut, Barber being one, and **PETER READING**, known as **BLACK PETER**, another. Keating got drunk and lay down outside the hut, and Barber, who had also got drunk, late in the night insisted that Keating had robbed him of ten shillings (Barber having previously given Keating 10s. for fetching rum), and not finding any money on Keating, he placed him on the fire for a brief space, dropped hot tallow from the candle on Keating's forehead or eyes, and then threw or placed hot ashes on the tallow. At first Keating was considered in danger, but it now appeared that all the injuries were surface injuries, and although danger might have arisen from the extent of the surfaces scalded or scorched, yet the medical man

attending him (Dr. **MORTON**) considered him now out of danger; the only spot on the body where, in Dr. Morton's opinion, injuries had been sustained by actual burning was a sore below the navel, about an inch in length and half an inch in breadth; the scalds on the face had produced ophthalmia, but the eyelashes were not singed off or burnt. *Abridged from the Goulburn Herald, May 11.*

**MELANCHOLY CIRCUMSTANCE.** - On the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, Mr. **LUMSDAINE**, of Mutt Mutt Billy, had occasion to visit an unoccupied sheep station of his some miles from the homestead; he there found a man lying in the watch-box in an almost insensible state. Mr. Lumsdaine endeavoured to enter into conversation with the man but could exact no answer from him. Believing him to be under the effects of intoxication he rode away. On the following Tuesday some of Mr. Lumsdaine's men went over to the station for the purpose of removing the hurdles and watch-box, when they discovered the man lying in the same place quite dead. Information being conveyed to Mr. L. a messenger was despatched to town for the coroner, who started off with Dr. **GERARD** to the scene of the melancholy occurrence. A post mortem examination having been made it was ascertained that the deceased died from inflammation of the bowels. No one could give any account of the deceased. A card of steel pens was found in his pocket, on which was scribbled "John Rowan." *Goulburn Herald, May 11.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/614, 22/05/1850

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - A coroner's inquest was held at Hancock's public-house, Parramatta-street, on Monday, and (by adjournment) on Thursday, on view of the body of **ANN KENT**, who died in the Benevolent Asylum on last Saturday night, having been taken there on the previous day. Deceased appeared to be about thirty years of age, was of dissolute habits, and had lived for some time at a house in Clarence-street, kept by one **BUCKLEY**, where she was frequently visited by a seaman named **GLOVER**, who paid 8s. weekly for her board and lodgings. About a fortnight since, deceased, Glover, and one or two other of the inmates of the said house, drank rum till they became intoxicated; while under the influence of the drink, deceased and Glover quarrelled, when the latter violently beat and kicked the former, after which she took ill, and daily became worse, until the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, when she was removed to the Asylum, where the next day she expired. The jury found a verdict of manslaughter against Glover, and a warrant was issued for his apprehension. *Herald, 18<sup>th</sup> May.*

**MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT.** - About five o'clock p.m. yesterday, a sailor on board the ship *Marion*, lying at Miller's Point Wharf, having gone aloft to rig the fore-top-gallant-mast, the bolt in the fore-top mast drew in, heaving up the mast, and knocked the unfortunate man from off the cross-trees, and falling upon deck, he died on the spot. *Herald, May 16.*

**A CHILD DROWNED IN A WELL.** - On Wednesday afternoon a child of about two years of age, named **ELEANOR LEONARD**, residing at Chippendale, fell into a well and was drowned. It appears that the well had a lid, but no hinges; some person must have been drawing up water, and omitted to cover up the well until his or her return, and the infant walked unconsciously to its death. An inquest was yesterday held upon the body, and a verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury. *Herald, May 18.*

**SUSPECTED MURDER.** - The head of an infant, about eighteen months old, was discovered yesterday by one of the Water Police, on the North Shore. The head was in a perfect state of preservation, and appeared to have been cleanly severed from the

body. Information was immediately forwarded to the Coroner, who will hold an inquest on the remains. *Bell's Life, 18th May.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/615, 25/05/1850

VIOLENT ASSAULT. - Incident at Morpeth on steamer – **CHARLES LAWN.**  
SYDNEY NEWS.

About nine o'clock last night **WILLIAM CLEATHEROW**, aged 70 years, residing in Albion-row, Kent-street, fell down stairs and broke his neck. He was intoxicated at the time.

THE HEAD OF AN INFANT FOUND IN THE HARBOUR. - Between seven and eight o'clock on Friday morning, **JOHN MANLEY**, a waterman, found the head of an infant, apparently of two or three days old, on the strand, at Robinson's Point, which, after having in vain searched for the trunk, he conveyed to and left at the Water Police Office. On Saturday, an inquiry was held by the Coroner, Mr. **J.R. BRENAN**, Esq., at Smith's public-house, Lower George-street. Manley deposed that the head appeared to be quite fresh; it was white, one eye was open, the tongue hanging out of the mouth, and something like pale blood was oozing out of the crown; the head had been separated very close to the chin, no neck being left, and was a little jagged at one side; he had seen bodies that had been bit by sharks, but believed that no fish could have cut off a head in the way that this had been severed from the body. The inquest was then adjourned until Thursday next. *Herald, May 20.*

THE RESULT OF THE SECOND ANALYSIS OF THE REMAINS OF THE LATE MRS. CLARKSON.

Yesterday an examination was held before Mr. **E.D. DAY** of the gentlemen to whom had been entrusted (by the Attorney General) the task of analysing such portions of Mrs. Clarkson's remains as were detached from the body at the time of the second exhumation. Mr. **EDWARD PORTER**, chemist, and Mr. **ABRAHAM ABRAHAM**, chemist, made a joint report of the result of the analysis they had conducted, and which had occupied them from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 10<sup>th</sup> May, having been conducted in Mr. Abraham's laboratory, under the immediate supervision of Doctors **TIERNEY** and **BENNETT**. The report stated very fully the whole of the process followed in performing the analysis, and stated the results arrived at in the following words:- "Having thus concluded our examination, we will briefly review the whole process. By the first part we obtained a perfect solution of the membranes and of all metallic substances likely to be recovered. From a consideration of the second part we infer the absence of arsenic, mercury, lead, tin, antimony, bismuth, or copper. The third part, and the carbonising process, were conducted with a view to ascertain whether any portion of zinc had been absorbed by the tissues. After the most attentive and careful research we are convinced that not a trace of arsenic, zinc, lead, or any other metals excepting iron, had been in existence." Doctors Tierney and Bennett also furnished a written certificate of their having been present many hours each day during the analysis, of their sealing the door of the laboratory each evening, &c., and they state that "having witnessed the mode of investigation, and tests, they consider the opinion to which they (Messrs Porter and Abraham) have arrived to be both conclusive and satisfactory." All these gentlemen were sworn, and examined further by Mr. **O'NEIL BRENAN**, for the Crown, Mr. **NICHOLS** appearing for the defence. Mr. Porter had heard of cases of poisoning where no poison was discovered, even though there was an analysis very shortly afterwards; Mr. Porter was also further examined on the chemical results in certain specified conditions. Mr. Abraham gave similar testimony to Mr. Porter's. Mr. Bennett had

full belief in the correctness of the analysis, and although he would not say positively that zinc had not been administered, he thought it exceedingly improbable; he was still of opinion that the late Mrs. Clarkson died from apoplexy. Dr. Tierney gave similar testimony of his belief in the correctness of the analysis and its results. Both the latter gentlemen said they could not say positively that no poison had been administered, because there were cases on record wherein, although death had ensued immediately afterwards, and a *post mortem* examination had been made, still no traces had been discovered of the poison taken. This closed the evidence, which was ordered to be forwarded to the Attorney General. *Abridged from the Herald, May 21.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/616, 29/05/1850

ADVERTISEMENT - by **JOHN OLIVER**, carrier, of Big River, thanking Doctor **JENKINS** for his successful cancer operation.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/617, 01/06/1850

DROWNED. - A seaman named **GEORGE BLACKWOOD**, belonging to the brig *Catherine*, fell out of one of the boats, while the vessel was getting under way in Hobson's Bay; before assistance could be rendered, the poor fellow sank to rise no more.

CORONER'S INQUESTS. - On Friday afternoon last, a child named **WILLIAM PILLING**, whose parents reside in a place off Bathurst-street, near Barker's Mill, was missing from home, and the neighbourhood having been searched for him in vain, the bellman was employed, but still no tidings of the lost child. On the next morning, one of the neighbours, named **BROWN**, determined upon dragging Barker's mill-dam, a sheet of water about sixty feet square, by about six deep, and the body of the child was then found. The child was last seen by his father at two o'clock shortly after dinner, on Friday afternoon, and his mother was confined to her bed by a recent accouchement. An inquest was held upon the body, when the jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning, to which they appended the following rider:- "The Jury unanimously request the coroner to immediately communicate with Mr. Barker, in order that he may either enclose the pond in question, or keep the gates shut, several accidents of a similar nature having occurred in the same pond through its dangerous and unprotected state." *Herald, May 30*

SUICIDE. - An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. **J. RYAN BRENNAN**, on the body of a young man named **ALLEN [T.G.P. ALLAN]**, residing in Fort-street. From the evidence adduced it appeared that the unfortunate youth had destroyed himself by taking a dose of prussic acid whilst labouring under a fit of temporary insanity, and a verdict to that effect was found by the jury. *Herald, May 29*

KEMPSEY, MAY 8. - MURDER BY THE BLACKS.

News has just reached us of a murder recently perpetrated by the blacks of the Bellinger River, on the person of an old man who had long been a sawyer both at that place and the M'Leay. The circumstances are as follows:- On Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> April, five blacks named **DOEBOY, MOOGO, UGLY-BOY, MICKEY, and CHARLEY**, came to the hut of the deceased (**DANIEL PAGE**), inhabited by himself, wife, and child, and another man **JOHN HELY**, requesting, as they frequently had done before, to be put across the river; they were about to comply, and went as far as the bank, when perceiving that the blacks were fully armed, and otherwise suspicious looking, the white men thought it not prudent to leave the shelter of their hut, and after a few words consultation, determined on returning; they had no sooner come to that resolution than one of the blacks threw a spear at Hely, which he

narrowly escaped by stooping his head suddenly. They then made the best of their way to the hut, during which time both men were wounded by boomerangs. Unfortunately all the implements of defence which were in the premises were two knives, with which they succeeded in preventing them entering the house; when unfortunately one door leading to the store was broken open, and Page, in endeavouring to drive them off, received the wound of which he has since died; he, however, succeeded in refastening the door. They then threw the blacks some provisions they had cooked, with which they retired. Immediately on their doing so, the white people set off, with the hope of gaining a vessel (*Flora*, Captain Grimwood), then lying in the Nambucora, about seventeen miles from the scene of violence; but the wounded man being unable to go further than two miles, they were obliged to leave him on the beach, wrapped up in a pair of blankets, and a bottle of water beside him. The others reached the vessel in the evening, the master of which behaved most humanely, rendering the sufferers all the assistance in his power, sending back with the woman next morning two of his sailors well armed, while Hely proceeded to the MLeay River to obtain medical aid, and to report the circumstances to Mr. Merewether, the commissioner. The woman and sailors were not able to find Page the next day, he having removed from the place in which he had been left, in the hope of following his companions to the vessel. They resumed the search on the following morning (Saturday), when, after some difficulty, they found him; he was sensible, but quite exhausted; he was removed to his hut, and died the following day, previously to which he told them that the blacks had discovered him on the beach, and robbed him of his blankets; these miserable miscreants also took out of the hut three bags of flour, sugar, tea, tobacco, pipes, cooking utensils, bedding, &c., and a small boat, which was moored at the wharf. Medical assistance, from the distance, did not arrive until two days after the burial, when he was exhumed, and upon a *post mortem* examination it was discovered that the oesophagus was completely divided, and various other severe contusions upon the abdomen and head, from blows he had received by stones. It is the opinion of the medical man that the injury in the throat was sufficient of itself to cause death. There are five policemen at present engaged in the search after these blacks, and it is to be hoped they will succeed in taking them, as two of them were more than suspected of having been perpetrators of the murder of two men, a woman, and child, some years ago upon the same river. *Herald Correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/618, 05/06/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Monday afternoon a family named **M'DONALD**, consisting of a man, his wife, and one daughter, a fine young woman, were returning from Hexham to Maitland in a bullock dray, driven by **JAMES CAMERON**, when, as the dray reached a spot in the road where a track turned off to Scott's waterhole, the bullocks suddenly left the road, in spite of Cameron's exertions, and made for the waterhole, they having had no water since Saturday evening. Before they reached the waterhole the dray-wheel came full against a large tree, and the dray was instantly capsized, throwing out all the M'Donalds, and before Cameron could stop the bullocks they had dragged the fallen dray a hundred yards further, dragging it apparently over the body of the young woman, **BARBARA M'DONALD**. When M'Donald got up after the fall, the first thing that met his eye was the insensible form of his daughter, who lay with her head fearfully injured, and bleeding profusely, and one arm crushed near the elbow; her bonnet was full of blood by the time she had been lifted up, and she expired within a very short time. An inquest was held on the

body yesterday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, at the Rose Inn, East Maitland, and a verdict of accidental death was returned.

**COACH ACCIDENT. - LOSS OF LIFE. -** We regret to have to report that between five and six o'clock on Wednesday evening, a collision took place with the Rose omnibus and the Parramatta Royal Mail, at Battee Bridge, on the Parramatta-road, in consequence of which the mail was overturned, one person, named **EDWARD SINCLAIR**, killed upon the spot, and another whose name we have not learned, very much injured. The body of the unfortunate deceased was brought into Sydney and deposited at the Benevolent Asylum, and yesterday afternoon an inquest into the circumstances of the accident was held at Hancock's public-house, Parramatta-street, before the coroner and a jury. **JAMES CONST** [?] deposed as follows:- I started from Homebush for Sydney, on Wednesday afternoon, in the Rose Omnibus, driven by **WILLIAM ANDREWS**; and at about a quarter before six o'clock, at the bottom of the hill below Ireland's , we met the Parramatta mail coach; we were coming towards the bridge, and the mail was going over the bridge; I sat next the driver; our omnibus came in collision with the coach, our left wheel striking their left wheel, and the coach capsized; we were on our own side, and the coach was passing inside of us; the omnibus was not upset; the coach fell partly over the abutments, throwing off the passengers, the deceased Edward Sinclair being one; we were going at the rate of five or six miles an hour; our driver was quite sober; I think the driver of the mail had enough room to pass on his own side of the road; when deceased was taken up he groaned, but did not speak, and in about twenty minutes he died; the mail was thrown completely on its side; I cannot say whether **DUNN**, the driver of the mail, was sober or not; the mail was proceeding pretty quickly, I should say at the rate of six miles an hour; each vehicle was drawn by four horses; our leaders were on the bridge before the mail crossed us – in fact, part of the vehicle was on the bridge when the leaders of both took a turn; neither of the drivers was flogging his horses; our driver attempted as hard as he could to pull up, but could not do so in time to prevent the accident. The inquest then adjourned for further evidence until Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. *Herald, May 31.*

The Inquiry before the Coroner into the circumstances attendant on the death of **EDWARD SINCLAIR**, by the collision of the Rose omnibus and the mail coach, on Wednesday last, was on Saturday resumed, the two drivers, **WILLIAM ANDREWS** and **WILLIAM DUNN**, being in charge. **DANIEL SULLIVAN**, a passenger by the omnibus, corroborated the statement of **CONST** in most particulars, adding that the deceased was sitting on the front of the coach, and when it overturned he fell on his back across the sleepers of the bridge, and from thence down the precipice; the mail shot right across the leaders of the omnibus; the driver of the mail had quite sufficient room to pass on his own side; I think he must have pulled the wrong rein by mistake; did not see any gig coming on the right side of the omnibus. **THOMAS CLUNE** deposed, that he was on the Parramatta road at the time of the accident, about a hundred yards from the two carriages, both of which appeared to him to be on their wrong side; in his opinion, neither of the drivers could have prevented the accident, as the two carriages came very suddenly upon each other; the cart he was in passed the omnibus on the right side before it moved after the collision. **ARCHIBALD ASHDOWN** deposed that he was a passenger by the mail-coach from Sydney as far as Ashfield, on Wednesday afternoon; before we came to the bridge we were going at a moderate pace; there had been some impediments immediately before reaching the bridge, in consequence of which the driver had pulled up a little; it was light enough to see everything at the time of the collision; the omnibus was coming at a rather rapid pace on the wrong side of the road – on the side that we ought to have been on; on the

omnibus approaching the bridge it was driving on the curve of the road on the right hand side; when we approached the bridge I was certain that if the mail pursued its own course a collision was unavoidable, and our driver endeavoured to take the other side of the road – his wrong side – and the omnibus driver did the same, when the two vehicles came in contact; if the omnibus had kept on its wrong side we should have passed in safety, and if the omnibus driver had been on his own side of the road no accident would have occurred. **THOMAS SIMMONS** deposed that at the time of the collision the omnibus driver was endeavouring to get across to his own side of the road, but it was too late. Dr. **TIERNEY** deposed that he had examined the body of the deceased, and he was of opinion he died from rupture of the liver and the shock sustained by the nervous system. Mr. **MOSELY M. COHEN** had frequently travelled the road with both the drivers before the court, and believed them both to be experienced, careful, and skilful drivers. The coroner summed up the whole of the evidence, and left the case in the hands of the jury, who found a verdict of died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, June 3.*

**QUEANBEYAN. - FATAL ACCIDENT. -** On Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo, an inquest was held at Ginninderry Creek, before Dr. **MORTON**, the coroner for the district, and a jury of twelve men, on view of the body of **JAMES MASON**, aged thirty-two, then lying dead. The coroner and jury having made a careful inspection of the deceased, and of the place where he was found dead, it appeared, from that inspection, and from the evidence adduced, that the deceased, a recently arrived immigrant (whose untimely death has left a widow and young family destitute) was in temporary charge of a flock of sheep belonging to Mr. **PALMER**, of Ginninderry, and that he had followed an opossum up a tree, a height of about thirty feet, and while endeavouring to reach the animal by means of a small stick, the branch on which he stood gave way, and he was precipitated to the ground, falling on his head. He was found next morning, under a tree, quite dead, with blood oozing from the nose and mouth. The jury returned a verdict of “died from injuries sustained by falling from a tree.” No one having seen the accident, the jury came to this verdict from circumstantial evidence only, but that of the clearest nature, viz. – marks on the tree as if made by a person climbing, a recently broken branch about thirty feet from the ground on which no doubt deceased stood, about five or six feet higher very distinct finger marks on another branch, evidently made by deceased grasping when the branch slipped from under him. There were also marks of the opossum’s claws on one of the small branches broken off, and a quantity of the fur of that animal close to the tree, *Goulburn Herald, June 1*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/619, 08/06/1850**

**FATAL ACCIDENT. -** On Monday morning an inquest was held at Parramatta on the body of a man of colour, said to be the cook or steward of the *Rose* steamer, trading between Sydney and Maitland. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was at Homebush Races on Friday last, on horseback, when an accident occurred, narrated as follows by an eye-witness:- **FRANCIS SHIELDS**, a servant to Captain **BATTY**, of the 23<sup>rd</sup> regiment, said he was at the Homebush races on Friday last, in company with the deceased, but did not know his name; that he (witness) had been drinking with him on the course, and was close to him when he was thrown from his horse; there was a gig capsized and a rush was made, at which time some person on horseback knocked against the horse on which he was sitting, the reins of his horse gave way, and he lost all management of him; the deceased fell on his head and shoulder; there were some pieces of broken glass on the spot, which just made a

small graze on the temple; did not know the name of the person on horseback who rode against him; deceased could not ride well; persons present thought he was dead, for he laid half-an-hour apparently lifeless, until his face was washed, when he revived a little; he was bled on the spot; witness believed that deceased was three parts drunk, and that no person was to blame; it was quite an accident.” The deceased was taken to the Parramatta Hospital, and was attended by Dr. **HILL** and Dr. **ROBERTSON**, but died from a compression of the brain produced by the rupture of a large blood-vessel. The jury returned a verdict of natural death. *Abridged from the Herald, June 5*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/620, 12/06/1850

THE PRESENT MRS. CLARKSON. - *Bell's Life* states that the Attorney General has declined to prosecute the present Mrs. Clarkson on the charge for which she was committed.

SYDNEY NEWS

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Thursday and Friday

Before Mr. Justice Dickinson: **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT** alias **ELYARD** alias **ELLIOTT** was indicted for having, on the 29<sup>th</sup> January last, forcible taken away one **JULIA BROWN**, an infant aged five years, with intent to deprive one **MICHAEL GEORGE BROWN** of the possession of the said infant. In the same indictment also, **THOMAS RUSSELL DUIGAN**, **JAMES GRIFFITHS**, and **MARY ANN CORMACK**, were charged with having aided the first named prisoner to escape from justice, by harbouring, concealing, and assisting her, they at the same time being well aware that she had committed the before mentioned felony. There were three other counts in the information; in one of these Mrs. Hallett was charged with enticing the child away by fraud, in another she was detaining the child by force; and in the last she was charged with detaining her by fraud. In each of these counts the other prisoners were charged as accessories after the fact. The evidence given in the case ran to a great length, occupying two days, but it was little more than an enlarged recapitulation of what has already been published from the police-office examinations. The jury returned a verdict of guilty against Mrs. Hallett on the last two counts, for detention by force and by fraud; and of guilty of being accessories against Dr. Duigan and Griffiths; they returned a verdict of not guilty as regarded Mrs. Cormack. Mrs. Cormack was discharged. Mrs. Hallett was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour. As regarded Dr. Duigan and Griffiths, judgement was reserved, a point being reserved for argument as to whether a conviction made under the statute of an accessory would hold good where the aiding and abetting had been subsequent to the commission of the felony, and not at the time of the commission. *Abridged from the Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/621, 15/06/1850

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – re INQUESTS.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Wednesday, June 12

Before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Dickinson

**MARY ANN CLARKSON'S** recognizances to appear to take her trial were vacated, the Attorney General stating that he had no intention to prosecute. *Abr. from Herald.*

LUNATIC ASYLUM

*To the Editors of the S.M. Herald.*

GENTLEMEN – I yesterday interred the bodies of **JAMES HUTCHINSON** and **SAMUEL TODD** (two lunatics) in the burial ground at Tarban Creek, and there are circumstances connected with their deaths which imperatively demand investigation.

The Surgery Dispenser of the Asylum stated in my presence previous to the interments that Hutchinson, who was labouring under pulmonary disease, had been found dead on Monday morning, lying on the stone flags of the crib-room, where he slept with several other patients, by one of whom he had been much annoyed and pulled about during Sunday night. The dispenser moreover stated that Todd, who was suffering from aneurism, had also been found in a similar situation, not then dead – though he died in the course of the day.

I say nothing of the cause of these poor creatures being so situated. ....

Ryde Parsonage, June 12.

**GEORGE E. TURNER**

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/622, 19/06/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An awful and most distressing accident occurred at Newtown on Thursday last. A man of the name of **GRAY**, shoemaker, residing near Bates' public-house, on the Newtown road, left his family early in the morning for the purpose of procuring something for breakfast at a neighbouring shop; on returning in a few minutes after to his house, the horrifying spectacle presented itself of his eldest child, a girl of about five years old, lying on the ground, in a state of insensibility, and burnt almost to death. The frantic father took the child in his arms, and ran out into the street, calling for assistance in the most heart-rending tones. Medical aid was procured but the poor child died in about two hours after the accident. The unfortunate man lost his wife about four months ago. The cause of the accident is supposed to have originated in the deceased having incautiously gone too near the fire in the room for some purpose as yet unaccounted for. *Herald, June 17.*

SUSPICION OF MURDER. - On Thursday afternoon, the body of a man named **DEVONSHIRE**, who had been missing since last Monday week, was found near the monument to the memory of La Perouse, at Botany, bearing on the head marks of violence. The circumstance was reported at the Coroner's office, and in consequence of enquiries made by Mr. **SINGLETON**, of the Coroner's department, that officer has considered it his duty to apprehend a person named **WILLIAM BRADLEY**, on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Devonshire. The deceased and Bradley were owners of a coasting craft of which the latter was master. The body has been brought into town, and an inquest will be held thereon today. *Herald, June 15.*

DEATH BY DROWNING. - The body of a man named **DEHINEY [DERRNKEY]** was yesterday found drowned in Darling Harbour. An inquest will be holden on the body this morning. *Herald, June 15.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/623, 22/06/1850

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - Another of the sad dray accidents which have been so frequently lately occurred on Tuesday last, the unfortunate sufferer being in a state of drunkenness at the time. Mr. **PATRICK M'MANUS**, of Singleton, had entrusted his hired servant, **PATRICK KELLY**, with a dray-load of goods to take to Morpeth, and on Monday Mr. M'Manus passed the dray on its way, at Lochinvar, when he gave Kelly 23s. 6d. in silver, and rode on himself to Morpeth. Kelly, it appears, had got between East Maitland and Morpeth with the dray about mid-day on Tuesday, but about two o'clock in the afternoon a carrier named **ROBERT CARTER**, of page's River, who was driving a load of two tons of tallow on his own dray, met with Kelly walking on the road, and Kelly begged him to give him a lift that he might overtake

his dray; at this time Kelly was very drunk. Carter consented, and Kelly got up, and laid down on Carter's bed, which was on the top of the load; the dray was covered over with canvas, the sides being done up with sticks, and Kelly was underneath the canvas. Carter drove on till he reached the place at Morpeth where the roads separate, when he saw a man in front of him holding up his hands, and heard him call out to stop the bullocks; Carter immediately stopped them, the man informing him he saw Kelly fall out of the dray; Carter went back a little, and found Kelly lying in the road, senseless, and from the track of the near wheel it was obvious that the wheel had gone over the middle of his body. A medical man was sent for, who advised that Kelly should be at once removed to the Maitland Hospital, which was done by the police. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, when the above evidence was given, and Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, having examined the body, gave his opinion that death had been caused by the accident. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that the deceased was at the time of the accident in a state of drunkenness, and unable to take care of himself.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on Saturday and (by adjournment) yesterday, at the house of Robert Hancock, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM DEVONSHIRE**, then lying in the dead-house of the Benevolent Asylum, **WILLIAM BRADLEY** being in custody. The evidence given was corroborative of Bradley's account of the transaction; that his mate and part owner (Devonshire) had landed from the cutter at Botany to obtain an order for coals from Mrs. **CASTILLA**; had got the order, and made his way towards the point from whence he was to go off to the cutter; that it became dark, and he lost his way, and was put on it again by a woman at whose house he had called; and that Bradley landed in a dingy to meet and bring him off, he could see or hear nothing of him, expressing great surprise in his enquiries that his mate should, as was suggested, have returned overland to Sydney. The next morning Devonshire's body was found among the rocks at the foot of a little precipice. Mr. **RUSSELL**, house surgeon of the Benevolent Asylum, after having described the state of the body, the injuries it had received, deposed that death was caused by drowning combined with those injuries. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and Bradley was discharged from custody. *Abridged from the Herald, June 19.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/624, 26/06/1850

**MURDER BY THE BLACKS AT WARIALDA.** Shepherd. See 8/625.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday last, two children at Colo, the one aged four and the other two years, both girls, daughters of a Mr. **WILLIAM BULLOCK**, were left for a few minutes by the fire, whilst their mother went out to see if a hen had laid which she heard cackling. On her return she found both the children partly in flames. The elder had her hair much singed, but the younger was dreadfully burned. The little sufferer lingered in great agony until nine o'clock p.m., when she expired. Previous to the mother going out, she had raked some live ashes upon the hearth to bake a damper, and it appeared that the children, during her absence, had seated themselves on the other side of the hob, and thus caught fire. An inquest was held, and a verdict returned of accidental death by burning. *Herald, June 21.*

**EXECUTION.** - The men Wagner and Fitzgerald, convicted of murder, and sentenced to death at the late Moreton Bay Assizes, have been warned that they will be hanged on Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of July next, at Brisbane, Moreton Bay. The Under Sheriff will proceed thither to see the sentence carried out. *S.M. Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/625, 29/06/1850

MAITLAND QUARTER SESSIONS. - There are three cases added to the list of cases for trial, viz. **THOMAS HARRINGTON** and **CHARLES LAWN**, assault with intent, Maitland bench; ...

CALLANDOON. - JUNE 15. - I am sorry to inform you that a man named **JAMES M'KIRK**, a shepherd in the employment of Mr. **JOHN M'MILLAN**, was killed by the blacks on the 10<sup>th</sup> ultimo. Mr. M'Millan has lately formed a new station upon the head of one of the branches of the Weer (a Macintyre water) about five miles from Callandoon, the head-quarters of the native police. The flock of sheep which the deceased had in charge, having returned to the station at the usual hour in the evening, without the shepherd, caused the overseer to go in search of him, but as it soon became dark, he was not found. In the morning the overseer with two other men continued the search, and found the body of the deceased about half a mile from the hut. The man was quite dead, and had a severe cut apparently from a tomahawk on the head, also a bad wound in the face, and his neck bore the marks of strangulation, the impression of numerous finger nails being visible. The news of the murder having reached the lieutenant of the native police on the 12<sup>th</sup> ultimo, he started the next day for Mr. M'Millan's station. This is the second murder within the last four months, committed by the same blacks.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/626, 03/07/1850

MAITLAND QUARTER SESSIONS

WOUNDING WITH INTENT. - **THOMAS HARRINGTON** and **CHARLES LAWN** were indicted for wounding **JAMES SUMMERVILLE**, on the head, face, and neck, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm, at Morpeth, on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1850.

...He called Mr. **W SCOTT**, J.P., who gave Lawn a good character for twelve or fourteen years, during which he had known him well; he was an excellent tradesman, industrious, and he believed quiet in his demeanour.

... the jury retired for a quarter of an hour, and returned with a verdict of guilty against both parties, but recommending them to mercy on the ground that the prisoners were not the first to commence the assault. The prisoners were each sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

ACCIDENT. - ?? **WILLIAM NEAL**, aged 70, fell broke thigh, missed wheel??

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - Yesterday evening an inquest was held at Mrs. Allinson's public-house, Darlinghurst, on view of the body of **DANIEL DWYER**, then lying dead at Darlinghurst. From the evidence of **ENOCH W. BOOTY** it appeared that on Tuesday last he and deceased were riding by the Cockatoo Inn, in Bourke-street, when the horse rode by the latter shied, and he (deceased) fell over his head, and was severely injured. Mr. Surgeon **PACKARD** was sent for, who attended him, and on Thursday Mr. Packard called Mr. Surgeon **CARTWRIGHT** to visit deceased; in the course of the day he expired. Both the medical gentlemen attributed the death of the unfortunate man to injury of the spine caused by the concussion of his fall from the horse. The jury found a verdict of accidental death. Deceased had some property, and was about 60 years of age. *Herald, June 29.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/627, 06/07/1850

GOULBURN. - CASE OF MURDER. - We believe a woman has been received into our gaol, charged with shooting a man, at the utmost limits of the colony, about

six hundred miles distant. The particulars of the case have not yet reached us. *Herald Correspondent*.

**DEATH BY HANGING.** - An inquest was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, by **J.B. WEST**, Esq., Coroner of the district, at the Bush Inn, Hall Creek, on the body of **JOHN CARTER**, who it appeared from the evidence, was a hawker, travelling with a cart and two horses, having goods for sale; that he camped at Hall Creek, and when last seen alive, on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, he was at his cart, and that he left there to fetch a horse that he had lost, which was found some distance off; he took a pair of winkers and a tether rope with him; however, after seven or eight days had elapsed, some children were in the bush, about half a mile from the inn, in a very obscure place, and observed the body of a man suspended from the limb of a tree; the body was afterwards identified as that of John Carter, and to all appearances had been dead since the day he left his cart, as before stated. The deceased had, previous to getting up the tree, removed some boughs that were scattered about the tree, and piled them in a heap a little distance off, then put a limb against the tree to assist him in mounting his gallows; he then twisted the rope twenty-six times round the limb of the tree, fixed it round his neck, and threw himself off a height of about twelve feet, his legs being about eighteen inches from the ground. When found hanging dead, the deceased's cart, horses, and goods were all safe, and taken possession of by district constable **MURRAY**, stationed at Merton. It further appeared that the unfortunate man had been for some time, to all appearance, in a state of despondency, supposing to arise from some misfortune in money matters. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased hung himself during a fit of temporary insanity.

**LOST AT SEA.** - **CHARLES EDGAR GRIFFIN**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer, Duke of Roxburgh, lost overboard 2/6 while at sea.

**THE CAPTAIN STANLEY SENIORITY SCRAMBLE.** His successors in seniority?

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT**

Tuesday, July 2

The **QUEEN v DUIGAN and GRIFFITHS**.

The prisoners had been convicted of aiding one **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT** to escape from justice, but a point had been raised whether they could legally be convicted of felony under an act cited as accessories after the fact, the counsel for the defence arguing that they could only be convicted for a misdemeanour, and that therefore the present conviction must fall. While the argument was proceeding the court pointed out that in a later act the offence was made a felony, and that therefore the conviction was good. The prisoners were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment, to be computed from the day of conviction.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/628, 10/07/1850

**DEATH ACCELERATED BY INTEMPERANCE.** - An inquest was commenced on Monday and concluded yesterday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, at Black Creek, on the body of **DOMINIC GALUPY [SALESPY??]**. It appeared that Galupy was an elderly man, and much given to intemperance. On the 1<sup>st</sup> instant his son-in-law, Mr. **BRYAN EGAN**, opened a public-house at Black Creek, and as usual a good deal of drinking had been going on, in which Galupy took part. On Thursday Galupy was seen by constable **DWYER** very much intoxicated, and looking as if he had been labouring under the effects of drink for some days; late on Friday evening Mr. Egan asked a neighbour, **JOHN REARDON**, who called in, to see Galupy, who was then in bed, and apparently in a dying state; Reardon was alarmed at his appearance, and went to fetch his wife and daughter, telling them he thought Galupy

was dying; in about an hour afterwards Galupy expired. When the body was laid out a black mark or discolouration was observed on the inner part of the left arm and down the left side, and rumours spread that some person had pushed the deceased against a fence, or otherwise injured him; the coroner called several witnesses to trace out these rumours, but each party called had only heard reports, and in each case the violence was imputed to different persons. Yesterday a post mortem examination by Dr. **SCOTT** established that violence had not been used to deceased so as in any way to cause death, but that a disease of the lungs, of long standing, had been greatly aggravated by recent continued intemperance – death in Dr. Scott's opinion being caused by the inflammation of the left lung, excited by intemperance. The jury returned a verdict of death from inflammation of the lungs, accelerated by acts of intemperance.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Neither is our district fertile in accidents, the most prominent being a case of a young man named **WILLIAM BOYD**, residing at Camden, who was lately thrown from his horse, which reared and fell on top of him. Concussion of the brain was produced by the fall, and the poor fellow never recovered, although all was done for him which circumstances rendered possible; he died in about forty-eight hours, having remained during the interval in a state of rigidity. *Camden Correspondent of the Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/630, 17/07/1850

BREACH OF PEACE by **HENRY GOULD** (father) v **JOHN AUBREY** son shot.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/631, 20/07/1850

Mr. **M'GUIGAN**, who for some time past was master of the *Mermaid*, employed in the Newcastle trade, was drowned in Newcastle on Saturday. It appears that the deceased was very much intoxicated when he left the town for the purpose of going on board his vessel. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict returned of "found drowned." *July 18.*

EXECUTION of **WAGNER and FITZGERALD.**

SUDDEN DEATH. - About half-past ten o'clock yesterday morning, a man named [**GEORGE**] **NORTH**, residing at Burdekin's-terrace, and in the employment of Mr. **ANDREWS**, Brickfield Hill, was seen lying on the mud at or near Ryan's slaughter-house, where he had been sent by Mr. Andrews for offal, and on the people at work going up to him, found that he was dead; he left home at six o'clock in the morning in his usual health, and when transacting his business at the slaughter-house, a minute of two before his death, appeared to be quite well. Mr. **R.W. NELSON**, of Pitt-street, surgeon, was immediately sent for, but of no avail. In the afternoon an inquest was held at the Hand and Heart public house, in the vicinity of the catastrophe, and a verdict of death from natural causes returned. *Herald, July 17.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/632, 24/07/1850

A MAN BURNT TO DEATH IN HIS HUT. - On Monday an inquest was held at the Paterson Hotel, Paterson, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **JOHN RYAN**. It appeared from the evidence of **JOHN BUCKLEY**, **CHARLES ROBINS**, and **BOYFIELD WORMERSLY**, that Ryan and Buckley lived in adjoining rooms or huts, both being shoemakers in the employ of Mr. Wormersly. On Saturday about mid-day Mr. Wormersly took Buckley some work, and afterwards Mr. Wormersly accompanied Ryan to the Paterson Hotel, where Ryan drank three glasses of rum, and then went to see the doctor; he again returned to the Hotel, and took one more glass of

rum, and then appears to have gone home again. In the course of the afternoon Buckley heard Ryan talking and "going on" in his room, and heard him call his (Buckley's) wife improper names; as this was the first time such a thing had happened, Buckley concluded that Ryan was intoxicated; Ryan, it appears, bore the reputation of being "a cranky character," and Buckley did not go to him. After dark Ryan called to Buckley to lend him a blanket or some bags, but Buckley replied that he had neither to lend; again, later, Ryan called out to ask Buckley to come in and cover him with a rug, and Buckley called out that he would if Ryan would open his door; Ryan at first said he would, but then said "I cannot get up;" Buckley told him he could not get in if he did not open the door. After this Buckley heard Ryan talking to himself for some time, but nothing more occurred to attract his attention. The next morning Buckley rose as usual, between seven and eight o'clock, and went outside to walk up and down; he was surprised to see no smoke coming from Ryan's chimney, as was usual, and having learnt from his wife that she had seen nothing of Ryan that morning, Buckley looked through a crack in the door, and saw Ryan lying still, and apparently dead and much burnt, in the fire-place; Buckley called to another neighbour to look, who said that Ryan was evidently dead, and then went for Mr. Wormersly and the chief constable; the chief constable opened the door, on his arrival, and Ryan was found dead in the fire-place. The jury returned a verdict that Ryan came to his death from injuries received from fire by falling into the fire-place in his hut some time on Saturday night; they also found that he had been drinking during the day, but that there was no evidence to show how his clothes caught fire, or that he was in an unfit state to take care of himself.

CARCOAR. - MURDER. - A man named [**OLIVER**] **DWYER** was found, on Sunday evening last, in the bush about two miles and a half from this township, quite dead, with several wounds in different parts of the body. There is no doubt he has been murdered, and it is supposed in consequence of having been in the habit of carrying money about with him. The inquest was held yesterday, and adjourned to eleven o'clock this morning (July 15), the particulars of which I will forward by next post. *Correspondent of the Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/633, 27/07/1850

A MAN FOUND HANGING. - On Saturday an inquest took place at the Angel Inn, Liverpool road, on the body of a man [**JOHN MORRIS**, see 8/634]. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was a tailor, and that on Thursday evening he went into the taproom of the Angel Inn, and sat down by the fire, saying he had come to warm himself; his manner seemed strange, and he said he had come from the Clarence, and was looking for work; he was sober, and left again without having anything to drink. On Friday morning he was found dead, hanging to one of the rafters in the stable of Mr. **FAULKNER**, timber merchant, near the Angel Inn, he was suspended by a halter, and his hands were tied together and one leg thrust through, so as to bring them under the knee. He appeared about fifty-five years old. Two persons who had conversed with deceased on Thursday night thought him insane. A verdict was returned in accordance with the evidence. *Herald's Parramatta Correspondent.*

MUDGEES. MURDER, AND MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON A SECOND PERSON. On the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo, two men named **GLEESON** and **TRACEY**, whilst drinking at a public-house at Mudgee, quarrelled and fought, when the former obtained some advantage over his antagonist. Subsequently Tracey went to the hut where he resided. Late in the evening of the same day, Gleeson went thither also, and challenged out Tracey to fight again. The challenge, it would seem, was accepted, and Tracey came

out of the hut, when Gleeson sprang on him with an open knife, and stabbed him on the thigh. Tracey's cries for assistance brought out a hut-mate, named **BROOKES**, but before this person could render any assistance he received a stab in the groin, and now lies in a precarious state. Intelligence of the occurrence reached the police shortly afterwards, and on their proceeding to Tracey's hut he was found lying lifeless from the loss of blood, and from the state Brookes was in, had their arrival been many minutes later, he would also have been dead. Gleeson's hut, it appears, was only a short distance away, and the police proceeded thither, and he was captured; but not until he had made such resistance, being armed with an axe and a knife, as rendered their retreat for additional aid necessary. The deceased and the prisoner, it is reported, had some years previously, when working together as sawyers, quarrelled, and fought over a saw. Gleeson was formerly in the army, but transported to this colony for mutiny. *Abridged from the Bathurst Free Press.*

**MURDER NEAR CARCOAR.** - An inquest was held at Carcoar on Monday and Tuesday last, before Mr. **NORTH**, on the body of **JOHN DWYER**. From the evidence it appeared that Dwyer was an industrious man, who had lived in that neighbourhood for some time, working as a hut-keeper or shepherd; and that he usually carried money about his person. On Friday evening, the 12<sup>th</sup>, Dwyer went to Mallow Grove, Mr. **BLIGH'S** station, where he had been occasionally employed, and slept there that night with a man named **FLOOD**, in Mr. Bligh's employment. On the Saturday morning Dwyer left Mallow Grove, saying he was going to carcoar, and would not come back that way; at this time Flood was at work at Mallow Grove, and he remained at work there all day. Nothing more seems to have been seen of Dwyer alive. On the Sunday afternoon Mr. **N. CONOLLY**, Jun., was returning from Canowindra, and when he had got about a mile and a half from Carcoar his attention was arrested by the barking of a dog, which he recognised to be Dwyer's dog; Mr. Conolly followed the dog, and it led the way to where the body of Dwyer lay, apparently dead, and blood appearing on the mouth and nose. Mr. Conolly was driving some young horses at the time, and he did not dismount, but rode home quickly, got a fresh horse, and rode into Carcoar to inform the police. When the chief constable came to Dwyer's body, the faithful dog was found by its side, licking the hands of its murdered master. Tracks were found as if the body had been dragged some distance, and some yards from the body a gum stick was found, with marks of blood on it. Dr. **BELL** made a post mortem examination, and found two lacerated wounds on the scalp, extending to the skull, but not fracturing it; a lacerated wound in front of the chin; a severe contusion on the back of one hand, and ten punctured wounds on the lower part of the chest and upper part of the belly; of these punctured wounds two only penetrated to the cavity of the belly, the remainder extending only to the skin and muscles; these penetrated wounds appear to have been inflicted by a sharp pointed knife, and all the other wounds apparently by a stick or bludgeon, such as the gum-stick produced. Dr. Bell considered death had been caused by the wounds on the head, coupled with the subsequent exposure in the bush; and he was also of opinion that Dwyer could not have long survived the influence of the wounds on the head. Two men were apprehended on suspicion, but nothing was elicited to bring the matter home to them, and they were discharged. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown. *Abridged from the Bathurst Free Press, 20<sup>th</sup> July.*

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - The townspeople were thrown into a state of consternation on Saturday morning last by the arrival of news that the dead body of Captain **LISTER** was lying on the Wellington road, on the falling ground towards

Evans' Plains Creek. An Inquest was subsequently held on the body, and it was proved that on Friday Captain Lister was in Bathurst, transacting business, and appears to have left town to proceed homewards about four or five o'clock in the afternoon, being then quite sober. The next morning, early, Mr. **SAMUEL PHILLIPS**, of Molong, was coming on the road into town, when he met with the dead body of Captain Lister lying near his gig, which was upset. It appeared by the marks left that the wheel had come in contact with a stump, and that the gig ran on one wheel for some yards, and then upset; Captain Lister was found with the reins twisted about his legs, and appeared to have been dragged from the spot where he had been thrown out by the stump. The post mortem examination by Dr. **MACHATTIE** showed that death resulted from concussion of the brain, aggravated by exposure to the cold frosty night, death not having been immediate. A verdict of found dead was returned. *Abridged from the Bathurst Free Press, July 20.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/634, 31/07/1850

A MAN MISSING. - On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, a tailor named **JOHN MORRIS** [see 8/633], who with his wife had been for a short time lodging at Mr. **RANDALL'S**, hairdresser, West Maitland, left home to go to collect some money, having then only one shilling in his pocket, which he spent on the road. He went to Mr. **FERGUSON'S**, Dunmore, to ask for 18s. owing to him, and stopped there for the night; the next morning he left to come into Maitland again, Mr. Ferguson telling him he would bring in the money and pay him, and Morris telling Mr. Ferguson to pay his wife, if Mr. F. got into Maitland before he did. Mr. Ferguson the same day called on Mrs. Morris and paid the money, but nothing more has been seen of Morris, who never returned to Maitland. In last Saturday's *Mercury* was published an abridged report of an inquest being held on the body of a man, name unknown, who arrived at the Angel Inn, Liverpool Road, near Parramatta, on Thursday evening, the 18<sup>th</sup>, apparently much tired, and saying that he was a tailor, and had come from the Clarence in search of work; he warmed himself by the fire in the Angel Inn tap, left again, and the next morning was found hanging, dead, to the rafters in a stables on the premises of a timber merchant near the Angel Inn. As Morris had come from Clarence Town (Williams River) to Maitland, and had always spoken of where he came from as "the Clarence" (a term used occasionally, it appears, in the neighbourhood), it is thought by many that Morris, whose manner was somewhat wild, had wandered down to Parramatta, and hung himself. The descriptions of the two men agree on some points, but differ in others. The full description of the man found hanging is given in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, under the head "Parramatta." The following is the description of Morris and his dress, as given by Mr. Randall:- Age, about fifty; height, about 5 feet 5 inches; forefinger of right hand damaged, by a fistula having been cut out, but no other marks observed (the right forefinger of the man found hanging was stated to be off, and a woman and other marks branded on the arms); wore boots nearly new, a check tweed coat, grey tweed trousers, black waistcoat, and an old black hat battered down; had a wild look about the eyes, and hair cut close round the head, but a singular looking tuft left standing up on the crown, above the forehead.

SUDDEN DEATH. - Yesterday morning the wife of Mr. **DANIEL ROGERS**, publican of Sydney, inadvertently, and not dreaming of the consequences, removed from her leg a small cicatrix, about the size of half a pea, when the blood immediately spouted out, and flowed so abundantly that before medical assistance could be procured she had bled to death. This is much to be lamented, because a compress on

the orifice, or even pressure with the thumb, would have been sufficient till a surgeon arrived.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Wednesday, an inquest was held at Smith's, Observer Tavern, Lower George-street, on the body of **MICHAEL MULLINS [MULLENS]** then lying dead. **JOSEPH BRAYLEY** deposed that about half-past one o'clock, he and a man, who was with him in the boat, went on shore at Long Nose Point for some water, and while proceeding to the water-hole, a dog rushed towards them, barking and running away; they followed the dog a short distance, when they came upon the body of the deceased, which was quite dead, cold, and stiff, lying on his back. Information was given of this circumstance, and the body was removed to the Water Police Office. **MARGARET MULLINS**, residing on the Balmain Road, deposed that the body viewed by the jury was that of her husband; three years ago he had a paralytic stroke, since which time he had not been right in his mind; on Monday last, she left home to do a day's washing, and on her return in the evening found the house locked up and her husband absent, and did not see him again alive; she missed a bag out of the house, and she was of opinion that deceased had gone out with a view of gathering native currants. He was a very quiet, sober man. Dr. **TIERNEY**, having viewed the body, was of opinion that death was caused by inanition and exposure to cold, the weather having been, during the last few days, very cold and wet. *Herald, July 26.*

**LONGEVITY.** - A man of Gipsy race, named **HENRY BUCKLED**, expired on Thursday last at the advanced age of one hundred years and forty-four days, at a small house in Campbell's Buildings, Miller's Point. *Herald, July 27.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/635, 03/08/1850**

**HARTLEY.** - **MELANCHOLY DEATH FROM INTOXICATION.** - An inquest was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, at Mr. Bennings's inn, before **HEYWOOD ATKINS**, Esq., coroner for the district, touching the death of a poor woman named **BARS**, found dead in the bush. [??Mary Cooper??] It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, who lived near Cox's River, had been to Hassan's Walls on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, and was remarked in the evening of that day, on her return home, to be under the influence of liquor. Her body was found on the following Wednesday on a ridge about equidistant between the main road and her house, with some rum in a bottle lying beside it. From these causes, and from the position of her head and other appearances exhibited by the body, a verdict of "died from suffocation" was returned, which no doubt had been caused by drinking too freely of the rum. It is very probable that her death was accelerated by exposure to the night air. Deceased was about eighty years of age. The inclemency of the weather alone would be sufficient, in a person of her years, we apprehend, to cause death. *Bathurst Free Press.*

**REMARKABLE DEATH.** - An inquest was held at Mrs. Stone's public-house, Pitt-street, on the body of **ANNA MARIA BLENKINSOP**. On Sunday, about noon, she was washing herself, when suddenly she called out for assistance. Blood was seen to be issuing from her person, and on examination it was found to be proceeding from a vein in her leg. The limb was bandaged and Dr. **M'KELLAR** sent for, but before his arrival she was dead. Dr. M'Kellar deposed that a varicose vein in the right leg had ruptured; the slightest pressure on the vein would have saved her life, but the bandage applied above the orifice caused the blood to flow so rapidly that dissolution soon ensued. There was the appearance of a small pimple where the bleeding orifice existed. Verdict, died from the rupture of a blood vessel in the leg. *Herald, July 30.*

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.** - About three o'clock yesterday afternoon, a person named **GRAHAM**, keeping a grocer's shop in King-street, attempted to put a period to his existence by shooting. Doctors **RUTTER** and **HOUSTON** were immediately sent for, who found that the shot had taken effect on one ear, and entered the head just above it; but the wound is very little more than skin deep, and there is hope that the man will live to repent of his rash attempt. *Herald, July 30.*

**INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on Thursday, at the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle, Morpeth, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **MARIA HARDWICK**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Hardwick, who had latterly been addicted to drink, had been for the last fortnight almost constantly intoxicated, and on Tuesday last, being then tipsy, complained very much of being very unwell, and was put to bed; she was worse on Wednesday morning, and a medical man as sent for, but apparently before one arrived she had expired. It was generally reported about Morpeth, and expressly to the police, that the woman's illness arose from a kicking and beating inflicted by her husband; **JOSEPH HARDWICK**, and the coroner had a number of witnesses summoned to sift this out, if it was correct. It was proved by two witnesses that on Tuesday Hardwick came home drunk, and found his wife also drunk but about her house-hold work, and that some little time afterwards they had some words in the kitchen about five shillings Hardwick accused his wife of taking; one of these witnesses deposed that while he remained within hearing he heard no blows or kicking, or similar sounds; and the other witness, **PRISCILLA KING**, deposed that during the whole of the time Hardwick then remained with his wife she was in sight of them, and that he neither struck nor kicked his wife, but after a few minutes wrangling he went away. Another witness, **SARAH THOMPSON**, deposed that she saw Mrs. Hardwick in the afternoon of Tuesday, and found her complaining of being very bad, but that Mrs. Hardwick never said a word to her of ill-usage from her husband, or of his having kicked or struck her. On the other hand, two witnesses, **THOMAS LEONARD** and his wife, deposed positively that Thompson, on the afternoon of Tuesday, told them that Mrs. Hardwick was very bad, and had been put to bed, and that she did not think Mrs. Hardwick would ever rise again, from a beating and kicking she received from her husband. **MARY COOK**, who had washed and laid out the body after death, deposed positively that she found no scratch or mark on the body, nor any blood on the clothing. Dr. **WILTON** performed a *post mortem* examination, and saw no external marks of violence, but found that death had been caused by disease of the bowels, omentum, and neighbouring parts, which had been existing some time, and which he thought had been aggravated by intemperance. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

**THE MISSING MAN FOUND.** [see 8/633 and 8/634] In our last we mentioned that a person named **JOHN MORRIS** had been missing from Maitland since Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> July, and that fears were entertained that he was the man found hanging, dead, in a stable on the Liverpool Road, near Parramatta, on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> July. We are happy to say that on Wednesday last Morris rode into town on a cart, having come from somewhere over about Dunmore, but where he had been all the while he would not say; as, however, he had evidently been imbibing deeply for some time, the mystery was easily divined. It is clear, therefore, that the unfortunate man found near Parramatta must have been "somebody else." Morris, when told that it had been reported that he had hung himself, said that he had not done so, and that it would be a long day before he should.

**MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.** - We regret to state that a young gentleman named **THOMSON**, residing on Mr. **CROWDER'S** station Weraga, Darling Downs,

committed suicide on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. by poisoning himself, it is supposed with strychnine, while labouring under severe mental depression or temporary derangement. An enquiry took place before Mr. **MACKENZIE**, the nearest magistrate, touching the circumstances, but we are not able to furnish further particulars. *Moreton Bay Free Press, July 23.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/636, 07/08/1850

ARREST. - Of **MOOJOO**, aboriginal, murder of **DANIEL PAGE**; committed.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/637, 10/08/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Thursday an inquest was held at the Hunter River Hotel, East Maitland, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **THOMAS FITZPATRICK**, a little boy of five years old, whose body had been exhumed by order of the coroner. It appeared from the evidence that on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, the little boy was engaged in minding two of his father's working bullocks, which were then in yokes, his duty being simply to keep them from going on the growing crop; his father, **WILLIAM FITZPATRICK**, was engaged at this time loading a dray with wood, some ten or fifteen rods off, and suddenly heard his son cry out, as if hurt; he ran towards him, and observed that the bullocks were near him; when he reached him, and picked him up, the little boy said, "Daddy, Star has tossed me," Star being the name of one of the two bullocks. Fitzpatrick saw that the poor boy had been wounded in the lower part of the belly, so that his intestines were protruding through, and he ran off to the nearest house, that of his neighbour, **JOHN HAYDON**, and begged him to ride off for a doctor; Mr. Haydon did so, and a medical man attended, but in vain, the poor child dying six days after it had been wounded. Mr. Haydon also heard the little boy say Star had hurt him, but did not hear him say in what manner. Fitzpatrick stated that he buried his son after his death, not being aware that it was necessary to inform the authorities, as the doctor had been attending him. The circumstance was afterwards ascertained by the policeman, **CLIFTON**, stationed at Hinton, and Mr. Parker ordered the body to be exhumed. Dr. **WILTON** examined the body, and found the wound in the lower part of the bowels quite sufficient to account for death; it appeared to be caused by a blunt instrument, such as a cow's horn or a stick. It appeared that the little boy had been in the habit of minding the bullocks, which were old and quiet, for three months. The jury returned a verdict of died from injury received from a bullock.

#### DEATHS.

Yesterday morning, the body of a Mrs. **JEROME**, and that of her daughter, a child of about three years of age, were found in the waters of Darling Harbour. Between four and five o'clock yesterday afternoon, **OLIVER DWYER**, formerly a publican, and lately resident in Pitt-street, Redfern, was wheeling a barrow of wood, when he was observed to stop, and lean against a gate; the gate fell, Dwyer with it, and never moved more. No inquests were held yesterday in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. **BRENAN**, by which he was prevented from leaving home. *Herald, Aug.3.*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A shepherd in the employment of Mr. **AUSTIN**, at Killonbutta, named **MICHAEL [PATRICK?] CAHILL**, was killed by the fall of a tree on Saturday last. It appears that he and another individual were employed in felling a tree with a cross-cut saw, when it happened to come down sooner than expected; the unfortunate man was struck by the butt before he could get away, and killed upon the spot. An inquest was held on his remains, and a verdict of accidental

death returned. The deceased has left a wife and four children to deplore his loss. *Bathurst Free Press, Aug. 3*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 14/08/1850

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE. - On Wednesday last an inquest was held at Gray's, the Light House Hotel, Sussex-street, on view of the bodies of **JULIA JEROMES**, and **WILLIAM** her son, aged respectively thirty-seven and three years. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Jeromes was the wife of **WILLIAM JEROMES**, a waterman, and had on the 8<sup>th</sup> June last been confined, since which she had been ailing, but her husband was so much from home that he had not observed whether her mind was affected; on the night of Saturday last a neighbour saw her going towards the wharf, and questioned her as to where she was going, and finding that Mrs. Jeromes appeared wandering in her mind, and talked strangely, she took her home, and kept her there till Jeromes came home. On Monday night, about eleven o'clock, a little girl was in Mrs. Jeromes's house, assisting to mind the house, when Mrs. Jeromes gave her some bread and butter, and said she would go and sit a while with the girl's mother, taking her son with her. Subsequently, Jeromes came home, and found his wife still away, and not finding her at the girl's mother's house, he searched about, and at length found her dead body floating near the wharf, and on getting to it he found his son's dead body also floating by her. The jury returned a verdict that deceased put a period to her own and her son's life while in a state of temporary insanity. *Abridged from Herald, August 9.*

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Saturday, and by adjournment on Thursday, on the body of **MARIA ASPINALL**, a married woman about forty years of age, who died in childbed. After hearing the evidence of six medical gentlemen, the details of which we cannot publish, the jury returned a verdict of died in labour from natural causes. *Herald, Aug. 10*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/639, 17/08/1850

SYDNEY NEWS.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - On Tuesday afternoon last, **JOSEPH SHAW**, boatswain of the *Santipore*, lying at Town's Wharf, fell from under the main top, and died within three hours afterwards from the injuries he received. At an inquest held on the body a verdict of accidental death was returned.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON BOARD THE STEAMER "NATIVE". - Yesterday, at twelve o'clock, when this steamer was about to start for Parramatta, a dreadful explosion took place, caused by the bursting of the flues of the boiler, by which one man was killed, and two others seriously injured. The unfortunate man were sent to the Infirmary immediately, but the engineer, **THOMAS HEFFERAN**, died soon after. The other men, whose names were **COX** and **BROWNE**, we believe belong to Parramatta, and were going home. This is the third accident of the kind that has happened on board the *Native*. The *Comet* is the boat that usually starts at twelve o'clock, but she had been hired for the day, and the *Native* had to start in her place. We understand that late in the evening Mr. **JOHN COX** died. *August*

Yesterday an inquest was commenced on the bodies of **THOMAS HEFFERAN** and Mr. **JOHN COX**. Hefferan, the engineer, was an old man, who had been nearly all his lifetime connected with steamers; he arrived in the colony twenty years since, in the *Sophia Jane*, the first steamer that ran in the colony. Mr. Cox was the son-in-law of the late Mr. **MOBBS**, to whose property he had recently succeeded. Evidence was taken of the mode in which the accident was observed by the parties immediately

near at the time, including Mrs. Cox, over whom some water was cast by the explosion, but who was not injured. Dr. **M'EWAN** certified that both the deceased had died from the fearful scalding and scorching, and that Mr. Cox lived in great agony till five o'clock in the afternoon. The inquest was then adjourned till Saturday, to allow of an examination of the steamer and machinery by competent persons, to determine whether neglect was chargeable against any persons. *Abridged from the Herald, Aug. 15*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/640, 21/08/1850

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - On Saturday se'nnight, Mrs. **ELIZA RYAN**, residing in George-street, in descending a flight of stairs, fell over the banister rail, in depth of from fourteen to sixteen feet, and seriously injured the spinal column. On the following Tuesday she was removed to the Sydney Infirmary, where she was placed under the care of Dr. **M'EWAN**; instead of recovering, however, she lingered until last Saturday morning, when she expired. An inquest was held at Mr. Driver's, the Three Tuns Tavern, in the afternoon. Dr. M'Ewan deposed that death had resulted from injury to the spine; and that from the period of the admission of the deceased into the Infirmary, the case was considered hopeless. The jury found a verdict of died from injury accidentally received. Deceased was a married woman, about 26 years of age, and has left one child. *Herald, Aug. 19*

THE FATAL STEAM BOILER EXPLOSION. - The inquest on the bodies of Mr. **COX**, **HEFFERAN**, and **BROWNE**, who had died from injuries received from the explosion of the boiler of the steamboat *Native*, was resumed on Saturday, when evidence at some length was taken. The coroner had summed up, and the jury had retired when Mr. **STRUTH**, the maker of the boiler, requested that the inquest might be adjourned to allow him to call further evidence as to the usual course in manufacturing boilers. The jury also thought this desirable. The inquest was then adjourned till Friday next, at noon. *Abridged from the Herald, Aug. 19*

AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH FROM BURNING. - Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, was sent for to Kissing Point, on Thursday last, to hold an inquest on an old man who there was reason to believe had destroyed himself by fire, rather than leave his miserable abode for the infirmary. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased [**JOSEPH RILEY??**], an old man above eighty years, had been long principally supported by Mrs. **DARVALL**, and had repeatedly declined to leave his hut, and go to the Infirmary; a ticket had been got for his admission therein, and Mrs. D. had told the old man that he must go; he was unable to walk without help, and passed most of his time lying in bed smoking; he used to sleep at nights with a lighted candle near his bed, and used to say, when told that this was dangerous, that he always kept a watch on it, not being able to sleep well. On Tuesday evening a neighbour visited him about seven o'clock, and found him as usual, but about half an hour after the neighbour was alarmed by a strange noise, and on opening his door saw that the old man's hut was on fire. He ran thither, and got the old man out, but he was so much burnt that he never spoke more, and died shortly after. A verdict was returned in accordance with the evidence. *Abridged from the Herald's Parramatta Correspondent.*

THE STEAMER ACCIDENT. - We regret to learn, that **BROWNE**, one of the sufferers by the explosion of the boiler on board the *Native*, expired yesterday morning. *Herald, Aug. 16*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/642, 28/08/1850

ALLEGED BREACH OF THE LICENSING ACT.

Inquest being held by Mr. JS Parker, on 8<sup>th</sup> July, Woolpack Inn, Black Creek, but due to noise went elsewhere. Egan warned by bench.

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT.

This Court was opened on Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, before the Chief Justice.

**JOHN M'PHERSON** was indicted for the manslaughter of ----- **HAGGERTY**, on Good Friday last. M'Pherson, Haggerty, and another man, had been drinking together, when Haggerty wanted to fight M'Pherson, and notwithstanding M'Pherson's repeated refusals to fight, and his pushing Haggerty from him, Haggerty persisted until a scuffle took place, in which Haggerty was either thrown or fell, and his head came in contact with a chopping block; he arose again, but staggered and fell, and almost immediately expired. A high character was given to M'Pherson as a quiet and peaceable man. The jury found a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy; remanded for sentence.

**MATTHEW KEOGH** was indicted for the manslaughter of **REUBEN HOADLEY**. On the 28<sup>th</sup> March the prisoner and the boy Hoadley were left together in a blacksmith's shop in Carcoar, and shortly after the prisoner ran into a public-house, where the blacksmith was, saying he had shot the boy, but it was by accident; his account being that he had taken down a gun which was hanging up, and in doing so the gun went off, and shot the boy. There was no other witness to the transaction. Guilty, twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Wednesday last an inquest was held at Green's, the Wellington Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of one **WILLIAM LEWIS**, lately employed by Mr. **RILEY** as a carter. Deceased had been accustomed to drink large quantities of colonial ale, and had lately been complaining of ill-health, but did not take any medicine or medical advice, probably himself, as well as those who were acquainted with him, attributing his illness to the effect of drink. On Wednesday morning he was found dead in bed. The jury returned the following verdict - "Died from pre-existing disease, accelerated by habits of intoxication, more particularly the use of colonial ale." *Herald, Aug. 23*

**THE LATE STEAM EXPLOSION.** - The adjourned inquest on the bodies of **HEFFERAN, COX, and BROWN**, who were killed by the explosion of the boiler of the *Native*, steamer, was resumed yesterday. Mr. **P.A. TOMPSON**, who appeared on behalf of Mr. **STRUTH**, the manufacturer, called three witnesses out of sixteen he stated he was prepared to call; these three witnesses were Mr. **TAYLOR**, Mr. **P.N. RUSSELL**, and Mr. **GEORGE FYFE**. These witnesses were closely examined as to the state in which the boiler appeared to be after the explosion, and as to the sufficiency or not of the precautions that had been taken to strengthen it against accidents. Mr. Taylor was also examined as to the past history of the *Native* and her boilers. The jury then expressed a wish to retire for a few minutes before any further evidence was called, and the coroner having summed up this new evidence and repeated his summary of the law on such matters, the jury retired for about an hour, and then returned a special verdict, that the deceased, Hefferan, Cox, and Brown, came to their deaths by the accidental explosion of the boiler of the steamer *Native*; and they were of opinion that the injury to the boiler was gradual, and that had it been properly inspected and due care used the injuries would have been discovered in time to prevent the accident. The jury also requested the coroner to express to the government their opinion that some measure for the periodical inspection and supervision of all steam vessels by a competent surveyor is absolutely necessary, and that no steam vessel should be allowed to carry passengers until duly licensed. The

coroner expressed his entire concurrence in the verdict, and would lose no time in bringing the opinion of the jury under the notice of the government. *Abridged from the Herald, 24<sup>th</sup> August.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/643, 31/08/1850

SINGLETON

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday last, the 27<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Rose Inn, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner for the district of Patrick's Plains, and a jury of twelve, to enquire into the death of **JAMES NEWBERRY**, aged 28, an exile per *Adelaide*, in the employment of **HENRY DANGAR**, Esq., M.C. The jury, after being sworn, proceeded to view the body, which exhibited but very slight external marks of injury. There appeared a slight bruise on the right side of the forehead, and the right eye was rather tumefied, but no other visible injuries. From the evidence of Mr. Dangar it appeared that the deceased and another exile, named Wym, were despatched on Monday last, in charge of a horse and cart, to proceed to the Moon boy, to join the station there, near Tamworth; Wym had charge of the horse and cart; deceased was to accompany him, and to attend to Wym's orders; upon starting witness gave deceased half a crown; about three hours after they had started, witness received a note from Mr. **HORNE**, the chief constable, intimating that one of the men had fallen out of the cart, was seriously hurt, and the other man was very drunk; up to this period witness had always found the men to be remarkable sober; deceased had been about nine months in the service of the witness, and Wym upwards of a year; the horse was a young horse, but tractable and quiet, so that any sober man could have managed him. **MARY STRETCH** deposed that she lived at Darlington; she was in company with another woman from Glennie's Creek on Friday last, in the forenoon, when she saw a horse and cart come galloping past the house; there were two men in the cart, and one of them was driving; the deceased is the man that was thrown out of the cart; and witness saw him laying down in the road, insensible, and bleeding from the ears; the other man at last stopped the horse, and came back to where deceased lay; he did not appear to be sober that was driving the cart; could not distinguish as they went by whether they were sober or not. **THOMAS COOK**, of Darlington, deposed that on Friday last a person came to him, and stated that a man had fallen out of a cart on the main road; witness had previously seen a horse and cart galloping along the road across the river, but could only distinguish one man, who was driving; the horse was going very fast – one man appeared to be standing up; could not distinguish which man it was; shortly afterwards a man came and gave notice of the accident; when witness went up the man who drove the cart was with deceased, and holding the horse; he did not appear to be sober, although he pushed on the horse and rode in for a doctor. The coroner, in summing up, told the jury that he himself had attended the deceased, who was insensible from the time the accident happened up to Monday night, when he expired; his opinion was that deceased had ruptured a blood vessel in the brain, which had caused a compression – the blood-vessels being previously distended from the effects of the drink. Wym, who had charge of the cart, was very drunk when he saw him, and he considered him much to blame for getting drunk while in charge of a horse and cart. The jury retired for about five minutes, and returned with a verdict of accidental death by a fall from a cart.

DEATH

OF Sgt. **JAMES SANDY**, Mounted Police, page 3.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

This Court opened on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> August, before Mr. Justice Therry.

**JOHN GLOVER** was indicted for the manslaughter of **ANN KENT**, at Sydney, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Glover and the unfortunate woman had been in the habit of living together when Glover was on shore; Kent was much addicted to drink, and it was proved that she had fallen down stairs and had other severe falls, and it was also proved that Glover had brutally beaten and kicked her while drunk; but went out several times; she got worse, and was taken to the Benevolent Asylum, where it was found that she had several contused wounds on the body; she died in the asylum, and a post mortem examination showed congestion of the membranes of the brain; the opinion of Dr. **RUSSELL** was that death had been caused by the combined effects of intemperance and ill-usage; the opinion of Dr. **TIERNEY** was that death had been caused by the effects of external violence, but those effects might flow from the beatings described, or the falls described. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of common assault, and the prisoner was remanded for sentence. *Abridged from the S.M. Herald.*

#### BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT

Before the Chief Justice

**WILLIAM GLEESON** was indicted for the wilful murder of **THOMAS TRACEY**, at Mudgee, on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. Gleeson, Tracey, and a man named **BROOKES** had been drinking together, and adjourned to Brookes's hut with a bottle of rum; Gleeson became quarrelsome and wanted to fight Tracey; they went outside and fought, and Tracey retired into the hut and went to bed; Gleeson, in about ten minutes afterwards, knocked at the door, and challenged Tracey out to fight again; Tracey jumped up, went to the door, and opened it, and instantly afterwards cried out "Oh, Gleeson, you villain, you have stabbed me also;" this latter exclamation was heard by a person residing nearby, but there was no direct evidence as to who inflicted the wounds. The prisoner, who protested his innocence at first, and afterwards said that he was so much under the influence of liquor that he did not know what he did, was found guilty, and sentenced to death.

Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**JOHN M'PHERSON**, who was convicted on Monday of manslaughter, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. [should be two months; see 8/644]

**ANN MALCOLM** was indicted for infanticide, and was found guilty of concealing the birth; she was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, the first week in each of the first four months in solitary confinement.

Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

**EDWARD FINNERTY**, previously convicted of manslaughter, was sentenced to five years on the roads. *Abridged from the S.H. Herald*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/644, 04/0/1850

#### CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Gaol Delivery

**JOHN GLOVER**, found guilty of assault, was sentenced to two years' hard labour in Sydney gaol.

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT. - **ERRATUM.** - In our report, in Saturday's *Mercury*, of the proceedings in the Bathurst Circuit Court on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we stated that **JOHN M'PHERSON**, convicted of manslaughter, had been sentenced to "two years" imprisonment in Bathurst gaol; it should have read "two months" imprisonment.

INQUEST. - On Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> August, an inquest was held at Mr. John M'Quade's, Commercial Hotel, on Saturday last, before Dr. **DOWE**, Coroner, on the body of **JOHN CARRINGTON**. It appeared from the evidence given by several persons examined, that Carrington was an old and faithful servant of Mr. **PRIMROSE**, of this town; that on Friday he had taken the water cart to the river, near the Punt, for the purpose of procuring water, and it is supposed that unfortunately his foot slipped and the poor man was precipitated in the water. Mr. **PLUNKET**, who has charge of the punt, observed a hat floating on the water, by which his suspicions were aroused, and he immediately despatched a messenger for the grappling irons. The police, as well as others that were present, tried every endeavour to find the body, which was at last dragged up, after having been certainly more than an hour and a half in the water. The jury, without retiring, returned the following verdict: found drowned. *Windsor Telegraph, Aug. 31*

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.

**ELIZABETH WADE**, 18, at Stradbroke Island Quarantine Station, with sister and parents, both ill. Ran into sea. *Moreton Bay Free Press, Aug. 27*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/645, 07/09/1850

SYDNEY NEWS

DEATH FROM SKINNING A BULLOCK. - An inquest was held at the Parramatta district hospital, on Saturday last, on view of the body of **WILLIAM JONES [JOHNS]**, aged fifty years. It appeared that the deceased was brought to the hospital on 29<sup>th</sup> August, by Mr. **JOHN FULLIGAR**; deceased himself stated that he had given way to habits of intemperance. On Monday last, whilst skinning a bullock which had died suddenly, he accidentally gave himself a slight cut in the thigh, four inches from the groin; the thigh and leg shortly afterwards swelled to an enormous extent. The deceased was first attended by Dr. **RUTTER**, who ordered him to poultice the wound, and also gave him some pills. Dr. **ROBERTSON** found a superficial abrasion in the situation of the cut; the thigh and leg were prodigiously swollen; tense, free from pitting and pain; deceased died at three o'clock on Friday afternoon; Dr. Robertson attributes his death to the injury received at the time of skinning the bullock, and specific poison. The jury returned a verdict that William Jones met his death accidentally, from a wound received while skinning a bullock which had died suddenly. *Parramatta Correspondent of the Herald.*

MANSLAUGHTER

**THOMAS RAFFERTY**, wilful murder of **THOMAS MULDOON**, at Stoney Creek, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1845. Guilty of manslaughter; remanded.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday morning an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, on the body of **GARRETT CONNOR**. It appeared from the evidence that on Sunday afternoon Connor, who had that morning ridden from East Maitland to Old Banks, Paterson River, was returning on horse back, accompanied by a lad named **DANIEL SHANNON**; the two lads commenced racing along the road, Connor being mounted on a spirited mare, which ran at Paterson races; Shannon got ahead, and was galloping along when he heard a cry of "stop," and looking round saw that Connor's horse had fallen off, and that his mare had turned off the road, and was galloping off into the bush, Connor being apparently unable to control her; Shannon immediately rode after Connor, but before he could get up with him he heard the sound as of a heavy blow and then a fall and a groan, and in a moment or two afterwards he came up to Connor lying on the ground on his back near a large crooked tree, which must have come in contact with Connor's head, and he was thrown off;

Shannon immediately dismounted, and found Connor breathing heavily, and unable to speak; Shannon tried to arouse him, but failing he galloped home for assistance, and Connor was removed to the house of Shannon's father, and Dr. **BROWN** sent for. Connor had, however, been fatally injured, and died on Tuesday morning, at an early hour. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, absolving the lad Shannon from all blame.

**MURDER OF AN INFANT BY ITS MOTHER.** - Yesterday morning an inquest was held on the body of an infant [**PATRICK DOHERTY**], aged four months, the child of a woman named **ELLEN QUIN**. It appeared from the evidence that Quin had always behaved in a very cruel and unnatural way to her infant, frequently slapping and beating him, stuffing dry bread into his mouth when he cried, and pouring ale and even rum down his throat to make him sleep; she had been repeatedly heard to say that she did not like the child; on Saturday night last the child cried, when she gave him a blow on the face with her shut hand, after which it was seldom heard to cry; on Sunday evening **CATHERINE LOVELL** pointed out to her the starving and emaciated appearance of the baby, when Quin said it would not take her breast; Mrs. Lovell then gave the infant her own breast, which he took eagerly. On Monday evening Quin was at the theatre till midnight, and on coming out she rushed into a crowd, where a soldier named **ROSS** was fighting, and she and another woman got Ross out of the crowd, and that woman left Quin and Ross together afterwards near to St. James's Church; during all this time Quin had her baby with her; at a late hour, about half-past three o'clock, Quin passed a watchman, who asked her what she had in her arms, when she said it was her baby, and exposing it, asked the watchman if it was dead, he said it was, and she went on, but he sent the police after her, and she was apprehended; she then said that when she reached Ross in the crowd, a blow that Ross meant for one of the police struck the baby. The post-mortem examination by Doctors **TIERNEY** and **CARTWRIGHT** showed that there were bruises on the face of the infant, as if occasioned by a fall, or by being thrown to the ground; that there was a bruise on the left side of the face; that the brain was congested, and the ventricles of the heart filled with black fluid blood; the body of the infant was much attenuated. The attenuation would arise from want of proper food, or use of improper diet, or of fermented liquor, and the use of rum as described would explain the black blood found in the ventricles of the heart; the cause of death the medical men believed was concussion of the brain or convulsions – a fall from the arms of his parent would be sufficient to produce the former, and the administration of indigestible nor improper food would conduce to the latter. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Ellen Quin, and Ross was discharged. *Abridged from the Herald, Sept. 5*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/646, 11/09/1850

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Thursday, an inquest was held at the Railway Inn, Chippendale, on the body of **ROSALIE MARTINCE** [**MARTINUS**], an infant about 15 months old, who had seized hold of a teapot in which was some boiling water, a portion of which she poured into her mouth. The child was instantly conveyed to Mr. Surgeon **CUTHILL**. Mr. Cuthill deposed that the infant was suffering from bronchitis and inflammation of the mucous membranes of the throat and mouth; he considered the case a hopeless one the moment he saw it, and the child died on Wednesday evening; the inhalation of the steam alone would have been sufficient to produce the inflammation and consequent death. Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received.

#### INQUESTS.

Yesterday, an inquest was held at the Neptune Inn, Prince-street, on view of the body of **JOHN ARMSTRONG**, who on the previous afternoon was standing in and driving a horse and cart; the horse appears to have taken fright at something, and started off at a full gallop along Prince-street, where the deceased was thrown out, falling on his head with great violence to the ground; he never spoke more, and died in a few minutes. Immediately he was conveyed to Mr. Surgeon **HARPER'S**, in Cumberland-street, who on examination found that three of deceased's right ribs were broken, and an injury in the chest about the size of a horse's hoof, where probably he had received a kick. Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received.

An inquest was also held yesterday at the Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on the body of **TIMOTHY HILL**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Deceased was in the employ of Mr. **PEISLEY**, at the boiling down establishment at Camperdown. From a statement made by the deceased prior to his admission to the infirmary, it appeared that on Tuesday, after putting some fuel on the fires, he sat down near them to smoke his pipe, and shortly afterwards found his clothes to be on fire, and was severely burnt on both arms, as well as both the front and back of the body. Mr. Surgeon **NATHAN** attended him at the infirmary, and prescribed the usual remedies, but from the first considered it a hopeless case. He died on Thursday morning. Verdict, died from the effects of burns accidentally received. *Herald, Sept. 4*

#### MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

(Before his Honor the Chief Justice)

Saturday, September 7, 1850

#### ACCESSORY TO MANSLAUGHTER

**JANE MULDOON**, guilty; 2 years' imprisonment Parramatta gaol, with hard labour.

**THOMAS RAFFERTY**, manslaughter of **THOMAS MULDOON**, 5 years hard labour on the roads or public works.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/648, 18/09/1850

FATAL DELUSION. - On Monday an inquest was held, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., at the Waterloo Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **WILLIAM LAMBERT**. It appeared from the evidence of **JAMES GOULD** and **GEORGE POULTON**, that the deceased, who was a member of a sect calling themselves "Israelites," we believe, and who are commonly known as "Beardies," from the custom of the men allowing their beards to grow, had been for some weeks past labouring under a severe cold, which had settled on his lungs; Lambert's wife and mother attended on him with great care, but neither they nor Lambert himself would consent to call in medical advice, although both witnesses urged them to do so; Lambert himself said that he would not, that he would trust in Providence; and Lambert's mother said that her faith was in God, and not in doctors, and that her son would never die; at length Lambert became so very ill that Gould, on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> September, after urging him for some time to call in medical advice, obtained his consent to his doing so, although his mother still urged him to trust in God; Gould immediately went for Dr. **SCOTT**. Dr. Scott deposed that he found Lambert labouring under inflammation of the air passages and of the substance of the lungs; that he considered the case one of great danger, too much time having been allowed to elapse without calling in medical aid; the result justified his opinion, Lambert growing rapidly worse; Dr. **LIDDELL** was called in by Dr. Scott's wish, and both the medical men on Saturday last told the relatives that no more could be done for Lambert, except to give him ease; on Sunday afternoon Lambert died. Dr. Scott was clearly of opinion that Lambert's death would in all

probability have yielded to medical treatment, had it been taken in time. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

#### DEATH AT SEA

We regret to record the death of Mr. **ROBERTSON**, master of the *Gypsy*, schooner, trading to Moreton Bay. The vessel left this on Monday week, with a strong southerly wind, and at eleven o'clock on the same night, Mr. Robertson being at the tiller, one of the ropes gave way, throwing him overboard, where he met with a watery grave.

#### MYSTERIOUS.

The dead body of an infant, wrapped up in a piece of cloth, and packed in a cigar box, was discovered yesterday afternoon in the Old Burial ground. Information having been given to the police, the remains were removed, and a strict investigation forthwith commenced. *Bell's Life, Sept. 14*

A MAN FOUND DROWNED. - On Thursday last an inquest was held at Mummell, before **ROBERT WAUGH**, Esq., coroner for the district, on view of the body of a male unknown, which had been found floating in the Wollondilly River. The face was much swollen and discoloured. According to the evidence of Dr. **GERARD**, there were no marks of violence about the deceased; the body presented the appearance of that of a person who had been drowned. The whole of the front teeth of the upper jaw were absent except two; the set in the lower jaw were entire. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned. There were no papers found about the person of deceased. In his pocket there was a Roman Catholic Prayer Book. He was apparently fifty years of age and dressed in a blue pilot coat and two pair of corduroy trousers. The body has been viewed by a great number of persons, but they have all failed in identifying it. It is supposed that deceased was accidentally drowned during the heavy flood in the river about six weeks since. *Goulburn Herald, Sept. 14*

#### FOUR WHITE MEN MURDERED BY BLACKS

##### BURNET RIVER & WIDE BAY

##### MR. BLAXLAND

##### SHEPHERD OF BLAXLAND

##### SHEPHERD OF CORFIELD

##### SHEPHERD OF MURRAY

To be completed

#### MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/649, 21/09/1850

INQUEST ON A DECEASED LUNATIC. - On Saturday last an inquest was held at the Lunatic Asylum, Tarban Creek, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, on view of the body of **PETER BERCHER**, a lunatic. From the evidence of Dr. **CAMPBELL**, surgeon superintendent of the establishment, it appeared that the deceased had been ill for the last month, that he would not take the food or nutriment suitable for a person in his circumstances; food was consequently administered by means of the stomach pump, after which he died. A *post mortem* examination was made, when it was found that one of the large blood vessels of the brain was ruptured; the liver of an immense size, and perfectly gorged with blood; the brain and intestines exhibited a dreadful state of disease. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Peter Bercher came to his death by a rupture of one of the larger blood vessels of the brain, and the jury were of opinion that no human skill could have saved the life of the deceased. *Parramatta Correspondent of the Herald.*

#### MRS. BURNS.

We regret to have to announce that the unfortunate Mrs. Burns, who was on last Friday week stabbed in the neck and breast by the ruffian **WHELAN**, expired

yesterday morning, from the effects of the injuries inflicted on her. An inquest will be held on the body today. *Herald, Sept. 18*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - The body of a man named **JAMES LYONS**, watchman on board the *Cape Horn*, was on Tuesday morning found dead in the water between that vessel, lying at the Flour Company's Wharf, and the shore. The last time he was seen alive was about three o'clock of that morning, when he was somewhat under the influence of liquor, having had leave ashore for the previous day. An inquest was held yesterday on the body, but no evidence could be produced as to the manner in which he came by his death, and the jury returned a verdict of found drowned. *Herald, Sept. 19*

**THE LATE MRS. BURNS.** - A coroner's inquest was yesterday held at the Blue Bell, Erskine-street, on view of the body of **CATHERINE BURNES**, whose death was notified in yesterday's *Herald*. The circumstances which led to her death were detailed by one of the witnesses as follows: **JANE BRADY**, of Maitland, deposed that on last Friday week she was stopping at deceased's house; about two o'clock in the afternoon witness was sitting in the yard near the back door, when she heard the prisoner, **JAMES WHELAN**, come in at the front door, and Mrs. Burnes tell him to go out; "She then called me in, and just as I got inside the door I saw the prisoner striking Mrs. Burnes, but thought it was with his fist; after he struck the deceased two or three times she fell, and I then saw a knife in his hand, which I took from him; the knife produced is it; when she fell I saw blood running from her head behind her ear; she did not scream; having secured the knife I ran out for assistance, and on my return he was standing by the door, the deceased holding him by the hands; he did not endeavour to get away from her; Mr. **ANDERSON** ran for a constable; the prisoner brought the knife with him; he held it with the handle towards his thumb, and struck downwards." Mrs. **HARTLEY** deposed, that hearing Mrs. Burnes had been stabbed, she went there; prisoner was there, and admitted he had done so; "I asked him what had made him stab the woman, when he replied, that he was bent on it, and having done so was satisfied; and when the constable was taking him away in custody he said he hoped she would die." The unfortunate deceased was attended first by Dr. **DUGAN** and Mr. **RUTTER**, and subsequently by Messrs. **RUTTER, CARTWRIGHT and AARON**, until the period of her death, on Tuesday morning. Messrs. Rutter and Cartwright made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased. There were three puncture wounds, two on the neck and one on the breast; one of the wounds on the neck was that which led to the fatal result, penetrating the cavity of the skull, inducing inflammation and abscess of the brain. The jury found a verdict of wilful murder against James Whelan, who was thereon committed by the Coroner to take his trial for that offence. The deceased was fifty years of age, and her son, upwards of twenty years of age, was residing with her. Her husband is at California. *Herald, Sept. 19*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/650, 25/09/1850**

**SELF DESTRUCTION.** - An inquest was on Saturday held at Gray's, Light house Hotel, Bathurst, on the body of a man named **AARON ZADOCK**, who had that morning put a period to his existence by suspending himself by a rope round his neck over the staircase of his own residence. From the evidence it appeared that deceased had not long returned to the colony from California, and since his arrival had abandoned himself to excessive drinking, which produced the natural result of occasional aberrations of intellect. On Saturday morning, his wife had occasion to go out, and with a view to prevent her husband from obtaining liquor in her absence,

locked him in the house. On her return, her horror may be more easily conceived than described at the shocking discovery of her husband suspended by the neck over the staircase, and quite dead. The jury found that Aaron Zadock destroyed himself by hanging, while labouring under temporary insanity. *Herald*, Sept. 23.

ACCIDENT; Constable Terence M'Guire, Singleton, last Saturday; precarious state.

BULL: Heneage Finch, Hoxton Park, Liverpool, 19/9??

The two above to be completed.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/651, 28/09/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held this day, Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, at the Freugh Arms, New Freugh, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **TERENCE M'GUIRE**, a constable of the Singleton police, the accident to whom has already been reported in the *Mercury*. From the evidence it appeared that M'Guire was at the inn on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> instant, about an hour before sundown, and at Mr. **RAMSAY'S** request, rode after a stray horse that had passed along the road; Mr. Ramsay noticed that M'Guire's mare appeared to have bolted with him as he rose to the top of the hill, and Mr. Ramsay rode after him, and just over the top of the hill found that poor M'Guire had been thrown and was lying on the road, with one arm broken, and several ribs. M'Guire was carried to the inn, and was there attended by Dr. **GLENNIE**, who found that M'Guire must have received severe internal injuries, as well as the injuries mentioned above. Mortification of the arm set in on Tuesday, and on Thursday M'Guire died. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was killed by a fall from his mare.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/652, 02/10/1850

MORETON BAY COURIER = SHEPHERDS AND BLACKS; NO NAMES.

CORFIELD, MURRAY, UHR, YOUNG, JEFFRIES.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/654, 09/10/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday last an inquest was held at the Golden Lion, Lochinvar, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **WILLIAM BARTLEY**. It appeared from the evidence that Mr. Bartley, a publican, residing at Lochinvar, had on Sunday morning, the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, been in Maitland attended a place of worship, and called at the White Swan on his way home for a nobbler of brandy; this Mr. Early gave him, but Mr. Bartley drank only half of it, saying "I have had enough;" Mr. Early said "I think so too;" on this Mr. Bartley abused Mr. Early, and Mr. E. went in doors, thinking he would leave; almost immediately afterwards Mr. Bartley started off at full speed, being mounted on a spirited horse; Mr. Early was alarmed for his safety, Mr. B. being apparently unable to manage the horse, and he followed along the road, and on reaching the hut of a person named **LICET**, he found that Mr. Bartley had been thrown from his horse, and was lying on a sofa in Licet's house; Mr. Early now observed that Mr. Bartley was still more labouring under the effects of drink than when he had called at his house, and Mr. E. told that he would take Mr. Bartley's horse back to his stable, and when Mr. Bartley got sober he could send for the horse; in about two hours afterwards Mr. Bartley came to Mr. Early's for the horse, and had a little rum and water; he then left the house and Mr. Early heard no more of him until he heard of his having a second fall. Licet was unable to give evidence, having received some time since an injury in the head. Mrs. Bartley had become alarmed for her husband's safety, and in the evening sent a man named **BENJAMIN PEMBERTON** to look for him; Pemberton was passed by a man riding

at full speed, but did not recognise it to be Mr. Bartley, it being dark; Pemberton called at Mr. Early's, and afterwards on his way back at Licet's, and learnt what had passed, and about half a mile from Licet's, towards Lochinvar, Pemberton found Mr. Bartley lying in the road, quite insensible; having in vain endeavoured to rouse him Pemberton obtained a horse and cart and took Mr. Bartley home, meeting constable **DWYER** on the way, he having been alarmed at seeing Mr. Bartley's horse galloping homewards without a rider. Dr. **M'CARTHY** was called in, and attended on Mr. Bartley, who was labouring under the effect of concussion of the brain, and Mr. Bartley died on Saturday last from effusion of blood or serum on the brain; Dr. M'Carthy thought falls from a horse likely to cause death in this way. After Mr. Bartley had become sensible it appears that he stated he did not know he was injured. The jury returned a verdict of died from injuries received by a fall or falls from his horse.

#### SYDNEY NEWS

The Central Criminal Court opened this morning. The charge of murder against the aboriginal "**MAGO**," which has been postponed for one or two sessions for want of witnesses, was not concluded when I left court.

#### ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

A woman named **MOWATT**, on Friday night, while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, attempted to destroy herself by leaping into the water from the Circular Quay. Fortunately for her, she was seen by a workman named **BATTERS**, who immediately proceeded to the spot, rescued the miserable woman from a watery grave, and handed her over to the care of a policeman. She was on Saturday brought before the police bench, and discharged with an admonition. *Herald, Oct. 7*

#### DEATH AT SEA.

A man named **NICHOLAS WILLIAMS**, a steerage passenger by the *J. Merithew*, died at sea on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, from dysentery. [From San Francisco]

**DEATH FROM THE FALLING OF A TREE.** - An inquest was held at Prospect, on the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, Esq., coroner for the district, on view of the body of Mr. **THOMAS DAVIS**, an old and respected resident in the district. **WILLIAM ADAMS**, having been sworn, stated: I am the pound keeper of the district; I reside a mile and a half from this farm, which I rent; Thomas Davis, who now lies dead, was in charge of it, and residing in this house; he was seventy-five years old; I came over occasionally at intervals of several days; I happened to come yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock; the deceased was galling a stringy-bark tree in a paddock close to the house, which I am clearing; I had been talking to him; I and a man named **JOSEPH PORTLEY** were taking a sheet of bark from a tree about four rods from the tree which the deceased was falling; a dead tree fell into the tree which Davis was cutting, which caused it to fall; he ran; I hallooed to him; he cleared the tree within four feet when it caught him; I saw him fall, and ran and picked him up; he was quite dead; a bough had hit him on the top of the head; the dead tree was on fire, and had burnt through. Joseph Portley corroborated this statement. A verdict was returned that the deceased, Thomas Davis, died from accidental falling of a tree. *Herald, Oct. 5*

**TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.** - A few days since a man named **SAMPSON**, residing at the M'Leay River, was proceeding to Camden Haven with a raft of timber, on which were his wife and two children, he unfortunately approached too near the bar, the raft upset, and his wife and children were drowned. Sampson was rescued. *Herald, Oct. 4*

## HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

### DUNGOG

An inquest was held at Clarence Town on Tuesday last, on the body of **JAMES COX**, an old resident of that part. It appears that on Sunday last deceased and another man went into the bush in search of some horse stock, and that on their way home Cox's horse shied, when the unfortunate man was thrown on his head, fracturing his skull, and being severely bruised on the body. This happened about one o'clock, at about eight miles on the Sawyers' Point road; the poor man lingered until seven o'clock on Sunday evening, when he died. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, caused by injuries received from a fall from his horse. *Oct. 12, 1850*

### DEATHS

At his residence, Lochinvar, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. **WILLIAM BARTLEY**, aged 52; much regretted by a large circle of friends.

### MORETON BAY – QUARANTINE STATION.

Death of Dr. **BALLOW**, the volunteer surgeon to the emigrants; also an orphan boy aged 7 died roasting potatoes at a fire during the funeral.

### CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Monday, October 7, 1850

(Before Mr. Justice Dickinson)

**MURDER.** - **MOGO GAR**, an aboriginal native of the Clarence River district, was indicted for the murder of **DANIEL PAGE**, at the Bellinger River, on the 25<sup>th</sup> April last, by wounding him in the neck with a boomerang.

Page was a timber dealer residing on the Bellinger, with a woman named **O'NEIL**, and at the time of the outrage a man named **HALEY** was stopping with them; on the 25<sup>th</sup> April Mogo called and offered to take some rations to some of the neighbouring sawyers, and Page went out to convey Mogo across the river for that purpose; four other blacks joined them outside, and one of them threw a spear at Haley, who ran back to the hut, and was followed by Page, but not until the blacks had beaten Page; the blacks threw boomerangs after Haley and Page, and coming up to the hut tried to force their way in; at length, Page and Haley made a rush at them with their knives, and the blacks ran away; they soon returned again, however, and tried to force their way into the store-room, which was separated from the house by a low partition; this partition Page crossed, and was heard scuffling with the blacks, and when Page returned to his companions he had received a wound in his neck, which he said he feared was mortal; subsequently, after the rations in the hut were given up to them, the blacks left. The whites now abandoned the hut, Page, who was unable to go far, being taken across the river and concealed among the mangroves, while Haley took Mrs. O'Neil and her child to a cutter lying near the mouth of the river; some of the seamen returned with Haley and tried to remove Page to the vessel, but could not do so. Page was afterwards discovered by Mogo, and Mogo took his blankets away in spite of Page's entreaties. Page was removed afterwards back to the hut, by Mrs. O'Neil's wish, and then died. Page said at the time of the wound being inflicted that a black named **UGKY** was the man who struck the blow, but Mogo took an active part in the assault and attempt at robbery. The only one of these blacks who had been apprehended was Mogo, the prisoner.

Mr. **HOLROYD**, who had defended Mogo at the request of the court, addressed the jury.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to death.

Tuesday, October 8

(Before Mr. Justice Dickinson)

**MURDER.**

**JAMES WHELAN** was indicted for the murder of **CATHERINE BYRNES**, at Sydney, on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, by stabbing her behind the ear and the breast.

The particulars in this case have been previously reported. Mrs. **WHELAN** had left her husband, and was residing in the house of Mrs. Byrnes, in Kent-street, with whom also lived at that time a Mrs. **BRADY**; two men named **PATRICK REID** and **RICHARD BRADY** lodged in the house, their sleeping apartments being upstairs, while those of the women were below; Whelan appears to have been greatly excited by his wife's having left him, and her residing in what he believed to be an improper house, and he had once ineffectually endeavoured to induce her to leave the house; early in the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup> September Whelan entered Mrs. Byrnes's house, and after a brief conversation with her he stabbed her with a table knife; Mrs. Byrnes called to Mrs. Brady to come to her, and Mrs. Brady running to the spot, saw Whelan give Mrs. Byrnes three stabs, after which Mrs. Byrnes fell to the ground; Mrs. Brady then took the knife from Whelan, who made no resistance, and she ran for assistance. Mrs. Byrnes got up again, and although she was bleeding much she held Whelan till a constable came, Whelan, however, making no resistance; Whelan told the constable he was now satisfied, and he hoped she would die. Mrs. Byrnes was attended by several medical men, but died on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, the fatal wound being one behind the ear, which had penetrated to the brain, and produced inflammation; there were altogether five wounds, three on the breast and two about the head. None of the witnesses were aware of anything improper in the conduct of the three woman, or in the general character of the house, but it appeared that Reid had on one occasion gone with a cloak and umbrella to bring home Mrs. Whelan from chapel.

Mr. **DARVALL** conducted the defence, at the request of the Court. He urged that the circumstances made the case one of manslaughter.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner, who begged for mercy, protesting that he had no intention to kill Mrs. Byrnes, was sentenced to death.

**MANSLAUGHTER.**

**ELLEN QUIN** was indicted for the murder of **PATRICK DOHERTY**, an infant, by neglecting to provide him with sufficient nourishment, and by giving him intoxicating drinks.

This case was fully reported in the *Mercury* at the time. The prisoner was the mother of the unfortunate infant, who was at the breast, and it was deposed that she had given him colonial ale, lumps of dry bread, and rum, to keep him quiet; that he was kept nearly destitute of clothing, and was otherwise neglected. She was apprehended late one night in the streets, having asked a night watchman whether he thought the child she was carrying was dead, as it proved to be; this was after she had left the theatre, gone into a crowd where there was a disturbance, and then walked away with a soldier. The evidence of the medical witnesses confirmed the fact that the above articles had been administered to the infant, and that he was much emaciated, although the mother had abundance of milk; the immediate cause of death was congestion of the brain, which was superinduced by the administration of improper food. In cross-examination, however, by Mr. **HOLROYD**, the medical witnesses admitted that these appearances might have been caused by convulsions arising from ordinary disease, and that it was impossible the large quantities of liquor deposed to by the previous witnesses could have been administered.

The jury acquitted the prisoner, without requiring the prisoner's counsel to enter on a defence. The prisoner was then discharged.

**ACCIDENT.** Seaman, named **STOUT**, fell street precipice.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A man named **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**, an old resident of Campbell's River, met with an accident, on Saturday last, which terminated in his death on the following day. It appears he had been at Bathurst on business, and was returning homewards, in company with another person, after having partaken moderately of liquor, in town. When on the way between Gorman's Hill and the Burnt Flat, they met Mrs. **CASEY**, of the latter place, with whom they had a little conversation, after which, they were proceeding on their journey, when a puff of wind caused her gown to flap, and so scared the horse Fitzsimmons was riding, that he commenced bucking, and thus threw the unfortunate man on the ground with great violence. He was immediately removed to Mr. **NEAL'S** farm, and attended by Dr. **MACHATTIE**, who discovered that the skull was fractured. From the time of the accident to his death, he was speechless. An inquest was held at Mr. Butler's, Shepherd's Rest Inn, on Monday, when the above facts were deposed to, and a verdict of accidental death returned. *Bathurst Free Press, Oct. 5*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/656, 16/10/1850

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

*To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury*

SIR - In reference to a paragraph which appeared in your publication of the 18<sup>th</sup> ultimo, accusing the people called "Israelites" or "Beardies" of "fatal delusion," I beg to say that the society will not admit of such an accusation, as their doctrine (if known) teaches different to that of withholding or debarring medical aid or assistance, if required. Consequently I beg to know the reason why an inquest was held on the deceased, as having medical aid and assistance, as alluded to in the aforesaid paragraph; and why should the society be accused of that which is false, and contrary to that which their doctrine allows?

A MEMBER

Oct. 15, 1850. - PS. No delusion!

[We willingly afford "A Member" an opportunity of stating that the doctrine of the "Israelites," in reference to calling in medical aid, is more consistent with common sense than at the inquest it was reported to be. The circumstances disclosed by the evidence in the particular case needed to be justified, we think, by the holding of an inquest. - ED - M.M.]

FATAL ACCIDENT. - One day last week an accident happened near Queanbeyan which, we regret to state, proved fatal. It appears from what we have heard that two men in the employ of Mr. **R. GUISE**, of Gundaroo, had been drinking in the township, and when on their way home on a dray, of which they had the charge, the horse bolted, and the vehicle coming in contact with a tree, turned over, and fell on the poor fellows, who were killed on the spot. *Goulburn Herald, Oct. 12*

GUNNING. Accident to Mr. **H. GROSVENOR**, accident to a **BRADY**, thigh smashed, already amp.

ALBURY. - MURDER. - A most cold and deliberate murder was committed on Thursday, at the station of Mr. **WITHERS**, near the Black Dog Creek. It appears from the evidence taken before Captain **BAKER**, J.P., that the parties had been drinking together, though not to excess, on the previous evening, and that some words of an angry nature passed between them, respecting the words of a song. On the following morning the murderer, whose name is **MADDEN**, had a fight with sticks with his victim, in which the latter had the advantage. It would seem probable that the prisoner brooded over his defeat, and after an interval of two hours he went into the hut, and found a pair of shears, which he broke; he then chased the deceased, whose

name was **JOHN MORRISON**, for about three quarters of an hour, the latter endeavouring to save himself by flight; on coming up to him Madden stabbed him in the side, and then returning to the hut, exulted in what he had done. Intelligence was immediately despatched to Mr. Withers, who lost no time in going to the spot, where he found Morrison lying on the ground with his bowels protruding. The constables arrived soon after and arrested the prisoner, who was safely lodged in the Albury lockup, after having been fully committed to take his trial for wilful murder at the next Melbourne Assizes. The most revolting feature of the case is, that the prisoner had to be actually prevented by Mr. Withers and his brother-in-law from again stabbing his victim while he was writhing in agony, and this too after five hours had elapsed since he first stabbed him. After perpetrating the crime, the prisoner went to bed, and slept soundly in the same hut with the dying man. *Herald Correspondent.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Thursday last an inquest was held at the house of Mr. Ryan, at Chippendale, on the body of **ELIZA THOMPSON**. The deceased, who was a widow considerably advanced in years, and lived in a house by herself, was missed from her residence by a neighbour, between nine and ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, and as after some time she did not return, and the back door having been left open, several persons residing in the vicinity instituted a search, and after some time found her in a place from which she was in the habit of fetching water; she was quite dead. Verdict, accidental drowning. *Herald, Oct. 11*

**SUICIDE.** - The *Windsor Telegraph* reports the proceedings on an inquest held in Windsor on Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, on the body of **JAMES SMITH HALL**. It appears that Mr. Hall was a young man, residing at Portland Head, and that his mind had become so excited on religious matters as to produce partial insanity. The Rev. Mr. **ADAMS** was visited by him on Wednesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, when Mr. Hall appeared very desponding in regard to his religious state; Mr. Adams proceeded to relate the occurrences of the next few days, during which Mr. Hall went to Parramatta to consult a medical man, but returned to Mr. Adams's house about ten o'clock that evening, and conversed in a collected and cheerful manner for about two hours, when he retired to bed. The next morning (Sunday) at half-past seven Mr. Adams entered Mr. Hall's bed-room to awaken him, and to his horror found him hanging from the bed-post by a silk handkerchief. He was instantly cut down, and a medical man sent for, but life was extinct. The jury returned a verdict that deceased destroyed himself, not being of sound mind.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/657, 19/10/1850

**ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.** - A coroner's inquest was held on Monday, at the wool-washing establishment of Mr. **ARMITAGE**, Bridge-street, on view of the body of **JAMES HAIGH**, aged 21 years, late the superintendent of that establishment, then and there lying dead. **THOMAS M'LENNON** deposed that he resided with Mr. **DODERY**, at Coogee Bay; on Saturday afternoon he saw deceased gallop by in a homeward direction from Big Coogee, and, in about two minutes after, hearing some one shout out, as if for assistance, witness proceeded along the road in the direction of the noise, and found Mr. Haigh and his horse on the road, the body of the animal being on the rider's legs, which rendered him unable to extricate himself; witness assisted him up, when he complained of having been hurt in the chest, and lay down for about a quarter of an hour; he asked for a drink of water, which was procured, Mr. Dodery adding thereto a small quantity of rum; after partaking of which deceased said he was better, re-mounted his horse, and rode homeward. **GEORGE GIBSON** deposed that Mr. Haigh did not complain of having received any injury until an hour

after his return home, on Saturday evening; he continued ill between seven and eight o'clock on Sunday morning, when he expired. Dr. **FULLERTON** deposed that he made a *post mortem* examination of deceased. Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received.

On the same day an inquest was held at Mr. Coleson's, the Whitehaven Inn, Sussex-street, on view of the body of **JOB MAKIN**, then lying dead in the vicinity. **JAMES KIRKMAN** deposed that on Saturday afternoon he saw deceased on horse back galloping along Cumberland-street, and when opposite Mr. Macdonald's public-house, he fell on his head with great violence to the ground; the horse was going at full speed, but stopped the instant his rider fell; deceased was picked up quite insensible, and conveyed to Mr. Short's in Goulburn-street, where it was known he had been residing. Mr. Surgeon **CUTHILL** was then sent for. Makin was still in a state of insensibility, from which he never recovered, and about six o'clock on Sunday morning he expired. Mr. Cuthill gave his testimony that death was caused by compression of the brain. - Verdict - died from injuries accidentally received. The deceased had not long since returned from California, whence he brought gold which realised to him a sum exceeding £250; a few days before his arrival here, his wife had left the colony to proceed in search of him. The horse on which he was riding he had purchased at Stewart's sale a few hours before. He did not appear to be intoxicated, but the smell of liquor was on him when he was picked up. *Herald, Oct. 16*

REPRIEVE OF GLEESON.

An official letter arrived in town on Thursday last containing the announcement that his Excellency had been pleased to exercise his prerogative of mercy in favour of **WILLIAM GLEESON**, who was found guilty of murdering **THOMAS TRACEY**, at Mudgee, and condemned to death; the sentence being commuted to transportation for fifteen years, the first three to be served in irons. *Bathurst Free Press, Oct. 11*

GAYNDAH, September 26.

There are two Chinamen here in custody. One in the employ of Mr. **REID**, for the wilful murder of another Chinaman; the other for shooting a man at Mr. **GOOD's**, at Mondue. *Hunter River District News.*

SINGLETON.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT, AND LOSS OF LIFE. - A coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday last, the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Fitz Roy Hotel, at 7 a.m., before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., Coroner, and a jury of twelve, touching the death of **PETER KILDUFF**, a carrier, in the employ of **HENRY DANGAR**, Esq. The deceased was brought to the inn in a cart on the previous evening, from about a mile and a half beyond Rix's Creek, where the fatal accident occurred. The jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the body, which presented a most frightful and appalling spectacle, the skull having been severed in two and smashed in by the dray wheel, and the brains wanting. It appeared by the evidence of **THOMAS M'MAHON** and **JOHN SMITH** that they had all three (including the deceased) started from Singleton on Monday morning with loads to Mr. Dangar's station called "Yellow Roy;" the witness M'Mahon went with the teams about three miles on the road, and then left them, a man in his employ having charge of his team; he left the team behind, and went on to the pound at Falbrook, expecting that the three teams would soon pull him up, but after witness (M'Mahon) waiting a considerable time he became uneasy, and returned to look after the teams; M'Mahon met them about three miles from where he left them, when he perceived that his own bullock-driver was intoxicated and sitting on his (which was the leading) dray; M'Mahon got him off, and drove the team himself; the second dray was about 140 yards in the rear of his dray, and deceased's

(Kilduff's) the last; all of a sudden witness heard Smith cry out to him that Kilduff's brains were smashed out. M'Mahon went up to Kilduff's dray, and found deceased lying on the road, his head in the track of the off wheel, and smashed to pieces, his brains scattered along the road; there was about two tons five hundredweight on the dray. Smith, who was driving the middle dray, on looking back, noticed that Kilduff's bullocks had stopped, and went to his dray, and at about two rods behind he found deceased lying on the road, as discovered by the former witness; witness called to M'Mahon, who came back immediately; the track of the off wheel was quite plain over deceased's head; witness saw the deceased about two minutes previous to the fatal occurrence, when he was walking steadily on the near side of his team. On account of the witness Smith not attending in the morning, the inquest was adjourned till 2 p.m. on the same day, when it was resumed. After hearing Smith's evidence, which corroborated M'Mahon's in respect to the accident, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, caused by the wheel of a dray passing over his head.

**THE LATE THUNDER STORM.** - ... One unfortunate woman of the name of **HEAD**, a widow, living in Surry-street, at the back of Darlinghurst Gaol, was struck by the electric fluid, which entered her house, On Tuesday afternoon, and was instantaneously killed.. She leaves two children behind her.

**DEATH BY LIGHTNING.** - We regret to have to report the death by lightning of Mrs. **MARY HEAD**, a respectable woman, who resided at Surry-street, Darlinghurst. From the evidence of Mr. **PATRICK DEERY**, at an inquest held yesterday on the body, we learn the following particulars:- Between two and three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon he was informed that Mary Head, the subject of the inquest, was dead; he, with his wife, and two other parties, ran to the house, and found both the front and back door fastened; they then looked in at the front window and saw the unfortunate deceased lying on the floor; they then broke open the door and entered the house; deceased was not then dead, but died almost immediately; she did not speak when they went in; on examination they found that the skin of her chest was peeled off in several places; the lining of a bonnet was lying beside the body, and which she was in the habit of wearing in wet weather, was burnt completely out. The husband of the deceased died about twenty months ago, leaving her with two children, the elder of whom is about six years of age; the house she lived in was her own, and she earned her living by washing; she was a hard working and sober woman. There is a hole in the wall above the chimney place, where the electric fluid is supposed to have entered the room and to have struck the deceased, passing then into the next room, striking the wall about eighteen inches above the floor, travelling up the clock weight lines, smashing the clock, and, passing through the ceiling, forced off the shingles from the eaves upwards. The jury found that deceased met with her death by being struck by lightning. *Herald, Oct. 17*

#### HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

#### SINGLETON PP BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

#### IN-DOOR PATIENTS [ANNUAL REPORT]

**ISHMAEL JONES** – 15 days – disease of liver – died.

#### OUTDOOR PATIENTS

**GEORGE HARMAN**, wife and child – 70 days – husband disease of the lungs, died; child dysentery, died – medical attendance and rations.

**GRIFFIN**, wife, and 5 children – dropsy (husband) died – medical attendance, and rations to family.

**A CHILD DROWNED IN A WELL.** - On Thursday last an inquest was held at Clarke's, the White Conduit House, Rushcutter's Bay, on view of the body of **FRANCIS RYAN**, between two and three years old. **CATHERINE RYAN**, residing at Darling Point, deposed that she was mother of the deceased; on Wednesday afternoon she was sitting at needle work, and having missed deceased for a few minutes, she went out to look for him; on going out she saw his cap, and on proceeding a few yards further she saw his body in the well; on taking him out he was put into a warm bath, and every means were used to restore animation, but to no avail: it is an open well. Verdict – accidentally drowned. *Herald, Oct.19*

**MYSTERIOUS REMAINS, MISSING MEN**

Brudenagh, Lachlan, but no names.

**TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.** - Pitt-street, **SUSAN JONES**, aged 6; driver **SMITH** in custody.

**DEATH FROM THE FALL OF A TREE.** - An inquest was held at the residence of Mr. **ROBERT GREEN**, on the Kissing Point Road, on Thursday last, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, on view of the body of **WILLIAM TARLINGTON**, an old servant in the employ of Mr. **ANDREW NASH**, of the Woolpack Inn. **PATRICK WALKER**, a fellow-servant of the deceased, deposed that himself and William left home at about half-past nine o'clock in the morning, with the horse and dray, for the purpose of getting a load of firewood from Mr. **BETTINGTON's** bush; about half an hour after we had been there, I went to a dead tree, and gave it a cut or two, but not liking the wood, said I would not have it; deceased thought it was good, and continued to cut it down; I went about forty perches off, to look for smaller wood, and on coming back for the horse and dray, heard deceased cry out; I ran, and found him stretched dead beside the tree, so close that he could not be closer unless he was under it; I tried to lift him up but could not; deceased was an old man, too old for work; I saw a wound on the top of his head; his left arm was broken, and also his right arm; I immediately returned to tell my master. The jury returned a verdict that William Tarlington came to his death from the falling of a tree. *Parramatta Correspondent of the Herald.*

**BIRTHS**

At Vaucuse, on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, Mrs. **WENTWORTH**, of a still born daughter.

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT**

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October

On the same day the reserved points on the case of The Queen v **MOGO GAR**, came on for hearing. Mogo, an aboriginal, was convicted of murder at the late Central Criminal Court; objections were taken, and reserved, that certain statements of the dying man were improperly received in evidence, and that the jury were misdirected as to the grounds on which they should return a verdict of murder or manslaughter. Mr. **HOLROYD** kindly argued the points for the prisoner. The Solicitor General contended that the conviction was good. The court over ruled the objections, confirming the conviction. *Abridged from the Sydney papers.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT NEAR BATHURST.** - A coroner's inquest was held on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, at Macquarie Plains, the estate of Mr. **WILLIAM LAWSON**, on the body of a man named **FRANCIS DRAPER**. The deceased and two others were employed to endeavour to get a young colt into the stable; they got him as far as the door; the horse, however, felt no inclination to enter; force was attempted, but with no avail; the two men used their best endeavours to accelerate his movements by occasionally lashing the obstinate animal with a whip. The horse became furious, threw up his hind legs, and kicked the deceased on the rim of the

belly; he fell senseless, and was conveyed to his hut. The occurrence took place about 5 p.m. on Saturday, and early on the following morning Draper expired, having in the interim laboured under the most excruciating agony. The jury returned a verdict death from the effects of a kick from a horse. *Herald Correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/659, 26/10/1850

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - An inquest was held on Saturday, at Olliffe's, the Cockatoo Inn, Surry Hills, on view of the body of **JOHN QUIN**, aged about three years six months. From the evidence of the father of the child, who is a water carrier, it appeared that on Friday afternoon, he put his horse in his cart, and left it for about a minute; on his return, he took the horse by the head to lead him on; just as the horse was starting, he saw the wheel passing over the deceased, which was the first he saw of him; deceased must have been under the axle-tree when he (witness) moved the horse on, as he fell outwards. The little fellow was instantly taken into the house, and the distracted parent ran for Mr. **HONNER**, the nearest medical practitioner, but before his return the child was dead. Mr. Honner gave evidence as to the character and extent of the injuries - "a large wound extending to the full extent of the right parietal bone, but no appearance of hemorrhage from the wound, the bleeding having ceased; the injuries were sufficient to account for death." Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, Oct. 21*

SYDNEY NEWS

The convicts **MOGO** and **JAMES WHELAN** are ordered to execution on Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> November next, at Darlinghurst Gaol.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held yesterday at Parkinson's, the Wellington Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **JOHN PECK**, aged 24, then lying dead at the Benevolent Asylum. **GEORGE CRESSWELL** deposed, that he resides as Armitage's Fellmongering establishment, Bridge-end; about ten o'clock on Thursday morning he saw the deceased passing the establishment, towards Sydney, on horse back, and going down towards the crossing place he went out of sight; a few minutes afterwards he saw the horse half in and half out of the creek; seeing no rider, he (witness) went with the men at work on the premises to look after him, but after searching for some time in vain, he came to Sydney to report the circumstance to the police, and afterwards sent a man with the horse to Mr. **POTTER**, at Botany, in whose employ the deceased was; the crossing place was covered with water to the depth of about two feet, and a part of the dray road is washed away; from the appearance of the spot he (witness) was of opinion that deceased had gone too near the brink, which had given way, being sand, and precipitated him into the water. Mr. Potter deposed that some days ago deceased had his arm bitten by a horse, and was on his way to Sydney for medical advice when this melancholy occurrence took place; on receiving the intelligence forwarded by the last witness he proceeded to the spot, and was with several others dragging the water hole until about four o'clock in the afternoon before they found the body; it was then quite dead; the place is about twenty yards in width, and the water about ten feet deep; the body was found about four feet from the brink, and from its position he thought that deceased had scarcely even struggled. Verdict, accidentally drowned. *Herald, Oct. 24*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/660, 30/10/1850

HOMICIDE AT DARLING DOWNS. - Last Saturday a Chinaman, in the employ of Mr. **WHITTING**, D.D., was killed with a blow of a wool spade, by a white man, with whom he was working in the wool shed. Such is the account which has reached us,

and it adds that the white man had not then (last Sunday) been taken into custody, as there was no witness of the blow, but that Dr. **MILES**, of Drayton, had gone over to make a *post mortem* examination. *Moreton Bay Courier*, Oct. 19

**MURDER.**

The *Windsor Telegraph* reports the evidence given on an inquest held at Colo, on the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, on the body of **ANN BECKHAM**, aged eleven years. The deceased girl, Ann Beckham, was in the service of Mr. **WILLIAM BURGESS**, a settler residing at Colo. Early in August, Mr. Burgess hired, through an agent in Sydney, a man named **FREDERICK HERMENDING**; this man worked well for some weeks but then he became obstinate and troublesome, setting Mr. Burgess at defiance; by mutual consent the agreement was cancelled, on the 30<sup>th</sup> September; prisoner went away for one day, Sunday, and then returned and again entered into Mr. Burgess's service again, without any written agreement. After this he became melancholy and reserved in his manner, not answering when spoken to, and late on Monday evening, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, he went into the house (having usually slept in a hut) and got Mr. Burgess to read religious books to him; and subsequently Mr. Burgess consented to his sleeping in the house that night. For some days he continued in this frame of mind, Mr. Burgess reading religious books to him at his request, but apparently not suspecting that Hermending was at all deranged. On Friday night, the 18<sup>th</sup>, Hermending brought his bed and box into the house to sleep, and talked rationally with Mr. Burgess about religion, and about the farm work for the next day; Mr. Burgess went to bed, but was awakened by hearing Hermending walking about, lighting the fire, and talking to himself in a strange way; Hermending shortly afterwards called to Mr. Burgess to read the history of Job to him; Mr. Burgess did so, but was stopped by Hermending after reading a few verses, Hermending saying he wanted no more of that, and looking fiercely at Mr. Burgess, wielding the broken handle of a frying-pan, and muttering that he had work to do, but the time was not yet come; Hermending refused to let Mr. Burgess go out of the house, or to go to bed again, and would not retire to bed himself. Mr. Burgess went to bed after some time, and was again called by Hermending, but refused to get up, and on Hermending trying to get into his room Mr. Burgess locked the door. In the morning early Hermending again called to Mr. Burgess, saying that work must be done, that he must complete it, and that in a satisfactory manner; Mr. Burgess got up, and partly opening the door saw Hermending sitting in the adjoining room with an iron wrench in one hand and the frying-pan handle in the other; he refused to lay down these weapons, and Mr. Burgess refused to leave the room unless he did so; the little girl now came into the room to take the fire, and Hermending said he had a great mind to kill her then, but would do so at another time, and banish them all to the Red Sea; after some persuasion he let the girl make the fire. Mrs. Burgess now called the girl into her bed-room; Hermending called out, "Come out, no treachery;" Mrs. Burgess left the girl out by a back way, and sent her to arouse the neighbours; Hermending called her back, but she did not return, and Hermending, who had opened the front door, rushed back to the bed-room door, and struck at Mr. Burgess with the frying-pan handle; Mr. Burgess defended himself with a chair, but received a slight blow, and Hermending seizing the chair they both fell in the struggle; Mr. Burgess now got away into the bed-room, the door of which he and his wife locked, and piled up boxes against it. Presently two neighbours, who had been alarmed by the girl, came to the house, and Hermending made a blow with the handle at the first of them, **JOHN EDMONDSON**, which was ward off by an umbrella; Hermending then ran past the second neighbour, and ran at the poor girl, who was following them towards the house; she ran away, but Hermending overtook her, and struck her a blow on the

head with the iron wrench, and she fell; he then appears to have left her for a moment, but returned to her and beat her about the head with the iron handle till Mr. Burgess and the neighbours ran up; Hermending then threw the iron handle at Edmondson, and was himself struck by Mr. Burgess with a pitchfork; Hermending said he would kill them all in the same way, and then ran away, and left the place. The poor girl was quite dead, the skull having been battered in. Hermending was taken prisoner by four men, after a desperate resistance. It appears that Hermending had told a person that Mr. Burgess had discharged him, and swore that he would not leave Colo till he had revenge on Mr. Burgess. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Hermending.

**A MOTHER COMMITTED TO TAKE HER TRIAL FOR THE WILFUL MURDER OF HER INFANT.**

An inquest was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and (by adjournment) on 25<sup>th</sup> instant, on view of the body of **MARY SWEENEY**, ----- months old, **CATHERINE SWEENEY**, her mother, being in custody. The husband of the prisoner, it appeared, left the Colony for California in the month of \October last year; since which time she gave birth to the child, the subject of this inquiry; the house she lived in was her own, part fo which she let for four or five shillings a week, and when she was disposed, was able to earn from 10s. to 12s. a week at trouser making; she had, however, as it appeared by the evidence of several witnesses, given herself up to habitual intoxication, to purchase the means for which debasing and destructive indulgence, she not only devoted the proceeds of the rental income and her earnings, but some £10 or £12 sent up by her husband, and all the furniture of the house. It would be both disgusting and tedious to give the evidence of several witnesses, who spoke of the habitual neglect of deceased by the prisoner; it did not appear that deceased had been washed for months, except on one or two occasions, when some charitable female would take it from the equally miserable, dirty, and hungry child, the eldest sister, about seven years of age, who was constantly perambulating the streets with the infant in her arms; the infant generally wore a flannel shirt (which one of the witnesses said could not have been washed for weeks) – no napkins, nor any linen whatever next its skin. The infant died on Tuesday last, when, in consequence of the representations of the neighbours as to the treatment she received from her mother, the coroner thought it necessary to hold an inquest on the body. Dr. **TIERNEY** made a *post mortem* examination of the body. From all the symptoms he could discover, Dr. T. was of opinion that deceased died from want of proper and sufficient sustenance; there was no organic disease; the emaciation must have been going on for some time. Dr. Tierney saw the room in which the children slept; they were lying on a few shreds of cloth, without any covering, and were half naked, and disgustingly dirty. The jury under the circumstances found a verdict of wilful murder against Catherine Sweeney, who was thereupon committed by the coroner to take her trial. *Herald, Oct. 28*

**MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.** - Some time on Thursday night last, a man named **WILLIAM WEBB**, residing with Mr. **PLUM** of Brisbane Meadow, Bungonia, destroyed himself by blowing the roof of his skull off with a fowling piece. The tragic act was first discovered by Mrs. Plum, on going into the kitchen yesterday morning, where she found Webb lying dead with his brains scattered over the floor. An inquest will be held this day. *Goulburn Herald, Oct. 20*

**SUPREME COURT**, Friday, October 25.

(from the *S.H. Herald*)

(Before their Honors the three Judges)

**CROWN CASES RESERVED.** - The Queen v **MULDOON**.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/661, 02/11/1850

WIDE BAY. - MURDER BY THE BLACKS, AND REPRISALS BY THE INHABITANTS. – OCTOBER 15.

The township of Maryborough was thrown into a state of alarm a few days since, by a report, which was unfortunately too true, that a bullock-driver, named **ROBERTS**, had been killed by the blacks. One of the murderers was supposed to have been a man who a short time since was in custody on a charge of rape. The body of the unfortunate Roberts was found within a quarter of a mile of the town. On the following morning some of the inhabitants, accompanied by a few sailors belonging to vessels lying in the river, proceeded to the camps of the blacks, and shot several – we have heard as many as six of them perished. *Herald Correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/662, 06/11/1850

MURDER.

Yesterday an inquest was held by **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., at Mr. Risby's inn, Falls, West Maitland, on the body of **ABRAHAM DAWES**. The inquest was concluded at so late an hour that we have not time for a full report in this publication. Dawes and two other men were, it appears, coming down the country with teams, and one of the men, named **TOM MATTHEWS**, quarrelled with Dawes near Murrurundi, and is sworn to have brutally ill-used him. Dawes from this time complained of pain and illness, but travelled to Maitland, and on Saturday last was attended at Mr. Risby's by a medical man, but died yesterday morning. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Matthews. Matthews is not in custody yet, having been discharged by his employer, Mr. **SUMNER** at Black Creek, in consequence of the fight, Mr. Sumner not suspecting the extent of the injuries inflicted on Dawes.

A MAN DROWNED. - On Friday morning as Mr. **WILLIAM TUNKS** and his sons were bathing at the Figtree, they observed something in the water which resembled a dog. One of them swam out close to it, and returning said that it was an animal of that kind, but Mr. Tunks himself, thinking he saw something like hands underneath the water, got a boat and pushed out towards it, when he discovered that it was a human body. A card case containing cards with the name of "**MORTIMER**" and 4s. 3d. in cash, some tobacco, and a knife were found upon his person. An inquest will be held this day. *People's Advocate, Nov. 2*

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was on Saturday held at Murphy's, the Traveller's Rest, Market-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM MORTIMER**. This was the body found floating near the Fig-tree by the Messrs. **TUNKS**. From the evidence of Mrs. Mortimer, residing in Castlereagh-street, it appears that Mortimer was given to drink, and had been labouring under *delirium tremens*; some short time since, while suffering in that way, he left home with an expressed intention to destroy himself, but was brought back by a man who went after him; on the present occasion he went out on Tuesday morning several times, apparently getting drink, and finally went out, and did not return. The jury returned a verdict that deceased put an end to his existence by drowning, while labouring under the effects of intemperance. *Abridged from the Herald, Nov. 4*

CHILD LOST.

A few days since a little boy about eighteen months old, son of Mrs. **HAND**, of Wheeo, strayed from his home. An active search was instituted by the distracted mother and the neighbours, when after two days search the poor creature was found dead, death having, no doubt, been produced by starvation. *Goulburn Herald, Nov. 2*

DEATHS.

At Juanda, Dawson River, on 28<sup>th</sup> September last, **THOMAS MARK**, eldest son of **A. WINDEYER**, Esq., Kinross, Raymond Terrace, by an accidental pistol-shot wound on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1849.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/663, 09/11/1850

MURDER OF ABRAHAM DAWES

EXECUTION. - The final sentence of the law was yesterday morning carried into effect on the two unfortunate men who were convicted at the last Criminal Sessions for wilful murder – **WHELAN**, and **MOGO**, an aboriginal native. The former at the trial confessed the crime, but urged the influence of drink and jealousy as the exciting cause. Since his conviction he has devoted himself entirely to spiritual exercise, and the Rev. Dean **M'ENROE**, who attended him on the scaffold, in a few words stated to the crowd that the unhappy convict confessed his guilt, and admitted the justice of his punishment, but earnestly implored that his example might deter others from the fatal vice of intoxication. **MOGO** also was resigned and penitent. He admitted to having committed various deeds of violence, for which he was aware he was amenable to the English law, but he declared that he tried to prevent the blacks from committing the outrage which led to his death. He appears to have been a man of considerable intellect, partially cultivated by his intercourse with Europeans. On the night preceding his execution he was visited by the Bishop of New Zealand, and there was every reason to believe, from the tenor of his conversation, that he died a penitent Christian. The Rev. Messrs. **BODENHAM** and **T. WILKINSON** attended him to the scaffold. Both men were composed, but when the drop fell, Whelan struggled violently for upwards of five minutes, but Mogo died apparently in an instant. *Herald, Nov. 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/664, 13/11/1850

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Wednesday afternoon a man named **JONES**, a resident of the Glebe, went out in company with three others to fish. They rowed outside the reef, where there was a cross sea, and Jones was standing leaning over the bow, when the boat lurched, and he was thrown into the water. No efforts which his companions could have made would have saved him, for he never rose again. *People's Advocate, Nov. 9*

ABERGLASLYN = **SUSAN COX** bitten by snake.

SYDNEY NEWS.

An inquest was held to-day to inquire in the cause of death of **FRANCIS WHITWORTH**, oil and colour-man, of George-street. The deceased left home on Friday night, about a quarter before eight o'clock, for the purpose of attending a meeting of Odd Fellows, to which order he belonged; he did not, however, go there, and was found in George-street, about three o'clock in the morning, opposite the Royal Hotel, apparently in a fit, and was conveyed to the Watch-house, where he was visited by Dr. **RUTTER**, who, after adopting certain remedies, had him removed to his own residence, where he remained insensible up to the time of his death, about two o'clock in the afternoon. Verdict, death by the visitation of God.

An inquest was also initiated on Saturday afternoon, touching the death of a publican named **ABERDEEN**, at the corner of Phillip and Hunter streets. Owing to some circumstances of a domestic nature having transpired, the inquest was adjourned till Wednesday, at the Town Hall.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - We have to record a most distressing accident that occurred at North Brisbane on Saturday afternoon. A fine intelligent boy [**EDWARD ALFRED WRIGHT**] five years of age, the child of a respectable man named **WRIGHT**, a constable in the Brisbane Police, was playing with some other children at the back of the Commissariat store, when, in turning round on the parapet surmounting the wall of the deep area that surrounds the building, he lost his balance, and fell to the bottom, a distance of some eighteen or twenty feet. The accident was observed by a servant woman of the chief constable, who screamed for assistance, and Mr. **BYRNES**, the lessee of the ferry, picked up the child, and carried him into Mr. **SNEYD'S** house, where Dr. **HOBBS** and Dr. **CANNAN** soon afterwards attended; but medical skill was useless, and the child died the same evening, without having exhibited consciousness from the moment of his fall. No doubt the poor little fellow fell upon his head and fractured his skull. *Moreton Bay Courier, Nov. 4*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/665, 16/11/1850

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - On Tuesday an inquest was held below Hinton, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **PATRICK CONNOR**. It appeared that on Saturday last, early in the afternoon, three men in Mr. **EALES'S** employment, named **PATRICK CONNOR, EDWARD WHYLIE, and JOSIAH SQUIRES**, went to bathe in the river, near Mr. E.'s dock. Whylie was the only one of the party who could swim, and he and Squires were in the water, he being teaching Squires to swim, when Connor called out from the bank "Ned, I'm going to jump in, look out for me," and immediately jumped out into the river about fifteen feet, into a spot where there was deep water and a soft muddy bottom. Whylie pushed Squires into shallow water, and looked out for Connor, but he did not rise for some time, and then only just got his head above water, made a splash with his hands, and sunk again before Whylie, who was much confused, could reach him. Whylie now swam to shore and got a piece of wood, in case Squires (sic) rose again, but no more was seen of him. A settler living on the opposite bank called to Whylie to get the boat, which he did, and they searched for some time, trying to find Connor with the oars, but unsuccessfully. Drags were procured, but the body could not be found, the tide being ebbing strongly at the time. On Monday evening a little girl observed the body floating about half a mile below, and giving the alarm, it was taken on shore; I was much covered with mud and weeds. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon, on the body of a man named **ABERDEEN**, a publican, residing in Hunter-street, who died very suddenly at about five o'clock in the morning. Owing to some rumours that prevailed, a *post mortem* examination was ordered, and a jury having been sworn and the body identified, the enquiry was adjourned till one o'clock on Wednesday, at the police office. It was then resumed, and further adjourned till Friday. *Herald, Nov. 14*

SUICIDE. - An inquest was yesterday held at Bluck's, the Family Hotel, Surry Hills, on view of the body of **MARGARET FLYNN**. **JAMES HARRIS**, residing in Riley-street, Surry Hills, deposed that on Sunday morning about five o'clock he went to the house of the deceased, and on his way he met her going to his house; she appeared to be quite sober; on returning home with his wife he found the gate unbolted; on entering he saw a bonnet, and presently his wife observing that the cover of the well was up, shouted out that she was sure Margaret Flynn was in the well; the fact of finding the bonnet without the woman led him to the same conclusion, and forthwith he procured a grappling iron and set to work; in a few minutes he succeeded in bringing up a body - that viewed by the jury - the body of Margaret Flynn,

apparently quite dead. Dr. **TIERNEY** was sent for and shortly arrived. He found that the woman was dead beyond all hope of resuscitation. **WILLIAM LENNOX** deposed that deceased had been drinking very hard for the last two or three weeks; on Sunday morning, about half-past four o'clock, she left home quite sober, and he did not see her again alive; she had often said she would make away with herself, but as it was always after a drinking bout he took no notice of it. She was about thirty-six years of age, and has left one child. The jury returned a verdict of *felo de se*. *Herald, Nov. 12*

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.** - Some short time ago, a man [**BEAMAN**] in the employ of Mr. **WOOLLEY**, of George-street, iron monger, was sent with a quantity of damaged gun powder, which he was ordered to throw into the harbour. Instead of doing as he was ordered, it appears that he threw it with some other rubbish on a piece of waste land near the Museum. The deposit was soon discovered by some boys, who were in the habit of playing in the vicinity, one or two of whom, it is said, carried away small portions of the dangerous material. On Monday forenoon, however, a boy named **LINE** [**LANE**], about ten years of age, thought to have a rare spree with the powder, and after leading a train a short distance from the great mass, applied a match, and of course the whole exploded. The boy was so near that he was very much injured and burnt; but although placed immediately under the care of Mr. **BENNETT**, the result was, that after lingering in great agony until about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, he expired. An inquest will be held upon the body today. *Herald, Nov. 13*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/666, 26/11/1850**

**ARMIDALE**

**MELANCHOLY DEATH BY DROWNING.**

Accounts reached Armidale last week of the death by drowning of Mr. **WILLIAM FARQUHARSON**, formerly superintendent of the St. Leonard's station in this district, late belonging to the Bank of Australasia. It appears that deceased was on his way to the M'Leay for the purpose of procuring a farm; on arriving at Mr. **WARNE'S** station, "Towal Creek," he was urgently advised not to attempt the usual crossing-place of the M'Leay River, as, in consequence of the recent flood, the footing had been made extremely dangerous. Mr. Farquharson's business being urgent, and having frequently incurred dangers before, he proceeded. On the following day Mr. **P. RIGNEY**, on his way to Port Macquarie, found the unfortunate gentleman's horse grazing on the river bank, and immediately gave information to the nearest station. Every exertion was used for the recovery of the body, Mr. **MEREWETHER**, Chief Commissioner Lands for the M'Leay district, giving every assistance in his power, and it was ultimately found about four miles below. From the appearance of the body, it is supposed that Mr. Farquharson had tried to force the horse into the water, and in the endeavour to do so had been thrown, as there was an extensive cut and bruise on the left side of the head, apparently made by the horse's shoe. He was much and deservedly respected, and has left a widow and four children to lament his premature death.

**ACCIDENT.** - A man named **WALKER**, residing in Elizabeth-street, took home a lump of gunpowder which was thrown near the Museum, and thinking it was coal, he put it on the fire when he got home. As might be expected, it exploded, and he was severely burned about the face and head. *People's Advocate, Nov. 16*

**THE INQUEST ON MR. ABERDEEN.** - The adjourned inquest on the body of Mr. **ABERDEEN** was resumed yesterday. The evidence of the medical witnesses was that death was caused by an effusion of serum on the brain (serous apoplexy), and

that whatever was the cause of certain inflammatory spots visible near the entrance of the stomach, that inflammation could have had no influence on the death of the deceased. The coroner left it to the jury to say whether they thought it necessary to have the stomach and its contents analysed, together with some fluid thrown off by deceased from his stomach shortly before his death. The jury considered this desirable, after some deliberation, and the inquest was adjourned for a fortnight for the purpose of having an analysis made. *Abridged from the Herald, Nov. 16*

**THE GUNPOWDER FATAL ACCIDENT.** - The inquest of the body of **MATTHEW LANE** was resumed yesterday. The particulars of this case have already been given, Lane having been so severely scorched by an explosion of gunpowder that he died. The powder (damaged) had been thrown on a vacant piece of land near the Museum by a carter named **BEAMAN**, in the employ of Mr. **T. WOOLLEY**. Directions had been given that the powder should be thrown into the harbour, but it was not clearly proved whether these directions were given to Beaman. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and gave it as their opinion that due caution was not used. Beaman, who had been apprehended, was then discharged from custody. *Abridged from Herald, Nov. 16*

**MOGO.** - Feature story re Mogo's origins and childhood.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/667, 23/11/1850

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - Early on Saturday morning, Mr. **GEORGE OAKES**, M.C., left town for Penrith, in a gig, accompanied by his brother Mr. **F. OAKES**; they drove at a moderate pace along the Western Road, until near the bridge over the Eastern Creek, near Mr. Dean's licensed tavern. There happened to be a cart with stone a-head, and some men working under the bridge; at one or the other of these the horse started and took fright, turning suddenly, made a spring to the side of the bridge, and in doing so carried away the top rail, and with the sudden jerk broke out of the harness; ... *Parramatta Correspondent of the Herald.*

**MISSING PERSON.** **BENJAMIN COTT** still missing; see previous issue.

**DEATH.**

Killed, instantaneously, from the kick of a horse, at Peel's River, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, **WILLIAM COLLINSON**, fourth son of the Rev. Thomas Maxwell Hunt, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch; aged 26 years.

**MURDER.**

**ANG**, a Chinaman, was indicted for the wilful murder of a fellow countryman, at Mr. **REID'S** station, in the Burnett district.

Mr. **PEARSON THOMPSON** undertook the defence, at the request of the Court.

From the evidence of **ANG KEE ING**, another Chinaman, and of a person named **HALBERT**, overseer for Mr. Reid, and also the testimony of Dr. **F. O'NEILL**, the following facts were adduced. Deceased, prisoner, and the witness Ang Kee Ing, were all in the employ of Mr. Reid, and on the day of the alleged murder a quarrel had occurred between the prisoner and deceased, in the hut, when the prisoner had fired a gun at deceased just at the time when the latter was supposed to be throwing a pannikin at the prisoner, as the witness Ang Kee Ing stated he did. This supposition was grounded on the fact of the ball from the gun having glanced on the arm in such a manner as to show that the limb must have been extended at the time. The ball, according to the evidence of the surgeon, had afterwards entered the body and inflicted several wounds, which were sufficient to cause death. The wounded man died on the same day, and subsequently Dr. **O'NEILL**, by desire of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, had the body disinterred, and made a *post mortem*

examination. As the evidence of the Chinaman did not quite agree with his former statements, and there seemed reason to believe that the deceased and prisoner had been struggling together, and that the gun was fired on the impulse of the moment, the Judge charged the jury accordingly, and a verdict of guilty of manslaughter was returned. The prisoner was sentenced to three years on the roads.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/669, 30/11/1850

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was yesterday held by Mr. **BRENAN**, coroner for the city and district of Sydney, at Stewart's, the Woolpack Inn, Campbell-street, on view of the body of **JOHN A. BIRD**, aged twenty-six. About a fortnight since deceased cut his thumb while assisting to skin a bullock that had died of what is called the "black leg;" the cut was very slight, in fact, scarcely discernable. Three or four days since he complained of pain under the arm – which he carried in a sling – so severe, he said, that he could not let his arm out of the sling; on Friday he asked to see a medical man, when Dr. **M'VITIE** was called in. On Sunday he died. Mr. **H.W. M'VITIE**, surgeon and doctor of medicine, residing in Pitt-street, deposed that when he saw deceased on Friday he found him labouring under great pain, extending from under the left arm over the left side of the chest; there was a great swelling or puffing over the chest; deceased fainted twice whilst witness was examining him; witness asked if he had any cuts about the fingers, when he replied that he had not; I looked at his left hand, and found a small mark upon the first joint of the thumb, which he said he had received while getting oysters, about a fortnight before, and that a piece of shell was in it; treated him according to the symptoms, and next morning he complained less of pain, but had a great inclination to vomit; the swelling in the chest had almost disappeared, and the thumb appeared to be free of inflammation; when about to leave witness was informed that he had cut his thumb while skinning a diseased bullock some days back, but had not complained until Thursday; a wound received under such circumstances would he thought impart a *virus* to the system, and cause the swelling and symptoms he perceived; on receiving this information he laid open the thumb, and deceased seemed to be insensible to pain in that part; no doubt there was some *virus* present, which caused prostration of the whole nervous system, and that prostration was the cause of death – it would not yield to the stimulants prescribed. Verdict, died from the effects of a *virus* imparted to the system while in the act of skinning a bullock which had died of disease. *Herald, Nov. 26*

SUICIDE. - A woman named **GUARD**, between nine and ten o'clock on Friday morning, threw herself into the water from the wharf at Mrs. Bigge's bathing place, and but for the prompt assistance of a person named **CHARLESWORTH**, who had heard of the circumstance while at work in the vicinity, she would inevitably have drowned. He put off in a boat and rescued her; shortly after which, constable **LUCAS** arrived, who took means for her removal to the lock-up. She was there attended by Dr. **RUTTER**, and, on Saturday morning, she stood before their worships perfectly recovered. She said she was tired of her life from ill-treatment – from whom she did not state. The bench ordered her to enter into sureties for good behaviour, in default of which she was committed to gaol for a month. *Herald, Nov. 25*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday, during the heavy squall, Mr. **ABERCROMBIE**'s boat, while returning to Five Dock with his family from Balmain Church, was driven ashore and bilged on Spectacle Island, from whence the family were taken by a fisherman's boat, with the exception of the servant man, named **TERENCE CREDEN**, who, instead of attending divine service, had got drunk at a public-house, and it appears had fallen asleep on the island. Another boat was despatched for him,

when he was seen to take off his jacket and go into the water and swim for a few moments, when he sank to rise no more. An unavailing search was made for the body for hours afterwards, and again the following morning at low water, but without success. He was only discharged from the 11<sup>th</sup> regiment on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October last.

*Herald, Nov. 26*

On Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, a man named **WILLIAM WOODS** died very suddenly at the Gungahmye station (M'Killop's). He was a stockman, and was just going to mount his horse, having a whip in one hand, and the bridle reins in the other, when he dropped down, and instantly expired. *Herald Correspondent.*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - Between ten and eleven o'clock on Sunday forenoon, one **THOMAS BENSON** was drowned while bathing off the Market Wharf. A waterman named **PEGG** saw the man sinking, and instantly went to the rescue. Sergeant **ADAMS**, of the police, took measures for his immediate removal to the Infirmary, where all was done for him that skill could devise, but without avail – he died soon after his arrival here. An inquest will be held on the body today. *Herald, Nov. 26.*

**BOAT ACCIDENT AND ONE MAN DROWNED.** - Yesterday, about two p.m., while the cutter belonging to the Hamburg ship *San Francisco*, was cruising off Bradley's Head, she was struck with a heavy squall from the southward and capsized; a sailor belonging to the ship named **FRANZ ALBRECHET**, of Hamburg, was drowned. The boat was in charge of the mate and three sailors at the time of the accident, and they were saved by clinging to the boat's keel, on which they remained for upwards of an hour. Mr. **JONES**, of the Flagstaff, was the first to discover the boat upside down, and he immediately despatched his messenger to the Waterman's Wharf, when seven boats put off to render assistance. The body of the man had not been recovered last night. *Herald, Nov. 28*

#### **HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS SINGLETON**

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - An inquest was held on Wednesday last, the 26<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Rose Inn, Singleton, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of twelve, touching the death of **GEORGE TICKLE**, a young man about 19 years of age, in the employment of **CHARLES SIMPSON**, J.P., of Brickburne, near Black Creek. The body lay at the lock-up, near the Rose Inn, and upon the jury proceeding to view it, great difficulty was experienced in even recognising the features, the body being in such a high state of decomposition. From the evidence of Charles Simpson, Esq., **JAMES TENNANT**, and **JAMES SMITH**, it appeared that the deceased was on Sunday last despatched by his master to Black Creek to the post office there for letters; on leaving Black Creek he was accompanied on his way home by Tennant and Smith, all three being on horse back. On nearing the river near his master's place, his horse suddenly shied, and ran him against a tree, when he fell off and lay upon the ground, for some time insensible; he was then carried into a neighbour's hut, when his master was sent for, who had him conveyed home. Upon examination no marks of external injury were visible on his body, and his master did not send for medical assistance, as he was told that the lad had been drinking, and had merely fallen from his horse. On the following morning he appeared much better, walking about. Suddenly a change came over him, which alarmed his master, who immediately went into the paddock for a horse to ride into town for a doctor, but upon his return from the paddock deceased was dead. Deceased bore an excellent character. Neither Smith nor Tennant acquainted Mr. Simpson that the lad had been thrown; and, from his occasional vomiting, his master was strongly impressed with

the idea that it was merely the effects of the drink that the lad was labouring under, instead of concussion of the brain. The Jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from injuries received by a fall from a horse.

**ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT.** - Another inquest was held yesterday before the same coroner, at the house of Patrick M'Manus, the Donnybrook Fair, upon the body of **EDWARD M'MANUS**, there lying dead. It appeared from the evidence of **CHARLES SMITH**, and of **DENNIS M'MANUS**, the deceased's son, that on Wednesday at about eleven o'clock, the two teams of Smith and M'Manus started together from Ramsay's on the road for Patrick's Plains, Smith having a load for his master, Mr. **MARSH**, of New England, and M'Manus having about two tons and a half for a store-keeper at Singleton; Smith's team being the leading team, M'Manus was behind, and had borrowed three of Smith's bullocks, having lost some of his own; Smith went on in advance, and soon lost sight of M'Manus (the dust being very much), and got as far as Miller's, when, after being there some time, he was informed that M'Manus lay dead on the road; he went back, and found it to be true; Dennis M'Manus had left his father at Ramsay's, yoking up his bullocks, and had gone into the bush to look for some bullocks that were missing, and upon returning with them to Ramsay's, found that his father had gone on with the team; he then followed after him, and at the distance of about a mile found his father lying dead upon the road. There was a track where the near wheels had passed across his left arm, and then over his chest; deceased was perfectly sober at the time of the accident; he was in the habit of riding on the pole, and one of the strange bullocks was in the pole. "Verdict - that the deceased came by his death by the wheel of his dray passing over his body." The deceased was very much respected in Singleton, being a steady and industrious man. He leaves a widow and nine children to deplore his untimely end. *November 29.*

**A MAN FOUND DROWNED.** - We are informed that on Saturday last the body of **SAMUEL KEYS** was found in one of the saltwater creeks of the William River, and that an inquest was to be held on the body early this week. Keys resided on Mr. **R. LANG'S** estate, William River, and owned a threshing machine; he has left a wife and one child to mourn their loss.

**STABBING** = of **WILLIAM FLETCHER** by **WILLIAM MILLER.**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - The district of Hartley has for some time past been rife with the reports of melancholy accidents and sudden deaths. Another distressing casualty occurred on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. A young man, in the employ of Mr. **J. FINN**, was killed instantaneously, by the overturning of a cart. He was driving in quest of a load of sand, when the horse bolted, ran foul of a stump, and the upset vehicle came in contact with the young man's head and crushed it to pieces. His remains were found by one of the aborigines a short time after the catastrophe. It is worthy of remark that this is the second man killed by the same cart. *Bathurst Free Press.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 8/670, 04/12/1850

**ACCIDENTS.** = **WILLIAM BEARD**, East Maitland

**WILLIAM ??**, Morpeth

**THE INQUEST ON MR. ABERDEEN.** - The adjourned inquest, touching the death of **JOHN ABERDEEN**, took place yesterday. The purport of the evidence previously taken has already appeared in the *Herald*, and it will be recollected that the last adjournment took place in consequence of the desire of some of the jurymen that the contents of the stomach should be subjected to a chemical analysis. The analysis was entrusted to Dr. **a'BECKETT** and Mr. **PORTER**. Mr. Porter deposed that he found indications of opium, but not sufficient to determine the quantity; he had

analysed the stomach itself to a certain extent, and in the process discovered indications similar to those produced by metallic arsenic; the indications might not have exceeded the 2-100<sup>th</sup> of a grain; but the corroborative tests did not confirm these appearances; he analysed the contents of the stomach, but found no arsenic. Dr. a'Beckett deposed that he attended with Mr. Porter in the operation. In one experiment they fancied that there were indications of arsenic, but by subsequent tests they were not corroborated; in several other experiments there was no indication whatever; he was inclined to the opinion that no arsenic existed. The jury retired for a short time to consider their verdict, and on their return found a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence – that death was the result of serous apoplexy. *Herald, Nov. 30*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on Thursday, at the Benevolent Asylum, on the body of a man, name unknown, which was the previous day found in the water at Shark Bay, by a working man named **BANBURY**. Information having been received by Mr. **SINGLETON**, of the coroner's department, he at once proceeded to Shark Bay and brought up the body, or rather the remains of the body, for the trunk and arms only were left, the other portions having been eaten by fish. His apparel consisted of Cossack boots, a blue Guernsey frock, a striped shirt, and moleskin trousers. Inquiry was made on board the ship *San Francisco*, one of whose men was drowned a few days ago, and of the friends of one or two other men who have been drowned and their bodies not found, but the dress did not correspond with that worn by either at the period of their death. The jury found a verdict of found drowned, but how or when there was no evidence. *Herald, Nov. 30*

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.** - A fine boy about ten years of age, named **BYRNE**, residing with his mother at Pyrmont (his father being in California), was yesterday out gathering brushwood for the fire, when he fell over a precipice of some sixteen or eighteen feet, and died on the spot. We understand his skull was fractured, and his neck dislocated by the violence of the fall. *Herald, Nov. 30*

**A MAN DROWNED.** - Between ten and eleven o'clock on Thursday night a person, name unknown, went on board the brig *Louisa*, lying off the Queen's Wharf, for the purpose, it is supposed, of robbing the cabin. There was a ferocious dog on the deck, which ran at the man, who either jumped or fell over the stern to avoid him. He was seen to fall by a sentry on the Commissariat Wharf, who gave an alarm; but although several boats were in the vicinity, and immediately rowed to the spot, they could not find the body. Search was also made yesterday, but without avail. *Herald, Nov. 30*

**ACCIDENTS = G. OAKES, better? G. LOCK, Windsor, snake bite?**

**BATHURST. - FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday last a distressing accident, which unfortunately terminated fatally, happened to a boy named **JOHN GRIFFIN**, residing at **CHARLES PARKER'S**, on Campbell's River, about fifteen miles from Bathurst. It appears that on Sunday Parker left home for Bathurst, and shortly after his departure the deceased and **MATTHEW RYAN**, the son of a neighbour, a lad of about the same age as Griffin, were playing together, Ryan having in his hands a fowling piece, which it seems was at the time loaded. The muzzle of the gun must have been pointed towards Griffin, when it accidentally exploded, lodging in the front part of the unfortunate boy's body, on the lower right side, breaking in its course one of the ribs, and penetrating the liver. Information was speedily conveyed to Bathurst, when Dr. **MACHATTIE** promptly attended, and the sufferer was brought into town the same evening. The accident was of too serious a nature to allow of any hopes being entertained of his recovery, and on Wednesday morning he expired, having

previous to his decease made a dying declaration before **G. BUSBY**, Esq., J.P., in which he entirely exonerated the lad Ryan. An inquest was held on his remains by Mr. **JOHN SUTHERLAND**, coroner, on the afternoon of the day on which he expired, and the verdict recorded was – Accidentally killed by a shot from a gun. *Herald Correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/672, 11/12/1850

BATHURST STORM = 3/12= Dr. **MACHATTIE** in action.

FATAL ACCIDENT, MORETON BAY, ?? **STEVENS**, fell o/board.

SYDNEY NEWS

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

*(Abridged from the S.M. Herald)*

Friday, December 6.#

(Before Mr. Justice Dickinson)

MANSLAUGHTER. - **CATHERINE SWEENY** was indicted for the manslaughter of her infant child, **MARY SWEENY**, by neglecting to administer proper food and nourishment to it.

The prisoner and her husband resided together in Sydney till some time since, when he went to California; they had then four children; he left his wife in Sydney, having a house of her own to reside in, and the rent of another house (4s. 6d. per week) coming in; she was a trouser maker, and could earn 8s. or 10s. a week, and on one occasion her husband sent her £9 from California; the prisoner had occasionally taken liquor before her husband left; she afterwards gave way to drinking, and latterly became a confirmed drunkard; in March last, after her husband left, prisoner had another child, a boy; he was healthy and strong for four months, and then fell away, and continued to look poorly until his death, in October; during the last few months the prisoner entirely neglected him, leaving him in charge of a little girl; the poor baby was not half clothed, was kept in a very filthy and neglected state, and appeared half starved, taking ravenously any food offered it by kind neighbours; several of the neighbours deposed to their pointing out these things to the prisoner, and remonstrating with her on her treatment of the child. A post mortem examination was made by Dr. **TIERNEY**, who believed the child died from want of nutriment and proper care. Guilty. Three years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

MURDER.

**FREDERICK HERMINGDEN** was indicted for having, at Colo, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October last, murdered one **ANN BECKHAM**, by striking her on the head with a bar of iron.

The prisoner, whose aspect was very wild, did not plead when called upon, and a jury was accordingly empanelled to enquire whether he was of sufficiently sane mind to be placed on trial.

Upon this point, Dr. **O'BRIEN**, the medical officer of Darlinghurst Gaol, and Dr. **DAY**, of Windsor, were examined; both of these gentlemen had, from their observation of the prisoner, arrived at the conclusion that he was insane. Dr. O'Brien, in particular, had taken great pains to arrive at an accurate conclusion upon this point, and had caused the prisoner to be carefully watched at a time when he had no opportunity of knowing that any eye was upon him.

The jury being convinced by this evidence that the prisoner was of unsound mind, gave a verdict to that effect. He was then removed, and will be forwarded to a lunatic asylum.

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A POISONOUS REPTILE. - On Tuesday last an inquest was held at Gittens's public-house, O'Connell Town, on view of the body of **ELIZABETH RAPLEY**. The husband of the deceased deposed that on Friday last his wife went to gather some wood at Wardell's Bush; the next morning she complained of a sore on the back of her hand, near the wrist, and of a pain thence to her shoulder; the part shortly began to swell. On Sunday it was bathed with marsh-mallows, when the swelling fell down towards the side and hip; on Monday Dr. **KIRKPATRICK** was called in. When the puncture mark was seen on the wrist on Saturday, she said she thought something must have stung her while gathering wood on the previous day. Mr. **JOSEPH A. KIRKPATRICK**, surgeon, deposed that he was called to see deceased about 8 o'clock on Monday morning; but it was too late to afford any assistance; she was evidently sinking; he could not feel her pulse nor temporal artery, and could barely feel the pulsation of the heart; he was of opinion that death was the result of a bite from some poisonous reptile. Verdict, died from the bite of some venomous reptile. *Herald, Dec. 7*

DEATH FROM INTEMPERANCE. - On Thursday an inquest was held at Mrs. Baker's, the Museum Hotel, William-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS M'DONALD**, aged 30, who had been much addicted to intemperance, and was described by one of the witnesses to have been labouring under "the horrors;" on Sunday he was seen deceased at his residence at Five Dock; he was not then right, but did not appear to be so much affected as he had been a few days previously. On Monday morning he became very violent in his delirium, and while the person with whom he lived was absent in search of assistance, he made his escape from the house. Search was made for him in vain, until Wednesday, when his body was found in the bush at Five Dock, within 150 yards of the water's edge, far advanced in decomposition. The person who found the body had it removed to the place where the jury viewed it. The evidence of Dr. **TIERNEY** having been taken, the jury returned as their verdict – died from the effects of intemperance, accelerated by exposure to cold. *Herald, Dec. 7*

ANOTHER SNAKE BITE. - Delaney, +9 Cook, Windsor Crk.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/673, 14/12/1850

BATHURST FREE PRESS = Mystery disappearance of f 18 step dau William Birch?

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS  
SINGLETON.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the Rose Inn, upon the body of **JOSEPH ENABLES**, whose corpse lay in the bush. From the evidence of Mr. **EDWARD ALCORN**, and **JOHN BROWN**, it appeared that deceased was in the employ of Mr. Alcorn, at *Maison Dieu*, as a shepherd; that on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., the deceased lost his flock of sheep, and remained out all night in search of them. On the following morning his master met him, having been in search of him, when he complained of cramps in his legs and thighs, he having laid out in the bush all night. His master gave him a glass of hot grog to stimulate him, but the deceased got so bad with the cramps in his stomach as to request his master to send him to the hospital. He was accordingly forwarded down on Friday evening, in a cart, which was driven by the witness Brown; and on his way thither, within one hundred yards of the hospital, he spoke to Brown, requesting him to make haste as he thought he was dying. Upon the arrival of the cart at the hospital he was discovered by the matron to be dead. Verdict, died from natural causes.

BENJAMIN COTT. - Long account of his murder.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/674, 18/12/1850

THE INQUEST ON THE BODY OF BENJAMIN COTT. - The inquest on the body of this unfortunate man was resumed on Monday, and continued yesterday, Mr. **TURNER** appearing for the defence. Several additional witnesses have been examined, but we of course refrain from publishing any particulars till the inquest has been concluded. Last evening, at seven o'clock, the inquest was adjourned till between nine and ten o'clock this morning.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

ARMIDALE

MAN MISSING, AND SUSPECTED MURDER. - About a week ago an overseer of **MATTHEW MARSH**, Esq., Salisbury, discovered a flock of sheep astray at one of the out-stations, which were in charge of an infirm old man, commonly known by the name of **PADDY LYNCH**. On proceeding to the hut he enquired of the hut-keeper, named **FREW**, about Lynch's absence. Frew stated that Lynch left the place a few days before, and he knew nothing more about him; he also said that Lynch took his dog with him. This account, and something strange in Frew's manner, excited Mr. Marsh's suspicions, and a rigid search was commenced, when, chiefly through the instrumentality of one of the native police accompanying Mr. **MEREWETHER**, Commissioner Crown Lands, who happened to be upon the station at the time, was discovered a heap of bones in the fire place of the hut, which had been so calcined and broken up as to render it almost impossible to determine whether they were those of a human being or not. In several places traces of recent blood were found on the slabs, near to the poor fellow's bed; and on further searching about the ground, the policeman, upon cautiously examining the banks of a water hole a little distance from the hut, discovered a hollow sound in treading upon a particular spot, when, upon turning up the earth, about four feet from the surface was found the body of the dog, which had evidently been killed by the blow of some heavy instrument on the head, the skull being completely smashed in. These circumstances decided Mr. Marsh on immediately securing Frew. On Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Commissioner **MASSIE**, accompanied by Dr. **MARKHAM**, proceeded to the spot, for the purpose of further investigation, but we are sorry to say that nothing more has yet been discovered. Frew is detained in custody. He is stated to be a man of very violent temper, and as having had frequent quarrels with the missing man; he is approaching sixty years of age, but is a powerfully built and muscular man. Evident attempts had been made to remove the stains from the slabs, and the handle of the axe found in the hut had been newly scraped. Frew firmly maintains his first statement, but upon each new discovery a nervousness of manner and evident uneasiness were very perceptible. Dr. Markham declines to assert positively that the remains were those of a human subject, in consequence of the smallness of the pieces of bones found (the longest being only about the size of a walnut); but in answer to a question of Frew's, he said he would positively swear that they were *not* the bones of either a bullock or a sheep. It is to be hoped that the mystery will ere long be cleaned up, and that if a foul deed has been perpetrated, the guilty parties may be speedily brought to justice.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, Mr. **RICHARD CLARK**, of Jackwa, was accidentally drowned in a deep water hole in the Yanalan Creek. He had been superintending the sheep washing operations in the water hole during the day, and bathed in the evening, after complaining of having a headache; he invited a son of Dr. **STRANGE** to come into deep water, promising to teach him to learn to swim; the lad did so, but was surprised after a short time to feel

himself let go by Mr. Clark, who sank quickly and without a word or expression of pain; the lad was sinking also, but his cries brought a man to his assistance, and he was saved; Mr. Clark, however, never rose to the surface again, and it was some hours before his body could be recovered. *Abridged from the Herald's Goulburn Correspondent.*

TOOMOUL, BURNETT. SHEPHERD, DIXON, K BY BLACKS?

CONCORD, CATTLE BLACK LEG, FISHWAY AND DICKENS - ??

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the residence of Mr. **M'CUE**, Seven Hills, on the body of **HUGH M'CUE**, a boy of five years old. On Sunday night last the little boy was in his usual health, but early the next morning his mother noticed him to come into the house, get a drink of water, and lie down on the sofa; he told her he was sick; she went out and milked the cows, and on her return found her son faint, and in a great perspiration; he was speechless, nor could she get him to take anything. Mr. M'Cue started off for medical assistance, and obtained an emetic from Dr. **RUTTER**, who attended the boy himself as soon as he was released from another engagement; Dr. Rutter could not succeed in bleeding him; the emetic had been administered, and some black fluid thrown off the stomach. The poor lad died shortly after Dr. Rutter arrived; and Dr. Rutter believed he must have eaten something which disagreed with him, and caused irritation of the bowels, giving rise to convulsions. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. *Abridged from the Herald's Parramatta Correspondent.*

INQUEST. - An inquest was held at Pitt Town, before Dr. **DOWE**, Coroner, on the body of a man named [**THOMAS**] **AIRRES**, who had committed suicide on Monday last by cutting his throat with a razor. The act was not so perfect as it had evidently been intended, as only a portion of the carotid artery was severed. Dr. Dowe was sent for, but on arrival he found the man dead. The last expression the unfortunate deceased made of, between the time of committing the act and his death was, "May God forgive me for the commission of this rash act." It was clearly proved to the jury that the man had been for some time insane, and they gave a verdict of insanity accordingly. *Herald's Windsor Correspondent.*

DEATH BY LIGHTNING. - On the afternoon of Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, a most terrific storm of thunder, lightning, rain, and hail, passed over Goulburn and Bungonia, which made the stoutest heart to quail. Great fears were entertained that some danger would be done by the lightning. Early next morning intelligence was received that a grown up lad of 17 years of age was struck dead. The accident took place at Mary Ann Vale, the property of Mr. **PETERS**, Marulan. It appears that the electric fluid struck and descended the chimney; deceased was standing before the mantle-piece; five brothers and sisters were in the room at the same time, and an old man; they were all rendered speechless for a time, but the old man worst; the house had the appearance of being on fire; the mantle-piece was shivered to pieces. The name of the family is **JEFFREY**, who had just entered on the farm – he is well known in this district as a sawyer.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/675, 21/12/1850

THE MURDER OF BENJAMIN COTT. Wilful Murder against **WILLIAM HAYES**; ALSO

LETTER about procedure at above proceedings and exclusion of Hayes and Stanton. Page 14, 3 and a half columns on COTT.

ANOTHER MAN REPORTED TO BE MISSING.

Shawn, Black Creek, last seen in August at Races?

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - A little girl about five years of age, daughter of a tenant of Mr. **SMITH**, residing near the White Rock, was drowned yesterday by falling into the river. An elder sister was sent by her mother to the bank of the river to cut reeds, and was accompanied by the deceased. Shortly afterwards the former returned home and told her mother that whilst her sister stood on the bank with her back towards the river, a snake made its appearance, and was proceeding towards her, when stepping backwards to avoid the reptile she fell into the water. The mother immediately ran down to the place, but could see no sign of her child. Alarm being given, a number of men assembled to give assistance, and it was not until after a protracted search that the body was found between two rocks where the water was nine or ten feet deep. An inquest was held over the remains by Captain **SUTHERLAND** on Saturday last, when a verdict in accordance with the above particulars was given. *Bathurst Free Press, Dec. 14*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/676, 25/12/1850**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Saturday afternoon last, a man named **RICHARD BERRYMAN** was employed burning off wheat stubble, on a farm on the Windemere Estate, where he was employed, when the wind freshened, and the fire rolling rapidly along, threatened the wheat stacks and hut of another settler; Berryman, who was lame, exerted himself greatly to stop the fire, and called several times for help; a settler named **THOMAS LONG**, residing on the same estate, heard him, and ran to assist him, and in a few minutes their united exertions beat out the flames near the endangered premises. Berryman almost immediately afterwards laid down on the ground, without saying anything, and on Long's going to him and speaking, Berryman made no reply; Long turned him over, and to his surprise found Berryman was dead, having apparently died without a struggle or a word. An inquest was held on the body on Sunday before Mr. **PARKER**, when a post mortem examination was made by Dr. **M'CARTNEY** and death was found to have been caused by the bursting of a blood vessel within the cavity of the pericardium; alarm or excitement, particularly if accompanied by great muscular exertion, would be likely to cause death in this way, Dr. M'Cartney said. Berryman was a ticket-of-leave holder, about fifty years of age, and of full and plethoric habit. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God.

**SYDNEY**

**THE WEATHER.** - ... On Saturday, from twelve to two o'clock, there was a severe storm; the lightning was most vivid – the thunder terrifically loud – and the rain came down in torrents. One poor man was killed by lightning.

**DEATH BY LIGHTNING.** - During the violent thunderstorm with which the city was visited on Saturday afternoon the electric fluid struck a house in Barker's-lane, Bathurst-street, tenanted by **WILLIAM WRIGHT**, a painter and glazier by trade. The lightning appears to have descended the chimney, and to have been attracted from the direct line by a roasting fork which was hanging over Wright's head, passing thence to Wright, striking him on the right side of the neck. He was instantly struck down, and, we regret to add, almost immediately expired. Mr. Surgeon **RUTTER** was sent for, and was promptly in attendance, but the case was one entirely beyond the range of human skill. An inquest, we presume, will be held on the body this morning. *Herald, Dec. 23*

**DEATH.**

Accidentally drowned, whilst bathing in the Booramba Creek, M'Intyre River, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, aged 21 years, **NEVILLE BLAND**, fifth son of the late **JOHN**

**EASTON**, Esq., M.D., of Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, and Courance Hill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

**TWO YOUNG WOMEN DROWNED.** - We are just informed of a distressing and fatal accident, which occurred about ten days since at Sutton Forest, near Berrima; and not having seen any report previously in the *Herald*, we give the particulars as they have been communicated to us. It appears that two young girls [**ELIZABETH WOODS, CATHERINE WALFORD**], one a fine intelligent girl, a native of the colony, and the other a hapless Irish orphan, who were in the service of Mr. **WALKER**, innkeeper and miller, of Sutton Forest, went out to bathe, accompanied by two of Mr. Walker's daughters, in a large and deep water-hole, within a short distance of the inn. One of these poor servant girls (we could not ascertain which) getting beyond her depth, called out to the other for assistance, who immediately went to the relief of her companion; they struggled in the water for some time, when one of them implored Miss Walker to get them immediate help as they were drowning. Little Miss Walker supposed at first they were only playing, but at length getting alarmed at the girls' repeated cries for assistance, and seeing them go down under the water and rise again, she ran home and called **ORAM**, a man in the service of her father, who happened to be at home at the time, when Oram immediately proceeded to the water-hole, but could not, as we are informed, succeed in rescuing these innocent and hapless girls from their impending fate; they finally sank, and it was not until some time afterwards that their dead bodies were recovered. *Wollongong Correspondent of the Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 8/677, 28/12/1850

DISAPPEARANCE OF **REBECCA COX**, Melville, Maitland.

SYDNEY NEWS.

Mrs. **ANGELINA HIGHERS HALLETT**, who was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment about six months ago, ..., liberated under the command of his Excellency.

**MELANCHOLY BOAT ACCIDENT.** - **FIVE LIVES LOST.** - On Sunday afternoon, two sons of Captain **PLUNKETT** (one of them clerk to the crown solicitor), two young men named **PALMER** (one of them a clerk in the treasury), and a person named **MACPHERSON**, a pilot at Wollongong, went out in a sailing boat called the *Madge Wildfire*. They were seen just before dark near Watson's Bay, standing towards the Heads. Nothing was heard of them until Tuesday morning, when the boat was picked up near the North Head by a fisherman. Search was made on the North Shore for any of the unfortunate parties, but we regret to say without avail. It was reported in town on Tuesday evening that they swam ashore in North Harbour, and had been detained for want of a boat, but unfortunately it turned out to be a mistake. Up to a late hour last night no tidings had been received, and there is no reason to doubt that they all met a watery grave by the upsetting of the boat in the squall on Sunday evening. *Herald, Dec. 25*

**ACCIDENT AT SHOALHAVEN.** - A melancholy accident occurred here on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., when a man named **RICHARD HAWLEY**, in the employment of Mr. **BERRY**, was drowned by slipping from a raft, whilst crossing a small creek opposite the house of a man named **JAMES M'GUIRE**. The deceased man, Hawley, arrived by the ship *Haverling*, an exile, and has been for the last twelve months in the service of Mr. Berry, of Shoalhaven. *Freeman's Journal, Dec. 26*

**BREADALBANE PLAINS.** **THOMAS TIDYMAN**, acc death at Goulburn, tbc



SYD1851

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/678, 01/01/1851

ACCIDENT AT WINDSOR. - A young lad, who is the son of a party known as "**James the plasterer**," went to bathe in the Hawkesbury one day last week, and having got out of his depth, he sank. A son of **GEORGE FREEMAN**, of the Cricketer's Arms Hotel, with a praiseworthy courage endeavoured to rescue him, but he was unsuccessful. An inquest was held, and a verdict returned of accidentally drowned. *Herald Correspondent*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/679, 04/01/1851

ACCIDENTS. - Yesterday afternoon two serious accidents occurred. In one a man, named **JONES**, who was driving an empty dray, was by some means thrown out, and the wheel passed over his shoulder, fracturing his collar bone. In the other a party of ladies, visitors at Aberglaslyn, received serious injuries by the horse in their carriage running away; but we have not ascertained the exact particulars.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - On Tuesday an inquest was held at Gilchrist's public house, Bathurst-street, on view of the body of **JOHN JONES**, aged forty-five, whose body was found in the water at some short distance from the wharf, at the bottom of Bathurst-street, early on Tuesday morning. Deceased arrived in the colony by the *Royal Saxon*, a few weeks ago, from Madras, and had obtained employment in the service of Mr. **HENRY FERRIS**, of Pitt-street. He was last seen alive on Monday night, standing near Mr. Ferris's gate. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned; adding the following rider - "The jury unanimously request that the coroner will communicate with the corporation, in order that a chain may be run across the wharf, at the foot of Bathurst-street West, to prevent the possibility of parties accidentally walking into the water while in a state of intoxication; several cases of this nature having occurred at this particular locality." *Herald, Jan. 2*

CORONER'S INQUEST. - On Friday evening last a woman named **AMELIA STUBBS** was taken into custody by Inspector **CONNOR**, on suspicion of having caused the death of her infant, **MARY ANN AMELIA STUBBS**, of about five months old. On Saturday and (by adjournment) yesterday an inquest was held on the body, at Benjamin's public-house, Kent-street. From the evidence it appeared that the mother was intoxicated on the afternoon of Friday, and about three o'clock in the afternoon lay down on the bed with her baby, giving it the breast; before five o'clock a neighbour entered the room again, and observed the child lying by its mother's side, dead, without any bed-clothes over it; the prisoner, who had always appeared a kind mother, seemed to become partially insane on awakening, and being told of her child's death. A post mortem examination showed a fracture of the skull, causing effusion on the brain, and that death had occurred from this injury and from suffocation. No evidence was adduced as to how the injuries to the head occurred, nor could the mother, in her intoxicated state, give any account of the mode or cause of her child's death. The jury returned a verdict of accidental suffocation. *Abridged from the Herald, Dec. 31*

DEATH BY DROWNING. - An inquest was held at the Benevolent Asylum, on the body of **JOHN WRAGG**, aged twenty-four, who was accidentally drowned, between ten and eleven o'clock on Saturday night, while attempting to cross Lord's Dam in a couple of glue coolers, which at about 150 yards from the starting place capsized; a man named **BALL** clung to the vessels, which floated across with him; the deceased swam away, and lost his life. Verdict, accidentally drowned. *Herald, Dec. 31*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/680, 08/01/1851

MAITLAND QUARTER SESSIONS.

WOUNDING WITH INTENT. - **THOMAS LAMB** was indicted for wounding **FRANCES JOHNSON** on the fore part of the throat, at Maitland, on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1850, with intent to do her bodily harm.

The witnesses called were **JAMES COLLINS**, **BENJAMIN THOMAS**, **FRANCES JOHNSON**, and **ALFRED MUNDEN**.

Lamb and Mrs. Johnson were engaged to be married, and on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> December, they went together to the house of Collins, in East Maitland; some liquor was sent for, and after some time Mrs. Johnson went into the bedroom, and laid down on the bed, being quite overcome; **SARAH WHITTY**, Collins's housekeeper, was also laying on the bed; Mrs. Johnson then called Lamb to come and take her gown off, and Lamb did so, with Collins's consent; Lamb afterwards asked him to let him go in and rouse up Mrs. Johnson to take her home; he went in, and Collins heard him saying "Fanny, get up and go home," after his saying this several times there was silence, and Collins then heard Mrs. Johnson saying "no, no"; Collins rose and pushed open the door and saw Lamb coming out, and noticed blood on his hands, he having a knife in his hand, cutting tobacco; on looking towards the bed Collins saw that Mrs. Johnson was bleeding from a wound under her chin, and he immediately seized Lamb, who had left the room, and accused him of cutting Mrs. Johnson's throat; Lamb said he knew nothing of it; Collins gave Lamb in charge to Thomas, who had been sitting with them, but Lamb afterwards bolted from him, knocking him down; Collins went for a doctor, and brought in Mr. Munden, an apothecary, who found it very difficult to stop the bleeding; Collins then went for Dr. **BROWN**, who sewed up the wound. The next morning Lamb came to the house, and had some conversation from the outside with Mrs. Johnson, who told Lamb he had cut her throat; Lamb expressed his sorrow at what he had done, or at seeing her lying in that way, Collins was not certain which. Thomas gave a somewhat similar account to Collins's of what he saw, except that he said he could see Lamb and Mrs. Johnson from where he sat; he saw Lamb had a little knife in his hand, but did not see him do anything with it. Mrs. Johnson could just remember Lamb coming to tell her it was time to go home, and her refusing; Lamb was cutting up tobacco at the moment; she remembered nothing further till she found herself all bloody; she knew nothing of the doctor's having been there; when Lamb came on the following day she did not say a word to him about her throat, nor he to her; her chin was all well the following day; she still intended to keep her promise of marriage to Lamb. Mr. Munden, when he saw Mrs. Johnson, found her bleeding profusely from a wound under her chin, inflicted by some sharp instrument, the wound being about an inch in length, and a quarter of an inch in depth; it had cut a blood vessel, and it proved very difficult to stop the bleeding; she must have bled to death had not the bleeding been stopped.

In defence, Lamb said he was not guilty, that he knew nothing of how the wound was caused.

The jury recalled Mr. Munden, who said the wound might have been caused by a fall against or on some sharp edge, but his opinion was that it was not done by a fall, but by a sharp instrument.

The jury, after some consideration, returned a verdict of guilty of assault. The prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

INQUEST. - On Saturday an inquest was held at the White Swan, Maitland, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **HENRY HOPKINS**. It appeared from

the evidence that Mr. Hopkins, who had for several years been in business in West Maitland, as a watchmaker, had latterly given way to drink, and had for some time before the end of December kept his bed through the effects of drink; while they were under the influence of drink his wife and he would quarrel frequently, and they had done so some time in December, but no blows are known to have been exchanged; on the 30<sup>th</sup> December Mr. Hopkins, then labouring under the effects of continued drinking, went up voluntarily to Maitland Hospital, and on one of their medical attendants seeing him, and expressing surprise at a person in his situation in life coming there, Mr. Hopkins replied that he threw himself on his protection, that he could have no peace at home, and that his wife beat him with a poker or broom or anything she could lay hands on; Mr. Hopkins was allowed to remain in the Hospital, and was attended by Drs. **SLOAN** and **SCOTT** until his death, on Friday evening, the 2<sup>nd</sup> January; his wife had gone to see him in the interval, and subsequently sent a cab to have him removed home, but he was then so ill that the cab-driver declined the responsibility of removing him. A post mortem examination was performed by Drs. Sloan and Scott, and death found to have been caused by inflammation of the brain, arising from the immoderate use of ardent spirits; a few slight external marks of violence were found on the body, and there was a slight bruise on the temple, but these could have no influence whatever on his death. The jury returned a verdict of death from inflammation of the brain, arising from intemperance.

#### HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

**DUNGOG.** - On the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. a man named **THOMAS SULLIVAN**, while returning home with his master's dray, was killed near Myall Creek, about four miles from Dungog. An inquest was held on his remains next day before **THOS. COOK**, Esq., Coroner, and a jury of twelve, when it appeared from the evidence that while the deceased was setting on the pole of the dray the bullocks rushed down a sharp descent into a gully, when Sullivan was unluckily thrown, the wheel passing along his back and over his head, causing instant death. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, from the wheel of a dray passing over deceased's body.

- On the evening of Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, a fine little boy, three years old, son to Mr. **JAMES CARLISLE**, of this township, died after only two hours illness, brought on by a sunstroke. An inquest was held on his remains on Saturday, before the Coroner and a jury of twelve, when a verdict was found to that effect.

#### MELANCHOLY CIRCUMSTANCE.

On Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup> December, as a gentleman named **FORAM** was proceeding on horseback from the Moulamein, to reach the station of Mr. **T. DARCHY**, on the Murrumbidgee, he discovered, at a considerable distance, something lying on the road, which upon reaching he found to be a man prostrated, his face covered with a handkerchief, without coat, and his dress (a black vest and trousers very much disordered. Mr. Foram's first impression was, that he was exhausted by the excessive heat of the day, which was almost intolerable; he spoke to him several times, without eliciting any reply, and upon alighting and trying his pulse, found life quite extinct, and upon further examination, saw that decomposition had commenced. This road runs across most extensive plains for about fifty miles, and is very badly watered, there being only one chance of obtaining any, and that at a well about mid-way, but being a little off the road, a stranger might easily escape seeing it. The unfortunate man was found near the station. On Monday Mr. Darchy, on receiving information of this circumstance, started off with a horse dray, accompanied by Mr. F. and a couple of blackfellows, to the spot, when they found that it was impossible to move the body any distance; there was no alternative left but to perform the last melancholy duty for

the unfortunate and friendless; it was dark ere they had completed the interment, which was rendered as decent as circumstances would admit. The raised mound in this bare wilderness will for a long time be a fearful memento to the passing traveller, who may be suffering from the excruciating pangs of thirst, as it is pretty evident that the want of water occasioned this calamity, there being no external marks of violence apparent upon closely examining the body. The mark upon his shirt is "**J.C. KIRBY.**" It is surmised that the deceased is one of a party who robbed Mr. Reeves's store at Nap Nap, a few days ago, taking some clothing belonging to a Mr. Kirby. *People's Advocate, Jan. 4*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/681, 11/01/1851

MELANCHOLY BOAT ACCIDENT. - In the *Herald* if yesterday appeared a paragraph, stating that a boat accident had occurred in the harbour on Monday evening, attended with loss of life, but withholdings particulars in consequence of the absence of authentic information. Unfortunately the intelligence that reached us was too true, and we are compelled to record another distressing event, in addition to those which have cast a gloom over our community. About seven o'clock on Monday evening, a part of nine persons, all in the employment of **R.J. WANT**, Esq., of Double Bay, left that place in a small boat - a dingy belonging to the yacht *Pearl* - intending to come to Sydney and go to the theatre. Five of them were men, and four females, and while passing between Clarke's Island and Garden Island, the boat got into a trough of the sea, and filled and went down stern foremost, leaving the whole of the unfortunate passengers struggling in the waves. Mr. **COPELAND**, of the Customs department, was going home in his boat at the time, and seeing two persons swimming in the water, with praiseworthy energy rescued them from a watery grave, in a state of extreme exhaustion. As soon as they were enabled to state to him the circumstances, Mr. Copeland commenced a vigorous search; and hearing a "cooeey" from Clarke's Island, went there and picked up another man, who had swam there. It then fell dark, and he could only take them back to Mr. Want's; and it is painful to say that no hope can be entertained of the preservation of the other six parties. The passengers in the boat consisted of **BRIDGET DAWSON, CATHERINE HALL, MARK MAGRATH, FREDERICK NEWMAN**, and a man and a woman, names unknown, drowned; **DOROTHY MACINTYRE, EDWARD PECKHAM**, and a man, name unknown, saved. The bodies were not found up to yesterday evening.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

DUNGOG. - FATAL ACCIDENT. - A fatal accident took place in this neighbourhood on Tuesday last. A settler named **ALEXANDER MATHEWSON**, while returning home from this township on horse-back, got thrown, and was severely cut and otherwise bruised on the left side of the face. Dr. **STREET** promptly attended the unfortunate man, but I regret to say could render no relief, for about twelve o'clock next day death put an end to his sufferings. An inquest was held the same evening, before **T. COOK**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of twelve, when it came out in evidence that deceased was riding on a mare that had left her foal at home, and was about to put another beast into a neighbour's stockyard, in order to secure it. The mare he was riding went freely so long as she was going in the direction of her home, where her foal was, but on being turned in another direction, she stopped short, and thereby threw her rider. The jury's finding was accidental death, caused by a fall from his horse. Mr. Mathewson's remains were yesterday conveyed to their last resting place, followed by the largest concourse of people that I have ever seen together in this neighbourhood on such occasions. The deceased leaves a wife and

eight children to deplore his loss. This is the third inquest in this neighbourhood within five days. January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1851.

THE NATIVE POLICE.

[Wide Bay] ... We are informed that Mr. **WALKER**, with his party of police, has been engaged in endeavouring to apprehend the aborigines who stand charged with the recent murder of Mr. Balfour's man. *Moreton Bay Courier*

CAUTION TO PARENTS. - A melancholy instance occurred on Tuesday of the danger incurred by parents who allow their children to run about the streets of the city without adequate protection. About six o'clock in the afternoon, a man named **M'GRATH**, driving a dray along Kent-street North, and walking at his horse's head, was alarmed by the shouting of people behind him, when he pulled up. He then found that a child named **STEWART**, of nearly three years of age, had been run over by the wheel of the dray. He instantly took up and conveyed the little unfortunate to his parents, ran home for his wife to render her assistance, and then proceeded to Dr. **M'KELLAR**, whom he took to visit the sufferer. Dr. M'Kellar found a mark on the shoulder, neck, and head of the child, as though something very heavy had passed over; blood was issuing from the nose and both ears; the child vomited also about a half-pint of coagulated blood; the shoulder bone was broken, and the base of the skull severely injured; Dr. M'Kellar prescribed what he deemed the most appropriate treatment, notwithstanding that from appearances almost immediate death would ensue. The circumstances having been reported to Sergeant **BRIGDEN**, of the police, he thought it his duty to confine M'Grath, who was yesterday morning in due course brought before the bench. The above circumstances having been given in evidence, the prisoner was remanded on his own recognizances for one week. *Herald, Jan. 9*

WELLINGTON. - CHILD LOST IN THE BUSH. - A most painful and melancholy circumstance occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult., at Boldirigiry. An intelligent child about two years of age left the hut of a sheep station about sundown, to meet its father returning home with his sheep, and notwithstanding a most diligent search of five days' duration, not the slightest traces of it have been discovered. The heart rending conclusion is that the infant has been devoured by native dogs. As may be easily imagined, the sorrow-stricken parents are inconsolable. As several instances of this description have lately appeared in the papers, parents at sheep-stations ought to take warning, and construct some kind of fence round their dwellings, to keep their young children from straying away whilst the mother is occupied with her duties. *Bathurst Free Press, Jan. 4*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/682, 15/01/1851

A CHILD DROWNED IN A BUCKET. - On Sunday, and by adjournment on Monday, an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, at the Angel Inn, West Maitland, on the body of an infant four or five months old. It appeared that the parents of the child, whose names are **WHALAN**, reside in Early's Terrace, West Maitland; Mrs. Whalan, since the Christmas festivities, has unfortunately been addicted to drinking, and on Saturday last appears to have drank some ale brought by her husband, and late in the evening some rum which she sent for unknown to him; Whalan, who was unwell, and taking medicine, lay down to sleep on the sofa in the front room, his wife being in the back room or kitchen, with her baby in her arms; about midnight, at his wife's request, Whalan brought in a bucket of water ready for the morning, and put it down in the kitchen, after which he laid down on the sofa again; about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning Whalan rose, and went to the bucket to get a drink of water, when he was horrified to find the unfortunate baby in the bucket,

head downwards, its legs sticking up; it was quite dead, and appeared to have slipped off the mother's lap, she being then sitting asleep on a chair closed to the bucket, her head lying on the table; on being roused she appeared quite stupid, and could give no account of the lamentable occurrence further than that she fell asleep, with the baby on her lap. Whalan immediately roused the wife of a neighbour, who came in, but found the poor child quite dead. About 5 o'clock Dr. **BEARDMORE** chanced to pass the house, and was called in by Whalan, but the baby was of course beyond relief; Dr. Beardmore examined the body, and found no marks of violence of any kind; in his opinion the child died by suffocation from drowning. The jury returned a verdict that the child was drowned in a bucket of water through the carelessness of its mother, who was at the time in a state of intoxication, and not capable of taking care of herself or the child, and they requested the Coroner to severely reprimand her.

#### DREADFUL ACCIDENT.

A most painful and melancholy accident occurred on Saturday last under a very singular circumstance. As Mr. **THOMAS ROUSE**, the tallow chandler, who is also a butcher, was hanging up a side of beef to hang on a beam above, by some means he slipped, when, melancholy to relate, the hook caught him just above the eye, or, as it is termed, the roof of the orbit, the hook passing upwards. Dr. **GLENNIE** was sent for, and has been attending the unfortunate man ever since. From the symptoms which have appeared, it is feared that the hook has penetrated the skull. - Poor Rouse lingered until yesterday evening (six p.m.), when death put an end to his sufferings. He leaves a young wife with an infant to lament their untimely loss. The deceased was a steady industrious man, and much respected.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held on Monday last, at Liberty Plains, on the body of **THOMAS O'DONNELL**. Deceased had been that morning early to the house of Mr. Smith, innkeeper, and left again, quite sober, having a cart and two horses with him; shortly after Mr. Smith noticed the cart standing still not far from his house, and on going to the spot he found that O'Donnell was jammed up between the wheel and a post, and that his face was quite black; Mr. Smith got assistance instantly, and moved the cart, when O'Donnell, who had been standing, fell to the ground, with a heavy sigh; he died immediately, not having spoken from the time he was first discovered. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Abridged from herald's Parramatta Correspondent.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held at Smith's, the Observer Tavern, Lower George-street, on the bodies of **MARK M'GRATH** and **SARAH CUMMINS**, then lying at the Water Police Office. The deceased were two of the nine persons who left Mr. Want's residence, at Point Piper, in a small dingy, on Monday evening, the calamitous result of which has already been detailed in these columns. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death by drowning. *Herald, Jan. 4*

**DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.** - When the *Ann Mary*, from Moreton Bay, was off Point Danger, on Monday morning, about half-past two o'clock, a passenger on board, named **RICHARD LOWATER**, walked overboard and was drowned. At the time of the accident the vessel was close hauled, with a fresh breeze from the S.E.; the first mate was on deck, and seeing the man go overboard, hove round the schooner immediately in stays, and every exertion was made to pick him up, but without success, he not having been seen again. It appears the deceased went to Moreton Bay in the *Lavinia*, about three weeks ago, and up to the time of embarking on board the *Ann Mary* had been drinking hard. He leaves a wife and small family to deplore their loss. *Herald, Jan. 11*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/683, 18/01/1851

SUDDEN DEATH. - An inquest was yesterday held at Toogood's, the Golden Fleece, George-street, on the body of **PATRICK M'CORMACK**, lately carrying on business as bookseller, in King-street. Deceased had been for some time ailing, and had placed himself under the care of Dr. **BENNETT**. Yesterday morning he was found dead in his bed. The medical evidence was that death was the result of natural causes, and the jury found a verdict to that effect. *Herald, Jan. 14*

DEATH FROM LOCKJAW. - An inquest was yesterday held at Driver's Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on the body of **ANDREW MOORE**. **JOHN GILL**, chief officer of the ship *Blackwall*, deposed that on last Saturday week deceased was employed in landing a heavy piece of machinery from the vessel; after hooking on the tackle block to the chain strop that was round the iron, he was on the point of returning on the stage, when the stage gave way; to save himself, as he thought, he laid hold of the tackle fall, and the fall being slack, the weight in the tackle drew his fingers between the fall and the block, severely injuring the fingers and hand. He was placed under treatment by the ship's surgeon, and appeared to be doing well until Saturday last, when symptoms of lockjaw manifested themselves, and deceased was forwarded to the Infirmary; witness attributed the accident to the insufficiency of the stage, which was supplied for the ship's use; the wharfinger's foreman said, that the stage was equal to the weight of five tons – the weight which was on the stage at the time of the accident did not exceed two tons. Dr. **M'EWAN** deposed, that deceased was received into the Infirmary labouring under tetanus; the injury was on the right hand, the bones of the four fingers were broken; it frequently happened that injuries of that nature are followed by tetanus; he (Dr. M'Ewan) removed the arm, considering that that procedure would afford the best, if not the only chance, of recovery, but it was of no avail; he expired on Monday evening. Verdict, died from lockjaw, caused by injuries accidentally received. *Herald, Jan. 15*

BATHURST. - MURDEROUS ASSAULT. - On Thursday last, about eight o'clock in the evening, a most ruffianly assault was committed on the person of his wife by **THOMAS RILEY**, a licensed victualler, residing at the Cottage of Content, Kelso. It appears that Riley had been at Bathurst a great part of the day, and he had not reached home many minutes when, in consequence of a remark made by his wife, he knocked her down; he then proceeded further to ill use her, and she ran out of the house into the street, where he followed her, and severely kicked and otherwise ill-treated her, until they were separated by some parties residing close at hand. Dr. **MACHATTIE** and Dr. **BUSBY** were called in, who considered her life in the most imminent danger, having every reason to believe that the bladder was ruptured. On Friday, it was thought necessary that her deposition should be taken, in consequence of which the police magistrate and the clerk of petty sessions attended for that purpose. During Friday a favourable change took place, and until half past five o'clock p.m. on Sunday, since which time we have no information respecting her. Her recovery is still considered to be very doubtful, and should mortification ensue, it is stated that the result must be fatal. Mrs. Riley has a family of four young children, the oldest of whom is only about seven years of age. Her husband has been in the habit of ill using her before. *Herald Correspondent*.

SYDNEY NEWS.

... The storm which broke over the city yesterday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, was very appalling, accompanied with heavy showers. A female was killed by lightning in Phillip-street.

**DEATH FROM LIGHTNING.** - There was a very heavy thunderstorm in Sydney yesterday afternoon; about five o'clock it appeared to be exactly over the town, the lightning being followed by the thunder almost instantaneously. We are sorry to have to report one fatal accident. The wife of a boatman named **SUTTON**, residing in Phillip-street North, was struck by the electric fluid, and killed as she was sitting at a table. There was no one else in the house at the time, and when the unfortunate woman's husband returned home, about two hours afterwards, he found his wife sitting with her head on the table quite dead. *Herald, Jan. 16*

**VIOLENT ASSAULT.** - The man **M'GRATH**, who was on last Tuesday week confined on a charge of violent assault – the "assault" being, that his dray passed over a child named **STEWART**, who was running about the street – and who was remanded on his own recognizance to appear before the bench in a week, yesterday presented himself before Mr. Dowling, in pursuance of the remand. The father of the boy said he was progressing favourably towards recovery from the injuries received. M'Grath was accordingly discharged. *Herald, Jan. 16*

#### **DEATHS.**

At Killarney Plain, Namoi River, on the 29<sup>th</sup> December, from injuries received by his horse falling with him three days previously, **WILLIAM B. FORBES**, aged 24 years, eldest son of John Forbes, Esq., of Wobourn Abbey, Bedfordshire, deeply regretted by a large circle of relatives and friends.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/684, 22/01/1851**

**A BOY DROWNED WHILE BATHING.** - A melancholy accident occurred yesterday afternoon. A fine boy, named **HEWITT BANFIELD**, son of Mr. Banfield, cooper, went with some companions to bathe in the river near the Falls. He appears to have remained bathing some time, but at length it was noticed that he did not come ashore, and on search being made, could not be seen anywhere; it was immediately concluded he was drowned, and search was made for the body, but for some time without success, till at length a black boy, by diving, found and brought up the body of the poor boy. Two medical men were in attendance, but from the length of time the body had been in the water all hope of resuscitating life was gone. An inquest will probably be held to-day, when more accurate particulars will be ascertained.

**SHIPPING.** - **ACCIDENT ON BOARD THE "ALFRED."** - On the 15<sup>th</sup> November last, a boat-steerer, named **PRICE**, (brother-in-law to Captain Wiseman, lately of Balmain,) fell from the main top-mast head on the top of a seaman standing on deck, and who was severely injured, but is likely to recover. Price had both his thighs broken; also the right leg between the knee and the ankle, and was quite delirious when visited by Captain Truscott. There were no hopes of his recovery.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - On Thursday last an inquest was held at Pitt Town on the body of a young lad named **TOWNSEND** (not **TOWN**, as we stated in our last); he was the son of respectable parents, and between eight and nine years of age. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased and his brother went to bathe in a blind creek branching off South Creek. The blind creek where they were bathing has a great many very deep holes, of which the boys were ignorant, and which were perfectly invisible. After they had been bathing a short time, and the deceased had waded across the creek, on his return he unfortunately stepped into one of these holes, and instantly disappeared. The brother immediately ran home (which is only a short distance) and acquainted his parents with the circumstance, both of whom ran to the creek with the utmost haste, and began to drag with a rake for the body; the mother went into the water to search, and instantly disappeared into one of the holes. It was

fortunate that her husband had taken the rake with him, as he caught hold of her just in time to raise her to the surface, and save her from a watery grave. In about a quarter of an hour's time the body of the deceased was recovered, when every endeavour was made to restore animation, but life was extinct. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. *Herald's Windsor Correspondent.*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was on Saturday held in the bush near the south-west corner of the Burial Ground, Surry Hills, on the body of a young woman, name unknown, which was seen on Saturday morning lying in the water of the swamp, and was taken out by a man named **STEPHENS**, assisted by two others. Toed to a bush close by was a bonnet, and at a short distance therefrom was a shawl. Stephens searched about, but could no trace of any footsteps which could have been made in the sand since the rain of Wednesday. Dr. **TIERNEY** examined the body, but found no marks of violence; having made a *post mortem* examination he was of opinion that death was caused by suffocation in drowning; decomposition had set in, and the woman must have been dead two or three days. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned. A letter was found among her clothes, which is now in possession of ther Coroner, which may probably lead to the discovery of her name [**ANN HAGAN**] and friends. *Herald, Jan. 20*

#### **BIRTHS.**

At Dundee, New England, on the 4<sup>th</sup> January, the wife of **FREDERICK Wm, FOX** of a son, which survived only seven hours.

**ESCAPE FROM COCKATOO.** - On Wednesday night, it was reported to the police that three men had effected their escape from Cockatoo Island during the thunder-storm in the afternoon. Their clothes were found on the beach opposite the nearest point of Balmain, and it is conjectured that they attempted to swim that distance. Their names are as follow: **JOHN POMWELL**, about 20 years of age, a native of the colony, convicted at the last Maitland Assizes, and under a sentence of five years; **JOHN ANDERSON**, aged about 30, tried at the Central Criminal Court in December last, and under a sentence of four years; and **FREDERICK SUMMERFIELD**, alias **JOHN TEMPLETON**, aged about 27 years, tried at the last sittings of the Central Criminal Court, and under a sentence of seven years. Mr. M'Lerie and a party of the police turned out immediately on receiving the information, and were on the lookout in every direction until one o'clock in the morning, but without success. If the fugitives intended to swim across in such weather, the probability is that they perished in the attempt. *Herald, Jan. 17*

**ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday afternoon as the Rev. R. WALSH had got inside of the fence round Mr. M. Ryan's residence near this town, part of the leather holding on the winkers gave way, when the horse reared and plunged at a most fearful rate. ... At the time the accident occurred he was on his way to one **MICHAEL BRENAN**, near Bangalore, who it was stated was dying. A report is in circulation that this man had contracted disease from skinning a bullock, and that he died from black-leg. The man died yesterday morning, but we have heard of nothing to show that the above report was correct. *Herald Goulburn Correspondent.*

**MURDER.** - On Saturday last a man named **THOMAS YOUNG**, a cooper, at Ipswich, was stabbed with a knife by a man named **DAVID SEMPLE**, and died almost immediately. It appears that Semple was labouring under some jealous feelings regarding the conduct of his wife and the deceased, and the latter coming to Semple's house, and challenging him out to fight, Semple rushed out and stabbed him. An investigation has been held, and David Semple committed to take his trial for wilful murder. *Moreton Bay Courier, Jan. 13*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/685, 25/01/1851

**A BOY DROWNED WHILE BATHING.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., at the Fitzroy Hotel, on the body of **HEWITT BANFIELD**, whose melancholy death we recorded in our last. It appeared from the evidence of **GEORGE BANFIELD** and **JOSEPH RISBY**, and the statement of **PATRICK HENRY**, a lad of fourteen years old, that on Tuesday last, about mid-day, Mr. Banfield had occasion to make some enquiry about the conduct of his son Hewitt, who was between eight and nine years old, and told him he should chastise him for having told a falsehood, and ordered him to go to school again, for the afternoon. The boy went home, and appears to have got some bread, and then, instead of going to school, to have gone to the Falls to bathe. He was subsequently seen, it is stated, in the river bathing near where the water-carts get water, by a man, but did not appear to have had any companions at the time; he could not swim, his father states. Between three and four o'clock that afternoon Mr. Risby, whose house is just opposite the Falls, heard some one calling from the river, and going to the bank saw a cart crossing, with two persons named **KELLY** in it, who were alarmed at the unusual height of water at the crossing-place, the tide being at full height; Mr. Risby thought there were four and a half feet of water at the crossing-place; the cart got safely over, but Mr. Risby's attention was attracted to the clothes left on the bank by little Banfield, and he looked about for the owner, but could see nothing of any one bathing; search was immediately made in the river by a number of persons, and some boys coming from school recognised the cap with the clothes as Banfield's; at length, three quarters of an hour after the cart had crossed, young Henry succeeded in touching the body of the poor boy with his feet, near where the man had last seen him, and Mr. **HONEYSETT**'s sons dived and got the body up, some twenty yards from the track of the cart. A verdict was returned of accidentally drowned while bathing.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - On Tuesday a very serious accident happened at the Long Bridge, in consequence of the side-railing being quite gone. A small settler, named **BRYAN**, residing at Hillsborough, was driving into town with his wife in a cart, and had occasion to stop at Mr. Hawkins's inn, beyond the bridge; Mrs. Bryan, who was sitting in the cart, drove on, thinking her husband would follow, and had got as good distance on the bridge when, finding her husband was not following, but was engaged in a dispute with another person, she endeavoured to turn the cart to go back for him; the mare unfortunately got restive, and instead of turning fairly round, backed till the cart and all went over the bridge; at that spot the height from the ground below is somewhat over ten feet, but the fall was broken by one wheel catching in a projecting piece of timber; the cart turned completely over, and the back part came to the ground on Mrs. Bryan's head, resting on her left ear. The accident was seen, and a number of persons instantly ran to Mrs. Bryan's help, and quickly removed the cart from her; she was insensible for a short time, and then rose and walked, with the assistance of two persons, to the house of Mr. **CUNNINGHAM**, cooper, on this side the bridge. Dr. **M'CARTNEY** was called in, and found Mrs. Bryan's face much bruised, and the bone behind the ear somewhat injured, while the ear was bleeding freely; every attention was paid to Mrs. Bryan, and at three o'clock on Wednesday morning she was prematurely confined of her **first child, still-born**; at first little hope was entertained of Mrs. Bryan's recovery, but on Wednesday evening a favourable change took place, and she promises to recover fast. The cart was little injured, and the mare, although shaken by the fall, was able to draw the cart home again.

**A CHILD DROWNED IN A WATERHOLE.** - Yesterday an inquest was held at Windemere, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of a little girl named **ELIZABETH CARTER**, about four years old. It appeared that on Thursday, about mid-day, Mrs. Carter, who resides on the Windemere estate, was sitting in-doors at work with a young girl named **FRANCES YULE**, while Mrs. Carter's two children, Elizabeth and a younger one, were playing about the place; the two children had got out of sight for a few minutes, when Mrs. Carter heard the youngest one coming up a path crying, the path leading from the house to a waterhole used for drawing water from, about 100 yards from the house; Mrs. Carter immediately asked Frances Yule to go and see where Elizabeth was, and the youngest, who cannot talk yet, when asked could only point to the waterhole, and cry "See, see;" Frances Yule reached the waterhole first, and saw the poor little girl floating in it, and being afraid, from its depth and dangerously steep banks, to try to get her out, she called hastily to Mrs. Carter, who came and got down to the water with difficulty, and found her daughter jammed underneath some slabs placed to enable persons to get at the water; after making several ineffectual attempts Mrs. Carter got out the body, which was then warm; she tried every means to restore animation, but could not succeed; the little girl had the mark of a bruise on her ankle, but how it came there, or whether she fell down the bank or slipped off the slabs, was not known. Dr. **M'CARTNEY** having examined the body externally, considered death was caused by suffocation by drowning. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and requested the Coroner to communicate with Mr. **NOTT** respecting the danger of leaving the waterhole unfenced.

**THE UNKNOWN BODY.** - It has been ascertained that the woman on whose body an inquest was on Saturday held, in the bush, near the new burial ground, has not been above six months in the colony – that her name was **ANN HAGAN**; that she had a brother and sister in the colony; the latter residing in Sydney, and the former in the Paterson River district; and that the unfortunate deceased herself was in the service of a family residing at Surry Hills. *Herald, Jan. 21*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/686, 29/01/1851

**INQUESTS.** - On Saturday an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, at Four Mile Creek, on the body of **MARY HOGAN**. It appeared that Mary Hogan and **MARY FOLEY**, two elderly woman, lived in a hut on the Newcastle road, and were both addicted to drunkenness and prostitution; on Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, Foley passed the hut of **WILLIAM HORAM**, a neighbour, on her way to Newcastle, and told him that she left Mary Hogan unwell, but that Hogan had turned her out and cursed her. On Friday afternoon, **JAMES KERRIGAN** called at Mary Hogan's hut to light his pipe, and observed her lying on her bed, dressed, and quite still; he spoke to her two or three times, but receiving no answer, went to her, and found her quite dead and cold; her legs appeared drawn up, but her dress was not disordered, nor was there any mark of disturbance about the place; her fire was still burning. Dr. **WILTON** examined the body externally, and found no mark of violence; in his opinion death resulted from natural causes, accelerated by drunkenness and prostitution. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this opinion.

On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, near Hexham, on the body of **JAMES MORRIS MOORHOUSE**. It appeared that Mr. Moorhouse, an elderly man, possessed of considerable property, resided at Gorah, near Hexham, with his nephew, **JAMES DAVIES**; Mr. Moorhouse had been under Dr. **BOWKER'S** care for aneurism of the heart, and had been told that the disease was incurable, and that he

must keep quiet; lately a cough with which he was afflicted had become more troublesome, and on Saturday evening last, while conversing about his health with a neighbour, **WILLIAM WEBSTER**, and his nephew, he was suddenly seized with a violent fit of coughing, fell into Mr. Webster's arms, and expired. Dr. **WILTON**, having heard the evidence, and examined the body externally, was of opinion that death had resulted from the bursting of a blood-vessel near the heart. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

#### HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.

**DUNGOG. - DEATH FROM DRUNKENNESS.** - On Saturday last an inquest was held at Thalaba, before **T. COOK**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **MARGARET PACY**. A report of some mixture having been administered by a neighbour had been made by the husband, but it appeared by the evidence that Dr. **STREET** had been attending the woman since Christmas, at which time herself and her husband drank freely of rum; on Friday evening the Doctor again visited her, but she died while he was there. A post mortem examination was made, and other evidence taken, when the jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes, accelerated by drunkenness, and not otherwise.

#### DEATHS.

At Gorah, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, after a long and painful illness, Mr. **JAMES MOORHOUSE**, aged 52 years.

**THE ABSENTEES FROM COCKATOO ISLAND.** - One of the three bolters from Cockatoo, namely, **FREDERICK SUMMERFIELD**, alias **GEORGE TEMPLETON CAMPBELL** (but more known among his "pals," we hear, as "**Gentleman Jack**,") was apprehended in George-street, near the water police office, on Monday evening last; and on Wednesday another, **JAMES POMWELL**, was apprehended at Parramatta. The third, **JOHN ANDERSON**, there is reason to believe, was drowned in the attempt to escape. According to the statement of Summerfield, nine men took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the storm on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, to make an attempt at escape, and committed themselves to the water, but after swimming nearly half the distance from shore to shore, abandoned the idea and returned to the island. Summerfield reported on his apprehension that "**The Native**" (Pomwell) was drowned, but the fact appears to be that but for the assistance of Pomwell, who put back to his assistance, Summerfield would have been drowned, so that this report would appear to have been given by Summerfield with the view of diverting the police from further searching for Pomwell, as a reward for Pomwell's benevolence towards himself. Of the other man (Anderson) no information has been received, and it is by no means improbable that he found a watery grave. *Herald, Jan. 24*

**THE BLACK-LEG.** - A sawyer named **M'GILLIGAN**, resident at the Punchbowl, we regret to learn met with his death within the last few days, under circumstances similar to those which caused the death of Mr. **BIRCH**; and his daughter, who held a limb of the beast while he was skinning it, very narrowly shared the same melancholy fate - her head, which she scratched shortly after leaving the carcase, having been for several days swollen to an enormous size. ... *Herald, 25<sup>th</sup> January*

**INQUEST.** - On Monday last, in consequence of communications having been sent to him with regard to the suspicious manner of the death, at Colo, of a woman named **CATHERINE JENKINS**, on the previous Wednesday, the Coroner proceeded to Colo to hold an inquest. He had received three or four communications from different people, betwixt Saturday and Monday morning; he accordingly instructed constable **GALLAGHER** to precede him, and make preparations for holding the inquest. It

appears that the deceased had been residing for some time back with a man named **JOHN EDMINSTON**; that on Wednesday morning the deceased had got up in her usual health, sifted some wheat, and baked a cake; an hour and a half after which she was dead. The evidence of Gallagher, and of a man named **ADAMSON**, threw such decided suspicion on Edmonston, that he was afterwards apprehended upon a coroner's warrant. The deceased had been buried on Friday, and the body was consequently exhumed by order of the Coroner. Mr. Surgeon **DAY** attended,. And made a post mortem examination, and took away part of the stomach, which he said exhibited an appearance of the remains of either arsenic, oxalic acid, or corrosive sublimate. The inquest was therefore adjourned for a fortnight, in order that Mr. Day might take the stomach to Sydney, for the purpose of having it analyzed. *Windsor Correspondent of the Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/687, 01/02/1851

DEATH FROM DROWNING. - About 12 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the body of a woman named **MARY ANN HANDFORD**, was found in the water opposite Barker's Wharf, Bathurst-street, by a man named **LEE**, a labourer, residing in Clarence-street. The body had evidently been in the water a considerable time. *Herald, Jan. 30.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/688, 05/02/1851

ACCIDENT. - On Monday a serious accident happened to a boy at Morpeth, by his being thrown off, or falling off, a dray, the wheels of which we are informed went over his legs, inflicting very serious injuries; but we have not ascertained the particulars.

DEATH FROM POISONOUS VIRUS RECEIVED WHILE SKINNING A SHEEP.

The Parramatta Correspondent of the *Herald* of 1<sup>st</sup> February reports at length a case wherein, according to the medical testimony, a shepherd died from having scratched a small pimple on his arm after he had skinned a sheep, which had recently died from disease. The shepherd, **PATRICK MURPHY**, was in the employ of Mr. Oakes, and had brought a flock of sheep to Parramatta, three or four of which died on the road; after the flock reached Parramatta three more died, and Murphy skinned them, skinning the last on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>; on the 22<sup>nd</sup> he went out shepherding as usual, but complained of being ill and sick at the stomach when he returned in the evening; he continued ill, getting worse, till the following Sunday, when he was taken to the hospital, where he died on Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. **ROBERTSON**, who attended him in the hospital, and thought death had occurred in precisely the same way as in previous cases where men had been fatally poisoned while skinning bullocks which had died from the prevailing disease, made a minute post mortem examination for his own satisfaction, and in his opinion the death of Murphy had been caused by a most virulent morbid poison received through his scratching (as Murphy had stated) and small pimple on his arm after skinning the sheep. Dr. Robertson described minutely the appearances he found in the post mortem examination, and says that the spleen, in particular, was gangrenous, and fell to pieces on the slightest touch, and that he had previously observed that this organ was particularly affected, both in man and beast, in cases of death from the prevailing disease in cattle, and from poisonous virus communicated from their dead bodies. Dr. Robertson is of opinion the disease is new, and that it is clearly not black-leg, but one requiring close investigation. The verdict of the jury on the inquest was died from natural causes.

**DEATH FROM CHOLERA.** An inquest has been held at Windsor, as reported in the *S.M. Herald* of 1<sup>st</sup> February, on the body of a married woman named **SARAH WHITE**. It appeared that her husband, who keeps a small fruit shop, and resides in a damp situation, was away on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday morning; rain fell on Saturday evening, and some of the fruit appears to have got rotten; whether Mrs. White eat any of it is not stated, but on Sunday morning, about eleven o'clock, her little boy went for Dr. **DAY**, who found Mrs. White lying on the floor, in a state of violent collapse, and that she had been purging and vomiting violently; Dr. Day called in Dr. **DOWE**, and every remedy was tried, but the poor woman died about one o'clock, not living two hours after the first medical man arrived. The opinion of the medical men was that the case was decidedly one of cholera, induced by living in a low damp situation, and surrounded by fruit in a state of decomposition. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this opinion.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An inquest was yesterday held at Brennan's public house, the Coopers' Arms, Pyrmont, on the body of **SAMUEL BLAKE**, aged about sixty years, who was found dead in his bed at an early hour in the morning, and having the appearance of having been dead for some time. Dr. **TIERNEY** deposed that he had viewed the body, upon which no marks of violence were visible; he had also made a post mortem examination, and found the lungs diseased, the heart small and flabby, and the pericardium full of serum; the liver was diseased, and the stomach inflamed and full of fluid; the bowels had the appearance of being mortified, which he thought was likely to be the immediate cause of death; he could detect no trace of poison in the stomach. Verdict, died by the visitation of God. *Herald, Feb. 1*

**A BOY DROWNED AT SOUTH CREEK.** - An inquest was held at M'Grath's Hill, by Dr. **DOWE**, the Coroner, on the body of one **CHARLES MANNER**, commonly known as **CHARLES ENGLAND**, a fine lad of fifteen years, of age, residing at John Caneen's, South Creek, whither he had come from Sydney for the benefit of his health. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had gone to bathe in company with **REUBEN GREENTREE**, a little boy nine years old. Greentree remained in the water bathing for a quarter of an hour, when afraid that his father would scold him, he came out, dressed, and ran home; he left the deceased on the bank of the creek with his boots on. The deceased did not return that night, which circumstance occasioned no uneasiness, as he was in the habit of visiting as relation of Caneen's, a Mr. **PENDER**, who resided not far off. Next day, Greentree's brother, on going to water the horses, found the clothes of the deceased on the bank of the Creek, he immediately returned and informed his father, who told Caneen of the circumstance. They proceeded to make a search, and the body was eventually found by one **STEPHEN GOW**. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned. *Herald's Windsor Correspondent*

**A WOMAN FOUND DROWNED.** - On Wednesday last an inquest was held at Mrs. Wallis's public-house, the Hand and Heart, Liverpool-street West, on the body of **MARY HANDFORD**, aged about forty years. Deceased had been addicted to intemperate drinking, and some two months since attempted, during one of her bouts, to put a period to her existence by cutting her throat, in the execution of which, however, she was intercepted and secured. The last time she was seen alive by her husband was about noon on Monday, when she had been drinking for nearly a week. On Tuesday afternoon her body was found off a wharf in Darling Harbour, near Murphy's, and quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned. *Herald, Jan. 31*

**COUP DE SOLEIL.** - On Monday last an elderly man named **JOHN RUSSELL** was for some time in Mr. Walker's inn, East Maitland, and had some drink; he complained that he had been done out of his place (as a coalminer), and had no means, and did not know what he was to do; as he was drunk in the evening Mr. Walker would not let him leave, but gave him a bed for nothing; the next morning Russell left the inn, with 2s. 10½d. in his possession. On Wednesday afternoon, between four and five o'clock, Constable Smith's attention was called by a resident to that fact that an old man (Russell) was lying in a paddock near, very ill; Smith went to the spot, and found Russell apparently lying drunk, and suffering from the heat of the sun, to which he was exposed, and which was very intense that day. Smith put Russell under cover, and went for Dr. **WILTON**, who found that Russell was suffering from a coup de soleil, or [????????] received in his lying exposed as he had done; Russell was removed to the lockup for protection by Dr. Wilton's directions, and was there attended by Dr. W., who saw that his case was hopeless; Russell died in the lockup about twelve o'clock that night. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, when the above evidence was given, and a verdict returned of death from coup de soleil, from exposure to the sun, occasioned by drunkenness.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Wednesday evening, about seven o'clock, an elderly man named **THOMAS MEEHAN** was received into the Maitland Hospital, on the recommendation of Mr. **WILLIAM ECKFORD**. Mr. **MULLINS**, the resident apothecary, observed that Meehan had a large blister on his chest; he had Meehan attended to, and placed in a ward, as usual, and at about half-past seven he visited Meehan in his rounds, and found him eating his food; Meehan said he was quite comfortable, and that he had been ailing some time; Mr. Mullins told him he thought he ought to go to the Benevolent Asylum, but Meehan said a short time ago he was quite well, and would be again in a short time. Mr. Mullins saw Meehan again about a quarter of an hour after, when Meehan said he was all right; about ten o'clock Mr. Mullins again went round the wards, and when he came to Meehan he found him dead. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when Dr. **SLOAN**, after making an external examination, said he could not state the cause of death. At the request of the jury, a post mortem examination was then made, when Dr. Sloan found that death had been caused by suffocation, arising from the bursting of an abscess into the chest, Meehan having been suffering from extensive disease of the lungs, and a large cavity being left in the left lung by the bursting of the abscess. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 9/690, 12/02/1851

**MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.** - On Saturday morning last, a very great sensation was produced in Maitland by the intelligence that Mr. **FREDERICK WILLIAM DAVIES**, a solicitor, residing in West Maitland, and enjoying an extensive and growing practice, had committed suicide, and had been found dead on his bed, having shot himself through the head. An inquest was held on the body the same afternoon, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner. The witnesses examined were **THOMAS WATKINS**, **GEORGE POULTON**, **ALFRED OKE EDYE**, **JOSEPH CHAMBERS**, **JOHN SCOTT**, and **ELIZABETH BECK**. From their evidence it appeared that the deceased, who was a single man, had latterly been observed by his friends to be getting low-spirited; to Dr. Edye he had complained of suffering under disease of the heart, from which he anticipated an early death; and to Mr. Chambers he had complained recently of business annoyances and troubles, attaching much

more weight to them than Mr. C. thought they deserved; still no one formed any opinion that these things weighed heavily on his mind, although some weeks since he, half in joke, asked Dr. Edye which was the easiest way for a man to shoot himself. The deceased was at the house of Mrs. Beck on the evening of Friday last, having transacted business as usual that day, and taken his meals, although sparingly; he remained at Mrs. Beck's house some two hours, sleeping about an hour of the time, and at his own request she woke him up about eleven o'clock, that he might return home; she states that he appeared very low-spirited, and complained greatly of a pain in his chest, saying he would rather die than suffer it. Mr. Poulton resides close to Mr. Davies's house, and between eleven and twelve o'clock Mr. Davies passed Mr. Poulton, who was sitting on his door-step, and went into his own house. When Mr. Davies left his house that evening, he had told his servant, Thomas Watkins, that he should return home again, and Watkins sat up for him till twenty minutes to eleven, when he went to bed up-stairs, and neither heard his master come home, nor heard any noise during the night. On Saturday morning Watkins rose about six o'clock as usual, and went about his domestic avocations; he noticed that the front door, opening into Mr. Davies's room, was half open, and that there was some window-glass on the floor inside, one of the panes being broken, but he says he took no particular notice of this, having seen that door left open before of a night; towards eight o'clock Watkins laid breakfast in the parlour, and while dusting the things he saw through the partially open door of the bed-room, which opened from the parlour, Mr. Davies's feet hanging over the side of the bed. About eight o'clock a man came to inquire if Mr. Davies was in, as he wanted to see him about some deeds; Watkins went to the bed-room door and knocked, and called Mr. Davies, but hearing no reply he put the door open and looked in, and was horrified to see his master lying extended across the bed, undressed, and a quantity of blood about and below his head. Watkins immediately ran out and called Mr. Poulton, who was at his door, and Drs. Edye and Scott were sent for by Mr. Poulton as soon as he had looked into the bedroom. Drs. Edye and Scott found Mr. Davies quite dead, lying across the bed, his feet hanging over one side, and his head over the other; there was a gun-shot, or pistol-shot, wound through the head, the ball having apparently entered over the right ear, and passed out at the back of the head, which must have caused instant death; the head appeared to have been moved but slightly from the moment the fatal shot was fired; the arms lay at length on each side of his body, and close to the right hand Dr. Scott states (in it, Dr. Edye says) was a pistol, discharged. There were no marks of struggling or violence of any kind about the bed, room, or body, and the watch and clothes of the deceased lay on the drawers and table just as he had apparently placed them there. It was Dr. Scott's full impression that the deceased inflicted the wound with his own hand. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased shot himself with a pistol, being at the time in a state of temporary insanity.

**LEG FOUND.** - We have received a communication from a gentleman residing in Five Dock, stating that a man's leg had been found in the river in that neighbourhood. It appears to be the limb of a rather small-sized man; on the foot was a nearly new Cossack boot, of superior make, and fastened with a silk lace. It has the appearance of having been in the water about three weeks. *Herald, Feb. 10*

**GOULBURN CIRCUIT COURT.**

**WILLIAM COOPER, alias JAMES JOHNSON**, for murder, was discharged from custody, the Attorney General declining to prosecute.

**DEATH FROM COUP DE SOLEIL.** - An inquest was yesterday held at Weedon's, Cherry Tree Gardens, Parramatta Road, on view of the body of **LAWRENCE**

**MARTIN**, aged about 55 years, who died on the previous evening, under the circumstances following, as stated by the witnesses:- **JOHN WILLIAMS** deposed, that deceased had been complaining of a pain in his head for some four or five days, which he attributed to having slept in the sun without his hat at Canterbury bush, where he had been at work, and thought that the sun had struck him; on Thursday afternoon witness was speaking to deceased, and on returning in a quarter of an hour or less he was dying; deceased was a very sober man. **JOHN BURNS** deposed, that on Thursday afternoon he assisted deceased to put up a bedstead; he complained of being swollen, and said that he had been to a Dr. **M'LAUGHLIN**, at Sydney, and had taken an emetic, but appeared quite cheerful; in about a quarter of an hour after the bedstead was up, deceased's wife called witness, who on going in, to his great horror and surprise, found the unfortunate man quite dead. Dr. **TIERNEY** deposed that he had viewed the body; the upper part of the body and head is very much decomposed, and blood is oozing from the nose; in the absence of a *post mortem* examination he could not positively state the cause of death, but had no reason to believe that it was other than a natural cause; his having lain bare-headed in the sun was very likely to produce *coup de soleil*, or sun stroke, the more especially as the last few days have been very hot; had timely and medical aid been procured there would have been a possibility of saving his life; he (Dr. Tierney) would not, from the history he had heard of the case, have thought the administration of an emetic proper treatment. The jury finds a verdict of died from the effects of as sun stroke. *Herald, Feb. 1*

**UNFORTUNATE EVENT.** - A boy about fourteen years old, named **MICHAEL WRIGHT**, was apprehended on Thursday night for having discharged a pistol, loaded with buck shot, at his sister, and thereby seriously injured her. The case was partially heard at the police-office yesterday, when the evidence of the boy's employer, Mr. **NICODEMUS DUNN**, was taken and this went to show that Wright was not aware of the pistol being loaded. Mr. **PACKARD** and Mr. **JESTON**, surgeons, of Parramatta-street and the Glebe, attended the girl, and extracted a shot which had lodged under the ribs. Mr. Packard stated that the patient was doing well, but he was unable to declare her out of danger. The case was remanded for further hearing till this morning. *Bell's Life, Feb. 8*

**DEATH OF A CHILD FROM NEGLECT.** - An inquest was held at Parramatta, on Saturday last, on the body of an infant, the child of a woman named **MARY HOGAN**. Mrs. Hogan's husband had been for some months in prison, and she has been supporting herself, it was stated, by prostitution, and was besides greatly addicted to drink; on Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup> ult., she spent the greater part of the day in a public-house, in a state of drunkenness; two neighbours chanced to notice in her house the infant, apparently lying in a dying state, and they went to the public-house several times to get the mother home, but she took no notice; at four o'clock in the afternoon she returned home so drunk that she fell on the child in trying to kiss it; she was lifted off by a neighbour; the child was then still alive, but died in less than an hour afterwards. The jury returned a verdict that **MICHAEL HOGAN** came to his death by extreme emaciation, which was caused by the neglect and drunkenness of the mother. *Abridged from the Herald.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT TO A CHILD IN DARLINGHURST GAOL.** - An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at Mrs. Allison's Hotel, near the Court-house at Darlinghurst, on the body of a male child named **SAMUEL MURPHY**, then lying dead in the adjoining gaol. The mother of the child is at present confined in the prison, and the infant was with others playing in one of the long galleries of the establishment, when it is supposed he received an accident, at first from one of his

playmates, which forced him through the grating. He fell upon the stony flooring, and after lingering in convulsive agony from the period of the accident till eight o'clock on the 4<sup>th</sup> it expired. Dr. **O'BRIEN** and his assistant Mr. **HONNOR** were unremitting in their exertions, but without avail. A verdict of accidental death from injury was returned, accompanied by a rider, complaining of the dangerous state of the iron-work surrounding the gallery. *Empire, Feb. 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/691, 15/02/1851

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - The following is a list of the prisoners at present warned for trial at the ensuing Circuit Court, which will commence on Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. ...

**JOHN MATHEW**, murder; Maitland Coroner.

**MARGARET HOLMES**, feloniously stabbing; Murrurundi bench.

**WILLIAM HAYES**, wilful murder; Maitland Coroner.

**JAMES FREW**, murder; Armidale bench.

**ROBERT BYFIELD**, manslaughter; Cassilis Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was yesterday held at Tuohy's, the Lemon Tree public-house, Phillip-street, on view of the body of **SARAH JANE JONES**, aged three years. Mrs. Jones deposed that about half-past nine o'clock she sent deceased (her daughter) up the yard to her father with a couple of nose-bags; about a quarter of an hour after she missed the child, and after looking about for her in every direction in vain, one of the neighbours suggested looking into the well; on doing so, she there saw the body of her child, when she made an alarm; her husband and another man came and took her up; she was quite dead; her husband had been drawing water, and had omitted to put down the cover, and as the bags were in the well with the child, she was of opinion that deceased had carried the bags before her face, and, not seeing the well, walked directly into it. The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning. *Herald, Feb. 15*

IDENTIFICATION. - The boot, containing a skeleton of a human foot and leg, which was found at Five Dock, and was forwarded to Sydney, was yesterday identified by Captain **DUNNING**, of the schooner *Terror*, and by a Mrs. **MARLOW**, residing in Cumberland-street, as belonging to a seaman named **THOMAS**, lately of the *Terror*, who, on the night of the 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo, while under the influence of liquor, left Moore's Wharf to join the vessel, and had not since been seen. The boat was picked up on the opposite beach. The occurrence was reported in the *Herald* soon after it took place. *Herald, Feb. 13*

DEATH.

At his residence, West Maitland, on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, **F.W. DAVIES**, Esq., solicitor, aged 34 years.

SUDDEN DEATH. - An inquest was yesterday held at the Benevolent Asylum, on view of the body of **RICHARD HARRIS**, aged about 65, then there lying dead. About eight o'clock on Friday evening, **DAVID FERNANDEZ**, of the Green Dragon, public-house, Erskine-street, hearing that an old man had fallen off a side wall alongside the pathway, went to see him; he was insensible, and on his face was some blood, with a scar on the side of his temple and cheek; he washed his face, and placed him in a sitting posture against the wall, and left him to attend some customers; he forgot all about the man until about 11 o'clock, having occasion to go outside, he saw deceased in the same position in which he had placed him; he then went for a couple of constables, who took him away in a cab to the watchhouse for protection, and thence was forwarded to the Benevolent Asylum, where he arrived about two

o'clock on Saturday morning. Later in the morning apoplexy set in, and at about ten o'clock he expired. Mr. **RUSSELL** having deposed that in his opinion death was the result of apoplexy brought on by intemperance, the jury returned a verdict in accordance with that opinion. *Herald, Feb. 11*

SHOOTING. - The boy **WHITE [WRIGHT]**, in custody for wounding his sister by discharging at her the contents of a pistol, was yesterday discharged, with an admonition as to handling fire-arms in future. *Herald, Feb. 11*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/692, 19/02/1851

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Sunday morning last, about eleven o'clock, a man named **JOHN HYDE**, who was employed working at a thrashing machine, then on the farm of **PATRICK NEWMAN**, Wallis's Creek, was returning from Maitland, when he called at the house of Mr. **JOSEPH HAYWARD**, Lochend, and lit his pipe; Hyde was then very dirty, and appeared to be just recovering from the effects of drink, but knew what he was about; he had a new hat and shirt with him, and told Mr. Hayward that he would go down to the creek and have a wash, as he was very dirty, and would put on his new shirt, and return again to Maitland; he then left the house. Mrs. Newman, whose house is 200 or 300 yards from the creek, but within sight of the creek bank, saw Hyde undress himself on the bank, and go down the bank out of her sight as if to bathe. A very short time after this **JOHN M'CROHON**, who had charge of the machine, went to the same spot, being the usual watering place, to water his horses; to his surprise he saw Hyde's clothes on the bank, with the new hat and shirt, but could see nothing of Hyde himself, although he noticed that the weeds in the bed of the creek looked very much disturbed. M'Crohon, when he returned to Newman's house, told Mrs. Newman what he had observed, and that he feared Hyde had been in bathing and got drowned; Mrs. Newman then told him what she had seen but a few minutes before. About this time Newman returned home from Maitland, and he and M'Crohon got a boat and searched for the body, but could not find it; the water there was nine feet deep, but full of long growing weeds and grass; the next morning the search was repeated, and the body discovered rising underneath the weeds, at the very spot where M'Crohon had observed the weeds look disturbed. An inquest was held on the body on Monday, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, when the above evidence was given, and in addition it was deposed that Hyde was very drunk on Saturday evening, and used to spend all he earned in drink. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned, by whether by accident or otherwise there was no evidence to show.

GOULBURN. - INQUEST. - On Tuesday last an inquest was held before **R. WAUGH**, Esq., on the body of a man, name unknown, which was found on the previous day in a waterhole on the Tarrago estate. Deceased had evidently been some weeks dead, as decomposition set in as soon as the body was removed from the water. It had on a fustian jacket and trousers, and a straw hat; there was a boot and spur on one foot, the other was bare. It is surmised that deceased had been thrown from his horse, and that one of his feet having caught in the stirrup caused the boot to be disengaged; and on regaining his legs he had in a half-stupified state walked into the waterhole. The verdict of the jury was "found drowned." *Goulburn Herald, Feb. 15*

MANSLAUGHTER. - In the *Herald* of Monday is a report of the adjourned inquest on **CATHERINE JENKINS**, an old woman, a man named **JOHN EDMONSON**, with whom the deceased had lived, being in custody. The stomach of deceased had been sent to Sydney for analysis, but no trace of poison of any kind was found in it; the prisoner however has admitted that shortly before the death of deceased he had,

at her own request, given her a dose of pepper to relieve a sudden feeling of illness, that being her habitual medicine for slight attacks; the surgeon, Mr. **DAY**, who was present at the analysis of the stomach, and had heard the evidence, was of opinion that the deceased died from an over-dose of pepper. It was shown in evidence that the deceased had always expressed a grateful feeling to Edmonson for his habitual kindness to her, and that the deceased for years had been in the habit of taking small doses of pepper when ailing. The coroner, in summing up, said that if the jury believed that the deceased died from the pepper administered by Edmonson, and that he gave it with a felonious intention, it was murder; but if he gave it simply as medicine, and it caused death, it was manslaughter, he being a person unqualified to administer medicine. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Edmonson.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held at the Benevolent Asylum, touching the death of **WILLIAM REGAN**, an aged pauper, who left the institution last week for the purpose of proceeding to the interior. Getting drunk prior to leaving town, he fell off his conveyance in Parramatta-street, and the wheel of the dray passing over his body and thigh, it was found necessary to re-convey him to his old quarters, where, under the care of the resident surgeon, he lingered till yesterday morning, when he ceased to be. A verdict of died from injuries accidentally received, was returned. *Empire, Feb. 14*

**CHOLERA.** - About one o'clock on Thursday afternoon, a butcher, named **WILLIAM REARDON**, residing in Essex-street, was taken unwell, and the illness increasing, at eleven o'clock at night Mr. Surgeon **NELSON** was called in, who found him in a state of collapse suffering from marked symptoms of cholera. About twelve o'clock Dr. **MACKELLAR** was also called in, and a few minutes after Reardon expired. Both professional gentlemen concurred in the opinion that the deceased died from cholera. A *post mortem* examination confirmed this opinion – the medical men stating that they believed the disease to have been brought on by local causes. There was a large open drain full of putrid filth in the front of the house of the deceased, and a quantity of meat in an unwholesome state was on the premises. Dr. Mackellar and Mr. Nelson, with praiseworthy promptitude, immediately communicated the facts to Mr. **M'LERIE**, Inspector of police, who caused the meat to be seized and destroyed, and the premises cleansed with chloride of lime. The coroner made an enquiry into the circumstances of the case, but did not think an inquest was necessary. *Herald, 15<sup>th</sup> February*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/693, 22/02/1851

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/694, 26/02/1851

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Monday night, or early yesterday morning, a man named -- **ELLIOTT**, residing at the Duckholes, Raymond Terrace Road, died very suddenly. An inquest was to be held on the body yesterday afternoon.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Saturday last a thrashing machine belonging to --- **ROBINSON** was at work at Black Creek thrashing for a small settler; about three o'clock in the afternoon a man named **RICHARD TRAYNOR** was driving the machine, and **JOHN ROBINSON**, son of the owner, was feeding it, when Traynor asked young Robinson to give him a spell; Robinson went to relieve him, the bullocks still working on; Traynor stepped down from the crown on which he was standing, when his foot slipped, and one of the bars catching him he was sent with some violence against the machinery, where his trousers were caught and his leg drawn in between the cog-wheels, getting crushed and mangled from the ankle to the thigh in a dreadful manner. Robinson and the men topped the bullocks as soon as possible, and

extricated Traynor, when they found his leg hanging by the muscles. A medical man was instantly sent for, and Dr. **BEARDMORE** attended. Previous to leaving Maitland Dr. Beardmore, on learning the nature of the injury to Traynor, had tried, but in vain, to find some other medical man to accompany him to the spot, and he now advised Traynor to come to the Maitland Hospital, where he could be properly attended to, as it was not usual for one medical man to perform amputation in such serious cases. Traynor said he should not live to go to Maitland, and he begged Dr. Beardmore to take off his leg at once; Dr. Beardmore said it was no doubt his only chance of recovery, and about nine o'clock he accordingly amputated the leg at the thigh. Very little blood had been lost by Traynor at the time of the accident, and very little was lost now, owing to a provision of nature, by which one of the coats of the arteries closes over the opening or torn part; Traynor, however, was of course in a state of prostration from the shock to his system, and although he rallied slightly once or twice through the night, he died about six o'clock the next morning, Dr. Beardmore having remained with him all night. An inquest was held on the body, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on Monday, when Dr. **M'CARTNEY** examined the body and amputated limb, and deposed that the amputation was skilfully and carefully performed, that the leg could not have been saved, and amputation was absolutely necessary, and that in his opinion death resulted from the shock to the constitution which such a frightful accident must have caused. The jury returned a verdict that death was caused by the accident, and that the injury was of a nature which called for immediate amputation of the leg, which was done by Dr. Beardmore in a careful and skilful manner.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - A poor woman named **M'CARTHY**, on Saturday night went to the shop of a druggist named **KIRBY**, and said she was very ill, but before she could tell her tale fell on the shop floor, and almost immediately expired. She has left a husband and nine children. An inquest will be held this afternoon on the body.

**SUICIDE.** - On Saturday last a man named **GILLIGAN**, for some years past connected with the establishment of Messrs. Wilshire, committed suicide by taking a large quantity of poison, which he procured from a chemist on Brickfield Hill. Medical aid was called in, and the stomach pump applied, but without effect. The unfortunate man had been for some time a teetotaller, but during the last week had been drinking hard. *Herald, Feb. 24*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An accident of a most distressing nature occurred at Ipswich last week. It appears that a man went at night to Mr. O'Connor's inn, and asked for a glass of rum, which was given to him by a girl about twelve years old, a servant of Mr. O'Connor. The girl having occasion to leave the bar to attend to a child, it is supposed that the man must have gone to the brandy cask to help himself, and that he accidentally set fire to the spirit, for immediately afterwards the cask burst with a loud explosion, and the girl returning at that moment her clothes caught fire, and burned her so severely that she shortly afterwards expired. The man who appears to have been the cause of the melancholy catastrophe escaped in the confusion that ensued. A magisterial investigation was held by Dr. **DORSEY**. *Moreton Bay Courier, Feb. 10*

**ANOTHER CASE OF STABBING AT IPSWICH.** - We are indebted to the Ipswich correspondent of our Brisbane contemporary for the information that on Tuesday last a man named **JOHN BENTLEY** stabbed one **PATRICK RAFFERTY** in the breast with a knife, on the road to Little Ipswich. Bentley had been in the bush, and his wife had been living with Rafferty in the meantime. The two men and the woman were standing together when the outrage was committed and Rafferty subsequently identified Bentley as the person who had wounded him. The offender was under

examination, awaiting the fate of the wounded man, who was said to be in a very precarious state. *Moreton Bay Courier, Feb. 19*

#### DEATH.

At the residence of his father, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, after twenty-five days' severe suffering, caused by fire, **PETER**, the eldest son of Mr. **PETER GREEN**, Campbell's Hill, West Maitland.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held yesterday, at Mr. Driver's, the Three Tuns tavern, King-street, on view of the body of **JOHN BRENAN**, aged about fifty years, the unfortunate man who fell from the first story of Mr. Campbell's store, at the Circular Quay, on Wednesday afternoon. **BARTHOLOMEW M'MAHON** deposed that he and deceased were on Wednesday afternoon employed at the store in question, rolling in some bressimers (large beams running across the floor, on which the joists are laid); the chain had been hooked to a bressimer, when, being overbalanced, it gave a sudden jerk, striking the deceased, throwing him up a height of four or five feet, when he fell some thirteen or fourteen feet, head foremost on a rock, and never spoke a word afterwards. A medical examination showed that the skull was extensively fractured, and both arms broken. Verdict – died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, Feb. 21*

SUICIDE. - On Wednesday an inquest was held at Mr. Wall's, corner of Kent and Argylke-streets, on view of the body of a man named **JOHN FREDERICK KEISSER**, aged about 40. A Mrs. **MURPHY** deposed that deceased lodged with her; he was a very steady and quiet man, but for the last few weeks had seemed melancholy. On Tuesday he retired to his room a little after noon, and on the following morning his breakfast was placed as usual in the passage. After knocking at the door for some time, and receiving no answer, witness sent for Mr. Connor, the Inspector of police. Mr. **CONNOR** gave evidence to the effect that after knocking at the door of the apartment of the deceased, and getting no reply, he broke it open; he found deceased lying on his back on the bed, his throat cut, and he quite dead; a quantity of blood was lying on the bed and floor, and a bloody razor lying near the bed. Dr. **TIERNEY** was sent for, and he deposed that the muscles and blood-vessel of the left side of the neck were cut, also, that there was more than one cut; both hands were bloody, and he saw no reason to suppose that the wounds were inflicted by any other hands than those of the deceased himself. The jury found a verdict that the deceased had destroyed himself while labouring under temporary insanity. *People's Advocate, Feb. 22*

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE. - It is our painful task to record the suicide of Mr. **GEORGE LAVENDER**, of Blue's point, North Shore, which occurred at his residence about half-past six o'clock last evening. The particulars of this tragic event, as they have come to our knowledge, are as follows:- Our informant was at Mr. Lavender's house at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the deceased was getting his dinner in his usual health and spirits. Her talked freely, and eat a hearty meal. During the remainder of the day he engaged in his regular business about the house, without his conduct in any respect attracting particular notice in his family. About half-past six in the evening Mrs. Lavender was alarmed by the report of a gun at the rear of the house, and on running out she discovered the body of her unfortunate husband, with his fore-head literally blown in, lying on his back in an out-house, and struggling in the agonies of death. The shrieks of Mrs. Lavender brought a plasterer, who was at work in an upper room of the house, immediately to her assistance, but only in time to witness the breath of life pass away from the mangled form of her husband. The deceased appears to have taken the gun from the house unobserved;

and no reason can be assigned for the perpetration of the dreadful act. He was an old colonist, possessing considerable property, and enjoying a large share of respect. His widow is left, we believe, with one child. *Empire, Feb. 21*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/695, 01/03/1851

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday afternoon last **WILLIAM MAYO**, an old resident of Morpeth, was thrown from his horse in the street at Morpeth, and alighted on the crown of his head; he was immediately picked up by the bystanders, and although insensible for a moment he recovered so far as to be led home. Mr. **NAINBY**, apothecary, was called in, and found Mayo's head and face covered with blood, his head being cut, and that blood had also proceeded from the ear; he washed the head and face, and remained some time, and then left, and before he returned again Dr. **BROWN** had been sent for. Mayo remained lingering, but sensible, until Thursday, when acute inflammation or pain set in, and he became partially unconscious, and very violent; he died the same evening, about six o'clock. An inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, when the above evidence was given, and Dr. **SCOTT**, having externally examined the body, gave his opinion that Mayo had died from the effects of the fall, and that acute inflammation of the brain existed in the last few hours of his life. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

DEATHS FROM INTEMPERANCE. - On Tuesday an inquest was held at the Duckholes, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **WILLIAM ELLIOTT**. It appeared from the evidence that Elliott was a strong and hearty man, but a very intemperate one, and habitually a hard drinker; On Monday evening he appeared in his usual health, spending the evening cheerfully with his wife and neighbours, and eating a hearty supper, but drinking nothing stronger than tea. About midnight his wife awoke a lodger in great alarm, saying that her husband was taken suddenly very ill; the lodger, **GEORGE BROWN**, instantly got up and went in with a light, and to his horror found Elliott in the agonies of death; Brown ran for a neighbour, but before they returned to the house Elliott was dead. Dr. **WILTON** externally examined the body, but being unable to state the cause of death, the jury requested that a post mortem examination should be made, which showed that death was caused by extensive disease of the heart and blood-vessels, arising from intemperance. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from natural causes, accelerated by intemperance.

Another inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, on Thursday, at Mr. Walker's, the Red Lion, East Maitland, on the body of **JOSEPH HUMBLER**. Humbler, an elderly man, was a great drunkard, and would continually drink whilst he had the means by him; for the last fortnight he had been drinking hard, at the Red Lion and elsewhere. On Wednesday he procured a pint of rum from Mrs. Walker, in a bottle, saying he would go home (to the Sugarloaf); he wrapped the bottle up in his bundle of clothes, and went away, but returned, and after loitering about during the day, went and laid down in the room he had used; about half-past seven in the evening Mr. Walker, finding Humbler had not gone to tea, went to look for him, and found him lying in a heavy sleep on the bed, in a state of profuse perspiration, and having evidently vomited freely; on the floor was the bottle which had contained the rum, empty, and a quart pot in the room showed that rum had been put in it; thinking the vomiting and sleep would relieve Humbler, who could not be awaked, Mr. Walker left him, after taking off his neckerchief, and on visiting him at ten o'clock saw nothing to cause alarm; at one o'clock in the morning he again visited the room, and found Humbler dead; he then called in Dr. **WILTON**, but of course to no purpose. In Humbler's

pocket was subsequently found by the police 11s. 4d. only; Mrs. Walker said she had given him back that day £1 5s. of his money; and Mr. Whittaker said he saw Humbler that same day pull from his pocket several notes, besides one that he changed with Mr. Whittaker. Dr. Scott externally examined the body, and was of opinion that death was caused by excessive and prolonged intemperance. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from excessive acts of intemperance, and they attached a rider that some money was lost which could not be accounted for, and that Mr. Walker's conduct was reprehensible in concealing his knowledge as to the amount of liquor drank by deceased.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

TWO CHILDREN LOST IN THE BUSH. - Information has just reached us that two children, whose parents reside at the "Bulga," strayed from their home on Thursday last into the bush, and although about sixteen horsemen were out in search of them they were not recovered until Saturday afternoon. As we have been promised an interesting narrative of their "stroll" by a person who had it from the mouth of the eldest child, a little fellow of six years old, we may be able to furnish some particulars for your next.

MARANOA. - Long article re inertia of native police: letters by "A.M." in the Sydney Morning Herald; ... The bones of nine men have now been bleaching for two years on the plains of the Cogoon River, their murderers remain unpunished, our cattle and sheep have been destroyed, and dispersed to the amount of many thousands, but no attempt has been made to arrest the aggressors, or to put a stop to their depredations. Another "Correspondent" might have furnished you with the particulars of the recent murder of a man named **THOMAS COX**, at Mr. Eckford's station, Moonie Creek, but if we pass lightly over such an occurrence we must be excused, the mere murder of a single man by the natives nor being now an event of sufficient importance to create any sensation.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Saturday last Mr. **J.T. LANE** was riding into Bathurst with a small settler named **WILLIAM HOOLOHAN** residing near Summer Hill; Mr. Lane rode on in advance of Hoolohan at a brisk pace, and did not see him for a considerable space; Mr. Lane's attention was at length attracted by the sound as if of two bodies coming in contact a short distance behind him, and a second or two afterwards Hoolohan's horse galloped past without a rider. Looking back he saw the poor man lying at the foot of a tree, and upon nearer approach found him bleeding at the nose and mouth, his face severely scratched, and blood oozing through the thighs of his trousers. Mr. Lane lifted him up and spoke to him, but he was in a state of complete insensibility. A horse and cart being procured he was removed to Mr. Ingram's public-house, Mr. Lane in the meantime riding on to Bathurst to procure surgical assistance. Dr. **BUSBY** was quickly in attendance, and discovered that both thighs and one of his arms were broken, and that a concussion of the brain had also taken place. Hoolohan was removed to the Bathurst hospital, where he lingered until the following day, when he expired. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of accidental death returned. *Abridged from the Bathurst Free Press, 22<sup>nd</sup> February*

TAKING POISON BY MISTAKE. - Yesterday an inquest was held on the body of **JOHN GILLIGAN**, who was reported to have poisoned himself. From the evidence it appeared that Gilligan had been drinking latterly, but having ceased he had expressed to his wife great sorrow for having been drinking; Gilligan had gone to Mr. **KIRBY**, chemist, on Saturday, and procured a bottle containing two ounces corrosive sublimate, two ounces spirits of nitre, and one ounce spirits of salt, prepared by his own direction, saying he wanted it for a horse, and Mr. Kirby, who had frequently

supplied him with mixtures of corrosive sublimate and arsenic, gave it to him without hesitation; Gilligan appeared to his wife low-spirited from the effects of drink, and about eight o'clock on Saturday evening he brought home the bottle of stuff from Mr. Kirby's, labelled "poison," and said it was medicine he had got from Mr. Kirby for a pain in his back, of which he had been complaining for three or four days; he then poured a portion of the mixture into a cup and drank it off, saying he had taken similar medicine before, and it had always done him good; the instant, however, that he had swallowed the mixture he threw himself on the sofa and endeavoured to retch, and called out to his wife to send directly for Dr. **CUTHILL** or Dr. **FULLERTON**. His wife ran to Mr. Kirby's, who told her if Gilligan had taken the mixture it would kill him; she ran for the doctors named by her husband, but all their efforts failed, and Gilligan died a little after eleven o'clock. The jury returned a verdict that death had been caused by poison taken in mistake. *Abridged from the Herald, Feb. 25*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - Yesterday an inquest was held on the body of **CATHERINE M'CARTHY**, who dropped down dead in Mr. Kirby's shop on Saturday evening. A post mortem examination showed that death was caused by dropsy of the pericardium. A verdict was returned of died from natural causes. *Abridged from the Herald, Feb. 25*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/696, 05/03/1851**

**MURDER OF A WIFE BY HER HUSBAND.** - On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at Aberglaslyn, about four miles from West Maitland, on the body of **ROSE M'NAMARA**. Mrs. M'Namara had been killed by repeated wounds and stabs with some sharp instrument, one wound cutting her throat to such an extent that death must have ensued almost immediately, while others cut and wounded her neck, head, and face more or less deeply, and others again were on her arms and hands, as if she had struggled and resisted. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against her husband, **PATRICK M'NAMARA**. The police had been searching for M'Namara from the time of the first notice of the dreadful occurrence, about noon on Sunday last, but could not find him till Monday evening, without resistance, on a farm occupied by --- **KILFOIL**, Stony Creek. As M'Namara has been given warning of trial at the present Maitland Circuit Court, we do not go into the particulars of the evidence. The following is an outline of the facts. M'Namara, a young man of powerful build, is a labourer, who has been working at various trades about Maitland for some years; some time since he married his late wife, a young woman of excellent character, and they lived together for some time, and had one child, a girl now about two years old; latterly, M'Namara, who is violent [at times?], had it appears quarrelled with his wife; and having beat her she took refuge first with her father, and then with her married sister, Mrs. **M'FARLAND**. Mr. and Mrs. M'Farland went to chapel on Sunday morning last, leaving at home two of their children (the eldest a girl of five years old,) and Mrs. M'Namara and her child. Before they returned from chapel Mrs. M'Namara had been murdered. The little girl (M'Farland) states that Patrick M'Namara, her uncle, came in, and on his wife's refusing to go home with him, he attacked her in a back skillion, from which she rushed out, streaming with blood, and fell dead in the front room, where the little girl was; Mrs. M'Namara's child, which was in her arms at the time, being also covered with blood, and falling from her arms as she fell to the floor; and that M'Namara then left the house. A neighbour, Mrs. **HINTON**, saw a man answering to M'Namara's description loitering about the neighbourhood for an hour before Mf. And Mrs. M'Farland went to chapel, and after they had gone saw him go to the house. A

shepherd boy herding sheep at Aberglaslyn, was addressed by a man answering to M'Namara's description, and pointed out to him the hut occupied by M'Farland, after which the man left the boy and went towards the hut. Within a very few minutes of the time when the boy last saw the man he met Mrs. M'Farland's little girl coming away from the house, with Mrs. M'Namara's little child walking after her, crying bitterly, covered with blood, and seeming much frightened; at the request of little M'Farland, the boy went back to the hut with her, but being afraid to go in, he went towards Hinton's, and met Mrs. Hinton, who was also too much frightened to go, and called her husband; from the time Mrs. Hinton saw the man go to the hut till the time she met the children, with Mrs. M'Namara's child all bloody, appears to have been about ten minutes. Hinton and other neighbours went to M'Farland's hut, and found Mrs. M'Namara lying on the floor of the front room, dead, and her body and the floor covered with blood.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT. - Friday, Feb. 28

**JOHN EDMONSON** was indicted for having murdered **CATHERINE JENKINS**, at Colo, on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, by administering to her an ounce of pepper. The particulars of the case were given recently, in reporting the inquest. Mrs. Jenkins had been in the habit of taking doses of pepper when ailing, and on the day of her death she complained of illness, and Edmonson, who lived with her, admitted that, at her request, he gave her a strong dose of pepper. Not guilty; discharged.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/697, 08/03/1851

DEATH FROM THE KICK OF A HORSE. - About five weeks since, a man named **THOMAS TOWNSEND** went to the shop of Mr. Wicks, in Erskine-street, to purchase some goods, and having for some purpose gone to the back premises, he incautiously went too near one of the horses in the stable, who kicked out and severely injured him. He was under the care of Drs. **DUIGAN** and **CARTWRIGHT** until Monday, when he sank under the injuries and expired. An inquest was yesterday held on the body at Henderson's public-house, Erskine-street, when the jury returned a verdict of died from the effects of the injuries accidentally received. The deceased was 52 years of age, and we regret to add has left a widow and five children to mourn their loss. *Herald, March 5*

PARRAMATTA. - FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held on Saturday last at Mr. Launder's, Bush tavern, Longbottom, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, on view of the body of **THOMAS DOCKER, alias THOMAS NICHOLS**. It appears from the evidence that deceased left Sydney on Friday evening about six o'clock, in charge of three teams, the property of his master, Mr. **JOHN SARES** of Windsor. When deceased came to the temporary bridge over Iron Cove it was about eight or nine o'clock, and by some mistake or other the horses got too far to the left, and both the first and second drays capsized. A man with a team was a short distance behind and heard a crash, when he immediately ran to the spot and perceived that deceased was under the load of the first dray, with his face down, and completely buried in mud; assistance was procured from a hut near, and the body raised, but life was extinct. Mr. Sares stated that, without doubt, the deceased had had a glass before leaving Sydney, but was not intoxicated. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally killed.

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1851

(Before his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson)

MURDER.

**WILLIAM HAYES** was indicted for the wilful murder of **BENJAMIN COTT**, at Dagworth, on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1850, by striking, beating, and wounding him with a certain blunt instrument unknown on the left side, the right side, the back, and the front, of his head, thereby inflicting divers mortal wounds, bruises and contusions, whereof the said Benjamin Cott instantly died.

Mr. Purefoy and Mr. Holroyd appeared for the defence; attorney, Mr. Turner.

The Attorney General stated the case to the jury, and called

**JOHN STAUNTON**, who deposed that he lived with prisoner (Hayes) in November last, witness and his family having entered Hayes's service in November, witness's father and mother, two sisters, witness himself, and a brother; had no previous knowledge of Hayes; witness came from the county Limerick, Ireland; Hayes told witness that he came from the county Limerick; remembered Benjamin Cott, who lived near Hayes; the last time he was there was on the evening of Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November; Hayes and his family and whole household were about to take supper; Hayes asked Cott to take some tea; Cott said he had tea before; witness and his family were taking supper with the others; Cott sat on a sofa; Cott said he came for a dray and bullocks to fetch some flour from Maitland; Hayes said he could not have them because he had lent them to another man, but that Cott could have the mare and cart; Cott said the mare was rather too wild for him, and declined to take her; the supper things were removed; Cott remained; conversation ensued about planting tobacco and other things; after supper Hayes brought some rum out in a bottle, and they all took a glass each, Cott, Hayes, witness, and witness's father; they each took another glass; witness and his father then went to bed, in another hut, close adjoining Hayes's, Hayes sleeping in his own hut, but not in the same room as the kitchen in which they took supper and the rum; Hayes and his wife and three children occupied the bedroom; witness believed that Mrs. Hayes went to bed; witness told his father it was time to go to bed, as they would have to get up early in the morning; after they went into their hut Cott came to the door of it, which was only two or three yards from Hayes's hut; this was only five or six minutes after they had left the kitchen; did not hear Hayes and Cott speaking after witness left the kitchen; Cott spoke to witness when he was at the door, and then went back to Hayes's hut; that was the last time witness saw Cott alive; it might be then about nine or ten o'clock; did not hear Cott's voice afterwards, and did not know when Cott left. Next morning witness was up before sunrise, his sisters being up before him, to go and milk the cows, after lighting the fire; Hayes was also up before witness, went out of the kitchen, and went covering the tobacco plants; to tobacco ground was perhaps about a hundred yards from the kitchen; many weeds were growing on some land between; the tobacco plants were raised near the weeds, and planted out in the ground beyond; potatoes had been planted, but failed, where the weeds were growing; witness recollected a drain, which was down near the bridge; some of the tobacco plants were at the end of the drain which was closed in; about twenty yards of the drain had been closed in; it was open when witness went there in September, and Hayes said it was to drain off water from the lagoon behind, in the paddock; there was no water there when witness saw it; some parts of the drain were six or seven feet deep, and five or six feet broad at the top in some parts, where the bank had broken; the end near the bridge was most broken, and it was broader there, six or seven feet perhaps; it was five or six feet deep at that part, and a little deeper higher up; high thistles and weeds and couch-grass taken from the tobacco ground before planting were heaped up against the fence by the road-side, but they were not put into the drain; Hayes directed where they should be put; that was in October, witness thought; they still remained

there when the drain was filled up, and were still there; the drain was filled up in November; witness could not exactly say whether it was before or after Cott was at Hayes; it was about the same time; witness helped to fill the drain in; the distance of a panel, at the end farthest from the bridge; witness filled between two and three yards; Hayes was filling the drain when witness arrived, on Saturday, the Saturday after he last saw Cott; witness did not know how long Hayes was employed at it; witness was scarcely more than a quarter of an hour working at it, as Hayes was filling in at the time; witness saw no other person filling it in; witness found the drain nearly closed that day, and had not observed it before; at that time witness was employed in taking milk into Maitland morning and evening, and working on the farm; witness went to Maitland with milk that morning after he saw Cott, but did not pass the drain on his way, as it did not lay in that direction; did not pass near the drain on his return; could not say whether any part of the drain was filled in the day after Cott was there, nor what Hayes was employed about that day when witness returned from Maitland; witness went hilling corn with his sisters and brother; knew nothing of the drain being filled in until he found Hayes at work there on the Saturday; witness asked no questions [part line missing, paper creased] witness afterwards saw peas growing there; the peas were put in about the time Cott was lost, witness believed, but he could no recollect exactly; pea-ground was chipped on the ground adjacent to the drain, and peas might this have been scattered over the filled-in drain; the plants were then there, but appeared as if planted at the same time as the others; witness had not much occasion to go to that part of the farm, unless he went to work there; he was then mostly employed on another part. Remembered Cott's dress, the last time he saw him, a cabbage-tree hat, fustian jacket he thought, a kind of striped or plaid waistcoat; barragon or fustian trousers like the jacket. Witness was at Hayes's the night chief constable **WOOD** and the constables were there; witness saw the light at the drain, but did not go down to the spot where they were; not being much acquainted with the country, he did not wish to interfere; Hayes was at home; witness had no conversation with him that he recollected; the constables were all night digging, witness believed; witness went to bed; witness saw the head on the following morning, lying in the drain, and the hat; the hat was like the hat Cott had worn; witness afterwards saw the clothes, and the waistcoat was very like that Cott had worn; the jacket and trousers were also like Cott's. Hayes had two axes, which were kept about the yard or house. After the body had been removed witness saw sticks lying up on the bank of the drain, one a round limb of a tree, and others smaller.

By Mr. Purefoy: There was no angry expression at the supper table or afterwards; Hayes had on his usual working dress the next morning, the same as he had on the night before; Hayes usually got up early, to cover the tobacco plants from the sun; the place where the constables found the body could be seen from witness's bed-room window, witness thought; on the evening the constables were digging at the drain witness returned from Maitland at dusk, too dark to distinguish the men; witness asked what the light down there meant, and was told; witness suggested to O'Neil that they should go down there and help the constables; O'Neil was reaping on the farm; when witness first went to Hayes's the drain was closed, except the part afterwards filled about the time Cott was missed; when witness and his father went to bed the night Cott was at Hayes's witness's mother had gone to bed, but he could not say where his sisters were; when witness found Hayes filling in the drain it was about one o'clock in the day. The witness was examined at some length as to what passed between Cott and himself on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> November, as he was returning home from Maitland, met with Cott at Hartigan's, the shoe-maker, had some rum with

him, and accompanied Cott homewards as far as Hayes's, Cott then going on to his own house, and witness going to Hayes's; Cott and witness had no angry words then, or on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>, when Cott was at Hayes's; Cott did not say witness was not fit company for him.

By the jury: Witness had no conversation with Hayes about filling up the drain before Cott's disappearance; never heard him speak of it before; the peas near the drain were planted before witness came to the farm; the spot where the body was found was sixteen or seventeen yards from the part where witness first saw Hayes filling in; never saw Hayes at work filling up the drain till after Cott was missed; witness heard no noise or disturbance that night; witness would not sleep sounder for taking two glasses of rum; they were wine glasses; the part of the drain formerly filled up was the part nearest the lagoon; the axe would usually be used by the first who was up lighting the fire; the two axes were in common use by all.

**RICHARD WRIGHT GOODALL** deposed that he was a surveyor, and made the sketches produced of the localities, after going over the ground; one was a finished copy of the other; he could vouch for the measurements; it was 218 ½ yards from Hayes's house to the red mark on the sketch; he examined the ground the day after the body was found; he observed a footpath, then partly obliterated by being under cultivation, leading from Hayes's house towards the sapling rails in the fence by the bridge; the peas near the drain had been evidently sown broadcast; the length of the drain recently filled in was 72 feet 6 inches; the upper portion of the drain appeared as if it had been a surface drain merely, and had filled in gradually by deposits; witness went to the spot where the body was found with constable Kedwell; witness and Kedwell, on using a spade lying there, found a pair of boots in the drain, with remains of feet in them; Kedwell took charge of them; a rod and a half of ground was made available by filling in the drain; the part coloured green on the plan contained three rods or perches, and was left waste, and the parts covered by weeds. Etc., along the fence contained one and a-half rods; it would have been less trouble to have removed the rubbish than to fill the drain; the drain being filled in would prevent the escape of water from the low ground behind after heavy rain; from where the body was found, marked red, to Cott's house, was 467 ½ yards in a direct line; from Hayes's house to Cott's in a direct line was 638 yards; not far from the drain was a corner occupied by three dead trees or stumps, and one recently fallen gum-tree, the top of which had been removed; the largest log in the drain corresponded with the wood of that gum-tree, a half-post also lay by the drain, and other half-posts were observed some distance from the drain, by the pathway spoken of; some narrow pieces of bark were lying by the drain, and near the same spot by the pathway were some similar pieces of bark.

By Mr. Holroyd; In Staunton's hut, under the window, was a bed; the window contained about six panes of glass; from that window the fence in the direction of the drain was visible; the window is in full view from the spot where the body was found; there was also a window in the women's room, in the same hut, but not glazed, battens being nailed across; did not observe that window from the drain; any person sitting up in the bed under the window in the first room could see the drain where the body was found; Hayes's land was very well cultivated; it might have been farmer like to throw into the drain the loose soil around the drain rather than go for the couch and rubbish, but he should think it better to throw the rubbish in at the bottom.

**JACOB JOHNSON** deposed that he was in the service of Benjamin Cott not quite three months before he was missed; last saw him alive 13<sup>th</sup> November, on a Wednesday, about sundown; Cott left his own house, and went towards Hayes's; one

house can be seen from the other; witness waited for him later than he usually sat up, and then went to bed; a boy named **SANDY MURPHY**, whom Cott had kept from a child, was then sitting up in Cott's hut; witness never went himself to Hayes's to make enquiry, the boy going; on the Saturday following witness saw Hayes filling in a drain; it had been a wide, deep drain, with a pathway near it; witness knew the bridge on the road underneath which the drain passed into Wallis's Creek; a pathway from Cott's house to Hayes's went near the end of the drain; witness saw Hayes, and asked him if he had heard anything of his (witness's) master; Hayes said no, and said it appeared very strange where could he be; some further conversation passed, and witness said "Then you are filling the hole in;" Hayes said yes, he was, that he thought he might as well have a crop of peas off it, as let the ground be lying waste; the drain was then nearly all filled in; no person was assisting Hayes, Cott had two dogs; the dogs were about the house after Cott was missed, and were still there three weeks since; one of the dogs was missing for some time, after Cott's body was found; at that time the boy was at Hayes's house; witness could not say whether that dog followed Cott the evening he went towards Hayes's; when he left Cott had on an old cabbage-tree hat, a plaid waistcoat, and a green waistcoat over with sleeves on it, and fustian trousers; Cott said he was seventy-four years old, and looked an old man; his hair was dark and grey, and not very long; Cott wore a check shirt, and Blucher boots; witness was helping the constables to dig the drain a little before sundown, commencing at the end furthest from the bridge, and dug right through till they found the body; they perceived a bad smell half-way down the drain where the body was found, when they came to the wood and bark over the body, limbs of trees, and long narrow pieces of bark, like stringy bark; could not say how many pieces there were at the top of the body; no other wood or bark was found in the drain except a little when they first began to dig; they were placed or thrown directly over the body; had to raise most of them before the body could be come at; some few peas were growing in the earth in the drain; the clothes found with the body were Cott's clothes; in the pocket was found the key of Cott's chest, which the police tried, and it opened the chest; the hair that dropped off the skull was the same color as Cott's, except that the dirt had made it darker than when he was alive.

By Mr. Holroyd: The Dagworth road ran between Hayes' fence and the creek; there was a good deal of traffic on it; any person passing along that road might have seen Hayes at work filling in the drain.

**ANN STAUNTON**, sister of John Staunton, deposed to what passed at the supper table at Hayes's, corroborating her brother's evidence; witness went to bed before her brother and father; witness was up first next morning; Hayes was the next up; it was daylight, but before sunrise; Hayes was getting on his clothes as witness went into the house; witness went about her work, lighting the fire, and then going to turn the cows in and milking them; the cows were in the paddock next the house; could not recollect whether Hayes left the house before she lit the fire; it took two hours to milk the cows. Her sister helping her; when she returned to the house Hayes was not there; he was covering the tobacco plants; never saw Hayes at the drain; the drain was, so far as she could remember, filled in the week after Cott was at the house; saw no person filling it; she saw William Hayes filling it in; that was during the week after, so far as she could recollect; she would swear it was; she saw Hayes from a distance filling it in; at the end furthest from the bridge; she recollected a cow being killed at Hayes's; it was after Cott was there; three weeks after; another cow was killed before Cott was missed.

By Mr. Holroyd: Hayes, when she first saw him the morning after Cott was there, appeared to be putting on the same clothes he wore the previous night; they appeared in the same state; he wore usually the same clothes till the cow was killed, three weeks after; she saw the cow killed; Hayes's clothes were much stained with blood while helping to cut her up; his trousers were then washed by witness's mother; there were two rooms in their hut, the first occupied by her father, mother, and brother John, and the inner one by witness and her sister; the bars across her window had open spaces between them; it was a bright moonlight night when Cott was there; heard no noise outside that night; remained awake half an hour after she went to bed; she went to bed after they had had one glass of rum round; the drain could be seen from the window in her father's room; her brother she supposed undressed as usual when he came to bed; he was undressed when she passed through his room the next morning.

[part line missing, creased] the kitchen of Hayes's house; witness saw the axe outside that morning; saw no difference in its appearance from usual; the axe used in killing the cow was not the one generally used in chopping wood.

By the Court: Witness and her family had all left Hayes's service a week since.

**MICHAEL STAUNTON**, twelve years old, was called, but proved not sufficiently instructed to be sworn.

**THOMAS STAUNTON** deposed that his son Michael was nearly twelve years old, and had never been taught the difference between heaven and hell; witness remembered Cott's being at Hayes's house, but could not say what brought him there, nor what conversation passed; witness heard no voices after he went to bed; witness was at Hayes's when the constables were digging; did not go to assist them, or go to see what they were doing; the next morning witness went to the spot; saw the clothes lying there; they were in every respect like those Cott had worn; witness saw Hayes filling in the drain; witness was working in another paddock, and did not go to assist him; Hayes was not a day filling it in; witness had no conversation with Hayes about filling it; witness saw him filling in the lower end near the bridge; could see him when he was working in the drain; he could fill it without going down into it; witness planted some of the peas near the drain before it was filled up, and was two days at work there; was not ordered afterwards to plant more about the drain, and did not do so; those planted there grew like the others.

By Mr. Holroyd: Witness's son had recently sued Hayes for wages, and the wages had been paid; witness and his family had left Hayes's service; from the window over witness's bed the drain could be seen, and the tobacco ground.

By the jury: Could not recollect where he first saw Hayes on the morning after Cott was there; witness never heard Hayes say a word about filling up the drain before Cott was there, or after.

By the Court: Witness heard of Cott's being missed before he saw Hayes filling in the drain.

**ELLEN STAUNTON**, sixteen years old, was called, but proved not sufficiently instructed, and was not sworn.

**ALEXANDER MURPHY**, thirteen years old, deposed that he had lived with Benjamin Cott since he could recollect; the last time he saw him Cott went to Hayes's house, a little after sundown; witness waited up for him, but Cott did not come back; the next morning, after sunrise, witness went to Hayes's and found Hayes chipping tobacco plants with a hoe; witness asked where was Ben? Hayes said he went to Maitland, and asked witness whether he did not come back; witness said no; Hayes said he went from there to go to Maitland, but it was rather late to go to Maitland

when he left; witness went back to Cott's house, thinking Cott had gone for flour; witness went to Hayes's again when the milkman (John Staunton) came home, about noon; witness was not sure whether he saw Hayes that time; as Hayes was working about different parts of the ground at times; the same day or the next day after witness saw Hayes filling in the drain; witness saw him working down there the same day, in his tobacco field, Thomas Staunton and one of the girls being then chipping peas near the same place; witness did not pass near the drain that day; the next day witness was going to Maitland and saw Hayes, between nine and ten o'clock, filling in the drain; a good deal was filled in, but not half of it; some near the bridge was filled first, and then some near the other end, and all along the bottom there was some dirt thrown in; no person was assisting Hayes, but Thomas Staunton and Ann Staunton were chipping peas close by; witness said to Hayes that he was going to Maitland to look after Cott; Hayes said he knew nothing about him, only that he went away to Maitland that night, and he never saw him since; the drain as formed about two years ago, two or three men being at work there for three weeks; it was made to drain the water off the lagoon, which was full of water; the water all drained out afterwards, and the lagoon got dry; witness came on into Maitland, and returned in the evening about four o'clock; Hayes was then going backwards and forwards from his house to the drain; the day following that witness again went to Maitland, and Hayes was filling in the drain again; when witness returned that day the drain was filled, and Hayes had peas sown there; it was on Wednesday night Cott went to Hayes's, and witness did not go to Maitland the next day, but the two following days he did; Hayes said on the second day he returned that he might as well put some peas in as to leave it idle. Cott had a dog, and witness had one; Cott's dog was missed some time after Cott was, about three weeks after; he was missing till the inquest, and then he came back; about a fortnight after Cott was missed witness heard the dog howling down by the creek, and witness saw something white there; witness was going from Cott's to Hayes's; the dog was making a noise like he always did when some one he knew came up to him; the dog kept on two or three times; he was up against something white standing there; the place was about forty yards from where the body was found, and on Hayes's land; witness had just before left Hayes and his household at Hayes's house; witness was frightened; witness told Hayes next morning that he saw something white down by his fence, and heard the dog howling; Hayes said it might be a bullock; witness said it did not look like a bullock; about a week after that the dog was missed; Hayes told witness to come and live with him; there was a native bear there, belonging to O'Neil, and Hayes said he'd give witness the bear if he'd come till Saturday night; witness went, but the bear died, when Hayes offered witness 8s per week if he'd stop there for three years; witness consented, and stopped there. Witness saw the body after the constables found it, and knew it to be Cott's by the clothes; they were the same clothes Cott wore. When witness saw Hayes filling in the drain, there were sticks and small pieces of bark lying about.

By Mr. Holroyd: Hayes had a crop of tobacco last year near the site of the present crop; there was small bark gunyah put up for a watchman; the bark lying about the drain appeared to be the same, the gunyah having been pulled down.

**JAMES BRACKENREG** deposed that he was a publican, residing in West Maitland, and last saw Ben Cott alive about the 9<sup>th</sup> November; he was always called Ben Cott; never heard him called Benjamin Cott; Hayes came to witness for money on the 9th July last, for £9 that he stated Cott had directed he should get; Hayes said "Did Ben Cott call here?" witness said "Yes"; witness told Hayes that Cott had ordered him to give Hayes £9, and witness then told Mrs. Brackenreg to give Hayes

£9; Mrs. Brackenreg gave Hayes the money, and Hayes had acknowledged that he got it; nothing more was said; witness gave no further explanation to Hayes of what Cott had directed.

**EDWARD KEDWELL**, constable in the Maitland police, went past Hayes's place on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> November, being on police business; called at Cott's place; saw Hayes working at a drain on his land, with a spade or shovel, as if levelling it; did not then speak to him; witness was on the road, and passed three or four yards from Hayes; after witness had been at Cott's, and had not found Cott there, witness in returning asked Hayes, who was at the drain, whether he had heard anything of Ben Cott since he had been away; Hayes said no, he had not heard anything of him since he called at his place on Wednesday evening last; Hayes said Cott came across to his place to borrow a dray and bullocks to go to Maitland the following day to get some flour; that Cott declined to have any supper, but took two glasses of rum before he left; and that Cott had left his (Hayes) place to go to Maitland, and he (Hayes) did not observe which way Cott went, but went to bed; Hayes further said it was no use looking for Cott, for he was often away three or four days, and he had stopped away on purpose to starve out the family of Johnsons so that he would not have to pay them. At this time the drain appeared all levelled, but witness did not particularly notice. Witness was subsequently present when the body was found, in the same drain. On the 16<sup>th</sup> December witness went again to the place with Mr. Wood, the chief constable, and arrived there in the afternoon; Hayes was then reaping near; Hayes afterwards came down to the drain, and threw down a spade, and told Mr. Wood that if he wanted the drain opened he must open it; the drain was forthwith opened by witness and two other constables, commencing at the furthest end from the bridge of the recently filled part, about sundown; Mr. Wood and Johnson also took part in the digging, and O'Neil came and assisted for about half an hour; no other person than O'Neil came to help from Hayes's place; the drain was completely opened out by throwing the earth out till they came about midnight to the spot where the hat and skull were found; they were working by the light of two candles; the chief constable directed the search to be continued till the drain was opened out. The witness then described the sticks and bark found lying over the body, as mentioned by Johnson; they were laid straight over the body. When the skull was come to, Mr. Wood stopped the work till he went for the Coroner, witness and two constables remaining at the drain. When Mr. Wood returned, about three o'clock in the morning, witness was left on guard at the drain, and Mr. Wood and three constables went up to Hayes's house. The Coroner came, but nothing further was removed till Dr. Scott came, and Dr. Scott then uncovered and removed the remains. The clothes found with the body were seen by Johnson there, and Murphy afterwards saw them at the inquest. Witness knew Cott well, and had seen him wear such clothing; witness had heard him called Benjamin Cott and Ben Cott.

By Mr. Holroyd: The upper part of the drain, nearer the lagoon, had been filled up for several months; there was only about twenty yards of the drain, near the bridge, left open.

**GEORGE WOOD**, chief constable of Maitland, deposed that in consequence of information he went out with constable Smith on Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, to Cott's place, and afterwards to Hayes's ground, with Smith and Johnson; saw Hayes who came down from the house to them as they stood near the drain; Hayes remarked that his tobacco was somewhat damaged; witness asked him if he had heard anything of Cott; Hayes said no, not since he left his place; witness asked Hayes if his wife had not said that Wenban's reapers left word at her place that Cott was gone up the

country on a dray; Hayes said no, that the milkman had heard it in Maitland; witness asked Hayes if there wasn't some money transactions betwixt him and Cott; Hayes said there was, that he had lent Cott £10 last harvest: Johnson said, in a surprised manner, "You lent him £10;" yes, said Hayes, and Mr. Brackenreg can prove it, or had drawn the receipt; witness asked Hayes to show the road Cott might take to go to Maitland; Hayes took them along the Dagworth road by the creek about half a mile; they looked into the creek at several places, but Hayes said it was no use looking in the creek, that he couldn't be in the creek without their knowing it, as they swere fetching water from the creek every day; that he had got into Maitland perhaps and got into some of the bad houses, and got into the river perhaps, or some one might have pout him in; they then parted. On the 10<sup>th</sup> December witness again went to Hayes's place, arriving there in the afternoon, about four o'clock, having three constables with him; witness asked Hayes, who was reaping whether he had heard [anything of Cott; O'Neil said .....heard][paper creased part line missing] nothing; O'Neil was then reaping with Hayes; witness asked Hayes to lend him a spade; Hayes consented, fetched the spade with a constable, and brought it down; witness asked Hayes who filled up the drain; Hayes said he filled in one part, and the milkman filled in the other part, and he pointed out the lower part near the bridge as filled by himself, and the upper part by the milkman; he did not point out the exact portions; witness asked how long it had been filled in; Hayes said some of it a long time, and some of it not so long; Hayes put the spade down, and said they might open it, or all of it, if they liked; it was then near sundown, and they commenced digging. The witness then described the digging, and the finding the skull. O'Neil and the boy Sandy Cott, or Murphy; came down from Hayes's place about nine o'clock, but no other person. On witness's return after going for the coroner witness and four constables went to Hayes's house, and knocked at the door; Hayes opened the door, having only his shirt on; witness said he had bad news to tell him, that they had found Cott murdered and buried on his farm, and that him and all the others might consider themselves in custody until the matter had been examined into; Hayes said it was a good job the poor man was found. The coroner came about sunrise, and Dr. Scott some time after, and Dr. Scott removed the remains, and placed them in a bag; the clothes were taken out, and washed; they were the same now produced; constable Kedwell took a key out of the watch pocket of the trousers. On Thursday, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, witness again went to Hayes's place; Hayes was then in custody and not at home; witness got the axe produced under the milk-safe in the bedroom; it had the appearance of being used, a mark being visible along it; witness observed a light coloured hair on the axe, but could not now see it; it was fine hair, but could not say it was human; another axe, a wood-axe, had been previously seen outside.

By Mr. Purefoy: Witness could not say whether or not the bark and sticks were not so laid that they would have concealed the body without any earth, they having been obliged to pull them up when they first came to the remains; the single hair was on the edge of the axe; the axe did not appear concealed.

**JAMES HARTIGAN** deposed that about four months before Cott's disappearance he made a pair of boots for him; he thought the boots produced were the same; they were made as witness made boots, and were the same size as Cott's; last saw Cott on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Dr. **JOHN SCOTT** deposed that he removed the remains of the body from the drain, having first seen a portion of the head; the head was not attached to the body, the whole of the bones of the lower part of the neck, and the vertebrae of the neck, were broken, and the connection broken; it was difficult to say whether the head was

entirely separated from the body, till decomposition took place; there was a large fracture of the skull, and small fractures branching from it; the bones were so much fractured that it was nearly impossible to place them together as they were originally; that large fracture would cause instantaneous death; witness removed the body, excepting the feet; decomposition had gone on to such an extent that the bones separated at the integuments; it was the body of a man advanced in years; witness took the clothes carefully off the body; some hair adhered to the skull, apparently of dark colour mixed with white.

By Mr. Holroyd; Witness would not undertake to swear that the large wound was inflicted during life, or any of the other injuries.

By the jury: Witness should think the injuries must have been inflicted by an instrument having a full swing, and a heavy hand; the hair witness saw on the axe was very nearly identical with, if not the same as, the hair on the skull.

By Mr. Holroyd: Witness would not undertake to swear it was a human hair.

By the jury: it was of the same color as some of that on the skull, and appeared identical in color, fineness, and general appearance.

**WILLIAM SMITH**, constable of the Maitland police, deposed that Hayes remained in witness's charge after he was given in custody by Mr. Wood, for two or three hours, till the coroner came; the reapers left the place and went to look at the body, and returned again; one came in to light his pipe, and said "Well, what a thing it is to serve the poor old fellow in that way, they have knocked his head all to pieces;" Hayes said "Well, well, well, what a thing it is, who could have done it, what a bad job it is;" witness said it was a good job the man was found, that we'd had a great deal of trouble after him, in getting to him in the drain, that he was so lapped up in bark and sticks that we could hardly get at him; Hayes said "Well, I put them in;" witness said ""You did?" Hayes said "Yes, I did;" witness said "Why the man's hat was found among the whole of them things;" Hayes made no answer, and the conversation dropped. The witness then described the position of the body, the hat, and the bark and sticks; the hat was found among the sticks a foot and a half above the body, as if put in afterwards, but was three or four feet below the surface, some sticks and timber and weeds lying above it again; witness's conversation with Hayes was after the hat and skull were found, but before the body was uncovered.

Constable Kedwell recalled: Witness remained in charge at the drain after the head was found till the coroner came; no one touched the remains or head while witness was in charge; witness did not recollect that any reapers came to look at the skull, or other persons. Witness on a subsequent day took Mr. Goodall to the spot, and they found the boots on moving a little earth with the spade.

**JOHN WOOD**, now residing at St. Peters, West Maitland, knew the Dagworth property; had seen Hayes's ground flooded; the filling up of the drain would cause part of the ground to be inundated if heavy rains fell, and some acres of growing corn would be covered.

By Mr. Holroyd: Leaving the part of the drain near the bridge open, after the upper part of the drain was filled up, would not be of much service in keeping the lagoon ground from being inundated.

**JOHN O'NEIL** deposed that he was at Hayes's, and assisted the constables for a short time in digging; when witness went back to Hayes's house from the drain, Hayes asked, were they digging at the drain? Witness said yes; Hayes asked did they get anything there; witness said no; Hayes said if there was anything there, if there was any one so bad to him as to put it there, he couldn't help it. Witness worked for Hayes about three weeks, after Cott was missed; witness asked Hayes had the old man

any money; Hayes said he didn't know; witness said he had heard that some man took money on his account at Mr. Brackenreg's; did not say who it was, for he didn't know; Hayes said he might be the man, for he had lent Cott £10, and Cott left him an order to get £9 of it at Mr. Brackenreg's, and he got it there, and the other £1 Cott gave to him somewhere; this conversation took place more than a week after Cott was missed.

By the jury: After Hayes was in custody witness heard constable Smith ask Hayes did he put any sticks in the drain; Hayes said he did; witness could not recollect any other conversation.

By the Court: Witness thought he remembered some one using the expression about the head being so knocked about. The remainder of the conversation deposed to by Smith was then put seriatim, and the witness thought he heard most of it, and might have heard the rest.

Smith recalled: O'Neil was not the reaper who used the expression, nor was he present at the time.

Mr. Wood, chief constable, recalled: Reapers were in the field both before and after the coroner came; witness invited the reapers to come and see the remains, at the time Dr. Scott came; they all came.

**CHARLES POOL**, constable in the Maitland police, deposed that on a subsequent search in the drain he found a piece of bone, a large piece of the skull, and handed it over to Dr. Scott. On the Monday after Cott was missing witness went out to take an inventory of Cott's goods; Hayes was then taking and levelling the top of the drain, and sowing peas; some of the peas were just budding, others half an inch and an inch high; Hayes said in conversation that Cott must have gone to his brother up the country; witness ridiculed the idea, and said he must have been made away with; Hayes then said the man's in the town, or the creek, or the river, or some person might make away with him; the man might appear bye-and-bye, and was in the habit of being absent from home for days, and we would find him at home or elsewhere.

By Mr. Purefoy: Witness was first examined on the last day of the inquest at Mr. Rosseter's; witness's evidence was only about the skull. [The witness's deposition was put in and read]. Witness was only required to give evidence as to what he had found, and answered such questions as were put to him; witness first mentioned his conversation with Hayes to the Crown Solicitor, a day or two since; witness thought it his duty as a constable to tell him all he knew in the matter; witness might have mentioned the conversation to the chief constable, but did not think he had.

By the Attorney General: Twenty witnesses had been examined by the coroner before witness, and witness's evidence was confined to the piece of skull he found, and which Dr. Scott compared with the skull in witness's presence.

By the jury: Some of the peas were growing on ground about the drain, and some on the drain; no peas were growing on the very spot under which the body was afterwards found.

Dr. Scott recalled: Produced the skull; pointed out the piece brought to him by Pool, which fitted exactly into the skull.

It being now twelve o'clock, the court was adjourned till half-past nine o'clock this morning, when the trial will be resumed. #

The jury were placed in the custody of the Sheriff, and locked up in rooms for the night.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/698, 12/03/1851

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1851.

## MURDER.

**PATRICK M'NAMARA** was indicted for the wilful murder of **ROSE M'NAMARA**, at Aberglaslyn, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1851, by striking and thrusting at her with a knife, on the left side of the neck, giving her one mortal wound, of which she instantly died.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and applied for a postponement of his trial till the next Circuit Court, on the ground of the absence of a material witness, **RICHARD HARRIGAN**, who could prove that he was with him the whole of that day.

The Attorney General opposed the application, and its consideration was postponed till Tuesday morning.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1851.

GAOL DELIVERY.

## MURDER.

**JOHN MATHEWS** was indicted for the wilful murder of **ABRAHAM DAWES**, at Page's River, on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1850, by casting and throwing him to the ground, and then beating, kicking and striking him with hands and feet, inflicting by such casting and throwing, and by such beating, kicking, and striking, divers mortal wounds, bruises, and contusions, whereof the said Abraham Dawes languished till the 5<sup>th</sup> November following, and then died, at Maitland.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

On the motion of the Attorney General the trial was postponed till the next Circuit Court, in consequence of the absence of the principal witness.

## MURDER.

**JAMES FREW**, committed on a charge of murder (from Armidale), was discharged by proclamation, the Attorney General stating that there was not at present sufficient evidence to put him on his trial.

No other cases remained on the calendar but those for trial at the Quarter Sessions, except that of **PATRICK M'NAMARA**.

## MURDER.

The consideration of Patrick M'Namara's application for a postponement of his trial, for the murder of **ROSE M'NAMARA**, was resumed.

The Attorney General opposed the application, on the ground that it was made for the purpose of delay only, and he read affidavits and a considerable portion of the depositions, to prove that M'Namara could not call any witness to prove what he alleged.

His Honor decided to grant the application, on the ground that where a man stood on trial for his life he could not refuse an application on affidavit for a postponement, stating what was proposed to be proved in defence, and that the application was not made for the purpose of delay. But to lessen the period of delay, and obviate any possible inconvenience that might arise, he should order that the trial should be postponed till the Sydney criminal sittings, or the next Maitland Circuit Court.

M'Namara was then removed.

The court was then adjourned *sine die*.

DEATH OF AN INFANT FROM NEGLECT. - On Saturday an inquest was held at the Maitland Hotel, West Maitland, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of a female infant, about three weeks old, the child of **MARY JOHNSON**. From the evidence adduced it appears that Mary Johnson is the wife of **JONAS JOHNSON**, a very industrious sober man, and who has for some time been residing in a hut on Mr. Horton's farm, West Maitland. Latterly Mrs. Johnson has given way to drink, and her husband at length left her a few weeks [crease in paper, part missing] with her, from

her threatening language when intoxicated. About three weeks since Mrs. Johnson was apprehended by the police in a state of intoxication, and was sentenced to twenty-four hours' confinement in default of paying a fine; she was placed in the lockup, East Maitland, and the same night was delivered of a female child. Mrs. Johnson has long been known as a woman of violent temper at times, but has always appeared an affectionate mother, having three other children; it appears, however, that she has continued drinking more or less ever since the birth of this last child, and on Tuesday or Wednesday morning had some liquor at Mr. Fulford's inn, when she, in an incoherent manner, said she should be hanged, and that she had killed her child; but when asked how it was done she said some of the children had done it by pulling a box on it. As she appeared talking at random Mr. Fulford took no heed of her words. She also told constable **M'MANUS** on Wednesday that her child was dead, clapping her hands, but on his questioning her she said it was not dead, but that the children had pulled a box on it; her strange manner again led to no further action being taken. On Friday, she was drinking several times during the day at Mr. Kerrigan's inn, and went to the lockup, intoxicated, to complain of having lost her money; M'Manus advised her to go home to her children, but she said a woman was at home minding them. At what hour the poor little infant died is not known, but it was last seen out with her on Friday. On Saturday morning, about four o'clock, she roused up Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, crying out that her child was dead, and accusing herself of having killed it; Dr. M'Cartney observed that she had an infant in her arms, and on examining it found the poor child was really dead. As she threatened to destroy herself he sent for a constable, and gave her into custody for protection. About the same hour her neighbours were alarmed by the screams of a female from her house, as if in distress (possibly on her returning home and finding the child dead), and about five o'clock some of them went to the house, and found her third child outside, lying on some rubbish, alive, but cold and helpless, as if it had lain there some time; they passed it in through the window to the two elder children. A post mortem examination was made by Dr. M'Cartney, who found all the organs healthy, but the heart bloodless, gall-bladder distended, stomach empty, without food digested or indigested, and the whole of the intestinal canal quite empty and distended with wind; the body was much emaciated, but no marks of violence was found upon it; the child died from inanition or want of food. To further questions Dr. M'Cartney replied that he thought the child must have been dead 16 or 17 hours (before the examination), and that it must have suffered from neglect for a much longer time than two days. The jury returned a verdict that Mary Johnson was guilty of manslaughter by causing the death of her child through wilful neglect. She was then committed for trial.

**A MAN DROWNED.** - On Monday morning an inquest was commenced at Morpeth before Mr. **PARKER** on the body of **JOHN STEWARD**, a man stated to have been in the employment of Smith, the Paterson boatman, and to have been drowned at Hinton last week. The body was found floating in the river on Monday morning, close to the Queen's Wharf, Morpeth. The inquest was adjourned till Wednesday (this day) for further evidence.

**IPSWICH, FEB. 22. - FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Tuesday afternoon a fine lad named **JOHN GEORGE MYERS**, aged about twelve years, the son of a respectable resident of this town, was unfortunately drowned while bathing in the Bremer. The body was not recovered until it had been under water for the space of about ten minutes, when it was brought up by one of a party of blacks who had been called on for assistance. Every means was used to restore animation, but, alas, all was in vain,

and the afflicted parents were left to mourn over their heavy loss. *Correspondent of Moreton Bay Courier*

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1851

(Before his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson.)

MURDER.

The trial of **WILLIAM HAYES**, indicted for the wilful murder of **BENJAMIN COTT**, at Dagworth, on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1850, was resumed.

[The full evidence given on Friday for the crown was full reported in the *Mercury* of Saturday.]

Dr. Scott recalled by the Court: Witness was certain deceased could not have inflicted the wounds on himself.

**JOHN JAMIESON**, runner and collector in the *Maitland Mercury* office, knew Hayes by sight, as a milkman; Hayes, on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, bought a paper from witness, about seven o'clock in the morning, as witness was returning from delivering the papers; Hayes gave witness a shilling, and witness told him he would get change for it; Hayes said he was in no hurry for it; witness took him to a small shop, obtained change, and gave it to Hayes; the paper produced was a copy of the same date; Hayes never bought a paper from witness previously; in the paper of that day appeared a paragraph, which witness pointed out; it briefly mentioned that Cott was missing, and the general circumstances attending his last being seen alive; Hayes was not delivering milk at that time, but had a bindle in his hand; witness used to meet him every morning he delivered the papers, until Hayes ceased to bring milk in.

By the jury: Witness had delivered the papers for upwards of three years; Hayes had never bought a paper from witness before.

Ellen Staunton, sixteen years old, was recalled, and again examined as to her competency to be sworn, and Mr. **MOORE DILLON**, the Criminal Crown Solicitor, was examined as to a conversation he had with her as to her competency on Friday, after she had appeared in the witness box. She was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for contempt of court.

The Attorney General stated that he meant to institute enquiries whether an conspiracy existed among any of the witnesses called in this case, that if it proved to be the case they might be prosecuted.

Michael Staunton, twelve years old, was then re-called, and again examined as to his competency. He was not sworn.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Purefoy submitted to the court that the means of death were not proved as laid in the indictment. He quoted decisions in cases that had been reserved.

His Honor was satisfied with the evidence in the case, but would reserve the point if desired.

Mr. Purefoy addressed the jury for the defence, impressing on them the serious importance, to the prisoner and the public, of the case they were trying. The life of a fellow being rested on their verdict. He would entreat of them to regards the observations he should address to them as only of weight when supported by, or being a fair deduction from, the evidence. In this case, as in most others where human life had been taken, the evidence was purely of a circumstantial nature; but circumstantial evidence was often so firmly and so irresistibly linked together in an unbroken chain, that scarcely a possible doubt remained of the real facts, and of the guilt of the prisoner under charge. But then no single circumstance would be shown that was inconsistent with the conclusion, or otherwise the certainty would be

effectually destroyed, and that one circumstance, as affecting the question of the guilty of the prisoner, became of more importance than all the rest. He quoted from works and decisions of undoubted authority to establish this position. The evidence must be so strong as to shut out every other reasonable conclusion than that the prisoner was guilty. And thus circumstantial evidence required the most careful and anxious consideration before a jury could venture to conclude that an accused person was guilty, bearing in mind that even the most apparently conclusive circumstantial evidence had been proved afterwards to be erroneous. He should now carefully endeavour to show them, from a fair examination of the evidence, that all the circumstances shown could be reconciled fairly with the prisoner's innocence, and that none were so conclusive as to his guilt that they could be relied on. He did not intend or purpose to throw suspicion on any other person, but simply would show them that it was not proved that the prisoner was guilty. In the first place, what motive could be deduced from the facts that could account for his committing such a crime on his friend and neighbour. The learned counsel then went through the evidence as to what passed in prisoner's house on the evening Cott was there. Was there anything that passed then to show that such a dreadful crime was about to be perpetrated by the prisoner. Then the evidence as to the appearance of the prisoner and the condition of the premises next morning – how could that be reconciled with the supposition of the prisoner's having murdered Cott during the night, for that was the inference that was sought to be drawn. Was there anything shown, indeed, to prove that Cott was murdered at all on that night? Was there anything so far to raise even a suspicion against the prisoner? Was it not proved by the evidence of Mr. Wood and Mr. Brackenreg that Hayes had lent Cott £10, which had been repaid? Was there one hour of unfriendly feeling between them up to the evening Cott was at Hayes's, or during that evening? It was proved that two windows in the hut of the Stauntons commanded a view of the place where the body was found, and where the murder was constructively committed, if anywhere, and was it possible that on a bright moonlight night Hayes could have left his house, and murdered Cott, and thrown him in the drain, or buried him, without some one of the five Stauntons seeing or hearing of it. If Hayes had never been seen subsequently working at that drain, would there be a shadow of suspicion against him, more than any other man? But his working at the drain was far stronger proof of his innocence than his guilt. It was proved that opening the drain had drained the lagoon originally, and made his land more available. But it was also proved that the original purpose of the drain had long since been answered, and that keeping it open was simply wasting ground; that the far greater portion of the drain had long since been filled up and cultivated; that the seventy-two feet left unfilled at the lower end was of no possible service after the upper part was filled; that its remaining open was an obstacle in ploughing the land properly; and that therefore to fill it up the very thing as good farmer, as prisoner was shown to be, would do. The evidence given as to the peas growing on the spot made it quite evident that the drain was gradually filled up, and peas sown there at different times. No doubt a portion of it must have been filled before Cott's death, or how could vegetation have gone so far? And did not Hayes at once, on being asked by Mr. Wood, admit that he filled the lower end, and the milkman the upper, thus admitting that he filled the very part under which the body was found? Would any man, conscious that the dead body rested there, make such a statement to the chief constable? Would not his first endeavour have been to throw off all connection between himself and that portion of the drain at least? And all Hayes's subsequent conduct, his bringing the spade, his remarks to Mr. Wood, were they not obviously

the actions and words of a man who, until the body was actually found, knew nothing of its being in the drain? The evidence of constable Smith as to what he said to Hayes after Hayes was in custody was evidently not reliable, for such a conversation without previous inducement by Smith, was not credible; but even if the jury believed it, would any man who was conscious of his guilt admit that he put bark and sticks in the drain? It was proved by another witness that in his opinion enough bark and sticks were found over the body to effectually cover it, without any earth. And to this conclusion, indeed, all the evidence as to the condition of the body and the drain, led. Hayes's alleged conversations with other constables were so unlikely and extraordinary that her thought very little consideration would satisfy the jury that they could not rely on them, particularly the conversation related by constable Pool, with its attendant circumstances. He did not seek to impute the guilt of this crime to any man, but he contended that the evidence was no more suspicious against Hayes than against any other man in his house; nay it was less so, for there were many circumstances throwing suspicion on John Staunton, the milkman, that did not affect Hayes. He felt that he need not caution the jury with regard to forming their opinion, and resting their verdict, solely on the evidence, and not on anything they had previously heard, or opinions they had previously formed. They could attach no weight whatever to the finding of the axe in Hayes's house, not concealed in any way, many days after he was in custody, with no constable in charge at his house. The learned counsel then recapitulated the grounds on which it appeared to him the crown relied as proving the guilt of the prisoner, and pointed out how he had sown in his opinion that none of them established his guilt, nay, that each of them went to establish his innocence.

His Honor then summed up, pointing out the exact points in the indictment necessary to be proved before the jury could come to the conclusion that the prisoner was guilty. If the jury found that Cott was killed by the prisoner in the manner laid in the indictment the law presumed malice aforethought. He pointed out the general nature of the cases in which malice would not be presumed on the killing of one man by another. It would be a question for them whether, if they found that Cott was killed by the prisoner, anything was shown by the evidence that would remove the presumption of malice, and reduce the crime from murder to manslaughter or homicide. The question they were called on to decide was not whether prisoner really was guilty, but whether he was proved to be guilty. What might have been proved, what they had heard, what opinion they had formed previously, what would be the consequence of their verdict – were not matters for their consideration, but simply what had been proved. He should presently read over the whole of the evidence to them. He would now tell them that in his opinion there was evidence – how much evidence he left them to say – that Benjamin Cott was missing, that a body was found, that the clothes were recognised as Cotts', that a key which unlocked his box was taken from these clothes, that his death had been violent, that he had been buried – they would say how far these facts proved that Benjamin Cott had been killed, and that his body had been found. The question then was, did the prisoner kill him? The evidence as to this question was circumstantial only, as it usually was in cases of violent death. In some respects the circumstantial evidence of a number of witnesses was less liable to suspicion than the direct evidence of one or two persons, but in others it was more doubtful, inasmuch as nearly all circumstances were capable of more than one explanation. They must then apply the most careful consideration to the evidence, and see whether all the circumstances led reasonably and directly to the conclusion that the prisoner was guilty; for they were not at liberty, as in civil cases,

to estimate the balance of evidence, for although the balance might be against the prisoner, yet he was entitled to their verdict if any reasonable doubt, not a forced one – remained of his guilt. He quoted to the jury the opinion on this question of Laplace, and of the learned judge Baron Alderson. The circumstances proved must not only be consistent with the conclusion of the prisoner's guilt, but must be entirely inconsistent with any other reasonable conclusion; and no other circumstances must be supposed or presumed by the jury to make out the conclusion of the prisoner's guilt. They must deal only and strictly with the circumstances proved. His Honor then read through the whole of the evidence, commenting on it, and drawing the attention of the jury to points elucidating each other, as he proceeded. He would now leave the case in their hands, the question for them being whether the prisoner killed Benjamin Cott by striking him on the head with a blunt instrument, and inflicting contusions of which he died, for if they came to that conclusion, under the circumstances show, it appeared to him that such killing was wilful murder, as charged in the indictment.

Mr. Brackenreg recalled: Hayes never on any occasion told witness, or said in witness's presence, that he had lent Cott money, or that the £9 was in part payment of a debt.

The jury retired at ten minutes past two o'clock, and returned at three o'clock, with a verdict of guilty.

His Honor passed sentence on the prisoner, briefly but impressively addressing him. The prisoner had been indicted for the wilful murder of Benjamin Cott, and after a long and patient investigation, during which the prisoner was ably defended by two counsel, the jury had found the prisoner guilty. For himself he could only say that he fully concurred in the verdict of the jury, as he thought every reasonable man must do who had heard the evidence in the case; he felt almost as fully convinced of the guilt of the prisoner as if he had seen him perform the deed. It was impossible for the prisoner to complain that justice had overtaken him, looking at the dreadful outrage he had committed on a fellow being. One remarkable feature in the case was the absence of all apparent motive, but no doubt that would be explained if it were possible to know all that passed. It was one of the most brutal and barbarous murders he remembered. It was not necessary that he should keep the prisoner longer waiting in that box, or that he should seek to aggravate his feelings now; he recommended him, as there was not the slightest chance of mercy in this world, to turn his thoughts to the next world, and to see his clergyman that he might prepare himself to make his peace with God. His Honor then proceeded to pass sentence of death on the prisoner in the usual form.

DISCHARGE. - On the application of Mr. Purefoy, **ROBERT BYFIELD**, committed for trial for manslaughter on the verdict of a coroner's jury (Cassilis), was discharged on entering into his own recognizance of £100 to appear when called on; it appearing from the statement of the Attorney General that there was not legal evidence sufficient to put Byfield on his trial, in consequence of the dying deposition of the principal witness not having been taken.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/699, 15/03/1851

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held at the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle, on Monday morning, about nine o'clock, on the body of **RACHEL MARCUS**, a child aged two years. The child was burned to death in its bed; the fire having been caused by the servant girl having incautiously left the candle near the bed! Verdict of "died from injuries received by accidental burning." The coroner reprimanded the girl, at the request of the jury, for her culpable neglect. *Empire*, March 12

## THE ABERGLASLYN MURDER.

[see also March 3, 1852]

In the *Mercury* of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant we briefly reported the proceedings of an inquest held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the body of **ROSE M'NAMARA**, when a verdict of wilful murder was pronounced against **PATRICK M'NAMARA**, her husband. As M'Namara's trial was fixed to take place during the recent Circuit Court (the just commenced) we published simply a brief outline of the facts. On Tuesday last, however (as reported in Wednesday's *Mercury*), N'Namara succeeded in obtaining a postponement of his trial, on the ground that he required a material witness (**RICHARD HERRIGAN**) who was with him the whole of the Sunday on which the murder was committed.

As M'Namara was not arrested till after the inquest was over, he had not of course had the opportunity of hearing the witnesses give their evidence, or of cross-examining them; and, in order to give him this opportunity, the Attorney General directed that the witnesses should be re-examined in his presence. This examination accordingly took place on Wednesday, in the presence of M'Namara, in the gaol, the magistrates present being Major Crummer, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Day. We proceed to give an abstract of the facts disclosed in this evidence.

Patrick M'Namara is a young man, of tall and powerful make, and has been for some years working about Maitland as a labourer in various trades. About two or three years since he married his late wife, Rose M'Namara, whose maiden name was Rose Kelly, and who was always a young woman of excellent character. They had one child, a girl, born about December, 1849, and lived together until January last.

In January last M'Namara and his wife were living in a cottage on the Oakhampton Road, near West Maitland, James Moy and his wife living near them. On a Sunday early in that month Mrs. Moy heard M'Namara and his wife quarrelling, and going to them found M'Namara ordering his wife to go in and get his breakfast, and Mrs. M'Namara replying to him "Leave me alone, leave me alone," which she explained to Mrs. Moy by saying she was afraid from the threats to go into the house. After some parley Mrs. M'Namara went over to Mrs. Moy's house with her, for protection, and on the way M'Namara said he would kill his wife, using a bad expression. At Moy's Mrs. M'Namara went into the bedroom, and stopped there, N'Namara remaining in the sitting-room, and still quarrelling with his wife, who used no bad language to him, but complained of his violence, and that he had starved her; M'Namara rose and looked at her, and said "I'll hang for you as surely as ever Bill Hayes will hang." Eventually M'Namara went home again, his wife remaining at Mrs. Moy's for a time; that same day Mrs. M'Namara went to her father's house, and she never returned to live with her husband again, refusing all his offers. Whether she ever saw him again before the day she was killed has not been proved. After remaining at her father's a short time she went with her child to live at her brother-in-law's, James M'Phelimy, at Aberglaslyn, about three miles from Maitland. M'Namara told Mrs. Moy, after his wife left, that his wife might go to her friends and have her things, provided she would give him up the child.

M'Namara sold his furniture, and gave directions that his wife's clothes, &c., might be taken by her, and they were obtained by her brother. M'Namara in February lodged at a lodging-house in Maitland, kept by Edmund Doyle; here he frequently talked about his wife's persisting in keeping away from him, and spoke unfriendly of her, but kindly of his child; on one occasion, when his wife was the subject of conversation, some one said that she would not return to him, when M'Namara said it would not end well. This was about a week or more before Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Doyle gave M'Namara notice to leave his house, and his time expired on Saturday

evening, the 1<sup>st</sup> March. On the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, about breakfast time, M'Namara, after cleaning himself, left Doyle's house, saying he would take a walk in the bush, and would come for his clothes in the afternoon, as he was going to Mrs. Robinson's. He never returned to the house, however, nor sent for his clothes until he was in custody. M'Namara used to carry a middle-sized clasp knife, but whether he had it that morning when he left Doyle did not know.

Between nine and ten o'clock on that morning, William Ward, stockkeeper for Mr. Mitchell, of Melville, was riding towards Maitland [line missing, crease in paper] mile from the first entrance gate he was hailed by M'Namara, whom he knew well by sight; M'Namara was alone, and asked the way to Mr. Hobler's farm; Ward pointed out the road to him, and rode on, M'Namara taking the road to Aberglaslyn House.

The estate of Aberglaslyn is of considerable size, and was formerly owned and occupied by Mr. G. Hobler, who built a large house on it, and formed a vineyard, orchard, and garden there. The estate and house have now for some years been leased by Mr. W. Nicholson. A portion of the cultivation land on the estate is let to small settlers, James M'Phelemy, Henry Hinton, Daniel Hartigan, and others. James M'Phelemy, with whom Rose M'Namara had taken refuge, being her brother-in-law, lives very near to the vineyard (beyond the garden); Hinton's house commands a view of the back of M'Phelemy's house, and is some 500 or 600 yards from it. Some distance from their houses is a gate opening from a grass paddock on to a road used by many settlers in that neighbourhood in coming to Maitland. A plan, prepared by Mr. R.W. Goodall, surveyor, was produced at the examination, and the witnesses pointed out the localities as they proceeded.

About ten o'clock, they thought, Henry Hinton and his wife saw a man standing at the gate spoken of; three persons passed along the road in the direction of Maitland, and afterwards James M'Phelemy and his wife passed along, on their way to Maitland to attend divine worship. Hinton and his wife observed that at the time these various persons passed the gate the man could not be seen, and that after they had passed he was at the gate again. Hinton positively identified M'Namara (whom he had seen before) as that man, but his wife could only say he was like the man in size and appearance; about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour after M'Phelemy and his wife had passed along the road, they saw M'Namara leave the gate and go along the fence, a paling fence, towards M'Phelemy's house. About the same time a shepherd boy, named Edward Glasheen, was herding sheep in the paddock; as Glasheen left the neighbourhood of M'Phelemy's house he saw M'Namara, whom he positively identified, in the paddock at some distance, going towards some gum tress; M'Namara then turned his course, and went towards the fence, which he passed through at an opening in the palings; some of the sheep passed through at another hole, and Glasheen whistled to recall them; the sound reached M'Namara and he turned, and called out to the lad, asking whether the house he was then going towards (pointing to Hinton's) was Dan Hartigan's; Glasheen said no, it was down in the hollow; M'Namara then said, "Is that James M'Phelemy's house," pointing towards it; Glasheen said yes; M'Namara asked who was at home; Glasheen said James's sister-in-law and the children; M'Namara said "Good-bye," and immediately went towards that house, but Glasheen did not notice him far, attending to his sheep; Glasheen did not observe anything in his hand. Mr. and Mrs. Hinton observed M'Namara, as we have stated, go along the fence towards James M'Phelemy's house, and Hinton lost sight of him about three rods from it, but Mrs. Hinton saw him pass through the slip rails in the fence at the back of the house, and go round the corner of the house towards the front door, she losing sight of him at the corner. Neither

Hinton, his wife, or Glasheen, saw M'Namara any more, and it was proved that any person could leave the house and premises without being seen from Hinton's.

In the house at the time were Rose M'Namara, her child, and three of James M'Phelemy's children, the eldest being Ellen, five years old. Ellen M'Phelemy proved too young to be examined on oath, and was so unwilling or afraid to speak that no statement even was taken from her, although the magistrates tried every fair means of giving her confidence.

Mrs. Hinton was just about leaving her house to go to M'Phelemy's for milk when she lost sight of M'Namara round the corner of the house, and she returned inside, being unwilling to go over just then. Glasheen came to Hinton's just then, and got some peaches, and remained there a few minutes; he then returned to his sheep, and headed them towards M'Phelemy's; at that moment, about a quarter of an hour perhaps after he had last seen M'Namara going towards M'Phelemy's, Glasheen saw the children coming away from the house, and went to meet them; he found M'Phelemy's three children coming first, and saw little Annie M'Namara just coming away from the slip-rails at the back, crying, her clothes disordered, and appearing covered all over with what he first thought dirt, but which he soon saw was blood; Glasheen asked Ellen what was the matter with Annie; she said "Pat has done it;" Glasheen asked where was Rosey, and the little girl told him she'd tell him if he'd go and fetch her brother's hood;" Glasheen called out "Rosey, Rosey," and getting no answer he ran off to Hinton's, being frightened; he met Mrs. Hinton just coming across the second time for milk, but upon telling her what he had seen, and what Ellen said, Mrs. Hinton immediately concluded that it was M'Namara who had gone to the house, and fearing the worst, from having previously been told by Mrs. M'Namara that she feared for her life whenever she should meet her husband, Mrs. Hinton ran back and told Hinton Pat was killing his wife, and urged him to go over. The time when the children were thus met with was fixed by Mrs. Hinton and her husband at a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes from the time they lost sight of M'Namara at the house.

Hinton went over and brought home the poor little child, Annie, who was completely covered with blood, but unhurt. Hinton now went for Hartigan and other neighbours, being afraid to go into the house by himself. Hinton, Glasheen, and Bridget Riley, followed by Hartigan and William Price, then went to the house, and looking in through the back window, saw Mrs. M'Namara lying on the floor in the front room, apparently dead, and a great quantity of blood about her body and the floor. William M'Phelemy, a brother of James M'Phelemy, was sent for, and when he came the whole party entered the house, and found Mrs. M'Namara quite dead, lying on her side, with a large cut on her neck or throat, and apparently several other cuts and stabs; the door between the front room and the skillion was thrown off its hinges, and was lying in the skillion, and the floor and other articles in the skillion were covered or sprinkled with blood, while every appearance was seen as if a struggle had taken place there. The Coroner was then sent for, the body being left undisturbed.

Dr. M'Cartney, the surgeon who was examined at the inquest, and again now, found a very deep cut on the right side of the neck, commencing near the chin, and extending back about four inches; this wound severed the blood vessels, and both the external and internal carotid artery, and must have caused death in a few seconds. The body was otherwise frightfully injured, and there were other mortal wounds. The wounds had been inflicted with a sharp instrument, and might have been done with a

pocket-knife; several of the wounds could not have been inflicted by the deceased herself.

At present there is no evidence as to M'Namara's movements during the remainder of that day until about dusk, when he was met near Mr. Cobb's lagoon, two or three miles from Aberglaslyn, by James Cavenagh, a settler on Mr. Cobb's estate; M'Namara's trousers then looked dirty or wet. About two or three hours after dark, M'Namara called at the house of another settler on the estate, named William Ling, and obtained a drink of tea; he only went in for a moment while he drank the tea, and pulled his hat down over his eyes, but Ling knew him, and observed that the right sleeve of M'Namara's coat was bloody inside the elbow and near the wrist. When M'Namara left he inquired if that was the road, pointing to where it ran, by the fence, and on being told it was, he went along the road, as if going towards Maitland.

On the afternoon of the following day, Monday, M'Namara called at the house of John Kilfoil, on a farm between Stony Creek and the residence of the Rev. Dean Lynch. Kilfoil was not at home, and his wife, in great terror, quietly left the house, beckoning to her daughter to follow, and went apparently to Mr. Lynch's. Anne Kilfoil, her daughter sixteen years old, was in the yard when she saw her mother leaving and beckoning to her, and on looking into the house she saw M'Namara shutting the front door; she was afraid to follow her mother lest he should pursue them and kill them, and she accordingly remained, avoiding going near M'Namara as much as possible, but doing whatever he told her. M'Namara went into the kitchen, and Anne Kilfoil made him a cup of tea. Afterwards Mrs. Kilfoil returned, accompanied by Mr. Lynch and his servant; Mr. Lynch remained some time conversing with M'Namara alone, and when he left Mrs. Kilfoil again left the house, and walked about the paddocks, leaving her daughter only at the house. At M'Namara's request Anne Kilfoil afterwards took to him a blue shirt and a pair of old trousers, and she noticed soon after a smell of burning clothes in the kitchen; she afterwards went into the kitchen for a moment, and saw in the fireplace a quantity of tinder, and the remains of the waistband of a pair of trousers still burning; she never afterwards saw the trousers and shirt M'Namara had worn when he entered the house, M'Namara having put on those she brought him. She had noticed that his trousers, from the knee to the boots, were bloody. M'Namara had worn a dark waistcoat when he left Maitland, and when he was seen at Aberglaslyn by Hinton and Glasheen, but when he reached Kilfoil's he had no waistcoat on. He had apparently worn the same coat throughout.

M'Namara remained quietly at Kilfoil's till about sundown, when constables M'Manus and Raftery arrived, and apprehended him, information having been sent in. Previously Mr. Lynch's man and another man had arrived at the house, and remained there till the constables came. On his way to gaol, whither he was taken on the coroner's warrant, M'Namara asked M'Manus several questions, but made no statement, except he wanted his trial postponed that he might have time to see his brother, who is living at Moreton Bay.

Throughout the examination of the witnesses, which lasted from ten o'clock till between four and five o'clock, M'Namara put but few questions, but he stated more than once that the stains on his clothes were caused by his working in a tan-yard, particularly when Ling pointed out slight marks at the same part of the coat-sleeve where he observed the blood.

**A BOATMAN DROWNED.** - On Monday last, and by adjournment on Tuesday, an inquest was held at Morpeth before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of a man named **EDWARD STEWARD**. It appeared from the evidence that Steward was in the employment of **WILLIAM SMITH**, the Paterson boatman, and that on Thursday

evening, the 6<sup>th</sup>, Steward got intoxicated; he slept on deck as usual that night, and he and Smith were conversing till a pretty late hour, Smith being in the cabin, and the boat then anchored at the mouth of the Paterson River; Smith then turned in and went to sleep, and did not wake till sunrise the next morning, when to his great surprise he could see nothing of Steward, nor could he hear of him at the public-houses in Hinton or Morpeth. The boat was decked and had no bulwarks, and it was thought probable that Steward had slipped off into the water, being drunk. On Monday morning Steward's body was found floating in the Hunter, opposite the Queen's Wharf, Morpeth. At the request of the jury a post mortem examination was made, when Dr. **M'CARTNEY** found no marks of violence on the body, which presented the usual appearances of death by drowning. A verdict was returned of death by drowning, caused by rolling or falling overboard from a decked boat into the Paterson River.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Tuesday last an elderly man, named **SAMUEL DAVIS**, went from East Maitland to Morpeth with a load of wheat; Davis, who was a habitual drunkard, was intoxicated on his return, and was seen by two return coal carriers to be flogging his horse into a gallop, after he had been stopping a short time; Davis was then standing up in the cart, and still continued flogging the horse, until he suddenly lost his balance, and fell backwards, and the wheel appeared to go over some portion of his body. The carters, **CLARKE** and **MURPHY**, ran up, and removed him to the side of the road, and as he appeared badly hurt, he was placed on a bed of [crease in paper] in his cart, and driven gently home, his house being in East Maitland. Dr. **BROWN** was called in, but Davies died on Wednesday afternoon. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when the above evidence was given, and a post-mortem examination was made by Dr. **SCOTT**, which showed that an injury on the left temple, either inflicted by the fall, or by the wheel going over the head, had caused a disturbance of the brain, and led to his death. A verdict was returned of accidental death, in accordance with the evidence.

**THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD.** - Under the heading of "two children lost in the bush," we promised to give in an early number of the *Mercury* an account of their perilous stroll; we now have an opportunity of keeping our promise. On Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> ult., Mr. **JACOB PORTER**, a carpenter and settler, residing on Cockfighter's Creek, being from home, Mrs. Porter sent her son **THOMAS**, an interesting little boy, seven years of age, to bring in the milkers, when his brother **WILLIAM**, aged five years, accompanied him, without the knowledge of his mother. They left home about 1 p.m., and not having returned when their father came home in the evening, about sundown, the father went in search of them, and brought home the cows, but could not find the children; the parents then, becoming alarmed, made a search in their own neighbourhood until daybreak the next morning, but without success. The distracted father then obtained the assistance of some of his neighbours, who scoured Blaxland's Ranges. At about ten o'clock the news reached Mr. M'Alpin's, about three miles from Mr. Porter's, where a strong force of pedestrians collected, and the tracks of the lost ones were at last discovered in the adjacent creek, and followed up to Mr. Hale's paddock – a very extensive one – at Wambo, in which they continued their search with praiseworthy perseverance, until darkness prevented their proceedings. They found by the indications of the tracks that the children had parted company. Next morning (Saturday) a large party of equestrians set off to scour a thick scrub in the same paddock, which was done very carefully over, and over again, without success, the tracks being difficult to discover, except where it was sandy, and the party had no blackfellow to assist them. The afternoon had advanced considerably when some of the party discovered a track outside the fence in the direction of Dight's Creek. At

this crisis a messenger arrived, and informed the party (as many as were present) that all was right, as the young travellers were found, alive and well; the party reached their homes by sunset, with the exception of those outside the fence, who were out till a late hour. From what can be learned from the children, and which agrees with the tracks discovered, the following particulars may be gathered. On Thursday night they slept by a fire that was burning in a creek half a mile from Mr. M'Alpin's. At daylight on the Friday they proceeded down the creek, passing many houses on either side, to Mr. Hale's paddock; and at evening the eldest boy put his little brother to bed on a broken stump, when, thinking that he was near home, he told him that he would go home, get his dinner, and bring him some. (We were told by one of the party that when the little fellow lay on the stump he was paid a nocturnal visit by a native dog, but upon the youngster singing out "hold him" as loud as he was able, the dingo sneaked away with his tail between his legs.) The eldest boy not finding home returned to find his brother, but his feelings were greatly shocked to find him gone. He therefore took a circuitous route, by the creek, over some sand hills in the bush towards Dight's Dreek, came back again to his former creek, crossed it, travelled to the foot of the mountains, came back again to the creek, and was picked up at last within a quarter of a mile of the fire in the creek by which he slept on the first night. The younger brother, William, when he awoke, made for the creek, and proceeded along it in the direction for home, stopped at Mr. Houlahan's, on the bank of the creek, and told who he was. He was there kindly treated, and after partaking some refreshment, carried home on horseback. Both brothers reached home within an hour of each other, and the great joy of their distracted mother on seeing them can be better imagined than described. The father did not come home till after the arrival of the children. They stated that all they had to subsist on during the time they were lost was two peaches that they found in the bush (supposed to be dropped by the crows, having holes in them), and a few drinks of water. They were both hospitably entertained as soon as discovered, and each carried home on horseback. The parents feel extremely grateful for the kind assistance they received. March 13, 1851.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/700, 19/03/1851

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Saturday evening **THOMAS TONGE**, an elderly man in the employ of Mr. Graham, of the Crown and Anchor Inn, Morpeth, went to assist in bringing home a goat that was browsing on the verge of the precipice near Mr. Graham's, between the upper and lower roads, Morpeth. Tonge was seen by two persons to entice the goat with a little grass, and then to take up a rope tied to the goat; one person, standing underneath, saw him pulling at this rope, which suddenly appeared to break or slip, when Tonge fell back, and rolled over the precipice, a depth of some fourteen feet, falling on his head, which struck a large rock. The fall fractured his skull, and he never spoke or moved afterwards, dying almost immediately. Tonge was formerly lockup keeper at West Maitland, but latterly had become quite a cripple, from rheumatism and the effects of an accident. An inquest was held on the body, on Sunday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when a verdict of accidental death was returned, the jury requesting the Coroner to communicate with the owner of the land as to the necessity for putting a fence on the top of the precipice for protection.

BODY FOUND. - Early yesterday morning the dead body of a man unknown was picked up by the Cockatoo police, and was removed to the yard of the Water Police Office, where it now lies for identification. There is a severe cut on the inside of each wrist, and the body has the appearance of having bled to death. Description: about 5

feet 6 inches in height, stout made, and apparently forty years of age; shirt marked C.B. 12. *Herald, March 15*

INQUEST. - An inquest was on Saturday held at Smith's, the Observer Tavern, Lower George-street, on the body reported in Saturday's *Herald* as having been found by the Cockatoo police. A lodging-house keeper named Jones identified the body as that of a German named **POPPS**, who for some time past had appeared to be labouring under depression of spirits. Dr. **TIERNEY** examined the body, and deposed that, although the wounds on the wrist were insufficient to cause death, yet the sinews were not so severed as that deceased might not have inflicted them himself, when near the water, into which probably he fell when faint from loss of blood. Verdict – put a period to his own existence while suffering under temporary insanity. *Herald, March 17*

HORRIBLE RECITAL. - On Wednesday last an intelligent boy, about nine years old, appeared before the police magistrate to make a statement of having seen a dead body in the river. He deposed that his name was **DAVID CUMMINGS**, and that on the preceding Friday, in the afternoon, he was, with his little brother, endeavouring to launch his father's boat from the banks of the river, near Mr. Kilner's residence, at Bulimba, when he observed the dead body of a man lying with the head in the mud on the bank, and the feet in the water. A lot of sharks and porpoises were about the body. The sharks tore the clothes that were on it, and took the head off, and tore out the bowels; after which they seized the body by the legs, and dragged it into deep water; the feet then appeared above the surface of the water, and the boy saw that they had low boots on, without any strings. The body then disappeared. The witness stated that it was a big man, dressed in a white shirt and corduroy trousers. *Moreton Bay Courier, 8<sup>th</sup> March*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/701, 22/03/1851

SUICIDE. - An inquest was held yesterday at Smith's, the Observer Tavern, Lower George-street, on the body of **PATRICK M'CARTHY**, a stonemason, aged 30, who threw himself into the water, at the North Shore, while labouring under "the horrors," or *delirium tremens*. Deceased had been a teetotaler for some time, but had recently broken the pledge, drank to great excess, and was suffering from *delirium tremens*. Verdict, "drowned himself while in a state of temporary insanity." *Herald, 17<sup>th</sup> March*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/702, 26/03/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.

CLARENCE RIVER

FATAL ACCIDENTS. - It is our painful duty to record three melancholy accidents which have occurred in this district within the last three months. February 6<sup>th</sup>, **THOMAS BRADY**, who arrived, in this colony, as an emigrant, about two years since, met with an untimely death by the following extraordinary accident. He was employed falling timber, for Mr. Sharp, and in falling a large tree it came in contact with another that also falling knocked a limb off a third, which fell on deceased and broke his neck. An inquest was held on the body, before **F.H.F. PHILLIPS**, Esq., J.P., where a verdict of accidental death was returned.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, **JAMES ROCHE**, formerly a soldier in the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and since discharged, with a pension, was unfortunately drowned whilst bathing at the first falls of this river. Deceased was a man of excellent character, and on his discharge was presented with a silver watch for the fidelity of his service in the regiment in which he

acted as orderly clerk. He has lately been employed as Secretary to the Commissioner of Crown Lands at the Red Rock, and was about returning to Sydney. His death was purely accidental, and as he was a good swimmer it is supposed that he must have been seized with the cramp.

March 8<sup>th</sup>, **MARTIN QUIRK**, an exile per ship *Haverling*, whilst swimming a mare across the river from North to South Grafton, was suddenly jerked into the river and drowned, in spite of all the endeavours of the boatmen to save him. His body was not found until Sunday evening, when an inquest was held before **F.H.F. PHILLIPS**, Esq., J.P., and a verdict of accidental death returned. Too much praise cannot be awarded to our worthy chief constable, Mr. **S. ABBOTT**, for his unceasing exertions during the whole of Saturday and Sunday in dragging the river for the body.

#### THE CATTLE DISEASE. - DEATH FROM THE ABSORPTION OF ANIMAL POISON.

An inquest was held yesterday (Wednesday), by Mr. **DOWE**, the Coroner, at M'Quade's hotel, on the body of one **JOHN CLYNES**, commonly known as "**Connaught Jack**," then lying in the dead house. The evidence was as follows;- **DANIEL CANNING** deposed - that he was in the employ of Mr. **GEORGE ROUSE**, at his boiling down establishment, South Creek; that last Monday week witness and the deceased were sent to draw a lot of pigs that had died from disease, to an adjoining paddock to be burnt; witness counted sixteen of them; they took them in a cart, dragging them into the cart with long iron hooks; some they dragged under the cart by fixing the hooks into their legs and fastening them to the axle-tree; they dragged them out of the cart in the same manner, and having made a fire round and under them, returned together to the establishment. Deceased was not away from him all the time; neither of them handled the pigs, and witness did not hear or see anything of the bursting of one of the pigs. The pigs before they died were seized with a swelling in the neck, which extended over the whole body; they generally died in twenty-four hours after the symptoms of disease appeared. Deceased complained first on Friday morning last of a pain in the back. On Saturday he was laid up, and when witness saw him next on Sunday morning his head and face were swollen, which swelling extended down to his shoulders. Witness did not see him again till he saw him dead in Windsor. Witness said that more pigs were expected to die.

**HENRY DAY**, Esq., Surgeon, deposed that he saw the deceased on Monday, about mid-day, that he was then labouring under great difficulty of breathing and also under the effects of the poison. On the inner part of the right eye-brow there was a slight excoriation. The right side of the head, chest, and neck were much swollen. The pulse was indicative of arterial depression; quick, small, and intermitting. The deceased stated to witness that there was a slight excoriation on his brow caused by a cinder, and that it was whilst he was burning the pigs, the one of them burst, and that deceased being in a state of great perspiration, he rubbed it with his hand. Witness stated that the symptoms in this case appeared to be much the same as those which have occurred elsewhere in the county of Cumberland, but that this had been a prolonged case. The absorption of animal matter in a diseased state would produce the same effects, and that it was identical with the disease which has been prevalent for some months back; that it would cause death, and is produced by absorption of animal poison. In answer to a juror, who was very sceptical as to there being anything the matter with the pigs, witness positively swore that the death of the deceased was caused entirely by the absorption of animal poison. The jury returned a verdict, by a majority of eleven, that the aforesaid John Clyne's death was caused by the absorption of animal poison. *Windsor Correspondent of the Herald*

**A MAN DROWNED.** - An inquest was held on Saturday, at Mr. Cunningham's, Sackville Reach, Colo, upon the body of one **DANIEL HADYN**, one of the crew of the yacht *Pearl*. The *Pearl* had been at anchor within about two miles of Windsor, and was making her way back to Sydney. Having arrived at Sackville Reach, and come to an anchor, the deceased proceeded to bathe; not being a good swimmer he did not intend to proceed far from the vessel. Having swam more than half-way betwixt the vessel and the shore, it is supposed that finding his strength failing him, and that he could not swim back to the vessel, he attempted to reach the shore. In this attempt he got entangled among some weeds, and instantly went down; he never rose to the surface again. When the body was recovered life was quite extinct. A verdict was returned in accordance with the evidence. The deceased had not been long in the colony, and his sister had recently come out to him from England. *Herald's Windsor correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/703, 29/03/1851

**INQUEST.** - An inquest was held, on Wednesday last, at Mr. Parnell's, near the Bulga, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of five, touching the death of **FRANCIS MILLER**, there lying dead. It appeared from the evidence of **JOHN M'CRACKEN**, that he, (witness,) having a quantity of sheep to bring down the country, hired deceased at Mr. Eaton's station, called Cobbity, to assist him with the sheep, which he had brought down from the M'Intyre; deceased complained of a pain in his chest, and stated that he wished to get down to Sydney to get admission into the hospital; they started from Cobbity on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, deceased complaining of getting worse as they proceeded; on their route they were caught in a severe thunder storm; on the evening of Monday last, as they were approaching the foot of the Bulga, deceased was too ill to proceed; witness endeavoured to get him on as far as Mr. Parnell's, but could not, deceased being too ill to proceed; deceased died about 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> instant; deceased had no medical aid all the way down. Verdict - "Died from natural causes."

**MURDER.** - On St. Patrick's Day, a man named **CUTTER** and his wife, and an acquaintance called **CARROLL**, were drinking at the Ashfield tavern, Wheeho; Carroll induced Cutter's wife to go outside with him; Cutter came upon them, and struck Carroll on the head with a slip rail. The blow rendered the man insensible, and he died in half an hour afterwards. Cutter, on coming to know who the man was, stooped down and kissed the body, exclaiming that he would not have hurt him if he had known who it was. The scene of the murder is outside of our coroner's district. We believe an inquest was held by the Coroner from Yass, but we have no heard the result. *Herald's Goulburn Correspondent*

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.** - A poor fellow named **STAMMERS** met an untimely death at Drayton, on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, whilst blasting a rock, in company with another man, at Mr. Ayerst's boiling-down establishment. It appears that the fuse he had inserted into the charge did not seem to burn; he went back to the rock, to examine it, and just as he reached the spot the powder exploded, scattering the rock in all directions, and mutilating him in a fearful manner - death was of course instantaneous. *Herald's Brisbane Correspondent*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/704, 02/04/1851

**SYDNEY NEWS.**

A most lamentable accident occurred yesterday afternoon: four persons, two males and two females, were fishing, I believe, in a boat between Garden Island and

Rushcutter's Bay, when the boat upset, and the two females were drowned. One of them was a Mrs. **WOOD**, who was lately married; the other Mrs. **NOBLET**, recently a widow. The two males were Mr. Wood, and a gentleman named **M'DONALD**, who were saved. One of the females was brought out of the water alive, but died shortly afterwards; the other body was subsequently found.

A female named **MARY WOODS**, who arrived about three weeks since from New Zealand, since which time she has been drinking to excess, inflicted a severe wound on her arm on Saturday last with a razor. Some of the veins were severed, but none of the arteries were touched. She is going on favourably.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/705, 05/04/1851

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - On Thursday evening an inquest was commenced at the White Swan, West Maitland, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **THOMAS CONNOR**. Two persons, **ROBERT HAWKE** and **THOMAS HAWKE**, father and son, were present in custody, on the charge of having assaulted Connor, and inflicted the injuries which caused his death. The inquest was adjourned till yesterday, when it was resumed at the Northumberland Hotel, and last evening, the evidence having been closed, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against both the prisoners, who were thereupon committed for trial by the Coroner, and forwarded to the gaol. The evidence given was lengthy, and having been closed at a late hour, we defer full particulars till our next. Connor was on Sunday last attending a flock of sheep for Mr. Prentice on the Ravensfield estate; Robert Hawke lives in a hut on that estate, and some time since he impounded Mr. Prentice's sheep, but on the matter being brought before the bench Hawke was unable to substantiate his right to impound. Hawke now, however, met with the sheep and impounded them, and Connor following the flock, a quarrel in some way arose, and, according to Connor's subsequent statement on oath, Connor was thrown to the ground by Thomas Hawke, the eldest son, and there held by the father while the son kicked him repeatedly in the ribs, the father also striking him with his fist. Connor's injuries at first did not appear so severe as they subsequently turned out, but after being under medical advice for a short time he went into the hospital, and there died on Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant. The post mortem examination showed that four of his ribs were broken, and the pleura and lungs greatly inflamed, the inflammation causing death; the opinion of the medical men was that no skill could have saved his life.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Thursday an inquest was held at Anvil Creek, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **JAMES COWAN**. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was a carrier, and much addicted to drink. Cowan left Gammon Plains in company with another carrier, **THOMAS WEST**, each having their dray and team; at Captain Pike's crossing place they parted company, coming on towards Maitland by different routes. On the 24<sup>th</sup> March Cowan called at the house of **BENJAMIN GILLMAN**, residing on the Glendon estate, and Gillman and he rode to an inn in Gillman's cart, and had some liquor, Cowan getting drunk and Gillman tipsy; on their return towards Gillman's it was dark, and when they got to White's crossing place, on the river, the cart was upset, going down over the bank some distance; Gillman jumped out in time to save himself, but Cowan was thrown out and received severe bruises; after some search Gillman found Cowan, and with the help of a man who was passing placed him in the cart again; the cart was once more upset in the crossing, and Cowan thrown out. Cowan was again placed in the cart, and the man drove the cart home carefully, Cowan complaining that he was much hurt. Cowan would not allow Gillman to go for a doctor, but asked to be removed to West's house, Anvil Creek,

and on the 26<sup>th</sup> he was taken there. West, after hearing from Cowan how he got injured, called in Dr. **BLICK**, but Cowan died on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Gillman, the day after the accident, had visited the spot again, and was convinced by the marks he saw about the ground that Cowan must have been trampled on by the horse. Dr. **M'CARTNEY** examined the body outwardly, and found many bruises, but could not state the cause of death without further examination. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death in accordance with the evidence.

**WILLIAM HAYES.** - The execution of this unhappy man, convicted at the late Maitland Circuit Court of the murder of **BENJAMIN COTT**, is appointed to take place on Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> April, at Maitland.

**MELANCHOLY BOAT ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday last, a party consisting of Mr. **RICHARD M'DONALD**, Mr. **WILLIAM WOOD**, of Hunter-street, Mrs. Wood, and Mrs. **NOBLETT**, started from the Gas Company's Wharf, on a boating party down the harbour, in a boat belonging to Mr. M'Donald; the boat is thirteen feet in length, and carried sprit and fore-sale; shortly after 2 p.m., they arrived at Clarke's Island, where they dined; after dinner they went a short distance from the island, for the purpose of fishing; after some time the ladies expressed a wish to return home, when Mr. M'Donald got the mast up, and pulled up the kelly; before putting up the sprit, Mr. M'Donald climbed about eighteen inches up the mast, for the purpose of disentangling a small flag at the top – simultaneously the ladies rose from their seats, and immediately the boat capsized, precipitating the whole party into the water, the boat filling in an instant, and several times turning over and over. Mrs. Noblett caught hold of Mr. M'Donald, who sustained her in the water until assistance was rendered by Mr. **DOBSON**, who heard a shout from Clarke's Island as he was on his way to Sydney, and put back to see what was the matter. When the boat overset, Mr. Wood caught his wife's clothes with one hand and the boat with the other, until, being much exhausted, he clenched his wife's hands as firmly as he could to the stern on the boat, and swam to shore, where his calling attracted Mr. Dobson's attention to the scene of the catastrophe. On Mr. Dobson's arrival he found Mr. M'Donald on the keel of the boat, holding up Mrs. Noblett by the chin. Mr. Dobson took them into his boat, and on his way to the island to take in Mr. Wood, saw Mrs. Wood under the surface of the water, and picked her up, but she appeared to be perfectly dead; her head was under water, and her clothes in the form of a balloon about her. Having taken Mr. Wood on board, Mr. Dobson made for Darling Point, where Mr. Lingard resides, and efforts were made to resuscitate Mrs. Noblett and Mrs. Wood, but without avail; no symptom of remaining life in either having shown itself after being taken from the water. The bodies were then removed from Mr. Lingard's to Rushcutter Bay, where Dr. Shanks was called in, but the unfortunate ladies were past all recovery. An inquest was yesterday held on the bodies, and a verdict of accidental drowning was returned by the jury. Mrs. Noblett was about twenty-eight years of age, and Mrs. Woods some three years younger. Mr. and Mrs. Woods had only been about six weeks married, and Mrs. Noblett was the widow of Mr. Noblett, of Pitt-street, recently deceased. *Herald, April 1*

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - **DEATH FROM AN UNSKILFUL SURGICAL OPERATION**  
An inquest was held yesterday, at Mr. Parkinson's, Wellington Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM LEWIS**, aged 65 years. It appeared from the evidence of **ENOCH GAZZARD** that deceased had suffered for some time from retention of urine; that Dr. **CUTHILL** had attended him, and drawn off a quantity of water; a man named **WILLIAM MILTON**, who lived in the neighbourhood of deceased, attended after Dr. Cuthill, and on purchasing a catheter in Sydney,

performed a surgical operation which medical men alone are allowed to perform. In evidence adduced, it was proved that Milton, who is not a practitioner, had, by want of knowledge of the use of the catheter, caused a rupture of the bladder, which was the occasion of deceased's death. Dr. **FULLERTON** and Dr. Cuthill made a *post mortem* examination, and found the bladder ruptured to some extent, and in a manner likely to occur by the unskilful use of a catheter; Dr. Fullerton attended deceased after Milton, and detected the false passage made by Milton. The Coroner addressed the jury at some length on the insecurity to life, and the detriment to the public, of such men practising as surgeons, without the necessary qualifications. The jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of manslaughter against Milton. *Empire, April 2*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/706, 09/04/1851

#### THE INQUEST ON THOMAS CONNOR.

As we mentioned in our last, the inquest on the body of **THOMAS CONNOR** terminated in a verdict of manslaughter against **ROBERT HAWKE and THOMAS HAWKE**, father and son, who were thereupon committed for trial.

Hawke has lived with his family in a hut on the Ravensfield estate, for a considerable time; Mr. **C. PRENTICE** rents the estate as a grazing farm, but Hawke lays claim to a portion as being let, or its use granted, to him, and he some months since impounded sheep of Mr. Prentice's from the estate; the matter then came before the bench, when Hawke was unable to substantiate the right to impound. Since that time Mr. Prentice has continued to run his sheep there.

At the time of the former disputes Thomas Connor, an old man of 58 years, was in Mr. Prentice's employ as a shepherd, and recently Connor again entered Mr. Prentice's employment, and was stationed at Ravensfield with the sheep. He expressed some fear of violence from Hawke, but Mr. Prentice told him that the dispute had been long since settled.

On Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, Connor was following his flock of sheep on the estate, when Hawke met with him, and impounded the sheep, and commenced driving the flock towards Maitland pound, some three or four miles off. A witness, named **WILLIAM ROBSON**, had been walking with Hawke up to a short time before Hawke seized the sheep, but was not with him at that moment, nor did he join him afterwards; he saw that Hawke and the shepherd were following the sheep, and he (Robson) went towards Hawke's hut, where he found Mrs. Hawke, and while asking her whose sheep they were, he heard a shout from the children, who called out "Oh, mother, they have Tommy down." Robson turned and found that two of Hawke's sons had joined their father and the shepherd; the ground was undulating and he could not well distinguish what was passing, but he saw "something wrong" was going on, and went towards them; he met young Thomas Hawke with a tin pint pot in his hand, and Thomas told him the shepherd had hit him on the nose with it; Thomas Hawke was then in an excited state, and Robson told him he ought not to quarrel. At this time Robson observed the shepherd in a stooping position, as if rising from the ground, and having his hand on his side; he was evidently in pain, and groaned out "Oh dear;" just then the shepherd turned and saw him (Robson), and pointing to him said "That gentleman," but Robson turned away and went to the hut. This is the only direct evidence as to what passed, excepting the statements of Connor, and the elder Hawke.

Hawke drove the sheep into Maitland, Connor following, and on the road Dr. M'Cartney passed Hawke, and asked what was the matter with Connor; Hawke said he did not think he was much hurt, and said "I went between my son and him." Near

the Long Bridger Mr. Robson overtook Hawke and the sheep, when Hawke said, in answer to Mr. R.'s remark, that he was sorry for what had happened, and that there was some disagreeing between them.

Connor, in his way into Maitland, met Dr. M'Cartney, and spoke to him about his hurts, telling him briefly how he had received them; this was previous to Dr. M'C. seeing Hawker. Connor also met Mr. Prentice, and told him what had passed. On Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, Connor, whose injuries were not then believed to be so serious, applied for a police office summons against the two Hawkes, for assault, and he told Mr. Carter, the clerk, what had passed between the two Hawkes and himself, and afterwards affixed his mark to the affidavit on which the summonses were issued. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, the day before he expired, Connor, who was then at the Maitland Hospital, made a formal statement to Mr. Mullins and **THOMAS HAINES** of the occurrence. In all these statements, as deposed to before the coroner, Connor gave as nearly as possible the same general account of the way in which he received the injuries. Connor's statements were to the following effect. After Robert Hawke seized the sheep, saying he should impound them, his son Thomas Hawker joined them, and all three followed the sheep; Thomas Hawke came behind Connor, seized him by the shoulders, and they fell to the ground together, and in the fall a tin pint pot carried by Connor got bent, and scratched Thomas Hawke's nose; Robert Hawke came to them as they lay, and stood with his legs against Connor's shoulders, preventing him from rising, and he then gave Connor two or three punches with his fist; Thomas Hawke got up, and kicked Connor three times in the ribs; Connor appealed to Robert Hawke not to kill him, when Hawke said to his son "That will do, he has had enough;" Mrs. Hawke came up, and offered to wash and clean Connor, but he refused to have anything to do with her, and went again after the flock. On the way into town, Connor told Thomas Hawke he was afraid he had smashed his ribs; Thomas Hawke replied, "I wish I had killed you, you old devil from hell."

Connor died on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, about mid-day, and the Hawkes were immediately apprehended on warranty. The post mortem examination of Connor's body by Dr. **BEARDMORE** showed that four ribs were broken; that the injuries had caused very great inflammation of the lungs and pleura, and thus caused death. Dr. Beardmore was of opinion that several kicks might have caused the injuries; they must have been caused by great violence, and he thought the ribs had been broken while Connor was lying on the ground.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Red Lion, East Maitland, on the body of **JOSEPH MILLER**. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was an old man, and was recently sent up to this district with a ticket of leave; he applied on Friday to Major Crummer for a situation as cook, and was told to call the next day, as Major Crummer had heard that a gentleman at some little distance wanted a cook; on Saturday Miller called at Major Crummer's, and waited there, assisting the cook, **HENRY CRESS**, and appearing cheerful; in the evening Cress had occasion to go into town, and on his return at nine o'clock could not find deceased; after searching about with a light he found him lying apparently asleep in the stable, and on trying to rouse him found him quite dead. Dr. **WILTON** was of opinion deceased died from apoplexy; there was no mark of violence on his body. The jury returned a verdict of natural death.

**DISTRESSING AND FATAL ACCIDENT.** - With feelings of deepest sympathy we record a melancholy accident that befell Mr. **CHARLES ALCOCK**, a son of Mr. Alcock, proprietor of the *Moreton Bay Free Press* newspaper, on Sunday last. It seems that the unfortunate young man was riding near Cowper's Plains, in company

with another person, when owing to the saddle girths becoming loose, he was thrown violently from his horse against a tree. A cart having been procured he was conveyed home to his father's residence at South Brisbane, where Dr. **SWIFT** was promptly in attendance, and after the first day hopes were entertained of the patient's recovery; but unhappily the injuries he had received internally were too serious, and he expired on Wednesday afternoon, to the deep regret of all who knew him. The deceased, we believe, was under nineteen years of age. *Moreton Bay Courier, March 29*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A fatal accident occurred at Drayton on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, to a man named **STAMMERS**, who, with another, was employed in blasting a rock near the boiling down establishment of Mr. **T. AYERST**. It appeared that after the fuse, communicating with the gunpowder, had been ignited, and the men had retired to a distance, Stammers returned, being fearful that the fire had gone out. Just as he reached the hole the powder exploded, the blast completely blowing away a portion of his right side, and killing him on the spot. *Moreton Bay Courier, March 29*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/707, 12/04/1851

CONFESSION OF HAYES. - DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER MURDER.

On Wednesday **WILLIAM HAYES**, now lying in Maitland gaol under sentence of death for the murder of **BENJAMIN COTT**, made an open confession to Major Crummer, P.M., in the presence of the Rev. **DEAN LYNCH** (who has been attending Hayes since his conviction), Mr. **COX**, Mr. **DUNNING**, and Mr. **GEORGE WOOD**. As the matter is under investigation we do not now publish Hayes's statement, but in effect Hayes stated that Cott was murdered on his farm, and that another man named **JOHN AHERNE**, but commonly known as **Bothered Shawn**, was also murdered and buried on his farm; that both murders took place in his (Hayes's) presence, but that he took no part in either, instigated either, or gave any expressed concurrence in either; and that he did not afterwards touch either of the bodies, or bury them. Hayes detailed the way in which he says the murders were effected, and the bodies buried, and mentions the parties who he says inflicted the blows, or were present.

In consequence of Hayes's statements, chief constable Wood, and constables **RAFTERY** and **HUNTER**, on Wednesday afternoon proceeded to Hayes's farm, and dug in the spot described by Hayes as the place where Aherne was buried, being in a small fowl-yard close to and between the huts in which Hayes and his household lived. About three or four feet from the surface of the ground the constables came to the remains of a human body, and the work was then stopped, and the coroner sent for. The coroner called in Dr. **SCOTT**, and under their superintendence the body was uncovered and removed. It was the body of a man of middle age, and about five feet four inches in height, and the size, clothes, &c., all agree with the description given of Aherne, although the remains have not yet been positively identified. We mentioned some time since that Aherne was missing, and had been traced to Hayes's farm, but although search has been repeatedly made for the body no trace of it was found till Wednesday. The unfortunate man had evidently been murdered in a manner very similar to Cott, the skull being dreadfully fractured and beaten in on the right side.

On Thursday an inquest was commenced on the body before the coroner, Mr. **PARKER**, at the Cross Keys, West Maitland, and several witnesses were examined that day, including Mrs. Hayes. About half-past six that evening the inquest was adjourned till Monday morning next, at nine o'clock, for the purpose of enabling the police to procure further evidence, Mrs. Hayes being detained in custody that no communication with other witnesses may take place in the interval.

SYDNEY NEWS.

A murder was committed this morning, between twelve and half-past two, in a house in Durand's Alley, by means, it is supposed, of blows with a poker. The victim, who died immediately on receiving the blows, was a **MARY MOORE**, residing in the house. The landlord, **HARRIS**, was also struck by the same party, and lies at present in the infirmary in a dangerous state. A man named **MICHAEL O'NEIL** is in custody on suspicion of being the perpetrator of the deed.

About one o'clock this morning a seaman named **HENRY ENGLISH** fell from the deck of the schooner *Sea Witch*, lying at the Market Wharf. He was, it seems, intoxicated at the time. The body has since been found.

**DISCOVERY OF HUMAN BONES.** - Mr. **JAMES BECKETT**, of Parramatta, discovered lying in the forest between Dural and the lower branch of the Hawkesbury the bones of a male adult. The circumstances were made known to Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for Parramatta, who made personal enquiry, and after several days' search it was ascertained that they were the remains of an aged man who had rented a farm near Box Hill, and that the deceased had attempted to cross the back bush between Dural and Box Hill, and lost his way, so probably in a fit of despair and exhaustion laid himself down between two logs and there died, where the bones were found. *Herald, April 9*

**DEATH CAUSED BY INFECTION FROM DISEASED MEAT.** - An inquest was held yesterday by the Coroner, at Collie's Hotel, Circular Quay, on view of the body of **RICHARD WOOTON**, aged 44 years. Mr. **BRIDGETT**, chief officer of the *Charlotte Jane*, now lying off the Circular Quay, deposed that deceased was cook on board that vessel; that it was his duty to cut up the meat for the ship's company, which was served fresh every day in the harbour; that on Saturday he complained of much pain from a small cut on his right thumb; and that on Sunday, notwithstanding medical aid was procured, he died. Dr. **M'KELLAR** attended the deceased on Sunday, whom he found in a dying state; after his death he made a *post mortem* examination, and found his internal parts diseased. He was of opinion that death had been caused by infection from diseased meat. A verdict to that effect was returned by the jury. *Herald, April 8*

**ACCIDENT.** - About three o'clock yesterday afternoon Mr. **THOMAS ALLOM**, a builder, was on the scaffold and superintending the erection of a house in Bathurst-street, near the Light-house Tavern, when a portion gave way, and he was precipitated with great violence to the pavement. Medical aid was promptly in attendance, but we regret to learn that the injuries received are of such a nature that it is scarcely possible he can survive. *Herald, April 9*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/708, 16/04/1851

PUBLICANS' ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING.

The following applications were postponed for a fortnight:- ...

**THOMAS WALKER**, Red Lion, East Maitland. The Coroner, Mr. **PARKER**, opposed this application, in consequence of circumstances which he stated at length connected with Mr. Walker's evidence and conduct as disclosed on the inquest on the body of a man who recently died in his house, from drunkenness. Mr. Walker denied the truth of some of the assertions made, and explained other circumstances. The bench postponed the application, for further investigation.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Monday afternoon a small settler, named **JOHN MATTHEWSON**, who resides near Hexham, was returning homewards from East Maitland in his cart, being at the time very drunk, when one wheel went into a deep rut in Newcastle-street, and the cart instantly upset, the side coming on Matthewson's

chest. The accident was seen, and people instantly ran to assist him, but when he was released he appeared very much injured, and under Dr. Wilton's directions he was removed to the nearest inn, Mr. Walker's. Matthewson lingered in great pain till eight o'clock that evening, when he expired. An inquest was held on the body yesterday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when a verdict was returned of accidental death.

#### THE INQUEST ON JOHN AHERNE.

The inquest on the body of **JOHN AHERNE**, commonly known as **Bothered Shawn**, was resumed on Monday, at the Cross Keys. Several witnesses were examined, but as one or two points were not fully cleared up, the inquest was adjourned till nine o'clock on Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> instant, to allow time for full enquiries to be made. It was currently reported about town on Monday that the police were again digging at Hayes's farm, in search of the body of a young woman said to be missing, but this was not the case.

#### SYDNEY NEWS.

**JOHN MILTON**, who had been apprehended by warrant of the coroner, on a charge of manslaughter, was discharged, the Attorney General declining to prosecute.

#### ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.

An inquest was held yesterday, at Harbour Inn, on view of the body of **HENRY INGLIS**, late of the ship *Waterwitch*. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased had been drinking for two days previously. Having occasion the night before last to go upon deck, he accidentally fell over into the water, and notwithstanding that every effort was made to save him, was drowned. He was taken up about a quarter of an hour after. Verdict – Accidental death by drowning.

Another inquest was held, on the same day, on the body of **HENRY AMBROSE**, a seaman, lately belonging to the ship *Oriental*, lying at the Circular Quay. The deceased was assisting yesterday forenoon in hauling up cargo out of the hold of the ship, and having neglected to secure the tackling properly, he was accidentally thrown down the hatchway, when he received the injuries of which he immediately died. Verdict accordingly – *Empire, April 11*

**SHOCKING MURDER.** - Some time after midnight on Wednesday, a most atrocious murder was committed in a house in Durand's Alley. The particulars are as follows:- The place where the murder was committed is a small wooden house situate at the end of the Alley. The occupants were the deceased, **MARY MOORE**, an old man about sixty years of age, named **JAMES HARRIS**, and a little boy about seven or eight of age, whom Harris had provided for since infancy. The parties are in no way related to each other. The house, which contains two rooms, belongs to the old man. Deceased occupied the upper room, at a small rental. According to the boy's testimony, it appears that the deceased was driven home in a cab, accompanied by a man, between twelve and one o'clock on Thursday morning; soon after they entered the house they retired up stairs to deceased's room; the old man and the boy were at this time in bed in the room below; an altercation between the female and her companion immediately ensued, which ended in the former being struck; she thereupon came down stairs and seized a bar of iron from the fire-place, which the other instantly forced from her, and struck her several blows on the head. The ruffian then went out, apparently with the intention of leaving the house, but he had scarcely gone two or three yards when he returned, and with the same instrument literally beat in the wretched woman's skull, scattering the brains about the floor. Death, of course, was the instantaneous result. About this time, the old man, who had been awakened by the noise, appears to have interfered either to save the female or to prevent the escape of the murderer, when he also was savagely attacked, and the injuries he

received about the head render it doubtful he will recover. Information was immediately conveyed to the police, who with Dr. **TIERNEY** were soon in attendance. The old man was then lying on his bed manifesting scarcely any sign of life. Dr. Tierney did all that could be done for him under the circumstances, and with praiseworthy promptitude secured a cab, and had him conveyed to the Benevolent Asylum. On Thursday afternoon he was somewhat better, and gave some hope of recovery, though he was not in a fit state to be examined. On Thursday evening the coroner constituted a court at Mr. Oatley's, the "Sportsman," for the purpose of holding an inquest, and the body having been identified, the inquest was adjourned till Tuesday at 2 o'clock p.m. **SOLOMON COHEN** was the only witness called. He stated that he had seen the body, and knew it to be that of Mary Moore. A man named **O'NEIL** is in custody, on suspicion. It is, however, supposed that the real murderer has not yet been discovered. Of course the police are keeping the strictest look out. *People's Advocate, April 12.* - The inspector of hackney carriages having discovered the cab-man by whom the unfortunate woman Moore was driven to her lodgings, it was ascertained from him, and his statement being corroborated by one or two publicans at whose houses he stopped while engaged by Moore, that O'Neil, the man apprehended on suspicion of having murdered her, is not the man who went home with the unfortunate woman, he was yesterday discharged from custody. *Herald, April 12*

A LOST MAN. - A man named **LOMAX**, who had been for several weeks on a drinking bout, has been missed from his usual place of abode since Thursday morning, and though every inquiry has been made for information concerning him, no tidings can be learnt respecting him. He had made away with everything in his house, of furniture and apparel, and when last seen was suffering under the "horrors," or *delirium tremens*. To make the matter worse, he is a widower, and four children are left in the house totally destitute. *Herald, April 12*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/709, 19/04/1851

#### BIRTHS.

At Dunmore, on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, Mrs. **A. LANG**, of a daughter, still born.

#### SYDNEY NEWS.

PARRAMATTA. - A MAN FOUND HANGING. - An inquest was held on Sunday morning last, at the district hospital, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner, on view of the body of a male adult. Mr. **JOHN RYAN**, Chief Constable, being sworn, deposed: I received information yesterday, from **JAMES GURNEY**, that he had found a man hanging in the bush, about three miles from town; O procured a cart and a coffin, went to the spot, situated on the Dog Trap Road, and on the estate of the late Sir John Jamieson found the body of an adult male, suspended to a tree; the feet were about a yard from the ground; the body was suspended by a strip of cotton, part of a sheet, well twisted like a rope, one end tied to the tree, and the other wound the neck. It appears that a previous attempt had been made, for a broken strip was found on the ground, similar to that on the neck. The body had on it a good pair of tartan trousers, a striped shirt, and a pair of socks. I got a pair of sheepskin slippers under the tree, also an old Manila hat, turned up all round, and worn out at the edges; I also found a cotton bag like a large pillow slip, and within it a knife and fork, a pair of slippers, two shirts, a metal tea spoon, one pair Russian duck, and a pair of chequered canton trousers. There as nothing in any of the pockets of the apparel. I strictly examined the spot, but could discover no signs of a struggle; I therefore believe that the deceased hanged himself; the body is in a very advanced state of decomposition.

**JAMES GURNEY**, a labourer, deposed to having found the deceased as he was following his master's cattle in the bush. Dr. **ROBERTSON** deposed that he had examined the body brought to him by Mr. Ryan, and found the usual appearances of a person who had died of strangulation; deceased had a great deal of hair on his head, of an auburn colour; he was tall, and about forty-five years of age. The body was too far advanced in decomposition to judge whether the hands were accustomed to labour. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was found hanged. *Herald Correspondent*.

THE LATE MURDER CASE. - The coroner's inquest in the matter of the murder of the unfortunate woman, **MARY ANN MOORE**, was yesterday again postponed for a week; no clue to the murderer having yet been obtained. *Herald, April 16*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/710, 23/04/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - WELLINGROVE.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A fatal accident occurred at Byron Plains on Saturday last. As **DARBY FROGGART**, who was a carrier between this and Maitland, was leading a young horse to water, the horse took fright at the rising of a bird near the water, and Froggart incautiously allowing him too long a rope, the animal turned and kicked him in the abdomen, of which he died the following day. Froggart was proceeding on his way to Maitland with loading at the time. April 11, 1851.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held before the coroner at the Benevolent Asylum on Saturday last, upon view of the body of **HENRY HUNTLEY**. The deceased was in the service of Mr. **PARKINSON**, publican, of Parramatta-street; he was about 33 years of age, and addicted to intemperate habits. He fell from his bed on Thursday night and received a contusion on the hip; was taken to the Benevolent Asylum when found on the floor, on the morning of Good Friday; and died shortly after his admission. Dr. **RUSSELL** was of opinion, from the appearance of the body and the evidence adduced, that death was the result of natural causes; but in the absence of a post mortem examination he could not take upon himself to say what was the cause of so sudden a death. The deceased, it seems, had made his bed upon a table, and the fall must have been a severe one. Verdict – died by the visitation of God. *Herald, 21<sup>st</sup> April*

INQUESTS. - Two inquests have been held since our last publication. One on Saturday last, at Willeroo, on the remains of an old man named **DANIEL HARNETT**, found dead in the bush. He had been for a month from Mr. Cooper's station, where he resided, and nothing was heard of him till his bones were discovered in a gully on the run; Verdict. "found dead."

The other enquiry was held at Kippilaw, on Thursday, on the body of one **WILLIAM WILLIAMS**, in the employ of **JAMES XCHISHOLM**, Esq., who was found dead in his hut. He had been ailing for some time. The immediate cause of death was inflammation of the bowels. Verdict accordingly. *Goulburn Herald, April 19*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/711, 26/04/1851

EXECUTION OF WILLIAM HAYES.

Yesterday morning, at nine o'clock, the wretched man **WILLIAM HAYES**, convicted at the Maitland Circuit Court, in March, of the murder of **BENJAMIN COTT** on the 13<sup>th</sup> November last, was executed, at the new drop, erected over the gates of the Maitland gaol.

Our readers are aware that on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, Hayes made a confession (taken down in writing, and signed by him) in the presence of Major Crummer, P.M., the Rev. Dean Lynch, Mr. Cox, and others. The confession was to the effect that the two **STAUNTONS**, father and son, killed Cott in Hayes's cabbage ground, in consequence of Cott having threatened to bring **JOHN STAUNTON** (the son) before the magistrates about some money Cott had lent him; that he (Hayes) was coming up to the spot at the time, but was not close to them; that the two Stauntons carried away Cott's body, and put it in the drain; that **JOHN A'HEARN**, alias **Bothered Shawn**, came up suddenly and unexpectedly at the moment they were so carrying away Cott's body, and remained talking with Hayes until old Staunton came back from the drain and chipped the ground where the blood was; that Hayes then returned to his hut, Shawn following close behind him, but that Shawn was struck down by old Staunton with a hoe, and killed by repeated blows, this last murder taking place in the presence of **ELLEN STAUNTON**, and close to the hut; and that during the same night the two Stauntons buried Shawn in the yard in a place Hayes described. In consequence of this statement the ground at that spot was dug up by the police, and the body of a murdered man, agreeing in all respects with the description of Shawn and his dress, was found there, the right-hand pocket of the trousers being cut off.

Since making this confession Hayes had continued quiet, and been very attentive to his religious duties, the Rev. Dean Lynch having before and since been constant in his attendance on the wretched man.

It was generally stated in town on Wednesday and Thursday that Hayes intended to make another confession on the scaffold, and this and the mysterious nature of the murders themselves, caused great excitement to be felt on the subject; and the number of spectators consequently at the execution was very great, and has been variously estimated at from one thousand to three thousand. Hayes looked pale and worn when he appeared on the scaffold; and, apparently from physical weakness, he requested the Rev. Dean Lynch, who was in attendance on him to the last moment, to make a statement or confession for him to the people, which the rev. gentleman did, to the effect given below. After the statement was concluded, the necessary preparations were made, and the bolt being drawn, Hayes fell, and died without a struggle. The necessary officials were of course present, including Mr. **PROUT**, the Under Sheriff, Mr. **COX**, &c. The body hung the usual time, and was then taken down, and delivered over to Hayes's relatives, and the funeral procession immediately took its course to the Catholic Burying-ground, East Maitland, where the body was interred.

The following was the dying confession made by Hayes, as spoken for him by the Rev. Dean Lynch. Hayes solemnly protested that on some day (he could not fix the exact date) previous to the arrival of the Stauntons, his wife and **OWEN COURTENAY** went into Maitland for flour, leaving him and **JOHN A'HEARN** in company; during their absence he sent A'Hearn to cut barley; A'Hearn, he added, cut it in the wrong place, which led (he asserted) to a dispute between them during their dinner, both being nearly drunk. John A'Hearn then flung a bone at him, and he picked up a hoe, and hit him in the head; he did not intend to kill him; A'Hearn lived for half an hour, and then he put him in the place described by himself to Major Crummer, and where the chief constable found his remains. He had completed the burial before his wife and Courtney returned from Maitland. He assured Mr. Lynch that no person had any knowledge of this act or concealment. He did not owe A'Hearn, at his death, more than £1. With regard to **BENJAMIN COTT**'s murder he stated that he did not strike Ben Cott, nor in any way interfere with his remains till Saturday, when he then went and filled up the drain; he declared that **JOHN**

**STAUNTON** struck him with the wood-axe (not the axe produced in court), and when down old Staunton gave him a blow with another hoe; then the father and son brought him to the drain; John Staunton remained at the drain filling it in, and the old man came back and chipped the ground where the blood was. **ELLEN STAUNTON** was standing at the corner of her hut; he could not say whether she saw the murder or not, but when her father (who was returning from the ground) saw her, he said if she did not go in he would whip the head off her; she put at daylight into a tub of cold water her brother's trousers, which were all bloody. When asked why he before charged the Stauntons with the murder of A'Hearn, Hayes replied that he thought they would thus be brought to justice and punishment. He declared that the money spoken of at Cott's trial was money which he lent to Cott; that Cott owned him (Hayes) at the time of his murder £2 19s. 9d.; thus: 2 gallons of brandy from Mr. Austin's, £1 4s., rum, at Ryan's inn, 3s. 9d., silver lent by his wife to pay Cott to pay his men, £1 12s., total, £2 19s. 9d. He requested Mr. Lynch to express publicly his grateful acknowledgements to Mr. Cox for his unvarying kindness to him during his confinement; and to all the gaol officials for their humanity. He said that he forgave all his enemies, and was reconciled to his fate.

**SUICIDE.** - On Thursday afternoon, about half-past three o'clock, a man named **ROBERT KEDDIE** shot himself through the head in a small bed-room off the kitchen of Dublin House, in consequence of which he expired about twelve o'clock on the same night. He must have placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth, as the whole front of the face from the mouth upwards was entirely blown away. Such a spectacle we never beheld, and it is certainly most wonderful that he lived so long after the deed was committed. He was a builder, and at one time carried on a very extensive trade in Maitland, and was considered wealthy. He has left a widow and five children, and we believe family annoyances induced a great depression of spirits, under which he has been labouring for a considerable time, and which eventually led to the rash act now recorded. The remains were interred yesterday evening in the Presbyterian division of the new burial ground. *Belfast Gazette*. [This is a melancholy termination of the career of one whose many good personal qualities had secured for him the good-will of the community among whom he so long resided, and whose public usefulness in many ways will not soon be forgotten. ED. M.M.]

**INQUEST.** - Yesterday an inquest was held at Lochend, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **ROBERT ALLEN**, who had died rather suddenly on Thursday. It appeared from the evidence that Allen was a very intemperate man, but generally healthy; he some time since fell from his horse, but received no permanent injury; just recently he had been away from home for a week, after cattle, and the night after he returned his wife said he was very restless, and could not sleep, but did not complain of pain. On Thursday morning Allen went to his father-in-law's, and complained then of a pain in his chest, and wished to be taken home, saying he thought he was going to die, but before he could be removed home, or his wife or a doctor could reach the place, he expired. The jury requiring a post mortem examination, Dr. **SCOTT** performed it, and found that death had been caused by an infusion of serum into the membrane of the heart, but that such excessive inflammation of the stomach and bowels existed that Allen must soon have died from that disease, had not disease of the heart carried him off. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - Mr. **HEXTON**, pilot at Moreton Bay, was unfortunately drowned on Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, in Freeman's Channel, about two miles from the Flagstaff, after returning from the *Cape Horn*. The crew being unable to pull the boat against the strong wind and tide, Mr. Hexton deemed it necessary to

beach her, and in doing so she unfortunately capsized. It is supposed he lost his presence of mind, and let go the steer oar, when the boat came broadside on to the breakers, filled, and upset. He endeavoured to support his head above water with one of the oars, assisted by a man named **JOHNSON**, and had nearly succeeded in reaching the boat, when a sea broke over him, the back wash carrying him away, and he sank in about twelve feet of water, and was no more seen. Two of the crew (**JOHNSON and COX**) had a narrow escape from drowning. Johnson was saved by one of the natives; **GILBERT, GOWER**, and the other seamen, swam ashore. The boat and oars are uninjured. Hexton had been for many years pilot at Moreton Bay. *Herald, April 22*

**THE LATE MURDER CASE.** - The adjourned inquest on the body of the unfortunate **MARY MOORE**, who was barbarously murdered in Durand's-alley on the night of the 9<sup>th</sup> April, was resumed yesterday by the Coroner, at Oatley's inn, Pitt-street. The Coroner said he had again to express his deep regret that the police had not succeeded in apprehending the murderer, and he had therefore no further evidence to offer. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, adding the following rider:- "The jury unanimously request the Coroner to communicate with the government, requesting that a reward of £50 (or such other sum as may be deemed meet) be offered for the apprehension of the murderer. They also request the Coroner to officially communicate with the proper authorities, as to the abominable filthy condition of Durand's-alley, and the character of its inhabitants: the state in which the locality is now permitted to remain offering every facility for the perpetration of murder and crime of every description. *Herald, April 23*

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - On Monday afternoon a Mrs. **CLYDESDALE**, residing on the Liverpool Road, on returning from a place where she had been for some water, missed three children, the eldest of whom is not more than about six years of age. As it was then about dusk, of course instant search was made for the infants, who, after some time, were found - quite dead - beneath a load of heavy timber, cut into billets for firewood, within a short distance from the house. The load of wood, it appears, had been left supported at the shaft by the prop-sticks; during the absence of the mother, it is supposed that the infants must have hung upon the cart behind, causing it to topple over upon them. *Herald, April 23*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/712, 30/04/1851**

#### **THE MURDER OF JOHN A'HEARN.**

The inquest on the body of **JOHN A'HEARN**, commonly known as **Bothered Shawn**, terminated on Monday, by the jury finding that the body was A'Hearn's, that he was murdered by **WILLIAM HAYES** by several blows on the head, and that there was no evidence to implicate any other person. We are therefore now at liberty to publish the proceedings, and the material part of the first confession of Hayes. The public will then be able to form their own opinion as to the truth of either of Hayes's statements, as tested by each other, by the evidence given on his trial, and by the evidence taken at the inquest on A'Hearn's body.

About the end of August last (apparently on the 31<sup>st</sup>) A'Hearn was seen alive for the last time, being then left in company with Hayes, on Hayes's farm. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August a number of immigrants from the ship *Lord Stanley* arrived in Maitland from Sydney, and among them the family of the Stauntons; about the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> September **JOHN STAUNTON** (the son) left the depot, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> September the whole family left it, and most probably proceeded on that day to Hayes's farm, as they had hired with him. On the 13<sup>th</sup> November **BENJAMIN COTT** visited Hayes's place,

and never left the farm alive. On the 10<sup>th</sup> December Cott's murdered body was dug up out of a deep drain on Hayes's farm, and Hayes was apprehended, and subsequently committed for trial on the verdict of the coroner's jury. About this time suspicions first began to be expressed that A'Hearn had met with foul play on Hayes's farm, but although search was several times made, no trace of him could be found. In March, at the Circuit Court, Hayes was tried for the murder of Cott, convicted, and sentenced to death.

After lying under sentence of death for about a month, when he received the spiritual attendance of the Rev. Dean Lynch, Hayes informed the authorities that he wished to make a confession. On the 9<sup>th</sup> April, therefore, Major Crummer, the visiting magistrate, took down Hayes's confession, in the presence of the Rev. Dean Lynch, Mr. Cox (the gaoler), Mr. Dunning, and Mr. G. Wood: and the confession was subsequently signed by Hayes, and signed by all present as witnesses.

Hayes, in this confession, described Cott's calling at his house in the evening to ask the loan of a dray and team, nearly similar to what was given in evidence on his trial. Hayes said that Cott and the two Stauntons, father and son, got drunk; that Cott asked John Staunton (the son) outside for four pounds he had given him to take care of; John Staunton denied that he had done so, and words followed, ending with Cott's telling John Staunton he would summon him before the magistrates; that after this Cott refused to enter the house again, but said he would go home. The confession then proceeds thus: "Cott then went towards the cabbage-ground, going home; John Staunton then followed him at a quick pace; I did not see old Staunton at this time; I followed John Staunton, to see what he was running for; when they reached the cabbage ground they had some angry words; I then saw the old man (Staunton) running towards where they were quarrelling; young Staunton then raised an axe, and struck Cott on the head; he had barely fallen to the ground when old Staunton struck Cott on the side of the head also, with a hoe; I saw blood flowing at the time in quantity from Cott; John Staunton and his father then lifted Cott's body, John Staunton taking Cott by both arms, and the old man by his feet; they then took the body and threw it into the drain; at this time John A'Hearn, commonly called Bothered Shawn, came up to me where I was standing near the blood; he put up both his hands exclaiming "Poor Ben, he's dead;" I told him of what had occurred; he said, "That's old Staunton and his son carrying old Ben;" old Staunton then came back to where the blood lay, and commenced to chip the ground where it lay; Shawn then came towards my house; I told him to have supper; he said "Me cannot eat no supper;" I was before him on the pathway going towards Staunton's residence; Shawn followed closely after me; I had just reached the fence at Staunton's hut; I heard something fall heavily behind me; I looked back, and I saw old Staunton standing over Shawn, who was lying on the ground, striking him with the most heavy of the hoes belonging to the farm." Hayes then went on to state that at this time Ellen Staunton was standing outside her hut, looking on at the murder of Shawn by her father, but that he threatened her life if she did not go in; that afterwards John Staunton came up, and that during the night the Stauntons, father and son, dug a hole in the yard, (where a rain water drain had been formed) and buried Shawn in a spot and manner Hayes described, Ellen Staunton being looking on at this burial. Hayes stated that the moon shone bright that night, and that the next morning when he went to cover up his tobacco plants from the sun, he found that Cott's body was not visible in the drain, being covered with something, earth and rubbish. Hayes said, "The murders took place on the Wednesday, and on Saturday I went to the drain and filled it in, and John Staunton assisted me when he returned from Maitland after selling my

milk, about mid-day; I afterwards shook peas on that ground to make it look like the other pea-ground."

In consequence of this confession, Mr. Wood, the chief constable, went with two constables to Hayes's farm that same evening (the 9<sup>th</sup> April), and finding the spot in the yard without difficulty, from the description Hayes had given, they came to a human body after digging for an hour and a half. The body and its dress were subsequently recognised by different persons, as corresponding in every respect with Shawn's body and dress, and one witness, **MARY CROOK**, identified the hat found with the body as Shawn's hat. The coroner commenced holding an inquest on the body on the next day, and the inquest was adjourned from time to time for further evidence till Monday last, when it was concluded, as above stated.

It will be remembered that Hayes, in his confession from the scaffold, contradicted his former statement as far as related to the murder of Shawn, but persisted in the truth of what he had said about the murder of Cott. In respect to Shawn he then stated that he himself killed Shawn, during the absence of his wife and all others from the farm, on a day that he did not recollect. This is consistent with all the evidence adduced on the inquest. On a day about the end of August, (Courtenay says on the Saturday week after the races, which would be the 31<sup>st</sup> August), Mrs. Hayes went into Maitland for flour, accompanied by her children, and by Owen Courtenay, a man who had been on and off in their employ, and had then recently entered their service again; they left the farm in the morning, about eight o'clock, and returned in the afternoon, about four o'clock. Shawn had been working about the farm from the time of the races, and had told Courtenay that Hayes owed him about £7; Shawn had said that he was going to leave that same day, to go to Black Creek to get married. When Mrs. Hayes and Courtenay left the farm in the morning, they left Shawn there with Hayes; but when they returned in the afternoon, Hayes was alone, and in the milking yard; Mrs. Hayes said to him, "Is the bothered fellow gone away?" Hayes replied "Oh yes, didn't you meet him on the road?" Courtenay said "No, we did not meet him;" Mrs. Hayes said to Hayes, "Have you paid him the money, the whole of it?" Hayes said "Yes I have paid him all the money except 5s." or "25s.," (Courtenay could not remember which). On the Monday after this, Hayes said, on his return from Maitland, that some immigrants were come up, and he would go in and hire a boy; he did go, and on his return said he had hired the whole family of the Stauntons; the Stauntons did not come to the farm for two or three days after that, Courtenay states, and Courtenay was positive they were not there the day he went for the flour, and that he never saw Shawn afterwards, nor even heard the Stauntons mention Shawn. Courtenay had observed on his return that a drain in the yard, which he had himself dug a long time before to drain off the water from the fire-place, looked as if it had been levelled, and he concluded that Hayes had done so; after this Courtenay observed that the drain did not act well, the water lodging about the fire-place, so that they could not bake the bread well, but although Courtenay and Mrs. Hayes suggested again and again that it would be better to open and deepen the drain. Hayes always refused to have it touched.

As to the mode in which Shawn was killed, Hayes first stated that old Staunton killed him by repeated blows with a heavy hoe; and subsequently that he himself killed him unintentionally with a single hasty blow from a hoe, in consequence of Shawn having first thrown a bone at him (Hayes), and that Shawn lingered for half an hour, after receiving the blow. Dr. Scott, under whose superintendence the body of Shawn was removed, made a post-mortem examination, and the following were the injuries he found: he found the whole of the right side of the head beaten in, and a

fracture extending directly across the skull from the right to the left side, the whole being large enough to admit the closed hand; the wound must have been inflicted with a heavy instrument; Dr. Scott thought there must have been more than one blow, and that one blow must have proved mortal. Dr. Scott found that the right pocket of Shawn's trousers had been cut off. After Hayes's scaffold confession had been made public, Dr. Scott re-examined the head, and he deposed as follows at the resumed inquest: "I have read the statement made by William Hayes on the morning of his execution, and it led me to re-examine the skull of the deceased, John A'Hearn, now further macerated, and I find that its condition is altogether at variance with Hayes's statement, inasmuch as there must have been several blows, and of such a nature that the deceased could not have lived many seconds after the receipt of the blows."

Shawn had it appeared told other persons that Hayes owed him a sum of £6 or £7, being money that he had placed in Hayes's hands for safety, and Mr. and Mrs. Crook, friends of Shawn's, both deposed to his having expressed anxiety to get the money back from Hayes.. At one time Shawn stopped at Crook's house, in Maitland, for a fortnight, and he used to go out nearly every morning, with the expressed intention of meeting Hayes on his milk rounds, to ask him for the money; each time on his return Shawn told Mrs. Crook that Hayes had not yet paid him, but would do so the next day, and that Hayes wanted him (Shawn) to go out to Hayes's farm, and stop there till the money was paid.

As it was found that Shawn used occasionally to go to the Wollombi, Black Creek, and Paterson districts to work, enquiry was made there for him during the adjournments of the inquest, but nothing could be heard of him.

Many of our readers have perhaps heard rumours that these two were not the only murders committed on Hayes's farm, and that respecting one person in particular, a young woman, it was said she had gone to Hayes's place some months ago on a visit, having money about her, and that she had never been known since to leave the farm. In this particular case circumstances were named so positively that the police have made enquiries, but the result so far is that no such young woman, or any woman, so visited Hayes's farm or family. It has become the fashion in Maitland to state dreams respecting Hayes, and an anonymous relation of a dream was sent to the chief constable, in writing, giving a very melo-dramatic account of the strangling of a young woman in Hayes's house, but in the absence of more authentic information nothing has followed.

INQUEST. - On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the White Swan Inn, on the body of **JOHN DANIELS, alias Old Jack**, a well-known pie-man of Maitland. It appeared that Daniels usually carried out pies and cakes on commission for Mr. Masters, and took some out on Tuesday morning, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but did not return again till Wednesday afternoon, when he was drunk, and slipped down from the ladder leading to the loft in which he slept, but without apparently hurting himself. As Daniels appeared poorly on Thursday and worse on Friday, complaining of a pain near the heart, **WILLIAM BROWN**, Mr. Master's baker, advised him to go into the hospital. Daniels accordingly walked to the hospital that day, and was received and treated for injuries apparently received from a fall, two of his ribs appearing broken. On Saturday morning Daniels told Mr. Mullins that on Tuesday evening he fell off the Long Bridge, being drunk, and lay there a short time partially insensible. Daniels, who had been a hard drinker, was warned that he could not expect to recover, and on Sunday he died. Dr. **SLOAN**, the medical man who attended him, deposed that he believed Daniels died from the effect both of drink and

a fall, and thought two of his ribs were broken; there were no marks of violence on the body. The jury returned a verdict of died from a fall while in a state of intoxication.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - WEE WAA.

A man of the name of **WILLIAM BOLLARD** was unfortunately thrown or fell from his horse, at Wee Waa, on Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, and expired three days after. He was slightly intoxicated at the time, and riding a lately broken in filly.

DEATH FROM CARELESS DRIVING. - On Good Friday, an aged man, **THOMAS BEGG**, (a messenger we understand, in one of the government offices) was knocked down in George-street by a hackney carriage, the driver of which (whose name is at present unknown), was urging his horses at a desperate speed; and drove furiously on when he saw the injury he had inflicted. Dr. **TIERNEY** was called in, but the sufferer died in the course of a few days; and although the persons with whom he lodged were warned by Dr. T. not to bury him without reporting the circumstance to the police, no such steps were taken; and it was only on Saturday last that the facts of the case came to the coroner's ears. He directly caused the necessary inquiries to be instituted for the apprehension of the driver; and we presume that the body will be exhumed for the purpose of holding an inquest thereupon. *Herald, April 21*

CORONER'S INQUEST. - DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Tuesday morning, an inquest was held by the coroner, at the Rose Inn, George-street north, on view of the body of **JAMES BUTTREY**, a fine little boy, five years of age, who was drowned on Sunday evening, off Lamb's Wharf. The father of the boy, who is storekeeper to Messrs. Lamb, Parbury, and Co., and resides at the Wharf, stated, that on Sunday evening the child was playing about the door whilst his parents were at tea, and, being missed, one of the elder children was sent to look for him; directly afterwards, he was heard to cry "Dada, dada!" from the water, and the father, rushing out, found him struggling close to the brink. The water was about five feet deep there. He was instantly taken out, but life then appeared extinct; and although Dr. **GREENUP**, who was immediately on the spot, used every means for nearly two hours to resuscitate him, it was of no avail. There were two marks on the child's forehead, which were probably caused by falling on the rock. Dr. Greenup gave it as his opinion that death was the result of suffocation from drowning. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Herald, April 14*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/713, 03/05/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - GRAFTON.

THE BLACKS. - On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., whilst Mr. **TIMOTHY SMALL** and **CHARLES AVERY** were riding in search of some stray horses on Swan Creek, the latter was speared in the breast by some blacks concealed in a scrub. Avery states that the spear entered about three inches, and was so firmly fixed that it stood straight out from his body, and required considerable force to draw it out. He suffered from much pain at the time, and was quite delirious during the night. He is now, however, quite recovered. On the 6<sup>th</sup> a blackfellow came and gave information to Mr. Chief Constable **ABBOTT** that whilst three black lads were fishing for eels, near Swan Creek, three days ago, two white men came upon them, and commenced flogging them with their stock whips; that two of the lads escaped, but the third was followed by one of the white men, who flogged him, and struck him with the butt end of his whip till he knocked him down; that as he fell the boy threw a small spear he had in his hand at the white man, who jumped off his horse, took out his knife, and cut his throat; that after the white man left, the father of the murdered boy came and carried away the body, took it across the river in a canoe, and buried it near Mr. Burkett's

station, and that they would go and show the grave to Mr. Abbott. He accordingly accompanied them, opened the grave, and there saw the body; the throat was cut from ear to ear. An inquest was held on the body by **F. PHILLIPS**, Esq., J.P., but we have not heard the result. Before the close of the inquest Mr. Abbott, accompanied by a younger brother of the deceased (who was present at the time) went and inspected the place where the murder was said to have been committed; he found tracks of horses all about the spot, a fishing spear with three lines, and a plain spear. The boy said that the spear which his brother had thrown was found by their father alongside the body, and that he had taken it away at the same time. A reward of £50 has been offered.

**CORONER'S INQUEST. - DEATH FROM DROWNING.** - An inquest was held by the coroner on Tuesday, at the Hunter River Inn, Sussex-street, on view of the body of **JOHN O'MEARA**, then lying dead on board the brig *Dart*. From the evidence of **JOHN GOODMAN**, cook of the vessel, and constable **TOMLINSON**, it appears that the deceased, who seemed to be a respectable young man, about 25 years of age, took his passage by the *Dart* for Melbourne, and went on board on Monday last. He went on shore several times during the day, and at length returned extremely drunk. In the evening he became very quarrelsome, so much so that one of the men went on shore for a constable; and deceased, getting over the side to go upon the wharf, fell into the water. An alarm was directly given, but it being extremely dark, nearly three quarters of an hour elapsed before the body was found; and then life was extinct. Upon searching the body, twenty-eight sovereigns and some silver were found. No blame could be ascribed to the people on board, everything being done to keep the unfortunate man quiet. Verdict – accidental drowning. *Herald, May 1*

**DEATH FROM FURIOUS DRIVING.** - Upon the affidavit of Dr. **TIERNEY** the coroner on Monday issued his warrant for the exhumation of the body of **FRANCIS BEGG**, who, as reported in Monday's *Herald*, was run over by a cab on the evening of Good Friday; and an inquest was held on Monday evening, on view of the body, at Mr. Parkinson's public house, Parramatta-street. It appears by the evidence of Drs. **TIERNEY** and **ROBERTSON**, that the deceased, who was an aged an infirm man, was returning from church on the evening of Good Friday, and whilst attempting to cross George-street, near Wright's Brewery, a cab, driven at a furious pace, knocked him down and passed over him – the driver pushing on without taking any heed of him. He was carried to his lodgings, where he was attended by Drs. Tierney and Robertson, and died on Wednesday evening. Owing to some misunderstanding, his death was not reported to the police until Dr. Tierney made affidavit of the above facts; when the body was ordered to be exhumed, and a *post mortem* examination made by the medical attendants. Their evidence went to show that death had been caused by a most extensive fracture of the scapula, or blade-bone, as also by a fracture of three of the ribs, which had been driven into the cavity of the chest. The coroner said, that active steps were taking for the detection of the cabman, and adjourned the inquest until Monday next. *Herald, April 30*

**THE MURDER IN DURAND'S ALLEY.** - **EDWARD LOWRY**, and **MARGARET BAYLEY**, were yesterday apprehended by warrant, on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of the woman **MARY MOORE**, in Durand's Alley. Lowry was in custody a few days ago, for violently assaulting his fellow prisoner. *Empire, April 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/714, 07/05/1851  
HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - DUNGOG.

**MELANCHOLY DEATH.** - Yesterday morning a most melancholy event took place in this neighbourhood. Mr. **PATRICK DALY**, a respectable settler on the Auchentorlie estate, was proceeding to this town with his dray and bullocks, taking wheat to the mill; Mrs. Daly was seated on the load. When within one mile of the township, as they were descending a small inclining hill, the wheel of the dray struck a low stump, and the dray was instantly overturned on its face, the unfortunate woman being underneath, and receiving a blow which instantly killed her. An inquest was held this day before **THOMAS COOK**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of thirteen, when a verdict was returned of accidental death by the upsetting of a dray. Mrs. Daly was much respected, and leaves a large family to deplore their loss. Her body was followed to her last resting place this evening by a large and respectable crowd of people.

**THE LATE CAB ACCIDENT.** - **GEORGE AMBERSON**, the driver of the carriage which knocked down **FRANCIS BEGGS** on the evening of Good Friday (from injuries inflicted whereby the unfortunate man died on the following Wednesday, as already reported in this journal), has been apprehended by the police, and is now in custody, awaiting the result of the coroner's inquest, which will be resumed this morning. *Herald, May 5*

**MAN KILLED.** - Information has just reached town of a melancholy occurrence which has just happened at Boro. It appears that on Tuesday evening last, there was a "hurrah" fight at Mr. Woodfield's Inn, during which a servant belonging to the house received several blows, and on the following morning was found dead in bed. It is supposed his death was caused by the injuries he received. The chief-constable and the Coroner start off to-morrow morning for the scene of the disaster. The deceased was an Irish immigrant, ex late arrival. From the hurried account given by the messenger, it would appear that the blows were inflicted by the landlord, or in a general quarrel, in which he took part. *Goulburn Correspondent of the Empire*

**THE DURAND'S ALLEY MURDER.**

**EDWARD LOWRY and MARGARET BAILEY**, apprehended some days ago on suspicion of having been concerned in or cognizant of the murder of **MARY MOORE**, in Durand's Alley, were yesterday brought before the bench, and after taking the evidence which led to their apprehension, the woman was discharged unconditionally, and the man on entering into his own recognizances to appear when called for. From enquiries made by the police it seems that Lowry arrived in Sydney from Brisbane Water on the 12<sup>th</sup> ultimo, the murder having been committed on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The length of his absence from Sydney did not transpire. *Herald, May 3*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/715, 10/05/1851**

**MUSWELL BROOK.** - On Saturday last (3<sup>rd</sup> May) an inquest was held before **J.B. WEST**, Esq., coroner of the district, at the residence of Mr. **WINGRAVE**, on the body of **SAMUEL HORSLEY**, known as "Long Sam." It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, who was an athletic young man, had, about a fortnight ago, returned to Muswell Brook from a shearing tour up the country, and that he had been drinking to excess for some days past. A few days since he called, about midnight, at the residence of **J. BUTCHER**, a cooper, where he lay down in bed for a time; he was then cold, and trembling very much, and had apparently been laying out somewhere on the damp ground, but had no recollection himself where he had been; he complained of a violent pain and throbbing in his chest, and said he was afraid "his goose was cooked"; towards morning he felt better, left the cooper's house about daylight, got his horse, and rose about a mile to the residence of Mr. Wingrave, where

he complained of a violent pain in the right side; told Wingrave that he thought he must either have caught a violent cold, or was struck with some of the sticks which had been thrown at him at the races, for that he felt himself much worse than he had ever been after a drinking bout; deceased was addicted to drinking; the resident surgeon was sent for, but was absent from home; the pain continued; he was delirious at intervals, and on Wednesday morning died. The jury returned a verdict of died from internal disease, brought on by intemperance.

#### SYDNEY NEWS.

A butcher named **PATRICK STAFFORD** was handed over to the custody of the Coroner, having on Tuesday evening last violently assaulted one **DENNIS BARRET**, who has since died in consequence of the injuries he received.

**DEATH FROM VIOLENCE.** - A man named **BARRETT**, a butcher, met with his death about two o'clock yesterday morning in Wilmot-lane, Pitt-street south, under the following circumstances. It is stated that a man named **STAFFORD** and a female named **BRIDGET M'CARTHY** had lived together as man and wife for about six years, but owing to some quarrel between them they separated some three or four weeks ago. The female had, either then or a short time previously, become acquainted with Barrett, who agreed to protect her, and accordingly took up lodgings for her at the rate of twelve shillings a-week in a house in Wilmot-lane kept by an unmarried woman. He visited her regularly every Saturday night, and sometimes oftener. They seem to have agreed very well together, until Sunday evening last, when shortly after they had retired into her room, a quarrel ensued which ended in Barrett's striking the female a blow in the mouth, so severe as to cut her lip through and render it necessary to have it sewed up, which, we believe, was done by Dr. **CARTWRIGHT**. Barrett, however, seems to have repented of his rashness, as he and M'Carthy were on the best of terms soon after. Stafford hearing of the assault, became enraged, and apparently determined to avenge himself the first opportunity. On Tuesday evening, he called at the lodgings of his former paramour, and told her that although he had determined never to live with her again, he would not "allow any b---- wretch to ill-use her." It is stated that he accordingly waited in the lane till he met Barrett, whom he attacked, inflicting injuries of which Barrett died about noon yesterday. Stafford is in custody, and was brought up yesterday at the police office, but remanded until to-day, when the inquest will be held, and the whole matter thoroughly explained. *Abridged from the Empire, May 8*

**MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.** - The family of Mr. **Councillor ROBERTS** have been plunged into deep affliction by the death of his eldest daughter (a fine child in her ninth year), under the following melancholy circumstances:- About a fortnight ago the little girl attempted to fill a teapot from a kettle which was on the fire, and making use of her frock to hold the kettle, the flames caught it, and in a few moments her clothes were burnt to ashes, and she was dreadfully injured. Medical assistance was immediately procured, and although her sufferings were terrible, it was hoped that her constitution would carry her through, and within the last few days she rallied considerably. A relapse, however, took place, and the little sufferer died on Monday. *Herald, May 7*

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - On Saturday last one of three brothers named **MAHONEY**, who have charge of a sheep station of Mr. Stonestreet's, at King's Plains, met with his death in the following manner:- It appears the young men were clearing a piece of bush land for cultivation, and had set fire to a large tree on the night previous to the accident. On the following morning the ill-fated individual in question left the hut with an axe in his hand, and, from appearances, it is supposed

was chopping at the tree when it fell. Remaining longer absent than was expected, one of his brothers went to see that what the cause of his detention, when he found his lifeless remains lying under the butt of the tree in a horrible state of emaciation. An inquest was held upon the body by **SAMUEL NORTH**, Esq., coroner of the district, and a verdict returned in accordance with the above particulars. *Bathurst Advocate*, May 3

**PAINFUL AND MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - A few days ago an accident occurred at one of the sheep stations of **W.H. SUTTOR**, Esq., which terminated fatally to a little boy about three years old, and was nearly proving so to the mother. Attracted by the cries of the child who had fallen into a deep water-hole in front of the house, she rushed out, and perceiving him struggle on the surface of the water, she leaped in to assist him. The attention of a man, who providentially happened to be near, was excited by the mother's screams, and he arrived at the spot barely in time to save her life. The most painful part of the story consists in this, that whilst assisting the grief-stricken mother from her perilous position the poor little fellow was drowned. *Bathurst Advocate*, May 3

**MANSLAUGHTER AT BORO.** - The Goulburn correspondent of the *Empire* furnishes the particulars of the inquest on the body of **THOMASS HARDEADEN**, whose death was previously mentioned. Hardeaden was a young man aged 23 years, who had not been in the colony long, and who was in the service of **JOSEPH WOODFIELD**, innkeeper, residing at Boro, thirty-five miles from Goulburn. On the evening of Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> April, Hardeaden had gone to bed early, but was called up again to join a drinking party, consisting of Woodfield, his wife, and another man. Before long words arose between Hardeaden and Woodfield, and at length Woodfield challenged Hardeaden to fight him, and they fought. Hardeaden's sister deposed that Woodfield struck her brother on the neck when the latter was not in a fighting position, and that her brother picked up a stick, and with it struck Woodfield over the eye; that Woodfield again struck her brother with his fist, knocking him down, and that whilst her brother was down Woodfield kicked him three times about the chest, saying, in reply to her brother's exclamation of "Oh, Joe, don't kill me," "You b-----, I don't care two-pence about you;" that after being kicked she did not hear her brother utter a word, nor did he answer when she went to him and took hold of his hand and spoke to him. **BORACK**, an Arab, who was present, stated that the men fought for a little time and both fell; that Woodfield then got up and kicked Hardeaden several times, after which Hardeaden never spoke. Hardeaden was carried to bed by Woodfield and a shepherd who was then in the house, and access to him that same evening was denied to his sister by Mrs. Woodfield, who told her that there was nothing the matter with her brother; the next morning, however, when Hardeaden's sister went to see him he was dead. Dr. **GERARD** performed a post mortem examination, and found bruises on the head, shoulders, and chest; he described the appearances he found on opening the body, and considered that death arose from suffocation, "which not improbably arose from the injuries applied, and which had been detailed in the evidence of the witnesses;" Dr. Gerard thought Hardeaden must have been dead when placed in the bed. Woodfield made a voluntary statement, in which he admitted that they had fought, but could not say what happened after he (Woodfield) received the blow over the eye from the stick, as they had both been drinking; that Hardeaden was alive when he was carried to bed, and for at least an hour afterwards, at which time he saw him. The jury, after two hours' deliberation, returned a verdict against Woodfield of guilty of manslaughter, and Woodfield was thereon committed to gaol.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday an adjourned inquest was held at Mr. Parkinson's, Parramatta-street, on the body of **WILLIAM BEGG**, who was knocked down and run over by a cab on Friday evening. Verdict – Died from injuries accidentally received.

An inquest was also held yesterday at the Downshire Arms, public house, on the body of a man named **WILLIAM OSBORN**, who died very suddenly on Saturday night. A post-mortem examination was made by Dr. **HONNOR**; and the jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God. *Empire, May 6*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/716, 14/05/1851**

**EDWARD RIVER RACES.** - These races came off on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> April. ... *Second day.* - This day an accident, which we regret to state is likely to terminate fatally, happened to Mr. **J. BROUGHAM**. As this gentleman was riding along the course, for the purpose of clearing it, a horseman came in violent contact with him. Mr. Brougham was thrown to the ground with great force, and was insensible when we left the course. But slight hopes are entertained of his recovery.

**ALLEGED PERJURY.** - On Wednesday last, Mr. **ALEXANDER CUTHILL**, of Sydney, surgeon, appeared before Mr. **DOWLING**, at the police-office, to answer a charge of perjury preferred against him by Mr. **HENRY COSMO MILTON**, of Ashfield, schoolmaster. It may be in the remembrance of our readers that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April an inquest was held on the body of an aged man named [**WILLIAM**] **LEWIS**, who died on the previous Saturday. Lewis had been suffering from retention of urine. Mr. Cuthill was sent for, who afforded the patient relief by the use of a catheter, prescribed such medicine as he considered necessary, and left him under the impression that nothing more would be required; Lewis continued to suffer from the same cause, and some days after sent several times to Mr. Milton, (who besides his occupation of schoolmaster, followed that of chemist and druggist), who declined attending, and recommended a surgeon to be sent for; at length, however, he was induced to go, provided himself with a catheter, and operated upon the man; the next day or the second day Lewis became worse, and Dr. **FULLERTON** was sent for, who also operated upon the patient; on the day following death put an end to Lewis's sufferings. An inquest was held upon the body, at which Dr. Fullerton and Mr. Cuthill (having jointly performed a *post mortem* examination) gave evidence, the result of which was a verdict of manslaughter against Milton, on which he was committed to gaol to await his trial. The Attorney-General caused the exhumation of the body, and its examination by other medical men, and the result was that the Attorney-General did not consider it his duty to prosecute Milton. Milton now charged Mr. Cuthill with having in his evidence before the jury committed wilful and corrupt perjury, by stating that he cut down into the urethra, and saw the rupture, whereas the urethra was not cut, nor could any rupture be seen. With the exception of the Coroner, Mr. **BRENAN**, whose evidence as to what Dr. Cuthill really did say was scarcely consistent with the words on the deposition, the remaining evidence was almost purely medical, to test the correctness of Dr. Cuthill's alleged statements. The case lasted several days, and on Saturday was dismissed, the police magistrate thinking the evidence so inconsistent and contradictory that he ought not to send the case on to a jury. *Abridged from the Herald, May 12*

**WILFUL MURDER.** - Last evening an inquest was held by the Coroner at Mr. M. Hooper's, the Cottage of Content, Pitt-street, on view of the body of **DENNIS BARRETT**, then lying dead in Wilmot-street. **PATRICK STAFFORD**, charged with the murder, stood in custody. **ANNE M'NEIL**, residing in the same street with

the deceased, stated as follows:- I know the prisoner Patrick Stafford, and I also know the deceased. On Tuesday night, about half-past eight o'clock, the prisoner came to my house, and enquired for **BRIDGET M'CARTHY**; I said she was out with the deceased; prisoner said he wanted to see Barrett and Bridget, as he had heard that she was ill-used by him, and he (Prisoner) would not allow any man to ill-use her. As I expected them both home I managed to get the prisoner out of the house, and I went with him into Chambers' public-house. Whilst we were there, deceased and Bridget passed by, and the prisoner immediately followed them. Some words ensued between deceased and prisoner. I passed them and went home to lay my baby down, but returned directly. I then saw the prisoner and deceased scuffling. Stafford knocked the deceased down, and, whilst he was on the ground, kicked him twice. Both I and Bridget implored him not to kick deceased; who, at last got up, and called Stafford a cowardly dog, and otherwise abused him. Some words then ensued between prisoner and Bridget. He, however, begged to speak to her, and she and I went to the corner of the lane, and then went to Daly's public-house, and on returning to the lane, where we found deceased standing, prisoner knocked him down and ran away. I went up to deceased, who appeared in great pain, and with the assistance of Bridget and a neighbour lifted him on to a bed. He never spoke afterwards. Prisoner came back to the house several times whilst we were attending deceased. Once he burst the room-door open, and, seizing a knife, said he would be hung for the five of us. A constable came in, but did not apprehend him, and he again went away. I then sent for Dr. **CARTWRIGHT**, who bled the deceased, but the latter died on the afternoon of Wednesday. Bridget M'Carthy states on oath: I have lived with the deceased for the last three weeks. I have lived with him before, but left him to live with the prisoner, with whom I have lived on and off for about six years. The witness then described the scuffle between prisoner and deceased in the same terms as the former witness, adding that a constable came up whilst deceased was on the ground, but to his request for assistance, the constable answered by advising him to summons prisoner in the morning, and then walked away. Witness also deposed to the second attack made by prisoner on the deceased, after she and the former witness were returning from Daly's, stating that when again knocked down, deceased was kicked by prisoner in a most dreadful manner. **DAVID M'MILLAN**, residing at the corner of Wilmot and Pitt-streets, deposed to his assisting to lift up deceased, as described by the former witness. Dr. **CARTWRIGHT** was called in to attend deceased at three o'clock on Wednesday morning, but the injuries received proved mortal, and Barrett died about three o'clock in the afternoon. A post mortem examination of the body was made by Drs. **CARTWRIGHT and TIERNEY**, who found contusions about the face and head, the bone of the nose broken, and that an effusion of blood on the brain had taken place; they were of opinion the deceased died from the effects of the effusion on the brain, caused by external injury. The coroner having charged the jury, at considerable length, the court was cleared; and at 7 o'clock last evening, the jury found a verdict of wilful murder against Patrick Stafford. *Abridged from the Herald, May 9 [The Empire and Bell's Life state that the verdict was manslaughter, not murder.]*

**DEATH FROM IMPROPER MEDICINE.** - In the case of **WILLIAM TYNAN** (reported in our Thursday's issue), who, it was supposed, died from taking improper medicine, the jury, who terminated their enquiry on the same day, returned a verdict of died from natural causes; the mistake in making up the medicine being deemed immaterial according to the evidence of Dr. **TIERNEY**. *Empire, May 10*

**MELANCHOLY DEATH.** - We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. **D. BISLAND**, late of the Sir Walter Scott Hotel, Bathurst-street. It appears that Mr. Bisland had been suffering from indisposition. In the hopes a trip might be of service to him, he went away with his son-in-law, Mr. **LOWTHER**, the master of the *Scout*, ketch, trading to Maitland and Raymond Terrace. The vessel was at anchor in the Horse Shoe Reach, and between the hours of one and two o'clock on Saturday morning, Mr. Bisland was missed from the craft; instant search was made for the unfortunate gentleman, when at last his body was found under the bows, life quite extinct. Mr. Bisland was in his 43<sup>rd</sup> year; he has left a numerous circle to regret his untimely loss. How the accident happened it is impossible to say. *Empire, May 13*  
**SYDNEY NEWS.**

**EDWARD FARMER** stands remanded, on a charge of having caused the death of one **UNSWORTH** on Sunday last; on which charge he was apprehended yesterday.  
**SUSPICION OF MURDER.**

Late last evening **EDWARD FARMER**, a brass-founder, residing in little Hunter-street, was apprehended by constable **EGAN**, on suspicion of having murdered Mr. **JOHN UNSWORTH**, late a messenger of the commissariat department, whose sudden death, with the inquest thereupon, was reported in the *Herald* of Tuesday last. *Herald, May 15*

**MURDER IN COLD BLOOD.** Report from America of the murder by Mr. **CORNWORTH HECTOR** (recently ex NZ and NSW) of one **ALFRED M'PHERSON**; survivor a Mr. **FENTON**; all said to be English and also ex NSW.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - It is our painful duty to record the sudden death of Mr. **GEORGE SMALL**, merchant, of this city, who was found dead in his bed-room, at the residence of Mr. **GRIMWOOD**, South Head Road, yesterday morning. The body having been brought into Sydney, an inquest was held yesterday evening by the coroner, at the house of the deceased, in Jamieson-street. Mr. **T. GRIMWOOD** deposed as follows:- I know the deceased; he came to my house on a visit yesterday evening (Monday); he appeared to be in his usual health, with the exception of a slight flatulency ; he had some coffee and dry toast; and later in the evening a little weak brandy and water; he retired to rest about a quarter to ten; I showed him into his room; this morning (Tuesday), about 7 o'clock, I knocked at his door, but receiving no answer, I lifted the window-sash, when I perceived that he had not been in bed; I then went into the room, and found him in a kneeling position at the bed-side, one arm over the back of the chair, the other leaning on the bed, as if deceased had been at prayers at the time of the attack; he was quite dead; his countenance appeared to be very little altered; he was about 45 years of age. Mr. **BILLERWELL**, one of the executors, deposed that Mr. Small was possessed of considerable wealth, and had left a will. Dr. **M'KELLAR**, who had been Mr. Small's medical attendant, deposed that he was labouring under disease of the heart, and that witness had felt it his duty to inform him that he was in a very precarious state; witness was of opinion Mr. Small died from disease of the heart. Dr. **A'BECKETT**, who had been recently attending Mr. Small with Dr. M'Kellar, gave similar evidence. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God. *Abridged from the Herald, May 14*

**PARRAMATTA.** - **MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT.** - Mr. **THOMAS QUINTON**, late lessee of the markets, a steady, sober, and respected townsman, was proceeding along with a horse and spring-cart to a dairy farm of Mr. **JAMES GALLOWAY**, about two miles from town. Perceiving a stump before the horse, who was going at as moderate pace, Mr. Quinton tried to pull the horse aside, but the animal refused to answer the rein, and the near wheel came in contact with the stump,

which caused a sudden jerk, and threw Mr. Quinton out of the vehicle on his back; he lay for some time till Mr. **THOMAS PYKE**, farmer, of Prospect, saw the horse going along with the cart in the direction of the farm, and proceeded on the roads till he came up with the sufferer, who was moving his hands in agony, and requested Mr. Pyke to lift him against the fence, which he managed to do, but Quinton could not support himself, and fell down on one side; more assistance was procured, and he was lifted into the cart and taken to the farm. Dr. **ROBERTSON** visited him, and ordered his removal to the hospital the next day, and on Saturday last death put an end to his sufferings. An inquest was held, and a verdict of accidental death returned. *Herald Correspondent*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> ult., a man named **WILLIAM NORMAN**, who has been seventeen or eighteen years in the employment of Mr. **KITE**, died very suddenly. He was employed as a shepherd by Mr. Kite, at a station called Mulligan, near Shepherd's Bush, about fifty miles from Wellington, and had brought home his sheep in the evening, shortly after which he fell down and expired instantaneously. *Herald's Bathurst Correspondent*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/718, 21/05/1851**

**ADJOURNED PUBLICANS LICENSING MEETING.** - Yesterday the bench met in petty sessions at the adjourned publicans' licensing meeting; ... The application of Mr. **THOMAS WALKER**, for the Red Lion, East Maitland, was next called. The depositions in the inquest on the body of **JOSEPH HUMBLER**, a man who died in Mr. Walker's in n some short time since (reported in the *Mercury* at the time) were read, and also a statement by Mr. Walker in explanation of the circumstances. A discussion of some length ensued, Mr. Walker contending that he had not acted in any way improperly towards the man, that his house was habitually kept in a very orderly manner, and that the same thing might have happened in any house. The magistrates, in expressing their opinions, dwelt mainly on the fact that Mr. Walker had supplied, or allowed the man to be supplied, with rum, which afterwards caused his death, although he knew the man to be so intemperate that he would always drink when he could get it, and when by his own evidence, and the observation of others, the man had in a few days had so much drink as to be unwell from it. Finally the bench refused the application. - Mr. Walker then asked the bench to grant the license for the house, of which he held an unexpired lease, to Mr. **WILLIAM CANNON**. It appeared that both Mr. Cannon and Mr. **DANIEL MAHER** had applied for the house. The bench granted the application of Mr. Cannon.

**HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - WELLINGROVE.**

I regret that I have to report another fatal accident in this district. **CHARLES SMITH**, a carrier, was driving his dray and bullocks across a small creek, as it is called, at Wellington Vale, and had the misfortune to overturn it, when it fell upon him, and injured him so dreadfully that he died in less than an hour after the accident occurred. May 8, 1851

**MUSWELL BROOK. - WILFUL MURDER.** - On Wednesday last a man named **HENRY BOYLE** was wilfully murdered, about ten miles from Muswell Brook, by a man named **THOMAS BALLARD**, who was afterwards apprehended by the police. An inquest was held before the coroner, and the prisoner was fully committed for wilful murder. Mr. **FOX**, chief constable, and constable **ASHBURN**, brought the murderer into Muswell Brook about midnight on Saturday last, and safely lodged him in the lockup. We have not yet received the report of the evidence taken at the inquest. May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1851

**CHARGE OF MURDER.** - A man named **EDWARD FARMER**, a brass founder, was apprehended by the police on a charge of having caused the death of one **JAONE UNSWORTH**, an elderly man, attached to the Commissariat department, who died on Monday. An inquest was held on the body, and the jury returned a verdict of "death from natural causes." Circumstances, however, came to the ears of the police which led to the apprehension of Farmer. He was taken into custody by constable **PATRICK EGAN**, to whom he admitted that he had an altercation with the deceased on Sunday morning about one o'clock, but did not strike him. The enquiry was entered into at the police-office, and Farmer was remanded to the coroner, by whom the exhumation of the body will be ordered. *Bell's Life, May 17*

**RENEWED ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF MR. UNSWORTH.** - On Saturday evening the resumed inquest on the body of Mr. **[JOHN] UNSWORTH** was held. The body had been exhumed, and a post mortem examination of it made, by Dr. **TIERNEY** and Mr. **HARPUR**, the latter of whom attended Mr. Unsworth in his last illness; the opinion of both medical men was that no violence had been used towards deceased in any way leading to his death, but decomposition was too far advanced to enable them to say that there were no external marks of violence; and they both concurred in Mr. Harpur's previously expressed opinion that deceased died from natural causes, having been ill of cholic for two days. The deceased had on the night preceding his illness gone to the house of a person named **EDWARD FARMER**, to fetch home the daughter and grand-daughter of deceased; it was admitted that deceased did not approve of their visiting Farmer, and that in consequence of his meeting them coming homewards in Farmer's company, an altercation ensued between deceased and Farmer, during which Farmer took hold of deceased's shoulder, and threatened to take steps to make him hold his tongue; deceased's daughter and grand-daughter both swore positively that Farmer used no violence whatever, and neither struck nor beat the deceased. On the other hand, three neighbours of Farmer's deposed that they heard the altercation, and the sound of blows, and one man swore that he saw Farmer knock down and kick the deceased. During the illness of deceased Mr. Harpur treated him for cholic, and deceased never complained to Mr. Harpur of any of his friends that Farmer or any one had beat or illused him, and no mark of violence was perceptible on his body when he was laid out. The jury returned a verdict that the finding at the first inquest was correct, and that the deceased died from natural causes. *Abridged from the Herald, May 19*

**INQUESTS.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held on the body of a man lying dead at the General Hospital. The deceased appeared to be a sea-faring man, and from the evidence was drinking in a house, in Erskine-street, when in leaving an up-stairs room he reeled and fell down stairs, striking his head against a box. He was taken to the hospital, and died there from the injury thus received. Verdict – accidental death.

Yesterday an inquest was held on the body of Mrs. **JANE REAP WOODRIFFE**, landlady of the Macquarie Inn, Bathurst-street, who died suddenly on Tuesday night. She was subject to hysterical fits, and had been attended by Dr. **BENNETT** for years past; on that night she was heard to fall out of bed, and before a medical man could be called in had expired. Verdict – died from serous effusion on the brain.

Another inquest was held yesterday on the body of **ANNE WILSON**, a woman of intemperate habits, who died suddenly early yesterday morning from the rupture of a blood-vessel during a fit of vomiting. Verdict – died from rupture of a blood vessel, the effect of pre-existing disease, accelerated by intemperance. *Abridged from the Herald, May 16*

MURDER. - We have been informed that a man has been committed by the Yass Bench for wilful murder. We have not heard the particulars, further than that the offence resulted in a quarrel between two men living on a station in the neighbourhood. As soon as we can have facts we will communicate them. *Goulburn Correspondent of the Empire*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/719, 24/05/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - MUSWELL BROOK.

WILFUL MURDER. - On Saturday last an inquest was held before **J.B. WEST**, Esq., Coroner of the district, and a jury of twelve, at the Emu Inn, Merton, on the body of **HENRY BOYLE**, then lying dead at a gunyah about a mile and a half from the village. At the close of the inquest **THOMAS BALLARD**, then in custody, was fully committed, by the Coroner, to take his trial at the next Circuit Court, at Maitland, for wilful murder. It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner and a man named **WILLIAM PACK** were shepherds, and the deceased hut-keeper, at a station of **J.H. BETTINGTON**, Esq., J.P., about a mile and a half from Merton. About four o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday last Pack was returning to the station with his flock of sheep, the prisoner having arrived with his flock previously, when Pack observed the prisoner and deceased coming towards the hurdles; in two or three minutes afterwards he saw them both on the ground fighting; he went up to them, and laid hold of Ballard, and said "leave the old man alone, Tom;" deceased was a hale old man, grey-headed, about 60 years of age; prisoner then let him go, and walked away. Pack then went round his sheep, put them into the fold, and was tying the hurdles to the stakes, several minutes having elapsed from the time they left off fighting; he then saw Ballard strike the deceased three or four times with a hurdle stake, about four feet long and three inches in diameter; the first blow was across the chest, which knocked him down; the other blows were on the head whilst he was on the ground; the stake was held with both hands, and the blows given with much violence; Pack went up to Ballard and said, "Tom, you have killed the old man;" Ballard then threw the stake away. Pack ran off to Merton and gave information to district constable **MURRY**, who, with some other person, went with all speed to the station, and found Boyle lying on the ground quite insensible, and blood running from a wound on his head; Ballard was then walking round the hurdles; the constable apprehended him, and whilst conveying him to Merton the prisoner said he hoped he had killed the old wretch, and that the Queen would not hang him for killing him, but that he was more drunk than hurt; prisoner at first appeared sober, but he afterwards became very drunk, and lay down on the road about half an hour. Boyle was removed into the gunyah, and during the night was visited by Doctor **WEST**; he still remained insensible from the wounds and bruises, and lingered until Friday morning, about eight o'clock, when he died; a few hours before he expired he was partially sensible, and on being asked who hurt him said, "Tom." The murderer, who had been previously removed to the lock up at Muswell Brook, was, on Saturday last, escorted by chief constable **FOX** to Merton, to be present at the inquest, and on the way had to pass the station where Boyle was lying dead; Mr. Fox took the prisoner near to the gunyah where the body lay, and told Pack, who was there, to take the blanket off which covered the deceased that he might see his head; Pack did so, and whilst the chief constable was looking at it the prisoner immediately went hastily up to the body, and put his hands, which had handcuffs on, close to the right side of deceased's forehead, where there was a wound, and said, "there, that is the blow;" he afterwards said that he never struck the deceased but one blow. Mr. **T.H. FOWLER**, surgeon,

examined the body of Boyle, and found a contused wound on the right temporal bone, about one inch in length; it was in the figure of a cross, and might be inflicted by a blunt instrument; on removing the scalp he found the supra orbital process of the bone was fractured; and on removing the skull-cap found an effusion of blood on the brain; it was coagulated, and amounted to four ounces; the membrane of the brain, and the brain itself, were much engorged with blood; there was also a contusion on the left temple; he believed the state of the brain to have resulted from the external injuries before mentioned, and to be the cause of death, and that it was impossible for deceased to have recovered from these injuries; he also found several bruises about the body, one in particular on the chest, but did not examine the chest, having found inevitable cause of death in the head. The Coroner having addressed the jury, they retired, and returned with a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner, Thomas Ballard, who was then committed for trial.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/720, 28/05/1851

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Saturday evening, soon after dusk, a settler named **JOHN FAY**, residing in Mr. Lang's brush, was drowned as he was crossing the Hunter River, near Narrowgut. It is stated that Fay was crossing in a small boat, and had thrown a piece of meat on to the bank he had approached, and then stepped out himself, supposing he should step on the bank, but the boat having recoiled from the bank a little, Fay stepped into the river, there deep and weedy, and was drowned. Up to Monday evening the body had not been found.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

MURDER OF AN ABORIGINAL BY TWO ABORIGINALS. - Yesterday a coroner's inquest was held at the Fitz Roy Hotel, by **H. GLENNIE**, Esq., Coroner, on the body of **GERRY GERRY**, or **GREGORY**, an aboriginal, who had been murdered late on Saturday night by two other aboriginals. The evidence went to prove that two of the local aboriginals had had a quarrel about a gin with the deceased, an aboriginal from Byron Plains, which ended in their pursuing him and killing him with repeated blows on the head, apparently with a tomahawk; he died in a quarter of an hour after chief constable **HORNE** had reached the spot where he heard the black crying out, and saw two blacks running away. The jury, by a majority of seven to six, returned a verdict of wilful murder against **JACKEY and JEMMY**. Jackey, who was in custody, was thereupon committed for trial at the Circuit Court, and a warrant was issued for Jemmy's apprehension. [We have not room for the evidence in this publication, having received the report at a late hour. - ED. M. M.]

MURDER. - We have heard that a man, calling himself **FLYNN or FLANNAGAN** (we are not sure which), has been committed by the Yass bench for wilful murder. It appears that he had a quarrel with a man about a dog, and that he fired at that person with a fowling-piece, and afterwards battered his brains out with the butt end of it. *Goulburn Herald, May 24*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/721, 31/05/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

AWFUL AND SUDDEN DEATH. - Another coroner's inquest was held yesterday, at the Fitz Roy Hotel, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of thirteen, touching the death of **MARTIN BURKE**, a man in the employ of **ARTHUR BLAXLAND**, Esq., of Fordwich, and who expired suddenly on Tuesday night, in the bar of the Fitz Roy Hotel. From the evidence of **SAMUEL K HENRY HORNE**, **PATRICK KERNEY**, and **JOHN FRAYNE** - it appeared that on Tuesday evening,

between 8 and 9 o'clock, the deceased, who was drunk, came into the "Fitz Roy," in company with Kerney, and was advised to go home by Mr. Horne, as he had been about the town drinking for the last week; Mr. Horne then left him. Deceased was asked by Kerney if he would toss for glasses, which he refused, but said that he would wrestle with him; this, however, was not done; shortly after they noticed the deceased to lean his head upon his arms, upon which Kerney removed him on to a form, so that he could lay down, but he seemed to prefer sitting up; he did not speak afterwards, but sat in the same posture as when placed there, and upon the parties being about to leave the place they looked at him, and upon close examination found that he was dead. Mr. Horne was immediately sent for, and found life was extinct. The coroner was of opinion that the deceased's death was caused by disease of the heart, as deceased had been treated for that complaint. The jury returned a verdict of – Died by the visitation of God.

LETTERS. A series of letters between **JOHN S. PARKER**, Coroner, and **JOHN W.P. BLICK** re his qualifications and status, consequent on remarks made at the inquest on a **JAMES COWAN** at Black Creek [early April]; letter No. 5 reads:-  
Morpeth, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1850.

Dr. Blick, Black Creek,

DEAR SIR, - The constable from Black Creek has just reported the death of a young man named **BOEN**, informing me that you attended him, and that he was subject to fits; under such circumstances I think that there is no reason to suspect that there was any unfair play, and that his death was the result of natural causes. If you agree with me, the body can be interred, but if you think to the contrary, and that it is necessary to hold an inquest, you will oblige me by writing to me immediately on the subject. It will not take much trouble to exhume the body if this should not reach you in time. - In haste, I remain, my dear sir, yours very truly,

JOHN S. PARKER, Coroner.

[NOTE. NO inquest or press report found; 21/06/2008]

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

#### MURDER OF A BLACKFELLOW

Yesterday (Monday) a coroner's inquest was held at the Fitz Roy Hotel, Singleton, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., Coroner, and a jury of thirteen, to enquire into the death of an aboriginal named **GERRY GERRY or GREGORY**, who had been murdered late on Saturday night by two aborigines. The inquest commenced at about 11 o'clock, a.m., and the jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the body, which lay in a stable near at hand. Several deep cuts appeared about the head and face, one under the chin, one under the left eye, another across his ear, severing it in two, and others upon the back part of the head sufficiently deep to have caused instant death. **JACKY**, one of the murderers, was in the inquest room in the custody of, and handcuffed to, the lockup keeper; the other aboriginal, named **JEMMY**, has not yet been taken, although seven blackfellows were apprehended by the chief constable on Sunday last, but six of them were afterwards liberated.

**SAMUEL HENRY HORNE**, chief constable of Singleton, deposed that he was at Mr. Alcorn's inn on Saturday night, where he saw the deceased, and Mr. Alcorn was advising him to go home; there was another blackfellow present, and a black gin; at about a quarter to eleven witness was going round the town, when he heard a great noise of cursing and swearing near Mr. **ALEXANDER JOHNSTONE'S**, whose house is situated on the bank of the river; could see no one, being a dark night, but proceeding from the back part of the house witness heard a rush of persons down the bank towards the crossing place of the river; witness heard a blackfellow say, "Which way he go? We lose him," and soon after heard another one running in a contrary direction; towards the back of Mr. Browne's fence he appeared to be quite exhausted

and out of breath; at the same time a black gin came out of Mr. Johnstone's place and went up the street; she was not sober; witness asked her where she was going, and she said to Mr. Cassidy's to stop; witness asked her what the blackfellows were after? And she said, "after blackfellow"; witness called to the blackfellows, when two came up and said they were after a Liverpool blackfellow who wanted to take their gin; they were two short set men, one like the prisoner, and one shorter; it was dark, and witness could not discern their features; they said that they had come from St. Clair after their blankets; they then left witness and went off to Mr. Johnstone's place; witness then went home, and soon after heard dreadful cries of murder, the cries proceeding from the place witness had just left the blacks at; the cries were repeated four or five times; witness returned, and when he got near the spot the cries had ceased; the person crying out appeared to be running; witness then heard several blows, and ran to the spot calling out "are you murdering the man?" when witness heard two men run away; witness immediately fired his pistol in the direction that the men were running; witness then heard some groans, and proceeding down the bank to the spot found the body of the deceased; Mrs. **CARTER and JOHNSTONE** then came down with a light, and witness recognised deceased as the blackfellow he had seen at Mr. Alcorn's; the blood was flowing from his mouth and eyes, and a considerable stream was under him; her was laying on his back; witness left Mr. Johnstone with him while he went to inform Mr. **BROWNE**, and on his return, in about fifteen minutes, he was dead; the cuts on the head and face appeared to have been inflicted with a tomahawk; the next day (Sunday) witness proceeded to their camp, when prisoner was apprehended, having planted himself in a huge iron-bark tree; prisoner said black-fellow and stockman kill my piccaninny long time ago; three tomahawks were found in the camp, bloody, but it might be from opossums; there was no human hair upon them; witness was told by the prisoner's gin that prisoner and Jemmy killed the deceased; when the two blacks spoke to witness they appeared to have been drinking.

Mrs. **CATHERINE CARTER** deposed that late on Saturday night she heard a great noise of screaming and shouting, down the bank of the river, in the rear of her house; she went to the window and stopped there, and heard some heavy blows given; she then heard Mr. Horne's voice, and then a report of a pistol in the direction of the crossing place; witness then came out and went down with Mr. Horne with a light, when she saw a black man on the ground; he was rattling at the throat and foaming with blood at the mouth; her had several deep cuts about the head and face; witness got some water and tried to stop the blood by pouring it on the wounds; witness had seen two black-fellows and a black woman that evening; the woman was very drunk; they were at one fire-place in the shed at the back of our house; witness could not know them again; one was a shorter man than the other; the tall one said that Mr. Browne's black had like to kill one of them with a tomahawk and wanted his gin; they had been making a great deal of noise; witness did not recollect seeing the deceased with them.

**ALEXANDER JOHNSTONE**, fellmonger, sworn: on Saturday night, about ten o'clock, the prisoner and another black came into my yard to the fire; they were soon joined by deceased, and they talked together in their own language, seemingly in an angry tone; some time after deceased went down to the bank; they had been talking together for about ten minutes, deceased said to them "Bale me want it mol-lungi," (which means woman); after that the two blacks went down to the bank in the same direction as the deceased; witness heard no moiré till the report of Mr. Horne's pistol, having been to bed; when witness heard the shot he came out and went to where the

deceased lay; Mr. Horne was with the body at the bottom of the bank; the life was just ebbing; when the three blacks were in my yard there was a black gin with them, and they seemed to be accusing deceased of being too free with her; after the three blacks went down to the bank the gin remained sleeping by the fire, but when the shot was fired she ran away; witness found a tomahawk the next morning, which was proved to belong to deceased, having been sold to him by Mr. Browne's cook.

**EDWARD BROWNE** deposed that the deceased came down from Byron Plains to Singleton, to assist him with cattle; the deceased had also been to Maitland and returned from there on Saturday evening; deceased had been employed about four months.

The inquest was now adjourned for one hour, to give time to perform a post-mortem examination. This being done by the coroner, the inquest was resumed.

The coroner stated that he had examined the skull of the deceased, and found five wounds thereon; he had removed the scalp, and found a fracture as big as a half-crown where the skull was driven into the brain. This was sufficient to have caused immediate death. The blows appeared to have been inflicted with some sharp instrument, such as a tomahawk, being about three inches in width. The coroner having summed up, the prisoner was called on if he had anything to say, when he made the following statement:

I been go down to Massa Alcorn's, get a little drunk – all blackfellow get drunk there you know; well, I want to go to camp; Jemmy bale let me go; my gin get drunk; Johnstone fetch it gin from Mr. Alcorn's in a wheelbarrow to his place; Mr. Browne's blackfellow came up with tomahawk and ask "Where black gin?" I say "go camp." Then that fellow bale let me go, he hold my arm; blackfellow belonging to Mr. Browne hit me with tomahawk; I saw Jemmy then at fireplace, and Jemmy not drunk but stupid; Mr. Browne's blackfellow say "You give me black gin;" then he hit black gin with tomahawk and went away; I sit down at fire, and he came again; Jemmy then said "You pi (beat) that blackfellow; Jemmy says "This fellow kill him blackfellow belonging to our place; then Jemmy go pi (beat) him again; I then go camp, and let Jemmy stop behind.

The jury retired for a short time, and not agreeing with their verdict, it was decided by a majority of seven to six that the prisoner Jackey, and also Jemmy, an aboriginal now at large, were guilty of the wilful murder of Gerry Gerry, otherwise Gregory. This verdict was therefore recorded.

The prisoner was then fully committed to take his trial at the next Circuit Court, and a warrant issued for the apprehension of the other murderer, the coroner stating that he fully coincided with the verdict given. May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1851.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/722, 04/06/1851

BRISBANE CIRCUIT COURT. - This court opened on Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup> May, before Mr. Justice Dickinson.

Friday, May 16

**MICHAEL COLLINS, alias JAMES BRENNAN**, was indicted for the manslaughter of **ROBERT SCHOOLS**, at Little Ipswich, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. The two men quarrelled and fought in a public-house yard, and in the second round Schools was knocked down and died almost instantly, and it was subsequently found that his neck was broken; Schools had repeatedly challenged Collins to fight before he would do so. Guilty, but strongly recommended to mercy; three months imprisonment, with hard labour.

**DAVID SEMPLE** was indicted for the wilful murder of **THOMAS YOUNG**, at Ipswich, on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. It appears from the evidence that Young and Semple had words about Semple's wife; Young walked up and down before Semple's house uttering threats against him in the most gross language, and using worse expressions about his wife; Semple persuaded Young to go away, which Young did, but again returned, repeating his threats and language; Young paid a third visit in the same manner, and was a third time leaving the place when Semple called him back, and going to meet him Semple made a blow at him in the side with a long pocket-knife, inflicting a deep wound; Young fell, and was raised by persons who saw the transaction, and taken to an inn; a doctor was sent for, but Young died in about half an hour from the great internal hemorrhage caused by the wound. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, but recommended Semple to mercy on account of the gross provocation he had received. The judge passed sentence of death, stating that he should forward the recommendation of the jury to the Governor, and if the prisoner had any friends they could also make representations to his Excellency.

#### BRAIDWOOD RACES. - FATAL ACCIDENTS.

On the first night after the races, a man of the name of **BOND**, who had been for a long time in the confidential employment of **T.M. BOYD**, Esq., was drowned in attempting to cross the river, and has not been up to this time found.

Another man, a saddler in the employment of Mr. **BADGERY**, perished on the road in a state of drunkenness.

A third, on returning from the races on Friday night, ran against a tree and died in a few hours. He was in the employment of Mr. **JAMES ROBERTS**, of Yass, and was here in charge of some of that gentleman's stock. *Bell's Life*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/723, 07/06/1851

SYDNEY NEWS. - A man named **HORGAN** was, at an early hour his morning, discovered in a house in Campbell-street, with his throat cut. He was instantly conveyed to the Benevolent Asylum, but there is scarcely a hope of his recovery. There is no reason to suspect that the act was done by other than his own hands.

SDHOCKING OCCURRENCE. - We have frequently had occasion to deprecate the culpable negligence so generally manifested by persons keeping fire-arms on their premises, and to deplore the consequences of such negligence when the weapons have been left within reach of children, and even of adult persons unacquainted with their management. We regret to have to record another instance of shameful carelessness in this respect, and of its fatal result. On Saturday afternoon, two boys named **ABSOLAM**, the elder about ten and the other about five years of age, were playing together in the yard at the rear of premises occupied by a person named **SPARKS**, a tinman, at the corner of York-street and Market-street; on a bench in the yard a loaded pistol had been left, which, melancholy to relate, was seen by the elder of the boys, who took it up and presented it at his brother in play, touched the trigger, the piece went off, the contents lodged in the child's head, and he died on the spot. On Monday an inquest was held on the body, when a verdict of accidental death was returned, the coroner and jury uniting in blaming severely the carelessness of the person who left the loaded pistol within reach of children. *Abridged from the Herald, June 3*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. - Intelligence reached Bathurst early yesterday morning, that Miss **MARY WHITE** - sister of Messrs. **PATRICK** and **PETER WHITE**, met with her death on Thursday night last, by falling over a steep bank of the Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek. It appears she was on her way home to the residence of her brother, Mr. Patrick White, in company with another female in a gig,

and the night being dark, she alighted from the vehicle, and was proceeding on foot in search of the crossing-place to the farm, when she turned off the road too soon and broke her neck by the violence of the fall. Death was instantaneous. *Bathurst Free Press, May 31*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/724, 11/06/1851

DEATH OF A CHILD FROM BURNING. - On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at Boughton's Flats, Upper Paterson, on the body of a little boy named **JAMES GRIFFITHS**, three years old. It appeared that on Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, while Mrs. Griffiths was engaged in her house, and her two children were playing about the room, the frock of the little boy caught fire, it is supposed from a gust of wind blowing the flame from the fire out; a scream from the other child drew Mrs. Griffiths's attention to it, and she instantly tore off the burning frock, the only clothing the child had on at the time; she rubbed a red mark on his stomach with some lard, and he appeared so little injured that she thought there was no danger. On the Thursday night following he was suddenly take much worse, and Dr. **PARK** was sent for, and attended, but on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, the little boy died from the burns. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

SYDNEY NEWS. - A man named **GEO. BRITTON** was found last night lying in a n insensible state, in the locality known as Blackwattle Swamp; he was conveyed to the Benevolent Asylum, and was discovered dead this morning.

**STAFFORD**, convicted of manslaughter, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Monday evening last, a man in the employ of Mr. **WANT**, solicitor, was accidentally killed by a fall from a tree. *Empire, June 4*

IDLE RUMOURS. - Rumour is everywhere afloat, telling all sorts of horrible or improper stories. It was generally reported and extensively credited that Mr. **MICHAEL M'CABE**, publican, of this town, who is gold-digging at Ophir, was struck dead with a pick by one of his mates, with whom he was represented to have quarrelled. We are happy to state that the report if the offspring on the inventive faculty of some wonder-loving gossip, and has not the slightest foundation in fact. *Bathurst Free Press, June 4*

DEATH OF A CHILD FROM SWALLOWING POISON. - There was an inquest held at the Salutation Inn, on the body of a child, which had picked up a piece of corrosive sublimate, unperceived by its parents, and put it into her mouth. On being discovered, the child was put under medical treatment, which for a time appeared to check the influence of the poison, but in a day or two after the fatal symptoms appeared, and afterwards death. Verdict, died from the effect of taking poison. *Goulburn Correspondent of the Herald*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT. - Wednesday, June 4. Before Mr. Justice Therry.

**PATRICK STAFFORD** was indicted for the manslaughter of **DENIS BARRETT**, at Sydney, on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The particulars of this case were reported at the time; Stafford sought out and attacked Barrett because Barrett had beaten a woman then living with him, but who had for some years previously lived with Stafford; the men had two or three fights during the same evening, in each of which Stafford got the upper hand, and beat or kicked Barrett while he was on the ground; Barrett was so much injured that he died in the course of the night, from an effusion on the brain arising from the nasal bones being fractured and rupturing a vein. Guilty; remanded for sentence.

DEATH FROM BLEEDING A DISEASED HORSE. - On Tuesday last, a man named **WARD** was engaged at the Punch Bowl public-house, Liverpool Road, in bleeding a diseased horse. Some of the blood was on his fingers, and in wiping his brow, the blood appears to have entered a slight abrasure of the skin; he was suddenly taken ill, and shortly afterwards expired. He was a man of good character, and has left a wife and seven children in extreme distress. *Herald, June 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/725, 14/06/1851

A MAN DROWNED. - On Thursday morning the steamers *Rose* and *Tamar* both reached Morpeth from Sydney; the *Tamar* left again at two o'clock in the afternoon. Some difficulty had been found in getting the fireman [**JOHN GOODYER**] of the *Tamar* to come on board, as he was on shore drinking, but he was at last induced to come. The steamer had not, however, long left the wharf when the fireman was overboard, and although Captain **PAYNE** instantly threw him a life-buoy, and the boars were lowered without delay, he sunk and was drowned. As various statements are made as to the cause or way in which the fireman got overboard, we do not mention any, as of course an inquest will be held on the body when it is found. Up to yesterday afternoon it had not been recovered. We are sorry to hear the fireman has left a wife and four children, in Sydney.

THE CONVICT SEMPLER. - A very numerous and respectably signed memorial to his Excellency the Governor is about being forwarded to head quarters, praying that the sentence of death passed upon this unhappy man at the last Brisbane Assizes may be commuted to banishment or such other punishment as may seem fit to meet the ends of justice. We trust the charitable application to the fountain of mercy may have the desired effect, as it is evident the unhappy man had reason to believe that an improper intercourse existed between his wife and the deceased. *Brisbane Correspondent of the Herald*

LOWER MURRUMBIDGEE. - TWO WHITE MEN MURDERED BY BLACKS.

The police of this district have found the remains of two white men who were murdered by the blacks on Mr. Reynolds's run, Lower Murray. One of the black fellows (**BILLY THE BULL**) was apprehended by constable **D'ARCY**, of the Moulemain police, and constable **KEATING**, of the Balranald police, on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, near Mr. Reynolds's station, with much difficulty; the constables afterwards crossed to Mr. Rea's station, on the Lower Murrumbidgee, where they remained for the night. Some time after their arrival at Mr. Rea's station, the prisoner (Billy the Bull) first told the constables that he killed the white man (**CROPPY**), as he had no master but walk about, by striking him above the ear with a tomahawk, and that he often fell; after the first blow he asked him to rise, but he only made a trembling motion with his hand. On the 6<sup>th</sup> May, Mr. **MOORE**, Chief constable, with three others, escorted the prisoner to where the body of the supposed murdered man was concealed, on the Lower Murray, about five miles from Mr. Reynolds's station. On the arrival of the chief constable at the place he found out that the body had been sunk in the river; the prisoner was very anxious to dive for the body, but was not allowed to do so. The constables then made application to Mr. Reynolds for two blacks that could be depended upon, to which he kindly complied, and gave every assistance in accompanying Mr. Moore back to the river, bringing two blacks with him, who dived for some time apparently without any hopes of success; at last they both dived together and brought up the back bone and ribs; they dived afterwards and then found the skull and other bones. Having obtained all the bones that could be found, the chief constable returned to Mr. Reynolds's station. During the night the prisoner

(Billy the Bull) told constable **MILLS**, when on duty over him, where another white man's bones were hid under a log in Te-walty Creek, about one mile from where the first was found, and that he was killed by a black fellow (**JACKY BEVERIDGE**) striking him on the top of the head with a tomahawk. On the following morning the chief constable took the prisoner to Te-walty Creek, and found the bones as had said, but scattered in the creek, which being dry enabled Mr. Moore to get some joints of the back bone and shoulder blade under the log, but he had to pick some out of the hard clay with a knife; some of the ribs and leg and arm bones were lying further up the creek. On further search the skull was found, having a piece broken in the centre of it, apparently with a tomahawk. As yet no particular information has been obtained more than that the murdered person was in the employ of Mr. **M'LEOD** about 18 or 20 months since, when washing his sheep. A warrant has been taken out for the black fellow (Jackey Beveridge), and Billy the Bull was finally committed on the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. to take his trial for wilful murder at the next Goulburn Circuit Court. *Correspondent of the Goulburn Herald*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/727, 21/06/1851

INQUEST. - On Monday an inquest was held at the Golden Lion, East Maitland, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **JAMES BRILEY**, known as **Lankey the Pieman**. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, an old man, was a habitual hard drinker, and had been recently attended by Dr. **WILTON** for illness brought on by intemperance; on Sunday last Mrs. **MAHONY**, a neighbour of Briley's, heard him groaning, and going to him found him complaining of illness; Mrs. Mahony made him some tea, and sent for a person whom Briley wished to see; about the middle of the day Mrs. Mahony took Briley some more tea, and recommended him to go to the hospital, which Briley said he would do; but in the afternoon, when Mrs. Mahony again visited him, she found him kneeling in bed, dead, his head resting against the wall; she immediately sent for Dr. Wilton, who came and found him in this position. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, accelerated by intemperance.

MURDER. - The murder at Yass, lately reported in our paper, appears to be a more serious affair than we at first imagined. It seems that a quarrel took place between the murderer and the murdered about a dog, which ended in the former striking the latter with the butt end of a gun he held in his hand. When the unfortunate fellow was on the ground, the wretch repeated the blows and set on his dog, which dragged the poor fellow's wind pipe out. While on his road to Goulburn under escort, the murdered exulted in stating that no one was present to witness his barbarism, and therefore entertained every expectation of getting acquitted. *Goulburn Herald, June 14*

WIDE BAY. - We have just had a visit from a detachment of the Native Police under Lieutenant Marshall; they endeavoured to apprehend **BOOMER** and **FIREAWAY**, two native blacks who killed Mr. **BLAXLAND** on the Burnett some time ago, but they took the river and escaped, though it is supposed they were wounded; they also apprehended a black called **MICKALY**, alias **PADDY SHAE**, supposed to be one of the murderers of Mr. **GREGOR** and Mrs. **SHANNON** on the Pine River, near Brisbane, some years ago; he goes per *Albion* to Sydney, and from thence will be forwarded to Brisbane; he speaks good English; at his examination he admitted he had heard about the murder and robbery. He was identified as Paddy Shae, and gave that as his name when he was first seen at Wide Bay.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/728, 25/06/1851

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Friday last the body of **JOHN GOODYER**, the fireman who was drowned from the *Tamar* steamer, was found floating in the river near Hinton. On Saturday an inquest was held on it, at the Hinton Hotel, before Mr. **PARKER**. The evidence of the captain, **CHARLES PAINE**, and of the mate, **JOHN MARSHALL**, having been taken, to the effect that the deceased fell backwards into the water, his head striking the sponson beam as he fell; and that no one touched him, or was near him, deceased falling from drunkenness – the jury returned a verdict of accidental death by drowning.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/729, 28/06/1851

DEATH OF A MAN OF COLOUR. - On his way down the country, on Wednesday morning, Mr. **JAMES SOLOMON** passed the dead body of a Malay, or Hindoo, lying in the road, about six miles from Muswell Brook and nine from Scone; the poor man having apparently been killed by the wheel of his dray passing over him, two drays being camped near the body. Mr. Solomon spoke of the matter to several parties at Muswell Brook on his arrival there, but did not hear before he left that any constable or other person in authority had visited the body.

ABDUCTION. - On Monday, four parties named **PATRICK MEEHAN, JAMES MATHER, MARY OATES, and MARY RYAN**, appeared before the Police Magistrate charged with having unlawfully taken out of the possession of her father, one **EMILY BLAKE**, an unmarried female under the age of sixteen years. Mr. Nichols appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Johnson for the defence. The father of the child proved that she was only fourteen years and five months old, and that he was also acquainted with Meehan and his sister Mrs. Oates; they were in the habit of using his house as customers, but Meehan had never paid his addresses to his daughter with his knowledge or consent. Dr. **FULLERTON** deposed to having married the prisoner, Meehan, to **AMELIA BLAKE**; she was represented to him as being the child of a man who had gone to California and left under the care of the woman Ryan, who said that she was seventeen years of age. Several witnesses were examined, and the court having sat two days hearing the case, decided that sufficient testimony had been adduced to warrant the committal of the prisoner. They were admitted to bail. *People's Advocate, June 25*

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE. - We regret to announce the death of Mr. **FERRIS**, of the Bank of New South Wales, by his own hand, yesterday. The deceased (who resided on the North Shore) was found yesterday by a son of Mr. **DIND**, a neighbour, a short distance in the bush, where the unfortunate gentleman had shot himself. *Empire, June 25*. [An inquest was held on the body, subsequently, when it appeared that the deceased, who had been some years employed in the bank, and who had some property, had become dissatisfied lately with the effect of some changes made in the clerical department of the bank, by which he said more duty was cast on him. Some years since the deceased received an injury on the head, and his memory had appeared weakened ever since, but no suspicion was felt that he contemplated such a rash act. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had destroyed himself while labouring under temporary insanity.]

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/730, 02/07/1851

VESSELS FOR LONDON. - The *Anna Mary*, from the Downs the 6<sup>th</sup> March, has had a very rough passage, and has lost part of her bulwarks. On the 20th May, in a gale of wind, an apprentice named **ANDREW MAY** fell overboard from off the jib-boom, and was unfortunately drowned.

NEWCASTLE. - The *Antares* was compelled to heave to on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, during a heavy gale of wind from the south-west off Cape Howe, when Mr. **WILLIAM ROSS**, a cabin passenger, in a fit of delirium tremens, jumped overboard, and was unfortunately drowned. The deceased was formerly a clerk in the Union Bank of Australia, at Hobart Town. June 26

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. - Mr. **CHARLES JENKINS** was yesterday apprehended for having administered poison to Mr. **MICHAEL FARRELL**, of George-street, publican. Mr. Jenkins having been for some time past labouring under a depression of spirits, Mr. Farrell yesterday afternoon paid him a visit, at his residence, Surry Hills. After some conversation the both proceeded to the Green Isle Inn, South Head Road, when Mr. Jenkins called for a glass of ginger-beer for himself, and a glass of ale for Mr. Farrell. Having drank the ale, Mr. Farrell complained of it as vile stuff, but nothing was thought of it until in a few minutes he became violently ill with violent retching; and shortly afterwards a little child, who, it appears, drank off the remainder, was similarly affected. An examination of the tumbler led to the discovery of a sediment, apparently corrosive sublimate. The circumstances gaining wind, came to the ears of a police officer, who took Mr. Jenkins into custody. Medical aid was in the mean time promptly called in; and by the immediate use by Dr. **BENNETT** of the stomach pump, with the administration of suitable medicines, Mr. Farrell was last night expected to be out of danger. We did not hear whether the child was considered to be in equally safe circumstances. We believe that there is no doubt whatever of Mr. Jenkins' insanity; and he must have taken an opportunity of pouring the mixture into Mr. Farrell's glass while the latter was conversing with another person in the house. They were on the best possible terms with each other. *Herald, June 26*

ABDUCTION CASE. - The Rev. Dr. **FULLERTON** has been summoned to answer the charge of "contracting an illegal marriage between **EMMELINE BLAKE** and **PATRICK MEEHAN**." The case will, we understand, come on for hearing to-morrow. It is said that Mr. Foster has been retained as counsel for the defence. *Empire, June 26.*

THE REV. DR. FULLERTON. - This gentleman's case, which was set down for hearing at the Police-office yesterday, was postponed until Monday next, in consequence of Mr. Foster, who was retained for the defence, being unavoidably engaged at the Supreme Court. *Empire, 28<sup>th</sup> June*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/732, 09/07/1851

ACCIDENTAL DEATH BY DROWNING. - As a stranger, apparently a poor traveller, with blanket and pot on his back, who had incautiously essayed to mount a mare without bridle or saddle, caught by chance at the bank of the river, was making her swim across the Hunter, nearly opposite the residence of Dr. West, by some mismanagement, it is said by checking the animal and not giving her her head, they both came in collision with a log, when they appeared as if rolling upon each other, and the rider slipped off her back and was swept away by the current. The body has not been seen since it sank. The mare swam to shore safely. This casualty occurred yesterday afternoon.

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, by Dr. **LITTLE**, coroner of the district of Scone, at the Prince Albert Hotel, Aberdeen, on the body of a man of colour, a Malay, who it appeared from the evidence had been killed on the road in the Scone district by the wheel of his dray passing over him. The jury returned a finding of accidental death. Some delay was occasioned in making this matter known to the

proper coroner, in consequence of some person, not acquainted with the boundaries of the Scone district, either sending or taking the report to Muswellbrook, which caused the police of the latter district to visit the body during the night of Tuesday, and on the following morning to forward the report to the authorities at Scone.

**DREADFUL OUTRAGE.** - A gentleman arriving yesterday from Carcoar brings information that a fiend [**CORNELIUS O'BRIEN**] in human shape, after using extreme violence towards some female, tied her down to a bed and attempted to burn her to death, after which he succeeded in getting away. The same person states that she [**ELIZA CLARKE**] was lying in a most dangerous state, her life being despaired of. I since hear that the ruffian has been taken. *Bathurst Correspondent of Herald*  
**DEATH.**

Accidentally drowned at sea, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, from on board the brigantine *Meg Merrilies*, on her passage from the Clarence River, and of which vessel he was commander, Mr. **JAMES DAVIS**.

**COUNCILLOR JENKINS.** - This gentleman was brought before the bench on the charge of lunacy, by virtue of a certificate signed by Drs. **BLAND, RUTTER, and BENNETT**. The case was investigated at some length in the private room; but as usual the Doctors could not agree in their testimony. Dr. **TIERNEY** was of opinion that Mr. **JENKINS** was not insane, while Dr. Rutter was so convinced to the contrary that he had sent a certificate on his own responsibility to the effect that Mr. Jenkins was a dangerous lunatic. It was ultimately determined, however, to hand Mr. Jenkins over to the guardianship of his sureties, by which means, perhaps, both his unfortunate condition and the happiness of his family will be best consulted. *Empire, July 5*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/733, 12/07/1851**

**DEATHS.**

At the Caledonian Hotel, Newcastle, suddenly, on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, while on his passage from Sydney to the Paterson, **EDWARD**, eldest son of the late **JOSEPH STOREY**, Esq., shipowner of Sunderland, Durham, and Mrs. **THOMAS CROFT**, of Sydney, aged 35 years.

**ACCIDENT.** - A horse-driver from Maitland had his arm fractured near this township about a fortnight ago. It was caused by the dray wheel passing over it, and was so severe (compound and comminuted) that amputation was considered necessary. It was, however, ultimately decided by the medical men that the limb might be saved, and up to this time the man is progressing favourably. *June 9*

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT. - TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1851**

**LARCENY.** - **ANGELINA MARY HUGHES HALLETT** was indicted for stealing five £1 notes and some silver, the property of **SARAH TEMPLETON**, at Sydney, on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty. The prisoner was sentenced to two years' hard labour in Parramatta gaol, and the judge explained in passing sentence that she had been released at the expiration of about one-fourth of her former sentence for child-stealing, two years, on a medical certificate from the gaol medical man being furnished that any further confinement would permanently injure her health.

**DEATH BY BURNING.** - Yesterday evening Mr. **J. O'NEILL BRENNAN**, W.P.M, held a magisterial inquiry (in the absence of the Coroner) touching the death of **WILLIAM CAMPSTEY**, who was literally burned to ashes on Sunday night, under the following circumstances:- The deceased, who resided in a small court off Pitt-street, had been bed-ridden for some time past, and had been in the habit of smoking

in bed. On Sunday evening he, as usual, had had his bed made, and had been left with his candle burning, and his pipe and tobacco. Upon going into the room yesterday morning, a neighbour (Mrs. **HACKETT**), who was in the habit of attending to him, found the bed clothes nearly consumed by a smouldering flame, and the body of the deceased, save the head, entirely burnt to ashes. Dr. **TIERNEY** deposed to having been called in to examine the body, which presented one of the most dreadful sights which he had ever seen. It was clearly proved that the fire must have been purely accidental, and a verdict to that effect was recorded. *Herald, July 8*

**OUTRAGE NEAR CARCOAR.** - I have obtained some further particulars respecting the woman who was so severely injured by burning near Carcoar. Her name is **ELIZA CLARKE**, and she resided at King's Plains, about ten miles from Carcoar. On Tuesday last, Mr. **NORTH**, the police magistrate, attended, and took her deposition, she being considered to be in an exceedingly dangerous state. She stated that a man, whom she identified, **CORNELIUS O'BRIEN**, came into her hut, and lit his pipe; he afterwards drew her towards the bedroom, and proceeded to offer violence to her, which she resisted. He then took a firestick, and putting it under her, severely burned her person; after which he left, and she found that the house had been set fire to. The house and its contents were burned to the ground. O'Brien is in the custody of the Carcoar police. *Herald Correspondent, July 7*

**TWO MEN DROWNED.** - On Tuesday night two men who were camping with their teams at one of the Five Mile Water Holes, mistook their way when on return from Mr. Stammers', where, it appears, they had partaken rather freely of liquor, and falling into a deep pond of water, were drowned. The first notice of the catastrophe was taken in consequence of their hats being seen on the surface of the water the following morning. Their names and other particulars have not yet transpired. *Bathurst Free Press, July 5*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/734, 16/07/1851**

**DEATH OF MRS. CLARKE.** - Since Saturday's publication we have made inquiries respecting the death of the unfortunate female reported in our last, from respectable individuals residing near the spot, from whom we learn that the particulars, as then stated, are substantially correct. An inquest was held on the body at King's Plains, but was adjourned to Carcoar, the result of which we have not yet learned. A man of the name of **CORNELIUS O'BRIEN** was apprehended on suspicion, and brought before the Carcoar bench, but as nothing transpired to connect him in any way with the awful deed he was discharged. *Bathurst Free Press, July 9*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - We are sorry to have to report the sudden death of Mr. **ROBERT MUIR**, late of Dunmore Mills. We have not seen the depositions taken at the inquest, but from what we have learnt, Mr. Muir, who had been ailing for some little time, was taken suddenly worse on Saturday morning last, and although Dr. **M'CARTNEY** was sent for instantly, before he could reach Dunmore Mr. Muir had expired. An inquest was held on the body of Sunday, before Mr. **PARKER**, and the funeral took place yesterday.

**THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS.** - At Port Macquarie, a MAN NAMED **SAMUEL ETON** was drowned while attempting to ford a flooded creek; his horse was also drowned.

An old pensioner, recently arrived in the district, also met a similar death.

**HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.** - **MUSWELL BROOK.**

**A YOUNG MAN DROWNED IN THE RIVER.** - An inquest was held by the coroner on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, on the body of the unfortunate young man who was

drowned here on the 4<sup>th</sup>, as previously reported. The body was found on the 7<sup>th</sup> by constable **CUMBERLAND** under a log in the river. The name of the deceased was **CHARLES JOSEPH THOMAS**, and he was an exile by the ship *Randolph*; his passport was found in his pocket; he was a native of Brighton in Sussex; age, 216 years and 6 months. A verdict was returned of accidentally drowned.

MERRIWA.

DEATH BY DROWNING IN A FLOODED CREEK. - An inquest was held at the Fitz Roy Hotel here, by **THOMAS A. PERRY**, Esquire, and a jury of five, on view of the body of **JOHN WEIGHT**, found dead in Smith Rivulet, on Saturday last. It appears that the unfortunate deceased was drowned in attempting to cross the creek during the recent flood, his horse having been found some days previously on the opposite side of it with saddle and bridle on. Floods here are of such unusual occurrence (indeed this is the first we have had for the last three years and a half) that we fear the unfortunate deceased despised the unruly element, and this lost his life in its prime. We understand he had just returned from Maitland, where he had been on a visit to his brother, who has recently arrived in the colony. The verdict of the jury was in accordance with the circumstances, and the remains were interred yesterday.

Merriwa, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1851

DEATH.

At Dunmore, on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, inst., **ROBERT MUIR**, Esq., formerly of Glasgow, N.B., aged 35 years.

MAITLAND MERRCURY, 9/735, 19/07/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - STROUD.

SUDDEN DEATH. - An awfully sudden death happened here last night, at eleven o'clock. An old servant of the Company's, named **JAMES SLATTERIE**, had just got his discharge, having agreed to accompany a party who are preparing to leave this place in a few days for the gold diggings; he had been with the party during the evening arranging for their departure, and on reaching his lodgings, was in the act of taking off a new boot which he had been trying on, when through the exertion he fell forward, and he never afterwards spoke. He was living in the house of a shoemaker, who immediately on Slatterie's falling ran for Dr. **DOUGLAS**. The Doctor was immediately in attendance, but before he reached the vital spark had fled. It is supposed the unfortunate man must have over exerted himself in trying the boots on, and caused the rupture of a blood vessel. Slatterie was a quiet, inoffensive man, and being well known, his death has caused quite a gloom here to-day. July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1851

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday last an accident of a most melancholy nature happened to Mr. **BROWN**, innkeeper, Wingello, which, we regret to state, terminated fatally. It appears that Mr. B. was returning from the Bathurst diggings, and when in the neighbourhood of Bigga was for some distance followed by a native dog. Determined on having a shot at him, Mr. Brown loaded a fowling piece with ball, and placing it in the cart which was accompanying him, walked slowly behind the vehicle, waiting an opportunity of firing at the dog. He had not gone far before the piece went off, owing to the jolting of the cart, the ball entering the unfortunate Mr. Brown's body near the region of the heart. Every attention that circumstances would admit of was afforded the poor sufferer, but it was found impossible to stop the extensive hemorrhage which followed. A messenger was despatched to town for Dr. **WAUGH**, who left on Wednesday for the scene of the disaster. However, medical assistance was of no avail. The unfortunate man lingered until Thursday night, when death put an end to his sufferings. *Goulburn Herald, July 12*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/736, 23/07/1851

ACCIDENT. - Yesterday afternoon, as a servant of Captain Hunter's was driving up George-street in a tax-cart, the horse took fright, and rushed in towards Mr. Birnstingl's shop with such violence as to throw the man out. Fortunately the horse was stopped almost immediately, but we believe the driver has sustained very serious injury – his skull and one of his knee-joints were dreadfully fractured. He was promptly conveyed to the Infirmary, where he was attended by Dr. **DOUGLASS**. It is doubtful whether he will recover. *Empire, July 17*

ACCIDENT. - About five o'clock yesterday afternoon, a little boy named [**GEORGE**] **LOGAN**, aged between two and three years, was knocked down near the intersection of Bathurst-street by Sussex-street, by a cart loaded with flour, and so severely injured that in less than three hours thereafter he expired. Mr. Surgeon **NELSON** and Mr. Surgeon **RUTTER** were promptly in attendance, but their efforts were unavailing to the preservation of the child's life. *Herald, July 17*

MANSLAUGHTER. - DEATH OF AN INFANT FROM NEGLECT. - On Wednesday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Union Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **JANE BRITTON**, an infant only eight months old, who had died on that morning. From the evidence of Dr. **TIERNEY**, who had made a post mortem examination, and from that of the neighbours, it appeared that the father of the deceased had been from home for some time, having left Sydney for the gold diggings; and that the mother, heretofore an exemplary woman, had since given herself up to habits of intemperance; and that from her neglect the child had died. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of manslaughter against **MARY BRITTON**; and a warrant against the unhappy woman was accordingly issued by the Coroner. *Herald, July 18*

FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE HARBOUR. - Yesterday morning, about half-past 7 o'clock, three ballast boats were sailing between Billy Blue's Point and Goat Island, when, suddenly, a squall broke over them from the high land; and the sternmost boat was capsized. A boat, manned by five of the Water Police, immediately pushed off from Goat Island, and constable **HOLLAND** succeeded in recovering the body of one of the crew; which proved to be that of Mr. **WARLOW**, the owner of that and several of the other ballast boats in the harbour. Search was made during the day for the body of his assistant, **WILLIAM WARNER**, but it was not found at dusk last evening. The body of Warlow was conveyed to the Hero of Waterloo Inn, Fort-street; and the usual means of resuscitation used, but without success. It there awaits the coroner's inquest. Both of the deceased men were highly respected, and each has left a wife and family to mourn his untimely fate. *Herald, July 19*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/737, 26/07/1851

SYDNEY NEWS.

MANSLAUGHTER. - The inquest commenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, on the body of **GEORGE LOGAN**, an infant aged two years and a half, and who was killed on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, by being knocked down by a cart, was resumed yesterday at the Light House Hotel – **GEORGE BURNETT**, the driver of the cart, being in custody. It appears from the evidence that the deceased and his brother, a few years older than himself, were playing in Bathurst-street, on the evening in question, when a cart laden with wheat, drawn by a fresh young horse, and driven by the prisoner, came down the street. As it approached the child fell, and the driver not perceiving it, drove on, and the cart passed over its body. He pulled up so soon as he heard the alarm; but not

being at the horse's head, was not in time to save the child's life. Mr. **NELSON** was called in directly, but the poor child died in a few minutes afterwards. The Coroner, in summing up, directed the attention of the jury to those portions of the evidence which went to show that the driver of the cart was not so near to the horse's head as to enable him to pull up suddenly upon an alarm being given. In the present case, it appeared, that the driver was not sufficiently near to his horse's head to prevent the melancholy result; and it would be for the jury to say whether he should, or should not, be sent to take his trial for manslaughter. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of manslaughter against George Burnett, who was committed for trial under the Coroner's warrant. *Herald, July 21*

#### CUNNINGHAM'S GAP.

... The blackfellow that murdered Mrs. **SHANNON**, on the Brisbane, has been taken by the black police, and forwarded to Sydney, the expense of which will no doubt open the eyes of the government. *Correspondent of the Moreton Bay Free Press*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held, yesterday, at Mr. Holder's public-house, Parramatta-street, on the body of **TIMOTHY SULLIVAN**, lying dead in the house of Mrs. **HAYES**, Charles-street. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased left his home quite well on Thursday morning, and returned in the evening of the same day, complaining of having been struck on the side by the shaft of his dray. Deceased said that no blame was attributable to any one; he was coming across his dray, when the horse jibbed and the shaft struck him. Deceased was attended by Dr. **CUTHILL** until the time of his death, which took place on Sunday morning. Dr. Cuthill stated death was caused by the fracture of several ribs, which had penetrated the substance of the lungs, and caused internal haemorrhage. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Empire, July 22*

CORNELIUS O'BRIEN. - A report reached town that this man, who was apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in the burning of **ELIZA CLARK**, had been discharged by the Carcoar bench for want of sufficient proof to connect him with the crime, and I subsequently reported that such was the case, considering it only right that as I had reported the circumstances under which his apprehension took place, I should also give the first intimation of his having been released. It appears, however, that my first report was perfectly right, and my second as perfectly wrong. He was, on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, fully committed for trial by Mr. **NORTH**, the police magistrate of Carcoar, for having, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June last, feloniously, unlawfully, and maliciously. Assaulted, wounded, and burned Eliza Clarke, **otherwise ELIZA PLANT**, with intent to kill and murder her, and he is ordered for trial at the next Assizes. *Bathurst Correspondent of the Herald.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/738, 30/07/1851

MURDER OF AN ABORIGINAL BOY. - On Sunday morning, the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, as Mr. **RICHARD TAYLOR** was walking across from his residence into the township, he discovered the body of a black boy, well known in Armidale as **LITTLE DAVY**, and for some time back in the employ of **MICHAEL MULLIGAN**, butcher, in this town. A magisterial inquiry was held by **R.G. MASSIE**, Esq., C.C.L., and Dr. **MARKHAM** made a post mortem examination of the body, the result of which was the doctor's opinion that the boy had been strangled. There is not the slightest doubt that the poor little fellow was murdered. All the particulars of this dark deed have been forwarded to the Attorney General. Upon the receipt of his reply it is supposed further proceedings will be taken in the matter.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday the inquest which was commenced on Wednesday last, before the coroner, on view of the body of **WILLIAM STRIDE**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary, was concluded at the Three Tuns, Elizabeth-street. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. **JAMES WOOD**, of the South Head Road, that the deceased, who was a man of very intemperate habits, had lived in his service, off and on, for the last three years. On Saturday, the 12th instant, deceased had been drunk, and on the following morning was found lying in the kitchen very badly burned. It would seem that he had been sitting before the fire, and when asleep must have fallen forward upon the fire. Medical assistance was procured, and on the following Tuesday he was sent to the Infirmary, where, notwithstanding every care shown to him by Dr. **M'EWEN**, delirium set in, and he died on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The jury returned a verdict of died from the effects of an accidental burn combined with delirium tremens.

*Herald, July 26*

**REPORTED DEATH BY DROWNING.** - A report has been circulated in town that Mr. **HENRY HUGHES**, proprietor of Ballyrou and other estates in this neighbourhood, is supposed to be drowned in attempting to cross Campbell's River, when flooded, a few days ago. As the report wants confirmation, we hope it may prove to be correct. *Bathurst Free Press, July 23*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/739, 02/08/1851

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday evening, about dusk, a labouring man named **THOMAS GAMBLES** met with an accident of so serious a nature that small hopes are entertained of his recovery. It appears that the unfortunate man was lying down drunk in Bridge-street, when a dray laden with potatoes was coming along, and one of the wheels passed over his chest, inflicting injuries which, it is believed, will prove fatal. He was immediately taken to the shop of Mr. **C.M. PENNY**, chemist and druggist, of George-street, and from thence conveyed in a coach to the Infirmary.

*Empire, July 29*

**DEATH OF MR. HENRY HUGHES.** - The rumour of the death by drowning of Mr. **HENRY HUGHES**, which was published in Wednesday's issue, turns out to be too true. On Saturday last he was observed by Mr. **THOMAS LEE**, of Woodlands, crossing Street's Fall, the river then being very high. Mr. Hughes, who was leading one horse and riding another, proceeded in the direction of another very dangerous fall on Campbell's river, about half a mile distant from the farm, and has not since been seen or heard of. Curious to know if he had succeeded in crossing, Mr. Lee shortly afterwards strolled to the crossing place and there saw a powerful current. It is not improbable that Mr. Hughes' remains may have been carried a considerable distance. *Bathurst Free Press, July 26*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - A Coroner's inquest was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> instant, at Bungonia, before **ROBERT WAUGH**, Esq., coroner for the district, on view of the body of **JAMES REID**. The deceased met with his death by falling off the fore-part of a dray on which he was riding, the wheel passing over his body. He lived for about an hour after the accident. We think it right to state that the deceased was perfectly sober when he met with the accident which produced his death. *Goulburn Herald, July 26*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/740, 06/08/1851

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Monday an inquest was held at the Angel Inn, Maitland, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **JAMES BOWMAN**, an elderly man who had been for some weeks living at the Angel as groom. It appeared from the evidence that

the deceased had occasionally complained of a pain about the heart, but had not been under medical care for it; latterly he had complained of a cold; on Sunday morning [crease in paper, line missing] and was seen moving about in his ordinary way by Mr. **STONE**, the cook, and the barman; soon after seven Bowman was engaged in lighting the fire in the bar, when he fell heavily as he was crossing the room, and never spoke again; the barman, **WILLIAM PAYNE**, who was in the bar at the time, ran and lifted him up, and called the cook to help him; Payne informed Mr. Stone that Bowman was in a fit, and by his directions went immediately for medical aid; Dr. **M'CARTNEY** was in a few minutes on the spot, but found Bowman quite dead; there were three slight cuts on the face, apparently caused when he fell, but neither of them would have had the slightest influence in his death; there was also a little oozing of blood from the mouth and nose; death probably resulted from apoplexy or the rupture of a blood vessel. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/741, 09/08/1851

ESCAPE OF TWO PRISONERS FROM MAITLAND GAOL. - On Thursday two prisoners escaped from the gaol, one being **PATRICK M'NAMARA**, awaiting trial on a charge of murdering his wife, and the other **PATRICK WELSH**, charged with burglary and larceny. Continues ...

NOTICE.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO PRISONERS who effected their Escape from the Gaol at Maitland, on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1851:-

**PATRICK MACNAMARA**

Offence, murder; age, 27 years; height, 6 feet; complexion, very florid; hair, black; eyes, hazel; country, Limerick, Ireland. PM on right forearm. Dress – Light fustian trousers, white Guernsey frock, dark spots, cabbage-tree hat, dark waistcoat with metal buttons. Strong and active.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - An inquest was held on Saturday, at the Water Police Office, on view of the body of **JOHN MACGUIGAN**, a seaman belonging to H.M.S. *Pandora*. **THOMAS JONES**, a seaman on board the same ship, proved that deceased, himself, and some others, were camped on Garden Island, and that about half-past nine o'clock on Friday night the deceased launched a small boat from the island for the purpose of going on shore at Woolloomooloo Bay, but had not proceeded far when he perceived that deceased had fallen into the water, and was drowning. He gave the alarm, and in a short time Sir **EVERARD HOME** ordered a boat belonging to H.M.S. *Calliope* to be manned, and the crew succeeded in picking up the body. Verdict – accidentally drowned while under the influence of intoxication. *EMPIRE*, Aug. 4

CLARENCE RIVER. - **JESSE HUNT**, a little girl about five years of age, was drowned on the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, in a waterhole at the Swamp Station, belonging to Mr. **JAMES AITKEN**. It appears her mother sent her for some water, when she unfortunately fell in. An inquest was held on the body before **O. FRY**, Esq., J.P., and a verdict of accidental death returned. *Herald Correspondent*.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS. - On Tuesday last a child named **WILLIAM SMALLMAN**, eight years of age, was sent by his parents, who reside at Bulimba, to the well for some water, when it appears that he fell into the well. It was some time before any fears were excited by his absence, and by the time that he was taken out life was extinct, the deceased having been ten minutes in the water. Dr. **HOBBS** was sent for, but medical aid was vain. An inquest was held before Dr. **SWIFT**, and a verdict in accordance with the above circumstances returned.

It is our melancholy duty to report another case of accidental drowning, which occurred yesterday. A little girl, about eighteen months old, daughter of a brick-maker named **MEARA**, residing at North Brisbane, fell into a small waterhole near her parents' residence, and was drowned before her absence had been noticed. *Moreton Bay Courier, July 19*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/742, 13/08/1851

LUNACY. - Recently an unfortunate man, named **EVAN M'LEAN**, was brought before the bench, charged with attempting to commit suicide; he was, after some enquiry, remanded for a week to allow observations as to his sanity to be made by medical men. Yesterday he was again brought up, when Drs. **WILTON** and **M'CARTNEY** certified that M'Lean was a dangerous lunatic, and he was remanded to gaol preparatory to removal to the asylum.

REWARD FOR THE APPREHENSION OF M'NAMARA AND WALSH. - We believe government will offer a reward, on the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Police, for the apprehension of M'Namara and Walsh, who escaped from the Maitland gaol on Thursday morning last, as reported by us. The police have been diligently engaged in searching for them, but hitherto without avail, although it is hoped a clue has been found to M'Namara's movements.

PENRITH. - MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. - On Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, the neighbourhood of Emu Plains was thrown into the utmost distress by the following lamentable event. Mr. **HENRY WHYTE**, of Penrith, his wife, and eldest daughter, were on a visit to Mr. Robert Beatson's for the purpose of celebrating the christening of Mr. B.'s eldest child. After the ceremony, the elder members of the party say down to dinner, but Miss W. and Miss B. went into the paddock for the purpose of taking a ride alternately. Miss W. having mounted, cantered round the paddock once, and was proceeding round as second time, when a number of horses which were feeding there galloped off. The horse on which Miss W. was riding followed at full speed. An attempt was made by a young man to seize the bridle, but unsuccessfully, and the horse redoubled its speed. Miss W. lost her seat, her foot stuck in the stirrup leather, and she was dragged in that state a distance of nearly half-a-mile. The horse was at length run up into a corner, but terrible to relate, he made a dash at the fence, which he leaped, dragging the unfortunate child over with him. It is needless to add, that when the horse was eventually secured Miss W. was a corpse. An inquest was held the following day at Mr. Robert Beatson's, the Australian Arms, and a verdict of accidental death was recorded by the jury. *Herald Correspondent*

GOULBURN CIRCUIT COURT.

This court opened on Monday, August 4, before Mr. Justice Dickinson.

Wednesday, August 6.

**MICHAEL COTTER** was indicted for the manslaughter of **JOHN CARROLL**, at -----, on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Cotter, his wife, Carroll, and other persons, were at M'Intosh's in non that day, drinking together, when Carroll and Mrs. Cotter, after some conversation, went out of the house together; Cotter shortly afterwards missed his wife, and asked M'Intosh where she was; M'Intosh said he did not know, but would go and see; he went out, and discovered Carroll and Mrs. Cotter under such circumstances as left no doubt of their criminal intercourse. Almost at the same moment, Cotter, the prisoner, came up, and seizing a large pole or sapling that was lying on the ground, struck Carroll on the head, and broke in the back of his skull, causing his almost instantaneous death. Prisoner then said, "I have killed them both, but I caught them in the act, and I now surrender myself to take my trial." Mr.

Purefoy briefly addressed the jury as to the extenuating circumstances of the case, and called Mr. **SIMMONS**, Mr. **FLETCHER**, and Mr. **CARTWRIGHT**, as to the prisoner's character, each of whom spoke of him as a quiet, industrious, and inoffensive man. His Honor summed up, and the jury found a verdict of guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy. Sentence, six months in Goulburn gaol.

**PATRICK FLINN** was indicted for the wilful murder of **EDWARD SUGDEN**, at Reedy Creek, on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, by inflicting divers wounds and bruises on the head with a gun-barrel. This was a peculiar case. Flinn, on the evening of that day, came to a settler's house, and stated that Sugden had come to his hut, armed with a gun, demanding back a dog belonging to Sugden which he (Flinn) had; that Flinn refused to give up the dog, on which Sugden fired at him; that he then in self-defence took the gun from Sugden, and loosed his dog at him, but that Sugden was not much hurt, and had gone home to his master's. On hearing this tale parties went out, and hearing cries of murder, followed the sound, and was thus directed to the spot where Sugden was lying, 60 yards from Flinn's hut, and covered with wounds and bruises. Sugden was removed to his master's hut, but died the following morning, and the post mortem examination disclosed three lacerated wounds on the head, a lacerated wound on the breast, several injuries on the arms, and the left tibia broken. The medical witnesses all agreed that death arose from all these injuries combined, and that the injuries in the head did not alone cause death. Mr. Purefoy, who at the request of the Judge conducted the defence, submitted that the capital charge must be abandoned, as the indictment alleged death to be caused by the wounds on the head. The Attorney General, after questioning again the medical witnesses, admitted this, and the case was therefore sent to the jury as a common assault. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of assault, and the prisoner was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

**GEORGE CUTTER** was indicted for shooting at **ALEXANDER BRAND**, with intent to do bodily harm, at Mittagong, on the 4<sup>th</sup> February; and Brand was then indicted for shooting at Cutter, at the same time and place. The case against Brand was first gone into, and then that against Cutter. Cutter went to Brand's house and demanded to see his wife, and Cutter said that Brand fired at him on his persisting; while Brand said that Cutter, on learning that Mrs. Cutter would not see him, fired at him (Brand), and wounded him slightly. The jury acquitted Cutter, and found Brand guilty. Mr. Purefoy moved in arrest of judgement a technical defect in the indictment against Brand, which was held to be fatal, and Brand was discharged, on entering into his recognizance to appear when called on. *Abridged from the S.M. Herald.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT AT COCKATOO ISLAND.** - Mr. **J. O'NEIL BRENNAN**, Water Police Magistrate, held a magisterial inquiry at this penal establishment on Tuesday, touching the death of **NICHOLAS COYNE**, a prisoner under sentence on the island. It appears from the evidence of the overseers and others, that on Tuesday morning a "devil" had been made for the purpose of blasting a portion of the rock, and that some altercation took place among the overseers and men as to who should fire it, each being anxious to perform the duty. The deceased had the firestick in his hand, and being asked by the acting overseer to gibe him the stick, he refused, saying, that as he had the trouble to make the devil, he would finish it. He at once fired the blast, when an immense piece of the rock, about half a ton in weight, fell upon him. Pieces of the rock struck others of the gang, but no serious injury, as far as they were concerned, was inflicted. Every exertion was made to rescue the unfortunate man; who, so soon as he was got from under the rock, was taken to the Infirmary; he died in a very few minutes. Dr. **O'BRIEN** deposed to the injuries received by deceased; and

Mr. Brennan recorded as the result of the inquiry, "That he, Mr. Brennan, recommended that on all future occasions, when blasting was going forward, no squib or devil should be made, or the priming put to the hole, before the assisting parties were all cleared well away beyond the reach of probable danger." *Herald, Aug. 7*

ACCIDENT. - **THOMAS BOOTH**, a seaman belonging to a coasting vessel in harbour, was employed in making some repairs at the topmast; while so engaged the mast broke, and the poor fellow was precipitated to the deck. Mr. Surgeon **RUTTER** was in immediate attendance, and directed his removal to the Infirmary. It is feared that the injuries received are of a very serious character. *Herald.*

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. - A man named **JOHN FRAZER**, employed at Mr. Gosling's new building near the Circular Quay, fell off the outside wall, a height of thirty feet, about half-past four P.M. yesterday. The poor fellow was promptly taken to hospital. *Empire, Aug. 8*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/743, 16/08/1851

THE ESCAPED PRISONERS. - No certain trace has yet, we believe, been discovered of the two escaped prisoners, **M'NAMARA and WALSH**. The police are still diligently employed in the search after them.

INTESTATE ESTATES.

**JAMES ROCHE**, late of Clarence river; money received, £21 18s. 6d; payments made, £2 1s. 11d.; money in hand, £19 16s. 7d.; date of order to collect, April 7, 1851. A soldier, accidentally drowned.

GOULBURN CIRCUIT COURT. - *Thursday, August 7.*

**JOSEPH WOODFIELD** was indicted for the wilful murder of **THOMAS HARTNEADY**, at Boro, on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. This case was fully reported at the time. Hartneady was in the service of Woodfield, a publican, and a quarrel taking place between them, they fought with their fists; Hartneady took up a stick, and struck Woodfield on the head, but Woodfield knocked him down with his fist, and when down kicked him several times, and knelt on his chest. At this time Hartneady, who had begged for mercy, became insensible, and remained so till he was taken into the house and placed on a sofa, and next morning his sister, who had been denied access to him by Woodfield, found Hartneady dead. His Honor sent the case to the jury as one of manslaughter, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter; the prisoner was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

FATAL BOAT ACCIDENT. - On Sunday evening, about eight o'clock, the younger son of Colonel **GIBBES** heard screams for assistance off Kirabili Point, North Shore, and immediately manning a boat, and pushing off in the direction whence the cries proceeded, he succeeded in rescuing the two men, who had been upset in a small sailing boat. The third of their party, a man named **GALLOWAY**, could not be found, although every effort was made to save him, and his body has not yet been recovered. The origin of the accident had not yet been clearly ascertained, but it is attributed to the sheets having been made fast. Galloway leaves a widow and child to mourn his untimely fate. *Herald, Aug. 12*

GALLANT CAPTURE OF A MURDERER. - A letter dated Balranald furnishes us with the following particulars of the capture by Mr. **GRAHAM**, landlord of the Balranald Inn, of an aboriginal native named **BILLY THE BULL**, who had recently been committed by the Goulburn bench to stand his trial for murder, but had escaped from the custody of the police when en-route from Balranald to Goulburn. It appears that Mr. Graham was in the vicinity of Mr. M'Cullin's at the Lower Murray, on or about the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo, and while stopping at the gentleman's station obtained

information that Billy the Bull was encamped with a tribe of blacks in the immediate neighbourhood, and being resolved, if possible, to rid the country of such a bloodthirsty villain, visited a number of aboriginal camps in the vicinity of the station, and after a little trouble was rewarded in finding the ruffian. Having some knowledge of Billy's mother tongue, he immediately entered into conversation with him, and without exciting his suspicion, drew him out of the camp and persuaded him to walk up to the Travellers' Hut. On his entering, Graham, who was behind him, closed the door and presented a carbine at the fellow's head, but nowise daunted, the black, a powerful ruffian, rushed upon Graham with a view to wrench the carbine from his grasp. The struggle continued for some time without victory declaring on either side until Graham had to call in assistance in the person of a man in Mr. M'Cullin's employ, with which assistance the black was thrown on the ground and secured for the night. On the following day his gallant captor handcuffed him with a piece of dog chain and marched him through the scrub, a distance of forty miles, to the Balranald watch-house; during the journey he passed several native camps, the captive leading his (Graham's) horse. A police escort was daily expected to take "Billy" to Goulburn. The conduct of Mr. Graham cannot be too highly commended. If one half of the landlords in the bush had half the courage and resolution, then would be little cause for the prevailing cry of police protection for the interior. *Daily News*.

REWARD NOTICE, for **PATRICK M'NAMARA and PATRICK WALSH**.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/744, 20/08/1851

ACCIDENTS. - On Monday ... On the same evening a very serious accident happened at Morpeth to a man named **JOHN MURPHY**. Murphy was walking quietly along the footpath, when he stumbled over some logs near Mr. Saunderson's door, and pitched over the bank, there some eight feet high, on to his head. He was taken up insensible, and Mr. **NAINBY** sent for. Yesterday morning Murphy was taken to the hospital in a dangerous state.

M'NAMARA AND WALSH. - No certain trace has yet been discovered of the whereabouts of the two escaped prisoners, **M'NAMARA and WALSH**.

THE IMMIGRANTS BY THE "MALACCA."

... One of them, a fine young woman named **MARY ANNE ALLEN**, was unfortunately drowned three days before the *Malacca* entered the heads. She incautiously had hold of the loop of the main buntline on the port side, and the mainsail suddenly filling, jerked her out of the waist over the bulwarks. The ship, which was going eight knots at the time, was instantly hove-to, and the port cutter manned, but a heavy swell was running at the time, and all efforts to save the ill-fated girl were unavailing. *Herald, Aug. 16*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/745, 23/08/1851

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Yesterday, the Water Police Magistrate, in the absence of the coroner, held an inquiry at Canterbury, touching the death of **JAMES KARROLL**, then lying dead at the said place. It appears from the evidence that the deceased was employed at the Sugar Works at Canterbury, and on Tuesday morning he was on the top loft of that establishment. The hatches were all open to the fourth floor underneath; the top hatch being covered with laths and mats. Deceased went to this hatch, seemingly with the intention of getting a mat; and although shouted to by some of the workmen, who perceived his danger, he took no heed. He leant over the hatch to reach the mat, when the laths and mats gave way, and he was precipitated into the warehouse floor, a depth of thirty-two feet. Dr. **CUTHILL** was sent for, but although

everything was done for the unfortunate man that could be done, he sank under the severity of the injuries, and died in a very short time. Mr. **BRENAN** recorded, that death had been caused by injuries received. The deceased had only arrived in the colony within the last five months. *Herald, Aug. 15*

**SUICIDE.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held at Colbin, Upper Paterson, before Mr. **PARKER**, the coroner, on the body of **JOSEPH SEALY**. It appeared from the evidence that Sealy, who was about 42 years old, had been for eighteen years in the service of Mr. **THOMAS JONES**, of Colbin, and that although not a habitual drunkard, he would at times "go on the spree," and drink hard for a week. About the 11<sup>th</sup> instant he asked Mr. Jones for a £1 note, and obtained it and permission to go to Paterson; he remained away a week drinking, and returned on Monday evening, the 18<sup>th</sup>; he had been accompanied part of the way home by an acquaintance, **GEORGE KNIGHT**, who saw that Sealy was labouring under the effects of drink, and looked wild; Sealy offered to sell Knight an unbroken filly for £4, and said in the course of conversation that he (Sealy) was a horrid fellow and ought to drown himself, but nothing passed to lead Knight to suspect that he really meditated suicide. On reaching home Sealy took the breaking tackle off his filly, and at the usual hour all the household went to bed. Nothing was seen of Sealy the next morning, but it was supposed he was taking a long sleep after his drinking bout, and it was not until near ten o'clock that Mrs. Jones asked **M'GOWAN**, a neighbour, who called to enquire after Sealy, where she thought he was, as she wished to make him (Sealy) some tea. M'Gowan could not find Sealy in the stable, but on going to the barn found him hanging, quite dead, suspended from a cross-beam, evidently the work of his own hands. The jury returned a verdict that deceased hung himself, while in a state of insanity, caused by intemperance.

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH.** - Yesterday an inquest was held by the Coroner, at the Dog and Duck Inn, George-street South, on view of the body of **JANE PIKE**, whose death was occasioned by injuries received from a cab on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. The driver, **WILLIAM OGLE**, was in custody. It appeared from the evidence, that on the day in question the deceased was in a cart in George-street, when a cab, driven by the prisoner, came down the street at full speed. She tried to avoid it, but the splinter-bar came in contact with the wheel of her cart, throwing her out, and turning the vehicle over, part of it falling on her shoulder and chest. She was directly got from under the cart, and taken to Mr. **PORTER'S**, the chemist. She was then taken, at her own request, to the inn where the jury were then sitting, and where she was attended by Dr. **CUTHILL**. She lingered in great agony until Monday evening, when she died. She was sixty-one years of age, and has left a large family, who reside at Prospect. It was proved to the satisfaction of the jury that the horses had suddenly taken fright at a noise made by two boys who were playing with some chips in the street, and they ran away. Several witnesses deposed to the excellent character of the driver as a careful man, and stated that on the evening in question he had been driving a wedding party during the greater part of the day, and had refused to take even one glass of wine, or leave his horses for a moment. Under the direction of the Coroner, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and Ogle was immediately discharged out of custody. *Herald, Aug. 19*

**ACCIDENT.** - On Wednesday last, **PATRICK REILLEY**, a bullock driver in the employ of **FRANCIS TAFFE**, Esq., of Juhyong, met with a fatal accident under the following distressing circumstances. It appears that Reilley was ordered by the master to yoke up two steers which had just been broken in, and on going into the place where they were secured, one of the beasts rushed at him, and striking the poor fellow

on the chest, threw him to the ground. The injuries he sustained were so violent as to cause death in a few hours. *Goulburn Herald, August 16*

#### CALIFORNIA.

... A man named **[JOHN] JENKINS** (formerly a waterman in Sydney) was followed after committing a robbery, and apprehended with part of the property in his possession. He was taken before a "Committee of Vigilance," and the case having been stated against him, he was sentenced to be hanged; and at two o'clock in the morning, a noose was thrown over his head, and he was suspended to a pole in an old building. The police attempted to interfere, "but," says the *Alta California*, "they were roughly handled, and had they proceeded they would have been riddled with balls." [See Mercury, 9/746, 27/08/1851, page 3a for a detailed account of capture & execution.]

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/747, 30/08/1851

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD, OR A CONDITIONAL PARDON. Editorial comment: [This is certainly more like the thing than the reward of "five pounds" previously offered for the apprehension of **M'NAMARA**. - ED. M.M.]

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT. - *Wednesday, August 27.*

**MARY GRITTEN** was indicted for the manslaughter of **JANE GRITTEN**, her infant daughter, aged about ten weeks. The first count charged her with having caused the death of the child by neglecting to give her proper food and sustenance, and thereby starving her. The second count charged her with having, by continuous habits of drunkenness, poisoned her milk, and thereby caused the death of the child. From the evidence of several of the prisoner's neighbours, it appeared that the death of her boy some time since had preyed very heavily upon her; that a few days after her last confinement, her husband left her to go to the gold diggings, and that she had then given herself up to drink; and the result was the death of her child. Dr. **TIERNEY** stated, that on the post mortem examination of the deceased, he found the alimentary canal entirely destitute of either solid or liquid food, and that the body was in a very emaciated state. It appeared from the evidence that since the apprehension of the prisoner her husband had come down from the gold diggings, but had returned again, leaving his wife without the means of defending herself. Not guilty; discharged.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - Yesterday, an inquest was held by the coroner at the Pine Apple Inn, Surrey Hills, on view of the body of **WILLIAM HARRIS**, a fine little boy, about two and a half years of age. It appears, from the evidence of the mother of the child, and also of a neighbour, that on Tuesday morning the mother (who is stated to be a hard-working industrious woman,) having occasion to go to the butcher's shop to purchase meat, left her cottage for some ten minutes – the deceased being on the sofa, and an infant in the same room in a cradle, no one else was in the cottage – and on her return she found that deceased had got down from the sofas, and that, having approached the fire, its clothes had caught and were then smouldering. On seeing its mother the poor child gave two shrieks, and in a short time expired in great agony. Dr. **TIERNEY** was sent for, but did not arrive until after the child had died. Verdict – accidental death. *Herald, Aug. 25*

*Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>*

**GEORGE BARNETT** was indicted for the manslaughter of **GEORGE LOGAN**, a child of two and a half years old, by driving the wheel of a dray over him, at Sydney, on the 16<sup>th</sup> July. The prisoner was driver of a dray which was proceeding up Bathurst-street, and was walking a little behind the dray, when the child stumbled and

fell just in front of it, and before the prisoner could get to the horse's head the wheel of the dray passed over the child. Not guilty. *Abridged from the Herald.*

**DROWNING.** - On Saturday an inquest was held by the Coroner at the Hero of Waterloo Inn, Fort-street, on view of the body of **GEORGE GALLOWAY**, then lying dead there. The deceased was one of the three men whose boat was upset on the night of Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> instant; the other two being rescued by Mr. **GIBBES**, as already stated in this journal. **JAMES LUMSDEN**, one of the party, described the accident, which occurred in putting the boat about opposite the residence of Colonel Gibbes. The sheet was fast, and the deceased was sitting on the thwart, to let go the jib, when the boat capsized. The wind was blowing fresh in strong puffs, and deceased could not swim at all. He leaves a wife and one child. The body was found on Friday evening, by constable **ELLIOTT** of the Water Police, floating on the water between Goat Island and Billy Blue's Point. Verdict accidental drowning. *Herald, Aug. 24*

**DEATH FROM SKINNING DISEASED BULLOCKS.** - An inquest was held at the house of Mrs. **FINNIGAN**, at Duck River, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, on the body of **JOHN FISHER**, then and there lying dead, and whom it was decided had died from infection from skinning some cattle which had died suddenly. From the evidence of Mrs. Finnigan, the widow of the late **PATRICK FINNIGAN**, it appeared that the deceased John Fisher was a charcoal-burner, residing in a hut on the premises of Mrs. Finnigan; he had skinned two bullocks, which had died a week ago, for the sake of the skins, which he sold; he was an old man, and obtained no medical advice, though his arm was very painful, and there was a black spot on its resembling a burn. Another witness, **JOHN PERKINS**, stated that he was a groom on the premises, and by order of Mrs. Finnigan he took deceased a glass of wine on Friday afternoon, and made him comfortable in bed, as he was very ill, and complained much about his arm; on going to see him about an hour afterwards he found him dead. Dr. **RUTTER** stated that he had examined the body of the deceased John Fisher, and found considerable inflammation of the right arm, extending into the chest; which, together with the evidence he had heard, induced him to suppose that his death had been caused by the absorption of a morbid poison, such as would be communicated by animals dying of the disease which had been prevalent among cattle. A verdict was found that death was caused by absorption of poison while skinning a bullock. *Herald's Parramatta Correspondent*

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - Intelligence was received in Sydney yesterday, that on Wednesday last, The Rev. **G.E. GREGORY**, of Canbury, Argyle, was drowned while attempting to cross a creek which was flooded by the recent rains. Mr. Gregory was only twenty-six years of age, and was to have come to Sydney next week to be admitted to priest's orders by the bishop of Sydney at his ensuing ordination. He was most zealous and anxious in the work to which he had been called, and had the prospect of a long life of usefulness before him, when he was removed by the mysterious visitation of Providence. *Herald, Aug. 26*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/748, 03/09/1851

**INQUESTS.** - On Wednesday last an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Paterson, on the body of **JOSEPH MALPASS**. It appeared from the evidence that Malpass, who was habitually an intemperate man, had been for eight days drinking at Mr. Broderick's public-house, Paterson, and reached his usual lodgings afterwards in a very bad state; he got some medicine several times from Mr. **NIND**, chemist, but

gradually got worse, and died on Tuesday evening, the 26<sup>th</sup>. Some reports having been spread that the rum deceased had been drinking was bad, and had accelerated his death, a bottle was obtained from the inn by the chief constable himself, and another by a man whom he employed; the former was clear and good, and the latter was thick and turbid, but it was not proved whether the bottle had been clean or not. Dr. **SCOTT** performed a post mortem examination on the body, and found that deceased had been labouring under hernia, which must soon have caused his death; there were numerous appearances also found, caused by continued intemperance. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, accelerated by intemperance.

Another inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, on Friday, at Dr. Scott's, Eskdale, on the body of a child named **WILLIAM PARSONS**, two years old. It appeared that Mrs. Parsons, mother of the child, was engaged on Wednesday in her usual occupation, with her children playing about her door, when she missed her little son William, and on enquiring where he was, his brother, of three years old, told her William went towards the well; she went instantly to the well, which was then uncovered, and about twenty yards from the house, and she saw her little boy floating on the water; the well was very full, and she instantly got him out, but he was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.

A third inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, on Saturday, at the White Swan Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **JOHN MURPHY**, the unfortunate man whose accidental fall over a precipitous bank at Morpeth, on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> August, we reported at the time. It appeared that the deceased, who was taken to the hospital on the morning of the accident, never rallied from the effects, having sustained concussion of the brain; he died on Friday afternoon last. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and requested the coroner to make a complaint about the bank over which the deceased fell being left so unprotected.

#### M'NAMARA AND WALSH.

It was currently reported yesterday that the escaped prisoner **M'NAMARA** had been retaken, and last evening the capture was announced quite positively. Unfortunately it was not true, and up to last evening no certain trace of the recent movements of either M'Namara or Walsh had been discovered.

**DROWNED.** - On the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo, while the *Eagle* steamer was lying alongside the Brisbane Wharf, at Moreton Bay, the fore-cabin steward, named **JAMES HOGAN**, in attempting to get on board, fell into the water, and was drowned. The night was very dark, blowing and raining furiously, which prevented the people on board from hearing of the accident until enquiries were made by his shipmates, who had come on board all safe from the township. The chief officer, immediately on hearing of the accident, lowered the quarter-boat, but could not find the body, which was picked up by the Customs House boat, on Wednesday. *Herald, Sep. 1*

**DISEASED MEAT.** - It is melancholy to contemplate the many fatal results that have arisen from skinning the carcasses of diseased animals. No later than Sunday last the remains of an unfortunate individual, who lived in May's Lane, were conveyed to the burial ground, whose death was occasioned by the poisonous effects of handling diseased meat, as we stated in a former number. We have also to deplore the fate of another man, named **MURPHY**, from a similar cause. He was taken ill a few days since, while proceeding up the country, and died at Penrith, leaving a widow and several children to bemoan his untimely end. We understand that a subscription is being made in behalf of the destitute family. *Empire, Aug. 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/749, 06/09/1851

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1851

**MANSLAUGHTER**

**MARY JOHNSON** was indicted for the manslaughter of her infant child, name unknown, at Maitland, by neglecting to provide for it proper food and nourishment from the 16<sup>th</sup> February till the 7<sup>th</sup> March, when the child died.

In opening this case to the jury, the Attorney General took occasion to make it public, as he said he had done recently in a similar case in Sydney, that any humane person who saw that a man or woman was wasting his or her substance, and neglecting his or her family, could apply to the bench for a prohibition to be issued to publicans and other persons not to supply any more liquor to the offending individual. Such a course would be a blessing to society, and more particularly to the individual thereby saved from destruction. There was particular provision made to this effect in the 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, and 65<sup>th</sup> sections of the Licensing Act.

The witnesses called were **GEORGE TERRY, ALEXANDER M'MANUS, Dr. MICHAEL M'CARTNEY, ELIZABETH KERRIGAN, and JOHN SCOTTO PARKER.**

Terry knew prisoner, who lived near him in the suburbs of West Maitland; witness knew her husband also; witness's attention was attracted to her house very early in the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> March by hearing a female voice crying out in a distressed tone "Oh, my child – what shall I do;" about six o'clock that morning witness went to her house with Mr. Horton to see what was the matter. The witness described having found a child of sixteen or seventeen months old outside the house, but did not see the prisoner of her infant about the place; witness had frequently seen the prisoner drunk; she habitually left her children about the house for hours while she was absent; she was intoxicated the day before the inquest on her child was held; did not remember seeing her intoxicated on any other day within ten days before that, but had done so at different times since her infant was born. Cross-examined: Prisoner did come to witness's house soon after the birth of her infant, and complained that her husband had left her helpless and without food, and witness's daughter gave her some flour; her husband was a steady, hardworking man. - Constable M'Manus knew the prisoner; she was intoxicated the day before the inquest; she came to witness's house about eight o'clock that morning and told him that her child was dead, but afterwards she said it was only a joke; witness reminded her that he had told her something would happen, from her conduct through the town; she complained of having been robbed in a public-house, and asked for a cup of teas, as she had nothing to eat; witness's wife asked her to come in for it, and as prisoner entered a five-shilling piece dropped from her person; witness gave her some food, and advised her to go home to her children; she had no child with her; she had been several times drunk during the week or ten days previous, but had not been apprehended on account of her having a family of young children, and her husband being away from her. Cross-examined: Prisoner came to witness some days previously, and begged to be acquainted with her husband's residence, as she and her children were perishing from want; prisoner could not be in much real want, for she had always means to get drunk. - Dr. M'Cartney remembered prisoner coming to his house, about four o'clock on the morning the inquest was held; she was outside the door, crying out frantically "Oh, Doctor, come down for God's sake, I have murdered my child;" witness hurried down, and found her then leaving his door in the direction of the river; he followed her, and asked her what she meant; she seemed frantic, and said "She'd drown herself, that it was all her own fault, that she'd been drinking at Kerrigan's public house with **SUSAN FLYNN,**

and was induced to remain until her money was all spent; and that when she got home she found her child dead;" the distance from Kerrigan's to prisoner's hut was upwards of a mile; prisoner said she had been at Kerrigan's drinking all the previous day, and did not reach her home till two or three o'clock that morning; witness thought it unsafe to leave her by herself, and took her to the lockup, she expressing her determination two or three times that she would drown herself; witness left her in charge of constable M'Manus about five that morning; witness could not remember whether she had her child with her at the time, but witness saw the body of a child at the inquest, which she acknowledged to be hers, and to be a fortnight old; prisoner then said that she had no milk, that her husband had left her without food, and that it was notorious she had no milk, the mother's milk was the proper food for such an infant; if intoxicating liquors were taken in quantity by the mother it would vitiate and injure the milk, and eventually remove it altogether; witness saw the body of the child at the prisoner's hut; there was plenty of food there, and sufficient household goods and bedding; there were some other children there in a wretched state; witness performed as post mortem examination of the body, which presented an appearance of extreme emaciation; witness described the appearances he found in the internal organs, no evidence of nutriment of any kind being found; in his opinion the child had died from want of nourishment of more than one day's duration, death having gradually come on; all the organs were healthy; the child died from starvation. Cross-examined: At the inquest prisoner said the child must have died from the other children rolling over it. - Mrs. Kerrigan deposed that she saw the prisoner three times; the first time was some time before the inquest; the second time was two nights before the inquest, and next morning was the third time; on that evening she had some supper, and left again, paying for and taking away a quart of colonial ale with her; prisoner was then in liquor; in the morning prisoner called early, appearing as if she had been drinking, but was just able to walk; she had left six shillings in witness's hands, and in the morning called for it, and had it; prisoner then took a glass of ale, and about two hours afterwards had another glass; again later in the day she took up and drank a glass of liquor belonging to a man there, and she was in and out of the house till late in the evening; witness gave her a plate of soup, on her saying she was hungry; when prisoner left the house finally she was just able to walk. At the prisoner's request Mrs. Kerrigan's deposition at the inquest was put in and read. Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, held the inquest on the body of the child; prisoner appeared greatly distressed; the dead infant was lying in the bed, rolled up in blankets, completely covered up; the body was naked, and looked very dirty and neglected; the prisoner said it was her child, and that she was the cause of it, that drink was the cause of it; she said the child had not been christened, and that she had not given it any name; prisoner afterwards said in the inquest room that she had taken cold when she was confined in the lockup, and that had stopped her milk.

In defence the prisoner said she was unable to get the witnesses she wanted to call, and that she had several times reported to the police to what a destitute state she was reduced by her husband's leaving her, but that she got no help, except an occasional shilling. She said she was always a good mother to her children.

His Honor summed up. The indictment against the prisoner was substantially that it was her duty to protect her child, but that she had neglected to provide it proper nourishment, and that it died in consequence of her neglect. He described to the jury the effect of Dr. M'Cartney's evidence as to the cause of the death of her child, and the substance of the evidence against the prisoner, as admitted by herself and deposed to by witnesses. They jury would have to decide whether the dead child was the

prisoner's, whether she neglected to give it proper food, in consequence of either intentional neglect, or neglect owing to drunkenness, and whether the child died in consequence. If they thought those points established they would find a verdict of guilty; but if they had any reasonable doubt on either they would acquit her.

The jury retired for twenty minutes, and returned with a verdict of guilty, with as recommendation to mercy.

The prisoner was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour, in Maitland gaol; but his Honor promised to recommend a mitigation at the end of nine months, if her was certainly informed that her conduct was good.

His Honor remarked, in passing sentence, that he trusted the provisions of the Licensing Act, adverted to by the Attorney General, would be put in force in any cases of evident neglect of families by any person of drunken habits.

EDITORIAL.

#### PROHIBITION OF THE SALE OF LIQUORS.

At the request of his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson and the Attorney General, made in the Circuit Court during the proceedings in the case of **MARY JOHNSON**, who was on Thursday convicted of the manslaughter of her infant child, by neglecting to provide her with necessary food and nourishment, we republish the three following clauses from the Publicans Licensing Act, 13 Victoria, No. 29, and also the form of prohibition referred to. We may mention that the powers thus given have been several times exercised by the Maitland bench, on affidavits made by the friends of different individuals who by their habits were injuring themselves and wasting the means of their families, and it is to be regretted that a similar application was not made to the bench in the case of the unhappy woman now convicted. [prints LXIII, LXIV, LXV, and the form of prohibition.]

MURDER. - **JOHN MATHEWS**, who was arraigned at the last Circuit Court on a charge of murder, was then brought up, and the crown not being prepared to go to trial in consequence of the continued absence of a material witness, Mathews was discharged on his own recognisance in £100 to appear at the next Circuit Court.

MURDER. - **JACKEY, an aboriginal**, who had been committed for trial on a charge of murdering another aboriginal, was discharged, the evidence being insufficient to prosecute him on the charge.

THE DEFENCE OF PRISONERS. - On Wednesday morning, as will be found by our Circuit Court report, a prisoner named **THOMAS BALLARD** was put on his trial on a charge of murder, and presented a memorial to his Honor praying that counsel might be assigned for his defence, as he had no means to employ one. [continues with discussion of this practise.]

LETTER; *To the Editor of the Maitland Mercury*. From **JAMES BRODERICK**, Paterson, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1851: "In reference to the inquest held before Mr. Parker, at Paterson, on the 27<sup>th</sup> August, I beg to state that the deceased **JOSEPH MALPASS** returned to his lodgings on the 29<sup>th</sup> August. The deceased had been drinking with **HENRY STOCKWELL** in as forge here," ... continues re the sampling of the allegedly tainted rum and the reactions of the jury.

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1851

(Before his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson)

#### MURDER

**THOMAS BALLARD** was indicted for the wilful murder of **HENRY BOYLE**, at Merton, by inflicting, on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1851, divers mortal wounds, bruises, and contusions, on the right side, the left side, the front, and the back of the head, of the

said Henry Boyle, with a certain stick, whereof the said Henry Boyle languished till the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1851, and then died.

At the request of his Honor Mr. Purefoy undertook to watch the evidence on behalf of the prisoner.

**WILLIAM PACK** sworn: Witness was a shepherd in May last; prisoner was also a shepherd; Boyle (the deceased) was hutkeeper; all three were employed together on the station of Mr. **JOHN BETTINGTON**; on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, the occurrence took place, and on the Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, Boyle died; witness was coming home with his sheep on the afternoon of the Wednesday when he saw Boyle and prisoner coming towards him, to help him, as usual; three or four minutes after witness saw them again, sitting on the ground, fighting; witness did not see the commencement, or whether a knock-down blow was struck; prisoner had hold of Boyle by the shoulder with one hand and beating him with the other, Boyle returning the blows; witness went up to them, and said to prisoner "Tom, leave the old man alone," and prisoner left him go; Boyle was perhaps seventy years old, and prisoner between fifty and sixty; witness went away to put his sheep in the fold, and in five minutes after he left prisoner and Boyle he saw Ballard, with the hurdle stake produced, strike Boyle a heavy blow on the chest, and another on the forehead; witness went towards them, and said "Tom, you have killed the old man"; prisoner struck three or four blows with the stake, one on the chest, and two or three on the head; prisoner made no reply; Boyle was then lying senseless and bleeding; witness did not see prisoner get the stake, but it was lying loose previously; Boyle did not appear to have got up at all from where witness saw him sitting when first fighting; witness, after the first fight, had taken prisoner away some ten or twelve yards from Boyle; the loose stake lay in that direction, with other stakes, &c. ; witness did not hear any words pass between prisoner and Boyle. Dr. **WEST** was the first doctor who came to see Boyle, but at the inquest on Boyle's body Dr. **FOWLER** attended. Witness attended on Boyle till he died; Boyle came to his senses about midnight on Thursday night, and took some tea from witness. Witness, prisoner, and Boyle had had some rum together, about three glasses each, on the morning of Wednesday; witness was sober that afternoon; prisoner appeared sober, but Boyle was not sober.

Cross-examined: After stopping the fight, witness sent his dogs round his sheep, and got the sheep into the hurdles, thinking the quarrel over; what took place between prisoner and Boyle during that interval of four or five minutes he did not know, but when he next noticed them prisoner was standing over Boyle, striking at him with the stake; could not say where prisoner picked it up; there might be other loose stakes beside the one witness had noticed; prisoner and Boyle had been good friends previously, during the ten days witness had been on the station; witness went for a constable after the occurrence, to Merton, a mile and a quarter off, leaving prisoner and Boyle at the station.

**HUGH MURRAY**, district constable of Merton, sworn: Witness went to Mr. Bettington's station, and found prisoner walking up and down by the sheepfold; Boyle was lying on the ground, thirty yards off, insensible, and bleeding from wounds on his temple and head; Pack had previously come into Merton, but had not then returned to the station; witness went up to the prisoner and apprehended him, as he told him, for murder; prisoner said the man was more drunk than hurt; witness allowed prisoner to get some clothing from the hut, stopping him from drinking a bottle of some liquor, and then took him to Merton, it being a little before nightfall; before reaching the lockup prisoner appeared to be very drunk; witness then returned to the station, and placed Boyle in the hut. Prisoner made no remark about any stick. Witness remained

at the hut with Boyle all night; Dr. West came to visit Boyle about twelve or one o'clock; Dr. West is the coroner; Dr. Fowler examined Boyle's body at the inquest.

Dr. **THOMAS FOWLER** sworn: Witness made a post mortem examination of Boyle's body; found wounds on the head, and on opening the skull found four ounces of blood effused on the brain: that must have been caused by heavy blows; there was a fracture of the right temporal bone; the effusion of blood was sufficient to cause death.

**CHARLES FOX**, chief constable of Muswellbrook, sworn: Witness had prisoner in charge on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, on his way to the inquest; took him to near where the body of Boyle lay; prisoner pointed to a wound on the forehead and said "There, that's the blow;" no answer was made, and they left the spot. That same night, as they were returning, prisoner said he only struck the one blow.

Cross-examined: Witness was not aware that prisoner had ever said that he was first attacked, or that he struck in his own defence, or that deceased followed him and got hold of him after the first quarrel; prisoner did not say there was some dispute about the sheep getting mixed, and that he (prisoner) was rather vexed with him; that was not said to witness, but to constable **ASHBURN**, who was in company with witness and prisoner; Ashburn was not in attendance, being at Muswellbrook; witness was away from the prisoner for a short time at the inquest, Ashburn then remaining with prisoner.

This closed the case for the crown.

Mr. **PUREFOY**, in addressing the jury, remarked that, as had been observed by the Attorney General in his opening address, he was placed at a great disadvantage in taking the case without any previous examination of the circumstances. He thought there was nothing shown in the evidence to show that there was "malice aforethought," which was essential to constitute the crime of murder. The facts disclosed, to his mind, another of those brutal fights so common among men under the influence of intoxication, the fatal result arising from sudden blows struck in the heat of quarrel. The law regarded such a death as constituting the lesser crime of manslaughter. There was but slight direct evidence of provocation from the deceased, but the prisoner stated that the attack was begun by the deceased, after a quarrel about the sheep, and that provocation was again given by the deceased before the second fight. It was in fact only one transaction, the interval being too slight to be regarded as making it two. There was no evidence that the prisoner went to get the stake, or anything to prove that he did not, under the influence of passion, pick it up and strike an instant deadly blow with it. He trusted the jury would feel themselves justified in returning a verdict for the lesser crime of manslaughter. He called as a witness **GEORGE A.F. KIBBLE**, who had known prisoner for two years as a shepherd, and deceased for some short time; prisoner always bore the character of being a remarkably quiet man.

His Honor summed up. It was necessary that the jury should satisfy themselves whether or not the prisoner did cause the death of Henry Boyle in the manner, and by the means, mentioned in the indictment. His Honor read through the evidence verbatim, pointing out the bearing the different portions had on the precise points for the jury to determine. It appeared to him clear that Henry Boyle met his death by blows inflicted on his head as mentioned in the indictment, and that that blow or blows were inflicted by the prisoner; and also that there was no proof of the blows being inflicted in self defence, so as to entitle the prisoner to an acquittal. The question for them he thought would be whether they would find him guilty of murder or manslaughter. To determine this they must consider all the circumstances, to see whether there was such provocation as to render it probable the blows were struck in

the sudden heat of passion. If they felt any doubt on the point he recommended them to find him guilty of manslaughter.

The jury retired for above five hours, and returned with a verdict of guilty of murder.

The sentence of the court having been prayed,

His Honor impressively addressed the prisoner. The prisoner had been found guilty by a most intelligent jury, after a most protracted consideration. That verdict having been returned it was impossible for him to hold out any hope of mercy to the prisoner; but if it was possible for the prisoner or his friends to produce anything that could influence the mind of his Excellency to view his case favourably, he (his Honor) recommended the prisoner's friends to lose no time in making all the exertions in their power. But he could not flatter the prisoner with any hope of mercy, and he recommended him not to buoy himself up with such expectations, but to apply himself at once, with the aid of his minister, to preparations for another world. It was quite clear that on very small provocation the prisoner did strike a deadly blow with a terrible weapon, which caused the death of Boyle. He could not therefore flatter him with any hope of mercy, and it remained but for him to pass the sentence of the law. His Honor then passed sentence of death on the prisoner in the usual way.

#### MANSLAUGHTER

**THOMAS HAWKE and ROBERT HAWKE** were indicted for the manslaughter of **THOMAS CONNORS** – Thomas Hawke by casting and throwing Connors to the ground, and beating and kicking him while on the ground, on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1851; thereby inflicting several mortal wounds, bruises, and contusions on his heads, back, stomach, and sides, whereof Connors languished until the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, at Maitland, and then died; and Robert Hawke by being present, aiding and abetting.

Mr. Purefoy appeared for the defence; attorney Mr. C. Nicholl.

The witnesses called were **WILLIAM ROBSON, GEORGE BRIDGE MULLINS**, and Dr. **FREDERICK JOSHUA BEARDMORE**.

Robson, a miner, was on Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, at Ravensfield, where prisoners lived – four miles from Maitland, and performed services there, being a local preacher of the Primitive Methodist persuasion; the prisoners belonged to witness's congregation, and attended service that day; witness remained to dinner at the house of Robert Hawke, the father, and after dinner went with him to the house of a sick neighbour, named **DAWSON**, living half a mile off; in returning towards Hawke's house about half-past one, witness remained behind Hawke for perhaps ten minutes in the bush, and on coming in sight of Hawke again saw him 200 yards a-head, having then a flock of sheep before him, with a man, they all going in the direction of Hawke's house; the man that was following the sheep was within a few yards of Hawke; witness did not then see Thomas Hawke, the son; witness did not join Hawke, but went on towards his house, and when he got within fifty yards of it he Mrs. Hawke – Robert Hawke's wife, and spoke to her; witness saw no more for some time of the prisoners or the sheep, they being then 400 yards from him, and in a valley; witness heard a noise, some of the children calling out to their mother, from the direction of the valley; witness went slowly that way, and when he got within fifty yards of them, he saw the two prisoners and the deceased (the shepherd), and some other of Hawke's children; witness did not go nearer to them; Thomas Hawke came near witness, and said the old man had struck him on the nose with a tin pot; witness understood him to mean the shepherd, and witness remarked that it was very bad to be quarrelling on the Sabbath day; witness saw the old man point to him (witness) and say, "That gentleman -----," but what he said further witness could not say; witness

had not then seen any quarrel between the parties, but he knew there had been from what the young man said, but witness went no nearer, seeing them separated, and thinking no harm had been done; witness saw nothing in Robert Hawke's hand, but Thomas Hawke showed witness the pot he said he was struck with; the old man stood in a stooping position, with one hand on his side, but he did not appear as if rising from the ground; witness did not gather from the old man's appearance that he was suffering from pain; the old man did appear as if rising from the ground, but witness did not see his body move; he did appear in pain, from the way he stood; did not hear him say "Oh dear," or groan; he did not say "Oh dear," in witness's hearing.

[The witness's deposition at the inquest was put in, but Mr. Purefoy objected that the crown could not take this course to throw discredit on its own witness. The Attorney General contended that he could do so, when the witness was obviously an unwilling witness. His Honor suggested that it would be unsafe to press the reading of the deposition, as it might prevent the conviction being upheld, if any took place, inasmuch as the Attorney General, in his opening address, had stated that he believed the witness would prove an unwilling one, and therefore he could not now allege that he was taken by surprise, which alone would render the proposed course correct. The Attorney General said all he suspected previously was that the witness would prove an unwilling witness on the whole, but he did not expect that he would deviate from his evidence as given before the coroner; and he was therefore entitled, on the particular question he wanted the prisoner to answer, to have his deposition read. A number of cases were quoted on both sides, and the point fully argued. The Attorney General pressed the admission of the evidence. His Honor consented to the deposition being read, expressing his own opinion that it would peril the conviction. The Attorney General then decided not to have the deposition read, but putting the deposition into the witness's hands to look through, he afterwards asked him further questions.]

Witness now remembered that the old man did exclaim "Oh dear" about five minutes after Thomas Hawke came up to witness; witness thought it was after the old man had said "That gentleman ---"; the parties remained seven or eight minutes in the valley, in witness's sight, Mrs. Hawke being talking to them; the old man remained stooping at the time, and witness afterwards saw him walking in that position; when witness last saw deceased he was about a mile from Maitland, walking towards the town, the sheep being not far off, driven by Robert Hawke; this was about three miles from Ravensfield; witness told Hawke it was wrong to quarrel on the Sabbath-day, and asked whose sheep they were; witness had not seen the Hawkes in the interval, nor had he any conversation with them since that day about the occurrence.

Mr. **MULLINS**, resident apothecary in the Maitland Hospital, remembered Connors entering the hospital after noon; he died the next morning, before noon; Connors told witness he knew he was in great danger, and that he should die; he got worse, and died; witness considered Connors in danger, and told him so; Connors made a statement about five o'clock on the afternoon of the day he came in, which was taken down *verbatim* by witness; the statement produced was the same, and was signed by witness and two others as witnesses; Connors remained sensible to the last; Connors told witness his name was Thomas Connors; Connors was never placed in a warm bath in the hospital.

[The statement was put in, but Mr. Purefoy objected to its being read as a dying declaration, on two grounds. These objections were overruled. Mr. Purefoy then put in the witness's deposition before the coroner, and it was read; in it Mr. Mullins described, in the third person, the substance of Connors' dying declaration, stating that after Robert Hawke had seized his flock of sheep, Thomas Hawke came behind him (Connors), seized him by the shoulders, and threw him the ground; that Robert Hawke then struck him with his fist as he lay on the ground, and Thomas Hawke kicked him three times in the ribs till his father interfered and said he had had enough;

and that afterwards Thomas Hawke said he wished he had killed him. Mr. Purefoy asked some questions why Mr. Mullins did not in his deposition state that Connors expressed apprehension that he should die – and other questions – contending that these discrepancies or omissions rendered the dying statement inadmissible as evidence. In answer to the Attorney General the witness said he believed he did state it to the coroner. His Honor ruled that the statement was admissible.]

The statement of Connors was then read. He stated that he was on that day feeding a flock of sheep at Ravensfield, when Robert Hawke seized them to impound them, and while Connors and Hawke were following the flock Thomas Hawke came up behind Connors, and threw him to the ground, and in the scuffle a pint pot scratched Thomas Hawke's nose; Robert Hawke struck Connors while he was on the ground with his fist two or three times, and Thomas Hawke kicked him three times in the ribs, taking away his breath, until Connors appealed to Robert Hawker not to kill him, when Hawke told his son to leave him alone; afterwards Thomas Hawke said he wished he had killed Connors; the cause of this ill-treatment he assigned to his feeding Mr. Prentice's sheep near Hawke's residence, on ground long disputed by Hawke.

Dr. Beardmore saw Connors professionally on the Sunday evening, for another medical man, and partially examined him, and found him very ill; Connors was then at a lodging house; on the Monday witness believed he saw Connors walking near this house, but he did not see him again till he had been taken to hospital; on the morning of Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, witness saw him in the hospital, Connors being then near death; after his death witness examined the body, and found the left lung and the pleura diseased and inflamed; four ribs were broken, on the left side, and two of the ribs had ruptured the lining membrane, which caused the inflammation of the pleura and lung; and from that inflammation witness considered the man died; the inflammation of the lung was recent; there was no external mark of violence; force from the outside must have broken the ribs, and severe kicks might do it; considering Connor's age there was little hope of his recovery from the first, unless he took great care of himself; nothing but the greatest care would have brought about his recovery; with great care a man might recover from such an injury. Cross-examined: A heavy fall against a stump or other obstacle might cause such an injury.

Mr. Purefoy took the objection that the death was not caused as laid in the indictment.

His Honor overruled the objection.

Mr. Purefoy addressed the jury for the defence. With the exception of Connor's dying declaration there was no evidence whatever against the prisoners, but he asked them whether the circumstances under which that declaration was brought before them were such as to make it command their confidence? He then went into those circumstances, contending that they deprived the statement of all reliable value as a dying declaration. It was remarkable that it was not until this day that Mr. Mullins, who took down the statement of Connors, mentioned that Connors was himself aware that he would die from his injuries, or even that he (Mr. M.) told Connors that he would die. Was it not likely, had such a remark been made by Connors or himself, that Mr. Mullins would have remembered it when making his deposition, two days afterwards? If the jury then agreed with him that these facts deprived the dying declaration of all value as such, what remained to throw even suspicion against the prisoners?? All they knew from the other evidence was that a quarrel of some sort did take place about the sheep, in which young Hawke got slightly injured, as he alleged, by Connors. They had on the other hand proof already that Connors was walking

about on Sunday and Monday after the quarrel, and he should show them that he came over to East Maitland to apply for a summons against the Hawkes. Was this consistent with the belief that on Sunday he had four ribs broken, and so serious an injury inflicted as Dr. Beardmore described? How many opportunities must have occurred between Sunday and Wednesday for his receiving the injury found after his death. Looking at the feeling evidently existing between Connors and the Hawkes in reference to these sheep, was it not possible that Connors greatly exaggerated when making his statement in the hospital? Unless it was made clear to them that Connors knew he would shortly die his statement was of but slight weight. He should call evidence to prove that up to Tuesday at least Connors had no such impression on his mind. He called

Mr. **DANIEL CARTER**, who deposed that Connors came to the police-office, East Maitland, to make some complaint, about the first of April, but on what exact day witness could not say; Connors appeared suffering from bodily pain, and stooped; he remained in the office a quarter of an hour.

Dr. **ANDREW LIDDELL** deposed that Connors appeared above fifty years of age, and decrepid; did not see Connors after he received the alleged injuries; the injuries described by Dr. Beardmore were not necessarily mortal; they might readily be caused by two men struggling, and one falling heavily undermost; witness saw young Hawke on the second day of the inquest, and noticed a scratch on his face as if caused by some instrument such as the tin pot produced; there was also an abrasion of the shoulder; a man who had received such injuries as those said to have been inflicted on deceased would be likely to suffer more from walking about as described, and the result would be more likely to be fatal; witness had known Connors personally, and found him an irascible man; the injuries need not have been fatal necessarily had proper medical measures and care been taken; such injuries were not usually fatal. Cross-examined: Witness believed the blows to have been the original cause of death, by inducing inflammation, but that these alone, without subsequent neglect or injudicious treatment, would not necessarily cause death.

**JAMES BRADLEY** deposed that he lived at Ravensfield, and knew the prisoners, and Connors; on a Sunday he saw Robert Hawke and a preacher pass his hut; shortly after he heard a noise a little way off, and saw a flock of sheep going past, driven by Robert Hawke; Connors spoke to witness, and said Hawke was taking his sheep to the pound, but he would make him sorry for it after this; Connors then went to the sheep, and tried to head the sheep off another way, but Hawke prevented him from doing so, and the flock shortly after got down from a ridge into a valley, where they got out of witness's sight; witness saw no quarrelling afterwards, but lost sight of the parties; Connors was a passionate man, but witness knew no harm of him.

Mr. **JOHN SCOTTO PARKER**, the coroner, deposed that he held the inquest on Connors' body, and was shown the declaration of Connors now produced, but did not admit it as evidence, as it was not taken before a magistrate on oath; would not say exactly what he did with the document, but supposed he must have forwarded it to the Attorney General, as he usually did all documents that came before him at inquests, whether he admitted them as evidence or otherwise.

**ELIZABETH WARREN HAWKE** deposed that she was the daughter of Robert Hawke, and sister of Thomas Hawke; remembered seeing Thomas Connors on Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, on her father's ground, with sheep; she saw her father with Connors' sheep going to the pound, and heard her brother Thomas ask her father where he was going with them; her father said to the pound, and that he wanted Thomas to go with him; Connors sent his dog round the sheep; her brother told

Connors to take his dog off, as the sheep were going to the pound; Connors turned round, and struck her brother with a pint pot, knocking him down; her brother jumped up again, and Connors threw the big coat over her brother's head, and got hold of him by the back of the neck; they struggled for a bit and fell to the ground, her brother under; Connors then kneeled on her brother with one knee, and struck him over the head and face; witness called to her mother and Mr. Robson to run, for Connors was killing Thomas; her father ran up, saying he ought to be ashamed to beat a lad like that; by that time her mother and Mr. Robson had got to the top of the hill, and her brother Thomas went to them and showed Mr. Robson the pint pot Connors had struck him with; witness did not see her father or brother kick Connors, nor strike him; if they had done so she must have seen it; witness swore that neither of them did so. This witness was cross-examined as some length.

Mr. **JOHN MAYO** knew the prisoners for above two years, and never heard anything against them.

Mr. **JOEL N. MORCOM** had known Robert Hawke for many ytears, in England and this colony; he always bore a good character for quietness, honesty, and industry.

Mr. **GEORGE WOOD**, chief constable, had known Robert Hawke for nine years, and always considered him a hard-working, quiet man.

The Attorney General replied.

His Honor summed up. Having described the substance of the indictment against each prisoner, his Honor indicated the points for the determination of the jury; calling their attention to the evidence of the two medical witnesses as to the cause of death, as requiring them to determine whether the inflammation that actually caused death was solely and necessarily induced by the blows. If they could not satisfy themselves that this was the case, they could still, if they thought the prisoners did assault Connors, find them guilty of assault; but of they thought they not only did this, but inflicted the injuries described, and that those injuries necessarily caused the inflammation that caused death, then they would find the prisoners guilty as they were charged in the indictment. As to the assault itself, his Honor read over the dying declaration of Connors, commenting on it, and leaving it to the jury to decide what credibility they would attach to it; and contrasted it with the evidence of the young girl, Elizabeth Hawke, which exonerated the Hawkes from striking a blow or giving a kick; and made Connors the assailant. It appeared to him the case would rest very much on the belief the jury paced in the dying statement of Connors, or the evidence of the girl. And here his Honor pointed out what he considered might be the influences bearing on the mind of the girl or of Connors respectively, tending to affect their testimony; and the value to be generally attached to dying declarations. He then left the case to them, after briefly recapitulating the exact points for their determination.

The jury retired for a quarter of an hour, and returned with a verdict of guilty against Thomas Hawke, and of aiding and abetting in the assault against Robert Hawke.

Mr. Purefoy submitted that that was in effect a verdict of acquittal against Robert Hawke, as aiding and abetting would not apply to a misdemeanour, which a common assault was.

The prisoners were remanded for sentence.

A fresh jury had been summoned for Thursday, and his Honor now discharged the jury with the customary tribute of thanks for their attendance and assistance. In doing so his Honor addressed them, briefly but emphatically, on the great advantages enjoyed by British subjects in the institution of trial by jury, as the most complete protection to the liberty of the subject, and the greatest safeguard for public and impartial administration of justice, employed by any nation. He contrasted the

leading features of this system with those of some nations, on the continent of Europe and elsewhere, where trials took place before a single judge, without the intervention of any other power as a guard against the errors any single man was liable to fall into. Then comparing it with the abuse of the system in California and some of the southern states of the United States, he pointed out the great danger to the liberty of the subject wherever the populace took on themselves to interfere violently in the administration of justice, and casting aside the deliberate and formal method of trial by jury provided by the laws, proceeded to trial at once by a body suddenly and illegally constituted, without any responsibility, and as they had frequently had occasion to learn, finished by immediate execution of the illegal sentence. The complete publicity and the trials and examinations in a British court of justice his Honor regarded as one of the most valuable and important features of the system, and he regarded as another most important feature the encouragement held out to prisoners to have their defence undertaken by counsel learned in the law, which afforded another safeguard against any error or oversight in the proceedings.

The court then adjourned till ten o'clock on Thursday morning.

**GUNDAGAI. - DESTRUCTIVE FLOOD AND LOSS OF LIFE.**

... Ellis's Creek, most dangerous even in half-flood, as the banks are abrupt and high, was equally flooded like the rest; two men were drowned here – one was found stuck up against a tree; the other was a well known carrier, by the name of **JEMMY SMITH**, or the **Sergeant's Jemmy** as he was called.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/750, 10/09/1851**

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. **RODERICK MITCHELL**, second son of Sir Thomas L. Mitchell, Surveyor-General, who, during a heavy gale on the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo, fell overboard from the schooner *Beaver*, on her passage hither from Moreton Bay. The deceased, who was one of the most enthusiastic of the "Pioneers of Civilization in Australia," was on his way to Sydney for the purpose of heading the expedition about to proceed in search of Leichhardt. The deceased was a magistrate of the territory, and a Commissioner of Crown Lands, and leaves a large circle of relations and friends to mourn his untimely end. *S.M. Herald, Sept. 4*

**THE SOUTHERN FLOODS.** - Two men have been drowned in the Yewan Yewan Creek, commonly called Hillas' Creek, and on the Upper Hume seven lives have been lost in one hut. Mr. **SUGDEN**, blacksmith, wife, and child, and a Mrs. **SHIELDS** and three children, all perished. Mr. Shields and one child were saved, having been washed in amongst some wattles on an island a long way down the river, where they remained two days before they could be taken off. Several people are missing, but as yet hopes are entertained of their safety.

**ACCIDENT.** - An accident likely to be followed by serious results took place yesterday afternoon. Two boys m of about the age of ten years, named respectively, **JOHN DAVIS** and **WILLIAM JOHNSON**, residing at Pymont, were playing with gun-powder, and having laid a train Johnson applied a lighted stick. The explosion took place more rapidly than the boy anticipated, the full force of which went off in his face, burning him very severely. Dr. **FOULIS** was sent for, who ordered his instant removal to the infirmary, where we are informed he lies in a very precarious state. *Herald, Sept. 6*

**CALIFORNIA.** Another story of man involved with the 'Vigilantes' and only just escaped being hanged; **STUART**, ex New South Wales; two men named Stuart. *From the S.M. Herald*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/751, 13/091/851

MAITLAND GAOL. - The result of the enquiry into the circumstances attending the late escape of the two prisoners, **M'NAMARA and WALSH**, from Maitland Gaol, has been the dismissal of Mr. **JAQMES COX** from the office of Gaoler, "in consequence of the escapes that have taken place from Maitland Gaol during the time he has held the appointment." Mrs. Cox, of course, leaves with him. ...

INQUESTS. - A coroner's inquest was held on Saturday last, the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, at the house of Mr. **THOMAS INGALL**, at Hinton, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., and a jury of five, touching the death of a child named **HENRY INGALL**, there lying dead. From the evidence of Thomas Ingall and **MARY ANN GREY**, it appeared that on the day previous (Friday) the father had missed the child, and sent his female servant to search for him; he also went seeking him himself, and after looking about in several places he found the little boy had fallen down the well, and was floating on the top of the water. The well was about 30 feet deep, had about 4 feet of water in it, and the hole on the top had been but partially closed; he had thought there was no danger, as the child had always been reluctant to go near it. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned, and requested that in future the well should be properly closed.

Another inquest was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, at the estate of **GEORGE TOWNSHEND**, Esq., at Trevallyn, Upper Paterson, before the same Coroner, upon the body of an **aboriginal named DAVY**, who was found dead in a mill dam. There was no evidence to show in what manner or way the deceased came by his death, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased Davy died from suffocation and drowning, but how the deceased fell into the said mill dam there was no evidence to show. The body was much decomposed, Davy having been missed for the previous fortnight.

Another inquest was held on the 9<sup>th</sup>, before the same Coroner, at the Golden Lion Inn, Lochinvar, upon the body of a man named **DAVID EVANS**. The witnesses examined were **MARK TURNER, JAMES DAGGIN**, and Dr. **M'CARTNEY**. They deposed that the deceased, who had lately taken up goods for Mr. Dickson to the gold fields, was on Sunday night, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., brought to the door of the inn in a cart, the party that was with him (Daggin) requesting the loan of a horse; deceased asked Mr. Turner to lift up his head, which he did, when deceased showed a hurt in his neck, and complained of a choking sensation. Mr. Turner left him for a few moments, when deceased jumped out of the cart and turned against the side of the house; deceased was then carried in and placed on a sofa; deceased appeared senseless, never spoke afterwards, and in half an hour he expired; deceased was possessed of considerable property; the deceased had had a doctor to attend upon him at Cassilis, but the doctor there had given him up; he was suffering from a rupture of one of the arteries of the neck. Dr. M'Cartney had been sent for to attend deceased, but on his arrival at Lochinvar deceased had expired. Dr. M'C. made a *post mortem* examination upon deceased, and found a large aneurism occupying the left side of the chest. Verdict – died from natural causes.

Another inquest was held yesterday, at the Maitland Hospital, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., touching the death of a lad, name unknown, about 15 years of age. It appeared that on Thursday the lad had been received into the hospital by the resident apothecary, in a very bad state, and put comfortably to bed; but yesterday morning he was found dead in his bed. He had been brought down from Singleton, where it was said he had been in the service of Mr. Rankin. Dr. M'Cartney made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and found the heart much swelled and diseased,

and was of opinion that deceased died from disease of the heart. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

**A ROBBER KILLED.** - An inquest was commenced yesterday at Mr. Oliffe's public-house, Surry Hills, on the body of **WILLIAM JOHNSON**, then lying dead, and whose death was caused by a gunshot wound. **GEORGE MITCHELL**, junr., was in custody, charged with having caused the death of the said William Johnson. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was in the act of robbing the premises of George Mitchell, senr. The young man hearing a noise in the yard, went out side, and perceiving the deceased, whom he ordered to stand, which deceased refusing to do, the prisoner fired at him. The contents took fatal effect, causing immediate death. The inquest was adjourned to the Police-office, George-street, on Thursday next, at half-past twelve. Mr. Mitchell was admitted to bail, himself in £100, and two sureties in £50 each, to appear at the Police-office, on Thursday; and the Coroner directed a post-mortem examination to be made. *Empire, Sept. 9*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - One of those fearful occurrences which reminds us of the instability of human life, took place at Bland, on Wednesday se'nnight. While Mr. **PARFAIT**, who was formerly a butcher in this town, but who has lately resided upon his cattle station at the place first indicated, was sitting at his breakfast table, he fell back and expired without the slightest struggle. There being no coroner or magistrate within forty miles, the body was interred without an inquisition as to the cause of death being held. The deceased was a young man about four or five and twenty years of age, and had formerly been a rather hard liver; his death is attributed to apoplexy. *Goulburn Herald*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - On Sunday last a coroner's inquiry was held at Collector, before **ROBERT WAUGH**, Esq., coroner for the district, on view of the body of a small farmer in that neighbourhood, named **O'BRIEN**, who had been found dead in a waterhole. It appeared that the deceased was missed on the previous Wednesday from his place of residence, and nothing was heard of him until the following Friday, when his body was found in a waterhole near Collector. Suspicion was at first entertained that death had been produced by foul means, one of the witnesses at the inquest stating that a third party, with whom it appeared he had been at variance, said that he (the third party) would serve him (witness) as he had served the deceased. No credit being attached to this evidence, on account of the ill-feeling which apparently existed between the witness and the person whom he impliedly charged with the death of the deceased. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned." *Goulburn Herald, Sept. 6*

**THE MANNING RIVER.** - We take the following extracts from a letter from the Rev. **J.T. CARTER** to a friend in Sydney, published in the *Empire*, ... "I am reminded, in the relation of these interesting circumstances, of one solemn fact, viz., that Mr. **DONALD M'LEOD**, a recent settler here from Lewinsbrook (Paterson's River), who, when dining with me the day previous to his death, offered a portion of his land for a church and burial ground, was suddenly killed by the limb of a tree striking him to the ground, which a native black was falling - so that his own body is the first to consecrate his gift. There was a very large number of people from all parts of the district gathered at his funeral; for he had won the esteem and affection of all he had come in contact with.

**DEATH FROM A VENOMOUS BITE.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Benevolent Asylum, on view of the body of a man named **KING LONG**, whose death had been caused by the bite of some venomous reptile, as reported in yesterday's paper. From the evidence of deceased's wife, it appeared that a fortnight

ago her husband was carrying a log of firewood into the house, and on setting it down he complained that a splinter of the wood (as he imagined) had stuck in his shoulder; the wound got worse until his death, which took place on Saturday last. Dr. **REID** gave it as his opinion that death had been caused by a puncture in the arm, caused by the bite or sting of some venomous reptile, the poison of which had gradually infused itself through the system, producing mortification of the stomach and intestines; the doctor also expressed his opinion that had he been called to see the deceased in an early stage of his suffering, he would have been able to have had recourse to remedied which would probably have counteracted the effects of the bite. The jury returned a verdict of died from the effects of the bite or sting of some venomous reptile. The deceased has left a widow and two children. He was thirty-nine years of age. *Empire, Sept. 9*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/752, 17/09/1851

MANSLAUGHTER. - Yesterday, the Coroner resumed the inquest (adjourned on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant) touching the death of **WILLIAM JOHNSTON**, who was shot by Mr. **GEORGE MITCHELL**, jun., on the night of Sunday last. Mr. Mitchell was in custody; and Mr. **G.R. NICHOLLS** appeared on his behalf. The inquest was held at the Sydney Police-office. From the evidence of several of the neighbours of Mr. Mitchell, who lives on the Surry Hills, it was shown that on the night of Sunday last, Mr. Mitchell, jun., was heard challenging some man who had been seen retreating from his father's premises. Two shots were heard; and the deceased was found dead in the adjoining paddock. The witnesses stated that robberies were of constant occurrence in the neighbourhood of Surry Hills, and that the deceased was not known in that locality. Dr. **TIERNEY** stated that he had examined the body of the deceased, and had found it perforated by thirty-six shots. The Coroner, in summing up, said that this was one of those painful and extremely difficult cases which must be decided by a superior tribunal. It was evident that the deceased had been on the premises of Mr. Mitchell, sen., with evil designs; but whether his son was justified in shooting him when he attempted to make his escape was a question which another jury would decide. The Coroner put it to the jury whether, under the circumstances, Mr. Mitchell was justified in shooting the deceased, at whom he had once fired, and who was endeavouring to escape from his father's premises. The jury, having retired for some time, returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Mitchell, who was accordingly committed for trial; but allowed bail, himself in £100, and two sureties in £50 each. *Herald, Sept. 12*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/753, 20/09/1851

ANOTHER MURDER BY THE BLACKS. - We have to add to the catalogue of crime with which our pages have recently been defiled, by reporting another barbarous murder, committed by the aboriginal natives in the Burnett district about a fortnight ago. The victim was a Mr. **STREET**, who was depasturing some sheep of his own on Mr. Trevethan's run. Mr. Goode, of the Burnett inn, who arrived in town yesterday, informs us that the murdered man was beaten in a most barbarous manner by his murderers, and that some of his sheep were driven off. We are not in possession of any further particulars. - The report of the murder of a man on Mr. Hay's (late Mr. Corfield's) station, mentioned by a correspondent in our local contemporary, and noticed in our last issue, is confirmed. *Moreton Bay Courier, Sept 6.*

**BURNETT DISTRICT AND LOWER CONDAMINE – MORE MURDERS BY THE BLACKS.** - We are informed by a gentleman who arrived from the Burnett district a few days ago, that the aboriginal natives had murdered a man, and his daughter, about twelve years of age, on the station of Mr. Wilkins, twelve miles from Gayndah, about three weeks ago. The names of the victims did not reach us. - We also learn, from the letter of a correspondent at Myall Creek, dated 27<sup>th</sup> August, that news had just been received of the blacks having murdered a man on Messrs. Dangar and Ferrett's station on the Lower Condamine, three days before. Three of the native police, with such assistance as could be spared, had started in pursuit of the murderers. ... *Moreton Bay Courier*

**SAIKLOR DROWNED.** - On the passage of the *Oriental*, from Batavia to Sydney, in a gale of wind from the north-east, a seaman named **DAVID ISBASTER**, having missed his footing on the fore-top-gallant rail, fell overboard and was drowned. The life buoy was hove overboard after him, within a few yards of which the man was struggling, but not being able to swim he sank, and was not again seen. The ship was hove about, and the buoy picked up shortly after the fatal occurrence.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/754, 24/09/1851**

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - On Sunday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Cross keys Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **JANE BOUSHER**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Bousher was a young woman, and had not been married many months; she was addicted to drinking, and when much in liquor appeared low spirited, and occasionally had fits; on the night of Friday last she drank several glasses of ale, and slept in her clothes that night; the next morning her husband went to work as usual, leaving his wife still on the sofa; during that morning Mrs. Bousher appeared low-spirited, and remarked to her landlady, **ELIZABETH STEVENS**, that she need not be surprised to hear of her being dead or drowned some day; Mrs. Stevens remonstrated with her for talking this way, and in further conversation Mrs. Bousher told her that her heart was heavy about a child she had left in Sydney, at a boarding-school; Mrs. Stevens however thought she had no real intention to commit suicide, and as Mrs. Bousher got calm she pursued her ordinary avocations, and Mrs. Bousher passed her, and went into the privy, which is placed on the banks of Wallis's Creek. Some short time after, when dinner was ready, Mrs. Stevens went into the orchard and called Mrs. Bousher, but could see nothing of her; she then for the first time got alarmed on remembering the words Mrs. B. had uttered, and alarmed the neighbours; something white was seen floating near the middle of the creek, and a boat being got it was found to be the body of the unfortunate woman, buoyed up by her clothes. In a few minutes after the body was got to the bank Dr. **SCOTT** was in attendance, and tried every means to restore animation, but in vain; there was no mark of violence on the body, or apparent disturbance of her clothes. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased drowned herself, while labouring under temporary insanity.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Three Tuns Tavern, corner of King and Elizabeth-streets, on view of the body of **ALEXANDER ANDERSON**, then lying dead in the infirmary. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was an apprentice on board the barque *Phoenician*, and was 17 years old. About noon on Tuesday, the deceased was aloft sending down the main spencer, when he fell from the gaff to the quarter hatch, and thence to the half deck. He fell on his back from a height of twenty feet. The hatch broke his fall. When picked up he was quite insensible, and never spoke. The weather was too rough to take him immediately on shore to the infirmary, but a medical man from a neighbouring ship

attended, and prescribed for him. When the weather moderated he was removed to the infirmary, being still insensible, and was there attended by Dr. **NATHAN**. The fall had, however, caused concussion of the brain, and Anderson never rallied, or recovered sensibility, and died early on Wednesday morning. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Abridged from the Empire, Sept. 19*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/755, 27/09/1851

**MORETON BAY. - MURDER.** - The Burnett district, I am sorry to say, has been the scene of a most deliberate murder, committed by a Chinaman upon a very respectable European. The particulars are as follows:- An overseer to Mr. **J.B. REID**, named **JAMES HOLBERT**, has occasion some few months since to complain of a Chinaman for some offence committed on the station, for which the Chinaman was sentenced to imprisonment; at the expiration of his sentence he returned to the station, expressing contrition for his former conduct, but having a short time afterwards been trusted with fire-arms to defend himself from the aboriginals, he took the opportunity one day when poor Hulbert was proceeding in the direction of the men's huts before him to discharge his gun at his victim, when only a few feet distant from him; the result, as might be expected, was fatal – the ball having passed through the body, causing death about an hour after the deed was committed. It is stated that the murderer prevented his victim from receiving a drink of water on his managing to crawl to the hut inhabited by other Chinamen. *Herald Correspondent*

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.** - Between the hours of six and seven p.m. on Friday, **JAMES BARHAM**, a butcher, residing at the Parramatta Road, fell into a boiler of scalding water, in which he was scalding pigs. He is very severely scalded about the head, neck, and shoulders. Dr. **JESTINGS**, of the Glebe, was in immediate attendance, and although the patient is at present suffering severely, hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. *Empire, Sept. 22*

**FRIGHTFUL MURDER BY THE BLACKS AT WIDE BAY.** - By the *Albion* schooner, which arrived on Thursday last from Wide Bay, intelligence has been received of the murder by the blacks of Mr. **GEORGE NELSON STREET**, lately of Cassilis, who had recently moved his sheep from the latter place to Wide Bay for the purpose of forming stations there. About three weeks ago he was missed from his temporary station, and search being immediately made, his body was discovered the following day frightfully mutilated by the spears of the natives. In so dreadful a state was the body that it was necessary to bury it where it was discovered. We are sorry to add, that no sooner was the murder of their master known, than his shepherds left his flocks to the mercy of the blacks, and broached a cask of wine which had just arrived at the station. Some of the flockholders in the neighbourhood hearing of this most disgusting proceeding, by force broke in the head of the cask, and Mr. Trevethan, on whose run poor Mr. Street's sheep were for the present depasturing, took charge of them and the rest of his property. Mrs. Street is still at Cassilis awaiting advices of her unfortunate husband's settlement in his ill-chosen district. Mr. Street, who was in the very prime of life (about 36 years of age), was universally esteemed for his many excellent qualities. There were upwards of twenty spear wounds in his body. We are told, that previous to leaving Sydney, some presentiments of his fate oppressed him; and that he gave to a friend his ring, begging him "if he were killed by the blacks to wear it for his sake." *Herald, Sept. 22*. [A correspondent, in the *Herald* of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, states that Mr. Trevethan's station is in the Burnett district, 200 miles from Wide Bay.]

ARRIVALS. - (SHIPPING). - The brig *Jack* left Brisbane on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. , with a strong wind from the south-west; same day made the River Bar, and when crossing, a seaman named **ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND** was thrown overboard and lost. He was in the act of bearing off a boat, and while being hoisted on the davits, she was struck with a sea under the bottom, which unshipped her tackles. About the same time the painter of the life-boat towing astern broke; both boats having got adrift the pinnace was lowered, but she also drew the bolts and got away; the second officer jumped over the stern and succeeded in saving the pinnace, but the jolly-boat sank.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held yesterday at Mr. Ryan's house, Bank-street, Chippendale, on view of the body of **THOMAS DUCKWORTH**, then lying dead at his late residence in Banks-street. The deceased's horse and cart ran off in Union-street, Pyrmont, on Saturday evening. The deceased's son, a lad of about eight years old, was in the cart at the time – the deceased having left the boy in charge of it while he entered a shop on some business. When the horse ran off the deceased came out of the shop and endeavoured to stop it, and the iron of the step of the cart caught the deceased on the thigh and turned him round under the wheel, which passed over the lower part of the abdomen. The boy was thrown out of the cart but escaped uninjured. Dr. **CUTHILL** immediately attended, and found the deceased suffering from severe internal injuries of the lower part of the abdomen, and a compound fracture of the right thigh, one of the fractures extending to the knee joint. The injury which caused death was that of the abdomen – the bladder and a portion of the bowels being ruptured. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Empire, Sept. 23*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday last, an aged man named **JOHN SIMPKIN**, who resided in a small cottage near Mr. Lane's, on the Vale Creek, mounted a horse and started off at a gallop from his door, and had not proceeded far when the animal fell and threw him on his head. A violent concussion of the brain was the consequence, which caused almost immediate death. An inquest was held over the body on Monday, and a verdict of accidental death returned. *Bathurst Free Press, Sept. 20*

INQUEST. - Yesterday a magisterial inquiry was held before Mr. **O'NEIL BRENNAN** and a jury (the Coroner being indisposed), on the body of **JAMES HOLLAND**, which had been found floating in Cockle Bay on Monday last. A witness named **THOMAS AUSTIN** deposed that he was on the Ultimo side of Darling Harbour on Friday night last, and heard a voice call out "Murder – Oh God, am I to be drowned; ih, Lord have mercy upon me – here I am;" Austin came round to the wharves and reported the matter to the police, but nothing could be found, although men on board two vessels at Barker's wharf said they heard the screams, but thought they came from the other side of the harbour. Dr. **M'EWAN** on Tuesday examined the body found, and found appearances about the neck and face more indicative of death by strangulation than by drowning, a swelling being found under the right ear which might have been produced by a violent blow, or by violent pressure, such as twisting a neckcloth with a man's hand. Yesterday Dr. M'Ewan made a post-mortem examination, but the neck and face had become so decomposed as to prevent a proper examination, no other parts of the body being so much decomposed. Dr. M'Ewan still retained the same opinion as to the cause of death. The inquiry was adjourned till Wednesday next. *Abridged from the Empire, Sept. 25*

APPREHENSION OF AN ALLEGED MURDERER. - At the Adelaide police office, on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, **WILLIAM LYNCH, alias BURNS**, was charged with having been concerned in the murder of a turnkey in the gaol at Parramatta, in December, 1842. "The only evidence taken (says the *Adelaide Times* was that of Mr.

**ASHTON**, governor of the gaol, who identified the prisoner by the marks on his arm, and by his general appearance, as the man advertised in the *Gazette*, that ran away from the gaol of Parramatta, after murdering the turnkey. The prisoner was remanded for a week." *S.M. Herald*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - Yesterday a magisterial enquiry was held before Mr. **J. O'NEIL BRENNAN** (the coroner being ill) and a jury, on the body of **MARTIN BURKE**. Burke was cook on board the *Dublin*, lying at the Flour Company's Wharf, and on last Saturday evening was intoxicated, and was last seen sitting at the staboard gangway between ten and eleven o'clock; the next morning he was missing, and his hat was found on the break of the forecastle; it being supposed from this that he had fallen overboard a search was made with a grappling iron, and the body was found and raised; there was no mark of violence on the body, and the trowsers were loose as if deceased had fallen overboard from the ship's head. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned. *Abridged from the Empire, Sept. 25*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 9/756, 01/10/1851

**THE LATE MURDER BY THE BLACKS AT WIDE BAY.** - By a latter which has been received by Messrs. T. Hall and Co., of Castlereagh-street, (the agents of the late unfortunate Mr. **STREET**) and which has been addressed to them by his overseer, we learn that, as has too often happened in those frightful cases, mad indiscriminating revenge caused the murder of Mr. Street. It appears that a short time ago a native black was killed by some stockmen, who, having partially burnet the body, buried it in a careless manner. It was soon found by his tribe, who vowed revenge on the first white man that fell into their hands, and that fearful fate befell Mr. Street, who, as we have mentioned, had only just driven his flocks into the district, and was one of the kindest and most humane of men. *S.M. Herald, Sept. 27*

**INQUESTS.** - On Sunday last an inquest was commenced at Paterson, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **FANNY HALLET**, a young woman. The inquest was adjourned in order to allow time for Dr. **SCOTT** to analyze the contents of the stomach.

On Monday an inquest was held at East Maitland, on the body of **PATRICK M'NAMARA**. M'Namara was an old man, addicted to habits of intemperance, and resided at Berry Park; on Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, he was in East Maitland, being the polling day, and got intoxicated; later that evening he was taken charge of by three constables, being then very noisy, but instead of taking him to the lockup, they kindly took him to the house of a friend, Mr. **M'LAUGHLIN**, wheelwright, with whose consent he was laid in the stable, on a platform, being made comfortable with bays, hay, and a man sitting up for some hours to see that he was all right; the next morning M'Namara appeared to be still labouring under the effects of drink, and complained of pain and soreness in his belly, but refused to enter Mr. M'Laughlin's house; Mr. M'Laughlin therefore sent word to his family, and that (Wednesday) afternoon M'Namara was taken homer in a bullock dray, appearing to suffer much pain from the jolting. No medical man was however sent for, all parties seeming to think that M'Namara was only suffering from the effects of drink; he still continued unwell throughout Thursday, and in the middle of Thursday night he sent for some neighbours, who came and saw him; about three o'clock on Friday morning M'Namara was suddenly taken much worse, appearing speechless, and before his son could bring his neighbours in again he expired. A post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Scott on Friday, when the only bruises visible were some on the knuckles, and a cut on one knee, but none of them sufficient to have influenced his

death; death had been caused by inflammation of the intestines, which might have been in Dr. Scott's opinion, caused by exposure to cold, or by a fall, or a bruise, and in either case would be much aggravated by intemperance. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, accelerated by frequent acts of intemperance.

**DEATH BY INHALING THE FUMES OF CHARCOAL.** - An inquest was held on Thursday, at the Cottage of Content, Pitt-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM ASHTON**, late steward of the brig *Thomas and Henry*, who was found dead in his berth at six o'clock the same morning. It appeared from the evidence of Captain **BENNETT** that the brig was to be smoked on Wednesday, to destroy the rats with which she was infested, and the deceased offered to remain on board the vessel during the night. He was properly cautioned not to go below, and was desired to lift the corner of the tarpaulin covering the hatch occasionally to see that the charcoal continued burning, and that the vessel was safe; he was left in charge of the vessel, but was afterwards seen by Mr. **NEVIN**, the second mate, in Clarence-street, and in a state of intoxication; it was then midnight, and as he said he was returning to the brig, Mr. Nevin cautioned him not to go below decks. Deceased replied that he did not intend remaining on board, but would just go and see that the vessel was safe, and the fire burning. But instead of returning ashore he descended to his berth, and on Mr. **WATTS**, chief mate, coming on board about six a.m. on Thursday, he found the door of the companion open, and discovered the deceased lying dead in his berth. Some paper had been pasted over the joint of the door to keep the smoke in, but deceased had torn it off. The body was viewed by Dr. **TIERNEY**, who expressed his opinion that death had been caused by impeded respiration, the effects of the burning charcoal. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. The deceased was a young man. *Empire, Sept. 27*

**MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.** - On Tuesday last a jockey named **ASHE**, recently arrived from Adelaide, and of considerable repute on the South Australian turf, while engaged in "sweating" for the coming Drapers' Races, suddenly fell down in a state of insensibility, and expired in a few hours. The deceased was in the service of Captain Fitz Roy. *Bell's Life, Sept. 27*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/757, 04/10/1851

**COMMUTATION OF BALLARD'S SENTENCE.** - The sentence passed on **THOMAS BALLARD**, who was convicted at the later Circuit Court of the murder of **HENRY BOYLE**, and sentenced to be hung, has been commuted into ten years' hard labour on the roads. Yesterday Ballard left Maitland Gaol to perform this sentence.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/758, 08/10/1851

**ADJOURNED INQUEST.** - On Saturday last the adjourned inquest on the body of **FANNY HALLET** was resumed, and after the examination of two other witnesses, Dr. **SCOTT** gave evidence as to his analysis of the stomach. He detailed his experiments at some length, and although 5 distinct kinds of poison had been sought for, and in no case less than 3 different tests had been made use of, no poison had been detected. The other evidence was not material. Verdict, died from paralysis of the heart, but how induced there is no evidence to prove.

**SYDNEY NEWS.**

Yesterday afternoon **EDWARD CONROY**, in the service of Mr. **PEMMEL**, miller, of Parramatta-street, was struck dead by the fly wheel of the engine.

**THE MURDER AT PARRAMATTA GAOL.** - **LYNCH**, alias **BURNS**, whose apprehension at Adelaide for the murder of a turnkey at Parramatta gaol, about nine

years since, was recently announced in these columns, arrived in Sydney yesterday by the *Phantom* from Adelaide, and the necessary measures for bringing him to trial will be immediately instituted. *Herald, Oct. 3*

**THE PARRAMATTA MURDER.** - **WILLIAM BURNS** was yesterday brought before the Police Magistrate, charged with being one of the three men who, on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1842, effected their escape from Parramatta Gaol, and murdered the gatekeeper. Corporal **HOWELL**, of the Adelaide Mounted Police, deposed that he knew prisoner, at Adelaide, by sight for about two years, but not by name until the period of his apprehension (as stated by the last witness) when he heard him called William Burns; he was apprehended on another charge, but subsequently detained on the charge of murdering a turnkey of Parramatta Gaol; when charged with the latter offence before the Adelaide bench, the prisoner denied the charge, and endeavoured to prove that at the date of its perpetration he was elsewhere, in which attempt he failed; witness assisted in escorting the prisoner to Sydney, and on the passage he several times forced a conversation on the subject of the offence with which he was charged, and on one occasion, in spite of his (witness's) advice to say nothing which might criminate himself, he insisted on making a statement – in order, he said, that if anything to the contrary should hereafter be reported of him, he (witness) would be able to contradict it; he said, “There were three of us – **M'DONALD**, **M'CANN**, and myself, apprehended on a charge of highway robbery, and were confined in Parramatta Gaol awaiting our trial; we saw a chance of making our escape, and having secured the Governor and one of the turnkeys, made our way towards the front gate or entrance, and demanded the keys, which the turnkey refused to give up, at the same time rushing towards or throwing himself across the gateway; we wanted to secure him also; either M'Donald or M'Cann, handed me a cutlass, and we made our escape;” he (witness) asked him whether he came out a free man to the colony, to which he replied, “I was convicted at Clonmel, and sent to Norfolk Island; there my sight was affected, and I was removed to -----” witness did not recollect the place; had seen the description of **LYNCH**, in the *New South Wales Government Gazette*, and having compared the prisoner therewith, believes him to be the person so described. The prisoner was then remanded for further evidence on Monday next. The prisoner stood with the utmost composure, and asked no questions of the witnesses touching their depositions, but seemed exceedingly anxious about the reward offered for his apprehension, which he considered the police were not deserving of. *Herald, Oct. 4*

**MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.** - Yesterday, in the absence of the Coroner, an inquiry was held by Mr. **O'NEILL BRENNAN**, Water Police Magistrate, on board the barque *Moselle*, lying off Campbell's Wharf, touching the death of **DANIEL M'CLOUD**, then lying dead there. From the evidence of **ROBERT MORRISON**, a seaman belonging to the barque, it appears that deceased, who also was one of the crew, went to his berth about twelve o'clock on Tuesday night, being then under the influence of liquor. No one saw him get up from his bed, but yesterday morning, about six o'clock, his body was seen floating in the water just under the ship's lee, and was picked up by the carpenter. It was supposed that, having had occasion to go on deck in the night, and being intoxicated, he must have fallen overboard. Mr. Brennan recorded a verdict of accidental drowning. *Herald, Oct. 2*

**ACCIDENT.** - About 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening, constable **ROSS** found a man lying on the Botany Road, wounded and senseless, and lost no time in having him removed to the Sydney Infirmary. He was quite unable to give any account of himself, but his name is supposed to be **WILLIAM CHEESEMAN**; and it is

conjectured that having fallen off his cart, the wheel passed over his head. We regret to add that but small hope was entertained of his recovery. *Herald, Oct. 3*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/759, 11/10/1851

#### MANSLAUGHTER

**GEORGE MITCHELL** was indicted for having, at the Surry Hills, near Sydney, on the 8<sup>th</sup> September last, killed one **WILLIAM JOHNSON**, by shooting him from a musket.

The deceased Johnson had been, it appeared, on the premises of the prisoner's uncle for some unlawful purpose, and the prisoner, who is about sixteen years old, was aroused, and went out, when Johnson endeavoured to make his escape, but was fired after by young Mitchell, and subsequently it was found that some of the small shot with which the gun was loaded had entered the lungs, and caused Johnson's death. Mitchell made two statements, one at the time to the effect that deceased had robbed the kitchen when he endeavoured to escape, and another subsequently that deceased had not robbed, but was going to rob. The facts that Mitchell ran after the man who appeared endeavouring to escape, and then fired after him, were proved by two or three neighbours, but the actual circumstances attending Johnson's being on the premises could only be gathered from Mitchell's statements.

In summing up his Honor directed the jury that they must find the prisoner guilty unless that Johnson had actually committed a felony, or was discovered in the act of committing it, in which case attempts to effect his capture would be justified.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and Mitchell was discharged.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/760, 15/10/1851

**FATAL ACCIDENT WITH FIRE-ARMS.** - On Wednesday last three Maitland parties were returning together from the Meroo diggings, and dined at a hut on Crabby Creek, Goulburn River, some fifteen miles beyond Merton. The united parties numbered nine persons, including Messrs. **W. DREW, E. COX, THOMAS GARRATY, BRETT, THOMSON**, and two other men, and two lads; and they had three drays, Mr. Drew's, Mr. Garraty's, and Mr. Brett's. After dinner the drays started again in the order named; Mr. Cox, who was riding, had been shooting that morning, and his gun was left behind resting against the slabs of the hut; Thomson suggested to Cox that he might as well take on the gun, to which Cox assented. Thomson then walked on with the gun, overtook the drays, and put the gun on the tarpaulin on Garraty's dray, and he then got himself into the dray, and lay or sat down in the back part of it; at this time Garraty was sitting in the front of the dray, driving, and a lad was also seated in the dray; Thomson had been there but a few minutes when Garraty turned round, and seeing the gun drew it towards him; the gun was loaded, and unfortunately cocked, and the trigger catching in a fold of the tarpaulin the gun exploded, and the whole charge lodged in Garraty's right side; the unfortunate man staggered out of the dray and fell forward on the road, and before Drew could get off his dray, and back to him, he was dead. The body was taken on to Merton, where an inquiry was held by Captain **PIKE** and Mr. **OGILVIE**. It was found impossible to obtain boards to make a coffin at Merton, or subsequently at Jerry's Plains, and Mr. Drew kindly took charge of the body, and drove it down on poor Garraty's dray, wrapped up in the tarpaulin, and on Friday evening he reached Maitland, and performed the melancholy duty of handing over the body to the friends of the deceased. Garraty was well known in this neighbourhood as a man of sterling worth; he was formerly a soldier, and had been for some years a small settler, residing at

Narrowgut, near Morpeth, where he has left a wife and six young children to mourn his loss.

SYDNEY NEWS. - On Sunday afternoon **THOMAS CONNOLLY**, a lad of about five years of age, fell into a well on the spare ground adjoining the new church on Church-hill, and was drowned.

MAN SHOT. - Last week, a man named **ALEXANDER GOLDING** was killed by a sawyer on the Richmond River. Both parties, it appears, had been drinking together for some time previous to the occurrence taking place. In course of drinking some altercation having ensued, **M'DONALD**, the man charged with the offence, seized his gun and deliberately shot his victim through the body. M'Donald is in custody, but the state of this river district is truly disgraceful, for when we consider that the banks of the Richmond and its tributaries, for hundreds of miles, are almost solely tenanted by numerous bands of lawless individuals in quest of cedar, that there is only one solitary policeman, and only one resident J.P. in the district, with a bench (the nearest) 100 miles distant, it is little a matter of surprise that crimes are so rife and so little thought of as they are in this district, *Empire Correspondent, Oct. 3*

INQUEST AT GOULBURN. - On Saturday last, a coroner's inquest was held at the old township, by **ROBERT WAUGH**, Esq., coroner for the district, on view of the body of a little girl named **KELLY**, who was drowned in the Wollondilly river, on the previous day. It appeared that deceased and her brother, who is a little her senior, were tending cattle on a flat close to the river, and that deceased was amusing herself with dabbling in the stream with a stick. She overbalanced herself and fell in, sinking immediately, and when she arose again, she was half-way towards the opposite bank. Before she could be rescued she sank a second time, and did not rise again. A verdict of accidentally drowned was accorded. *Empire Correspondent.*

LONGEVITY. - At inquest was held at the Union Inn, Church-street, Parramatta, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner, on view of the body of **GEORGE CAINES**, then and there lying dead. From the evidence adduced it appeared that deceased had lived on the family estate of Mr. **THOMAS ROBERTS**, at South Creek, many years; he was ninety-six years old. On Monday evening he came to Mr. **RICHARD WEBB'S** (Union Inn) and asked to be allowed to sleep in the stable, which was granted; the next morning he was very ill, and a gentleman gave deceased some brandy, but he died. All was done for him that could be done. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God. *Herald, Oct. 11*

SUDDEN DEATH. - Yesterday afternoon, as **ALICK GLEESON**, employed as a wharf labourer, was returning, in company with a fellow labourer, from his work, and had proceeded as far as Mr. S. Peek's stores, in George-street, he suddenly fell, apparently in a fit. Dr. **HARPUR** was almost immediately on the spot, but the vital spark had fled. He was conveyed to his residence in Market-street. Deceased, who had only been married three weeks, was about thirty-five years of age, and was seemingly a strong, muscular man. *Herald, Oct. 11*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/761, 18/10/1851

DEATH FROM BURNS. - On Thursday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, at the White Swan, Maitland, on the body of **PRISCILLA BROWNING**, aged 66 years. It appeared from the statements made by the unfortunate woman to the medical men who attended her that on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> September she was at home, at Morpeth, and was sitting up, waiting for her husband, when her petticoat caught fire from a log on the hearth, and she being unable, from the boisterous weather, to make any neighbour hear, was greatly burnt on the abdomen, legs, chest,

&c., before she could out the fire out. Her husband afterwards returned home so drunk that she could not make him sensible of her state, and he lay on the bed till six o'clock next morning, when she got him to go and call up Mr. **NAINBY**, the chemist. Mr. Nainby attended immediately, but finding her so much burnt he advised her to go to the hospital, to which she expressed great repugnance, entreating Mr. Nainby to attend her. This he promised to do, and for several days he pursued the usual course of treatment for severe burns, but at length persuaded Mrs. Browning that she had far better go to the hospital, where she would get proper medical treatment and attendance. Mrs. Browning then went to the hospital, where she remained six days, under Dr. M'Cartney's care, and then died, her case having been hopeless from her first admission. Dr. **M'CARTNEY** deposed that death arose from the burns, and he stated that Mr. Nainby's treatment, as described, was perfectly correct. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death from burns, and added the following rider: "We attach much blame to her husband for allowing the deceased to remain for several hours unattended to, and for not calling in medical assistance in time."

**THE FATAL ACCIDENT TO THOMAS GARRATY.** - We are requested by Mr. **COX** to correct a slight error in our account of this unfortunate accident; the gun was not cocked, nor did the tarpaulin catch the trigger, but the hammer of the gun was caught by the tarpaulin as poor Garraty was drawing it towards him, and being suddenly released again the gun exploded.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - We regret to have to record the death, from accident, of Mr. **EDWARD BARTLETT**, of Wallah, Namoi River. On the 24<sup>th</sup> September Mr. Bartlett, in company with his brother, Mr. **F. BARTLETT**, was riding after cattle, when he came violently in contact with a tree, and received very severe contusions on the head and shoulders, and was also injured internally. Dr. **MILNER** was sent for, and Mr. Bartlett lingered for ten days, but died on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, having been in a hopeless condition from the first. Mr. Bartlett was much respected, and was in the prime of life, and in good health, when he met with the unfortunate accident. He has left a wife and two children to mourn their sudden loss.

**WRECK OF THE "MARIER."** - [Gives details of bodies, or body parts, found, then lists the names of passengers.] Concludes: An inquest has been held on the bodies, the finding of which has not been made known, and their interment taken place in the neighbourhood of the wreck; but we hear that it is probable they will be disinterred and brought into town for the purpose of a more respectful burial. *Portland Guardian*  
**WIDE BAY.** - We have been requested to publish the following extract from a letter recently received from the above named locality:- "There have been 3 murders committed in this district lately, within the space of a few days, by the blacks. ...

**DEATH.**

At Wallah, Namoi River, on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. **EDWARD BARTLETT**, in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of his age, deeply regretted, leaving a wife and two children to deplore his loss.

**A CHILD DROWNED IN A WELL.** - Yesterday evening an inquest was held by the Coroner, at the Three Crowns public-house, Church-hill, on view of the body of **BARTHOLOMEW CONNOLLY**, a child of five years of age, whose death took place on Sunday last under the following circumstances: **DANIEL O'CONNELL**, residing in Gloucester-street, stated that on Sunday he and Bartholomew Connolly, the father of the deceased, were walking in the neighbourhood of Church Hill, when a child belonging to witness came screaming after them, saying that little Connolly had fallen down the well in the ground where the new church is building. Both ran towards the spot, the father by one side of the ground and witness on the other. When witness got to the well, Connolly had already reached it, and had got down, but was so

weak and excited that he could not get at the body, and was dragged out of the well in a fainting state. A grappling iron was then procured, and after some delay the body of the poor child was got up. He was quite dead. The only person present when the child fell in was witness's son, who is only six years old, and not competent to give evidence. A verdict of accidental death was returned. *Herald, Oct. 14*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/762, 22/10/1851

FATAL ACCIDENT. - About five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a man named **THOMAS MAPLES** was driving a cart from Sydney to his home on the Newtown road. He had two females in the cart with him, named **ANN ROGERS** and **CHARLOTTE LACKEY, alias STEWART**. When about four miles from Sydney, Maples was turning his cart off the road, into the bush, towards his home; one of the wheels of the cart came in contact with the high bank of the road, and the cart upset, and Charlotte Lackey, who was said to be living with Maples as his wife, was killed on the spot. The body was conveyed to her residence, where it awaits a coroner's inquest. *Empire, Oct. 17*

FATAL ACCIDENT, AND INQUEST. - Last week an inquest was held by Dr. **PARSONS**, on the farm of Mr. **RICHARD DRIVER**, situated at Kemp's Creek, Cabramatta, on the body of a man named **HENRY JONES**, aged 73, who had been in the service of Mr. Driver for 27 years. Deceased went out on the ground, and was missed the same day, but, notwithstanding the strictest search, the remains were not found till Thursday, when the right foot was burned and separated from the leg, while his body and clothes were severely scorched. A fallen tree, burned down, was close to him. The jury returned a verdict of "found dead," but would not offer any opinion how he came by his death. Deceased is extremely regretted by the master in whose employment he had been for so many years. *People's Advocate, Oct. 18*

CALIFORNIA.

Another 'vigilante' execution; names **SAMUEL WHITTAKER** (ex Sydney, *Lady Kennaway*) and **ROBERT M'KENZIE**, ex England; also mentions "a Mrs. **HOGAN**, a woman who, with her husband, formerly kept a public-house in Sydney." ... Mrs. Hogan was in custody of the committee, and it was supposed would be sent on to Sydney. Also another case, **JAMES STUART alias BERDUE**, convicted but reprieved.

A young man named **WINDRED** (a native of this colony), who was convicted of the robbery with Berdue, was also by Stuart's confession declared to be innocent. Windred escaped from prison, and we believe arrived in Sydney some months since. A subscription was being raised for Berdue, who was coming on to Sydney.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1851

TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS REWARD, OR A CONDITIONAL PARDON.

Whereas it has been represented to the government that **SAMUEL EIGHTEEN**, who was seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> June last with his drays at the Big Creek on the New England Road, about thirty miles from Port Macquarie, has not since been heard of, and that there is reason to believe that he has been murdered; ...

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/763, 25/10/1851

COMMITTAL. - **WILLIAM BURNS alias LYNCH**, who has been some time in custody, was this day committed to take his trial at the Criminal Court, on a charge of murdering **ABBOTT**, the turnkey of the Parramatta Gaol, in 1842.

MEMOIR OF THE LATER RODERICK MITCHELL, ESQ.

(From the *S.M. Herald*)

*Concludes:* Mr. Mitchell, full of that excitement so frequently a concomitant with deeds of noble enterprise, embarked in a small craft [the *Beaver*], in hopes to come to Sydney sooner than by steamer; and, as it has been our painful duty to record, in a former number of this journal, he fell overboard during a storm and perished.

**INQUEST ON A MOTHER AND CHILD.** - Yesterday evening an inquest was held at the Half Moon Inn, South Head Road, on the bodies of **MARY ANN M'KENZIE** and an infant child. It appeared that M'Kenzie was 29 years old, and of taciturn, reserved habits; latterly she had appeared ailing, and had been taking medicine, but consulted no medical man, nor did her father or brother suspect anything particular was the matter. Yesterday morning, about four o'clock, he heard the latch of the back door lifted up, and knowing that no one slept down stairs but the deceased, he concluded she had gone onto the yard. About an hour afterwards his son went to the water-closet, and there found his sister quite dead; the alarm was given directly, but all help was unavailing. A medical examination by Dr. **TIERNEY** showed that she had been recently delivered, and had died from exhaustion, consequent on the hemorrhage produced by the umbilical cord not being tied. In the cesspool was found the body of a female child, which had evidently been suffocated there immediately after being born. There was no mark of violence on the body of either mother or child. The Coroner having charged the jury, they returned the following verdict – "Died from exhaustion while being delivered of an illegitimate female child, which child we also find was suffocated in the cesspool of the water-closet, in which the mother was delivered, immediately after its birth." *Abridged from the Herald, Oct. 21*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 9/764, 29/10/1851

**HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.** - **RICHMOND RIVER.**

**MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.** - On the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. a melancholy event occurred at a hut belonging to a man named **M'DONNALD**, a sawyer and boat-builder, situate near the junction of the north arm with the main branch, of the Richmond River. Towards the evening of that day a man of the name of **SANDY GOLDING** called at the hut above described, and commenced abusing Mrs. M'Donnald in shameful language, upon which the husband took the part of his wife, and a quarrel ensued. Goulding took up the largest portion of a boat oar and threatened the other therewith when M'Donnald said, "Sandy, you are too strong for me, and I must defend myself;" he took down a fowling-piece, with which he was pushing away Goulding, when the piece went off, and the contents (small shot) entered the chest a little below the right nipple, which caused death in about twenty minutes. M'Donnald was taken to Tabulam bench, and there committed for trial. He is considered a quiet inoffensive man, and has a wife and large family of children depending upon him for support.

**CHILD LOST.** - [ADVERT.]

Re: **BLICK**, male, aged 11, Belmont & Black Creek roads; missing since Saturday. **JOHN W.P. BLICK**, Belmont, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - Yesterday an inquest was held at the police-office, before the Coroner, on the body of **JOHANNA HILTON**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Hilton, described as a respectable married woman, thirty-four years old, on Wednesday afternoon was accompanying a friend, **MARY ANN GORMAN**, homewards from Kent-street to Redfern. On their way the two women called at the Rising Sun in n, Parramatta-street, and had several glasses of rum together; the landlord, Mr. **WILLIAM FORD**, was not at home, and the liquor was supplied by the bar-boy, **JAMES HUGHES**; the women appear to have been dancing also in the bar. Mrs. Gorman did not become drunk, but Mrs. Hilton did, and when Mrs.

Gorman left for home, between five and six o'clock, Mrs. Hilton requested the bar-boy to put her somewhere out of the way till she recovered. The boy Hughes then led Mrs. Hilton out into the yard, to a place where a fender lay, covered with mats, and on this Mrs. Hilton sat down, and was soon asleep, her head resting on her shoulder, and in this position she remained some hours. Mr. Ford came home about six o'clock, and having heard then women had been in his bar, drinking and dancing, he made enquiry of Hughes, who told him what had passed, and where Mrs. Hilton was; Ford went out and looked at her as she sat asleep on the fender, but from that time took no further notice of her till ten o'clock. About ten o'clock that night **GEORGE DRURY**, a man drinking at the house, was asked by Ford to help him put a drunken woman into the stable; Drury consented, and Ford and Drury then went out, and found Mrs. Hilton laying on the flags near the back door, and lifting her by the legs and waist, they carried her in to the stable, Drury tumbling over her from drunkenness; Drury thought she was laid cross-ways to the door. The stable was a weather-board building; the night was very cold, and Drury remarked this to Ford, and also that Mrs. Hilton appeared very cold, but nothing appears to have been placed under or over Mrs. Hilton to shelter her from the effects of cold. The next morning early, on Ford's going to the stable to see how she was going on, he found her dead. Her body was then lying with the head next the door, and some inches lower than the legs, and the medical men examined, Drs. **TIERNEY and RUSSELL**, found a quantity of half digested food in and about the mouth, which the unfortunate woman, from the position in which she lay, had been unable to eject. The cause of death was found to be congestion of the brain and lungs, all the other organs being in a healthy state. Both medical men were of opinion that the woman would not have died had proper care been taken of her, the exposure to the cold of the night having greatly accelerated her death. Some bruises were found on the face of the deceased. The coroner, in summing up, instructed the jury that this appeared to him a clear case of man slaughter against Mr. Ford, the duty of a publican being expressly to protect and take care of persons, helpless from drunkenness, more particularly when they became in that state in his house. Mr. Ford addressed the jury, stating that this was an unexpected position that he was placed in, and explaining the extent of his personal knowledge of the whole transaction. The jury retired for half an hour, and returned with a verdict of manslaughter against William Ford, who was committed for trial of the next Criminal Court. *Abridged from the Herald, Oct. 25*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/765, 01/11/1851

ESCAPE. - An aboriginal native known as "**BILLY THE BULL**" under committal to stand his trial for a murder perpetrated on the Lower Darling, is reported to have effected his escape from the lockup at Balranald. *S.M. Herald*

RECOVERY OF DR. BLICK'S SON.

Returned safe and well; interesting story, page 3a.

MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT. - **RICHARD FLETCHER**, an apprentice on board the *Bolivar*, Captain Murray, now lying at the Circular Quay, whilst in the act of hooking on the main sheet, unfortunately missed his footing and fell overboard; being unable to swim, he struggled and sank almost as soon as he touched the water. The chief officer, Mr. Jenkins, seeing the accident, immediately jumped overboard, one of the seamen also taking the water at the same time, but neither was able to save the unfortunate boy. Grappling irons were procured from the Waterman's Hut, and the body recovered on the first cast. Drs. **NACKELLAR, GRENUPE, and ALLEYNE**, were promptly in attendance, and used every effort their

skill could suggest to resuscitate the body, but without avail. Fletcher was a native of London, and had been with Captain Murray about three years and a half. *Empire*, Oct. 29

**MELANCHOLY DEATH OF MR. JAMES SMITH, OF SMITHFIELD PARK, EASTERN CREEK.**

An inquest was held on Tuesday last, the 28<sup>th</sup> inst., at the Bell and Crown Tavern, kept by Mr. **JOHN BOOTLE**, Western Road, halfway between Parramatta and Penrith, on view of the body of the late Mr. **JAMES SMITH**, aged 55 years, then and there lying dead. **CATHERINE CHARLOTTE DICK**, having been sworn, stated – I am the daughter of Mrs. **ELLARD**, wife of Mr. Ellard, music-seller, of Sydney; I am on a visit to Mrs. Smith, of Eastern Creek, about two miles from this house; I came here on Sunday morning last, the 26<sup>th</sup> instant, to see Mrs. Bootle, who is Mr. Smith's daughter; yesterday morning (Monday), as I came in at the back door of this house, I learnt that on Sunday morning there had been a quarrel between Mr. and Mrs. Bootle; Mrs. B. went to her father's (the deceased's) residence, about nine o'clock at night; the servant-maid went with her; she returned accompanied by the deceased between eleven and twelve yesterday morning; Mr. Bootle was at home when she came; she said, "I am come for some clothes," then went to her bed-room to get them, but her husband said she should not have them, and endeavoured to prevent her taking any, but she obtained possession of a small box, which she handed to her father; I left the room but returned, and on coming in saw the deceased strike Mr. Bootle with the handle of a riding whip, which had a bone knot on it. Mr. B. then struck Mr. Smith with an iron bar. I did not see him strike any one else but deceased, who had his hat on. Mr. Smith struck Mr. Bootle first. I ran out of the room; Bootle and Mr. Smith quarrelled; Bootle said his wife should not go; this occurred a few minutes before the blow was struck. I left again and went to Mrs. Smith's, and returned with her very soon, and saw Mr. S. lying on the bed; he said something to Mrs. Smith; I heard him say afterwards, "do not send for the doctor." - **CATHERINE HOWARD**, a servant of Mr. Bootle's, and **ELEANOR SMITH**, a daughter of the deceased, were called; but were so unwilling to give evidence that nothing material could be elicited from them, except the facts from Miss Smith that Dr. **RUTTER** was sent for, and that her father died before daylight the following morning. - Dr. Rutter deposed that when he arrived he found Mr. Smith lying on his back, perfectly insensible, with a contused and lacerated wound on the right side of the head; he lingered till three o'clock the following morning, when he expired. He made a post mortem examination, and found a wound on the superior part of the parietal bone, with a slight fracture corresponding to that wound, and depression of the lower portion of the same bone, together with effusion on the brain, which injuries were the cause of death; the iron bar on the table would cause such a wound with the flat part of it. Here Miss Eleanor Smith expressed a wish to give further evidence, to which the coroner assented: She stated that her sister and Mr. Bootle had quarrelled; she saw the iron bar in Mr. Bootle's hand; when Mr. and Mrs. Bootle were wrangling in the taproom, her father and Mr. B. were together there; Mrs. B. was behind the counter; she (the witness) was in the passage; it was about five minutes after that she saw the iron bar in Mr. Bootle's hand; then it was that she saw her father's head cut; she also saw the bone knob on the whip when her father had it in his hand; she (witness) went to her father's bedside, when he said his head was giddy, and it was time to go home. This closed the evidence, and the coroner explained the law, as laid down in "Sewell's Law of Coroners." The jury, after some consideration, returned a verdict of manslaughter

against John Bootle, who was committed to take his trial. *Abridged from the Parramatta Correspondent of the Herald.*

**CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.** - On Friday last the daughter of **WILLIAM VANE**, of Triangle Flat, a little girl of about five years of age, caught fire during the absence of her mother, who had left the house for a bucket of water, when so severely was she burned before the flames were extinguished, that death took place almost immediately. The body was being conveyed to Bathurst for interment on Monday without an inquest being held; but information of the circumstances was communicated to constable **MARSH**, when Captain Sutherland's invaluable services were called into requisition, and the forms of an enquiry were gone through at Mr. Shortill's, Coach and Horses inn, with the usual verdict in such cases. An igneous fatality appears to rest on this family, as this is the second daughter whose existence has been terminated by fire within a short period. *Bathurst Free Press, Oct. 29* \*\*\*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/766, 05/11/1851

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - MUSWELL BROOK.

**BOYS, BEWARE OF GUNPOWDER!**

A most lamentable accident has befallen two fine boys at Merton, of the respective ages of 12 and 9 years, sons of Mr. **MURRAY**, the district constable. It appears that, in the absence of their father, they, on Monday last, contrived to get possession of a flask containing nearly one pound of gunpowder, which had previously been secreted in a secure place, and which they carried outside the house, and, as is supposed, applied to a lighted stick, when the powder exploded, dreadfully injuring them both, about their faces, and one of their arms. It is uncertain how the catastrophe happened exactly, nobody witnessed it, and ever since the poor youths have been lying insensible in bed. But little hope is entertained of the recovery of the eldest; but everything which the promptitude and skill of Dr. **WEEST**, of Muswell Brook, can do for them, it is perhaps needless to state is unremittingly afforded to the young sufferers.

**DETERMINED ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.** - On Sunday night a woman named **MARY ANN WILLIAMS** was in the Brisbane lock-up, having been confined for disorderly conduct, when Constable **CONROY** heard a peculiar noise emanating from her cell, and, on opening the door found that she had fastened a long strip of the blanket round her neck, and, winding it round a bar in the cell had the end in her hand, while she leaned forward with the full weight of her body. She was already nearly strangled, and Conroy immediately tore off the blanket rope and secured her while he sent for Dr. **SWIFT**. On that gentleman's arrival, such remedies as were necessary were applied, and the woman having been copiously blooded, a strait jacket was fastened on her, and she was placed on the guard-bed. On subsequently visiting her, the constable found that she had released her arm from the strait jacket, and having taken off the bandage and opened the wound made by the lancet was bleeding to death. She was again secured, and subsequently removed to the hospital. She was yesterday brought up at the Police-office, and evidence having been given by her husband and others that she had broken and destroyed household property to a large amount, and that she was of generally intemperate and disorderly habits, she was adjudged to find two sureties in £10 each, to keep the peace and be of good behaviour till Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of November next. *Moreton Bay Courier, Oct. 18*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - We regret to state that a man named **PATRICK MOONEY**, fifty-two years of age, met his death on Monday afternoon from the falling of a tree. The deceased, who had lately purchased a small farm at the German's Creek, went out

on the afternoon in question with his son, for the purpose of cutting down trees. While engaged in this operation, one of the trees in falling struck against an adjoining one, and in the concussion detached a splinter from it, which hit the deceased on the temple, and felled him to the ground. Medical assistance was speedily procured from the settlement, but the injuries were too extensive to admit of any hope of saving the patient's life. He lingered until about two o'clock on the following morning, when he expired without having spoken or betrayed any sign of consciousness from the time of the occurrence of the accident. *Moreton Bay Free Press, Oct. 23*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/767, 08/11/1851

WILFUL MURDER. - **NEWING**, a Chinese, arrived at Bathurst gaol last Friday, whither he had been committed to take his trial for the wilful murder of **HEAM**, another Chinese, by the Mudgee bench. It appears that the prisoner and deceased came in the same ship to this colony, and quarrelled during the voyage, since which time the best state of feeling has not prevailed between them. They were subsequently employed by Mr. **BROWN** at one of his stations on the Big River, about 80 miles from Mudgee, one as a shepherd and the other as hut-keeper. Some quarrel having taken place about a damper, Newing resolved on revenge. To accomplish his purpose he fastened a shear blade on the top of a stick, with which he stabbed Heam whilst stooping at the fire to lift a pot tea, and was in the act of rushing upon him with a bowie knife, but was prevented by the Europeans who were in the hut at the time. Then wounded man only survived a few hours. Two spears, fashioned by Newing after the same manner as the one with which the fatal blow was struck, had been previously broken by the men on the establishment. After the commission of the deed the miserable Chinaman expressed a wish to die immediately, stating that his countryman was waiting for him – a superstition, it appears, peculiar to his country in cases of murder. Great difficulty was experienced by the police who escorted him to town, in persuading him to travel, and the only way in which they could succeed was by telling him that he would at once be executed upon his arrival at Bathurst. He attempted suicide by strangulation of the way, whilst the police were asleep, but the guttural noise made by his choking awoke them, and the completion of the deed was thus prevented. *Bathurst Free Press, Nov. 5*

THE GOLD FIELDS.

(*From the Empire*). NOV. 1. - A man was, in the language of my informant, *smashed* by the falling in of a bank, yesterday. Doctor **GWYNNE**, of Parramatta, whilst exerting himself violently with a crowbar, ruptured a blood vessel, but is fortunately recovering, at the Louisa.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/768, 12/11/1851

UNFOUNDED RUMOUR. - On Sunday morning a rumour was currently circulated in Maitland to the effect that Mr. **HINCHCLIFFE**, storekeeper, who recently went to the Turon on a trading excursion, had reached Jerry's Plains on his return, and there fell suddenly from his horse, dead. Mrs. Hinchcliffe immediately hired a vehicle, and hurried off in great distress to meet the body of her husband, but was agreeably surprised to hear of his safety on the road, and to meet him alive and well at New Freugh. If this rumour originated in a joke it was a very cruel and reprehensible one. FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Saturday evening last, the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, a man named **DWYER**, who latterly occupied a small farm at Darby Murray's Flat, about three miles from Goulburn, met with an accident, which, though severe, was not expected to terminate fatally. It seems that Dwyer was standing with a team of horses opposite

Mr. Dunn's inn, in Auburn-street, waiting the return of a person who had a moment before left him, when the horses became restive, and made a motion to be off. Dwyer ran to the leading horse's head, and in trying to stop him, the animal turned short round, throwing the man to the ground; he was immediately trampled under the feet of the tam, and when extricated it was found that his thigh was broken. He was conveyed to the hospital, where he was attended by Drs. **WAUGH** and **GERARD**. The fracture was quickly reduced, and matters progressed favourably until the following Tuesday, when it was found that no purgatives would act upon the system, the sufferer must have received some extensive internal injury. Dr. Waugh was constant in his attendance, and administered such medicines as he considered necessary under the peculiar circumstances of the case. A little before 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning, Dwyer raised himself up on the bed on which he was lying, and after vomiting, fell back and expired. The deceased has left a widow and several children to deplore their loss. *Goulburn Correspondent of the Empire*.

**A BOY DROWNED.** - On Thursday last a youth of about ten years of age, named **PATRICK EVERS**, got out of his depth whilst bathing in the river opposite the factory wall, and was drowned. The unfortunate little fellow, it appears, had been left by his mother in charge of Mr. **LONERAGAN**, of George-street, whilst she proceeded to her husband, who is now gold-digging at the Turon. Observing his hair wet on the day previous and divining the cause, Mrs. L. cautioned him against going into the water, but apparently without effect. Proceeding to the river in company with a number of boys of his own age, he once more indulged in his favourite pastime, and lost his life. It is reported that notwithstanding the water was only six feet in depth, three men who stood on the river bank at the time of his disappearance, took no other steps for his rescue than poking about the spot where he sank with long poles, and it was not until the arrival of Mr. Loneragan, who at once plunged into the river, that the body was found, sitting on the river bed in from five to six feet of water. The professional services of Dr. **CONNELL** having been procured, every means of resuscitation were resorted to, but the vital spark had fled. An inquest was held over his remains yesterday, before Captain Sutherland, and a verdict returned in accordance with the above facts. *Bathurst Free Press, Nov. 8*

#### DEATHS.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November, in child-birth, aged thirty-two years, **EMMA BAILEY**, the beloved wife of Mr. **EDGAR HYLAND**, of Lower George-street, Sydney.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/769, 15/11/1851**

**SUICIDE.** - Yesterday evening an inquest was held by the coroner, at the Woolloomooloo Inn, on view of the body of **ANN M'BEAN**, then lying dead at her residence, Brougham-street, Woolloomooloo. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased, who was 65 years of age, had been labouring for some time past under mental derangement, aggravated of late by the death of her youngest son. She was in the habit of wandering about late at night, and had on Sunday so wandered away, not returning home until 3 o'clock yesterday morning. Her daughter had requested a woman employed in the house to wash to keep an eye upon her mother, who however contrived to slip away again about 9 o'clock, and the alarm was soon after heard, that she had thrown herself into the water in Woolloomooloo Bay. Assistance was promptly rendered, and the body was taken out and conveyed to Robinson's baths, where every means was taken to resuscitate it, but without success. The jury returned a verdict, "that deceased had put an end to her existence by frowning herself, whilst in a state of temporary insanity." *Herald, Nov. 11*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/770, 19/11/1851  
REPORTED MURDER BY THE BLACKS.

It was reported in Brisbane last evening that Mr. **ALEXANDER ROSS**, son of Mr. **NEIL ROSS**, of the M'Intyre Brook, had been murdered by the blacks on the Dawson; and that four men in the employment of Captain Coutts had also been killed in the same neighbourhood. *Moreton Bay Courier*, Nov. 10

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/771, 22/11/1851

INQUEST. - An inquest was held at Portland Head, on Saturday last, 15th instant, on the body of **MARY ANN DAY**, aged one year and seven months, who was found drowned on the previous day, in the Hawkesbury, immediately opposite her father's residence. From the evidence it appears that the child had strayed away from the house and found her way to the river, into which she fell. The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning. *Herald's Windsor Correspondent*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Monday last an inquest was held upon the body of **WILLIAM CARPENTER**, at the Black Bull Inn, before Captain **SUTHERLAND**, when it appeared from the evidence that the deceased and a number of other diggers started from the Turon for the Pyramul Creek on Saturday week. On their arrival he stripped to bathe, and plunged into a water-hole head foremost, under the impression that the water was deep. Not appearing for several seconds, and the surface of the water becoming a little discoloured with blood, one of his comrades rushed into the hole, and lifted him from the bottom, where he lay in a state of paralysis caused by the violence of the concussion. From the time he was taken out of the water to the hour of his death he was incapable of moving his limbs, and after being conveyed to the Turon, was recommended for removal to Bathurst by Dr. **JOHNSON**. The unfortunate man breathed his last just as the cart arrived in town, opposite Mr. Morgan's inn. Upon inspection by Dr. **BUSBY**, the vertebrae was found to be so severely injured that the head could be moved upon the neck with the greatest ease. Having given his opinion that death had been thus caused, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Bathurst Free Press*, Nov. 19

CATTLE DISEASE. - We have been informed that as many as ten head of cattle have been lying nearly a week in the paddocks on the Sydney side of the Newtown turnpike. Several had been skinned early last week, and were lying in a putrid state when inspected last Tuesday. They were not burned before Friday, and the fatal part of the neglect remains to be noticed in the fact that one of the men employed in skinning them became infected in consequence of having received a scratch in his hand, and he now lies in a hopeless state from the effects of the virus with which he was inoculated; a boy also, merely wheeling away the flesh in a barrow, became infected, and is at this moment in a precarious state. *Empire*, Nov. 18

THE "TRAFALGAR." - Captain **WRIGHT** has apprised the parents of Mr. **JAMES STEWART**, jun., who sailed hence in the *Trafalgar*, in March last, of his death, which took place at sea on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> April last, in lat. 52S., long. 50. He was engaged in reeling the mainsail during a heavy gale and fell overboard. Captain Wright was at the helm, and threw him a hen coop and ropes, and out the ship about, and had a boat lowered immediately, but every exertion was useless. The deceased was a fine young man, just completing his seventeenth year, and his untimely end is a severe blow to his bereaved family. *Herald*, Nov. 18

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/772, 26/11/1851

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - We are sorry to have to record the loss of a human life, arising from the obstinate refusal of the oysterman, **JOSEPH WINCHESTER**, to exchange or sell his donkeys, so that they might be got out of the way. Winchester and his cart were yesterday out on their way to Morpeth, when he met a return dray of \Mr. Nott's, near Mrs. Muir's, drawn by three powerful horses; the horses took fright at the donkeys, and turning short round, attempted to run up the steep bank above the road; the reins and harness gave way to the sudden strain, and the driver, **JAMES HAMPTON**, finding the dray going over, tried to jump clear, but the edge of the dray fell on his neck, or the side of his head, and inflicted a fatal injury, Hampton living but a short time afterwards. **JOSEPH HAMPTON**, his brother, was in the dray with him, and was also injured in the overturn, his arm being torn open inside, from the elbow to the wrist, laying bare all the tendons and muscles. Joseph Hampton is under the carer of Dr. **SDCOTT**, and will, we trust, receive no permanent injury from the accident. James Hampton was well known in this neighbourhood, having been for a length of time in the employment of Mr. **REEVES**. - We may add that the general feeling against Winchester, arising from this fatal event, is deepened by the fact that he was some time since offered a good horse for his two donkeys, by a gentleman who, with his wife, narrowly escaped death in the same way, but Winchester refused the offer.

**MELANCHOLY DEATH OF JAMES BURNETT, Esq.**

Details of life; letter from **WALTER MURRAY**, spring cart accident in crossing a creek between Nyang and West Meath: "The body was in such a state as not to be recognised at first glance. Before removing the body (which I thought was not possible at first) I sent for the nearest magistrate, Mr. **W.E. SMITH**, who very kindly lost no time in coming to the spot; he said he could do nothing as a magistrate, as there was no evidence to show how the unfortunate gentleman came to his end. I then had blankets passed under the body as it floated on the water, in which it was wrapped up, and had it conveyed with much difficulty to Westmeath, where this day I performed the last sad rites to the remains of a man, whom living I highly esteemed for his many amiable qualities; and highly honoured for his shining abilities. ..."

*S.M. Herald, Nov. 22*

**BRISBANE CIRCUIT COURT.** - *Wednesday, Nov. 12*

**ANGER**, a native of China, was indicted for the murder of **JAMES HOLBERT** on the 1<sup>st</sup> September; but owing to there being no competent interpreter in court, the case was adjourned till the following morning.

**INQUEST.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on the body of **JOHN ILLINWORTH**. From the evidence it appeared that on the 17<sup>th</sup> September Illinworth was intoxicated, and riding along George-street at a gallop, pulling his horse from side to side of the street, when he ran foul of a baker's cart, the shaft of which struck his leg, and entered the horse's chest, killing the horse on the spot, and throwing Illinworth off. Illinworth received serious injury on the cap of the knee, and was taken to the Infirmary, where he lingered for some time. As he was a strong healthy young man the surgeons endeavoured to preserve his life without amputation, but an extensive abscess formed about the knee-joint, and Illinworth gradually sunk from weakness, and died on Tuesday. The jury returned a verdict of died from injuries accidentally received. *Abridged from the Herald, Nov. 21*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 9/773, 29/11/1851

**THE INQUEST ON JAMES HAMPTON.** - On Tuesday and Wednesday last an inquest was held, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., Coroner, at the Victoria Inn, East Maitland, on the body of **JAMES HAMPTON**, whose death we recorded in our last. The circumstances deposed to were very similar to those we reported, but the following evidence of **THOMAS RUTTER**, the only eye-witness (except Joseph Hampton, and Winchester himself) puts the matter, as regards Winchester, in a worse light than we were informed: "I saw **JOSEPH WINCHESTER**, the owner of the donkeys, drive them very close to the horse team, which frightened the horses; Winchester had plenty of room to have kept clear of the horse-team, and it appeared to me they were chaffing each other; Winchester never went up to assist them till I called him, and made a joke of the occurrence. \* \*

By a juror: is it your opinion that the horse team was pressed to the side of the road by the driver of the donkeys, that the horses could not escape without bolting up the cliff as stated? Yes, it was the case." **JOSEPH HAMPTON** was too ill to be removed to give evidence. The jury returned a verdict as follows: -

"We are unanimous in certifying that the deceased James Hampton came to his death by injuries inflicted on his head, and we find that the said injuries were caused by the upsetting of a dray drawn by three horses, the said three horses having been frightened by Joseph Winchester's donkeys, and it having been represented to the said Joseph Winchester that the said donkeys are a public nuisance, and greatly endanger the safety of the public, the said Joseph Winchester agrees to deliver the said donkeys over to the foreman, and that they are in future to be kept out of the way, and never employed anywhere in this neighbourhood; and we recommend that the said Joseph Winchester be admonished and discharged."

- We may add that the foreman of the jury was Mr. **JOHN NOTT**, whose dray and horses it was that the Hamptons were driving. Mr. Nott gave Winchester, we believe, £8 for the two donkeys, on condition, under a penalty of £20, that Winchester shall never introduce any more donkeys here; and it is understood that a public subscription is to be raised to defray the £8, to enable Mr. Nott to destroy the donkeys. An accident elsewhere recorded will probably prove the necessity of the latter proceeding.

**ACCIDENT TO MR. AND MRS. E. DOYLE.** - On Thursday the two donkeys which Mr. **NOTT** bought from **WINCHESTER**, as above stated, were being driven temporarily to a paddock near Lochinvar, when they were met by Mr. and Mrs. **EDWARD DOYLE** on horseback. Mrs. Doyle's horse took fright at the donkeys, and Mr. Doyle seized its bridle to restrain it, but the horse plunged and buckjumped till it threw Mrs. Doyle, and dragged Mr. Doyle off also. Mr. Doyle was unhurt, but Mrs. Doyle received a cut across the forehead, and was a good deal shaken by the fall.

**DEATH FROM SKINNING A DISEASED BULLOCK.** - An inquiry was held yesterday by the coroner, at his office, touching the death of **PETER MOFFATT**. It appeared from the statements of Drs. **CUTHILL** and **FULLERTON**, that on the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, Moffatt was engaged in skinning a bullock, which had died from disease, on the Surry Hills, and received while doing so a slight wound in the finger of the right hand; Moffatt, a stout healthy man of about forty years, thought little of this, but from some unpleasant feelings called on Dr. Cuthill, who told him he was in great danger, and sent him home. Dr. Cuthill saw him again on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and found the symptoms much worse; Moffatt suffered but little pain, but there was a general coldness of the extremities, and the pulse had become very weak. Moffatt now became alarmed, and Drs. Cuthill and Fullerton saw him twice on the 16<sup>th</sup>; the pulse at the wrist was not

perceptible, and the action of the heart had nearly ceased; Moffatt still suffered but little pain, except at intervals. Medicines to restore the action of the vital powers had been given, but during the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> diarrhoea set in, the breathing became laborious, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> Moffatt died. A post mortem examination showed that the heart was healthy, but empty, the pleura greatly inflamed, both lungs congested, the liver and kidneys much enlarged and congested, and spleen softer and darker than usual; the bowels were severely inflamed in patches. The superficial veins of the diseased arm were found much diseased, containing a white fluid pus, but the deeper veins were healthy. Both medical men considered the wound received while skinning the diseased bullock, and the poison thus imbibed, as the cause of death. Drs. Cuthill and Fullerton, although neither of them had any sore or wound, felt much inconvenienced after performing the post mortem examination, the palms of the hands having a prickling sensation attended with numbness, and their rest being broken for several nights; they considered it dangerous to perform a post mortem examination on persons dying from this cause, and that it would be highly dangerous to require a jury to view the exhumed body of Moffatt; Dr. Cuthill had since been called on to attend different persons in the neighbourhood of Moffatt's late residence, for fevers, &c. which were attributed to their having touched Moffatt's dead body. The jury found that the deceased had died from disease produced by as morbid poison, absorbed into the system by accidentally wounding his finger whilst engaged in skinning a diseased bullock. *Abridged from the Herald, Nov. 26*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/774, 03/12/1851

THE COACH ACCIDENTS ON THE BATHURST ROAD. - On the following day, as the mail from Bathurst was proceeding round the bend of the road near Kendall's house, one of the leaders shied and forced the team over the bank. Chief constable **HUTCHINSON** at once proceeded to the spot. Six of the passengers are now lying at Nairn's, very severely injured. Mr. **GALVIN** is the chief sufferer; the coach appears to have fallen on him across his neck. Mr. **SULLIVAN** suffered in like manner, but not so severely. Neither are pronounced out of danger. Mr. **NOBLE** was also much bruised, as was also Mr. **EDWARDS** (of the firm of Nott and Edwards, Sydney.) Mr. **FINN**, who arrived at the scene of the accident almost immediately after chief constable Hutchinson, bled Mr. Galvin, who, as well as Mr. Sullivan, was placed on a stretcher, and conveyed to the nearest place of accommodation. There is no hope of Mr. Galvin surviving. The passengers say that the driver, **THOMAS TIGHE**, was sober, but that he was driving too near the side of the road. The driver states that the off leader shied, and jumped across the other horses. The chief constable had the mails forwarded on by a cart, which Mr. Nairn furnished for the purpose. *Herald, Nov. 28*

SUDDEN DEATH. - An inquest was held yesterday, at the York tavern, corner of Argyle and York-streets, on view of the body of **ELLEN MULLIGAN**, aged 35, then lying dead. It appeared from the evidence, that on Wednesday evening, the deceased who had been out washing during the day, returned to her home, and was suddenly taken unwell. She went to the house of a neighbour, who lived about one hundred yards off, but finding that she was getting worse, a carriage was obtained, and in it deceased was carried to her own abode. Drs. **HARRISON** and **SMITH** were sent for, but previous to their arrival she had expired. A *post mortem* examination was made by the doctors, and from their testimony it appeared that death was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel in the region of the heart. Deceased was a woman of

temperate habits. She was a widow, and has left two children to deplore their loss. Verdict – “Died by the visitation of God.” *Empire*, Nov. 28

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/775, 06/12/1851

INQUEST, UPPER PATERSON. - On Monday an inquest was commenced at Penshurst, Upper Paterson, before Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, on the body of **SARAH VICKERS**, who had died shortly after her confinement. It is understood further investigation will be made in the matter, and we do not therefore report the proceedings.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Wednesday an inquest was held at Windemere, before Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, on the body of **PATRICK M'GUIRE**. It appeared from the evidence that M'Guire, who was a cripple, was employed at the Windemere boiling establishment as cook and hut-keeper, and that he was frequently in the habit of swimming in the river, and was cautioned by the men, whom he had told he was subject to cramp. On Monday evening last M'Guire was seen to drink a quantity of colonial wine, and became intoxicated, and subsequently was missed, and by the river side was found his water bucket, and also his clothes and crutch. Search was made, and his body was seen floating in the middle of the stream, some forty yards further down; he was quite dead when got out of the river. An examination of the body by Dr. **M'CARTNEY** disclosed no marks of violence. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned.

COOLABARABRAN, NOV. 30. - I am sorry to have to inform you that Mr. **ALGAR** has been shot dead by some wretch. I cannot send you the particulars, as it happened some distance from home.

A very sudden death occurred at Mr. Cox's station, Round Water Hole, eleven miles from here, on Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant. A man named **JOSEPH BLACKLOCK**, who was taking down wool for Mr. **J. HALL**, was encamped there that day, and was in the act of taking down some birds from the top of his dray when he fell off, quite dead, without a word. He looked a very healthy man, but had long complained of his head. *Correspondent.*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT. (*Abridged from the Herald*)

This court opened on Monday, December 1, before his Honor the Chief Justice.

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

On the motion of the Attorney General, **WILLIAM FORD**, who had been committed for trial for manslaughter, but against whom no information had been filed, was fined sixty shillings for contempt of court by insulting, under the portico of the court-house, Mr. Surgeon **RUSSELL**, a witness in the case.

MANSLAUGHTER. - **JOHN BOOTLE** was indicted for the manslaughter of **JAMES SMITH**, by striking him with an iron bar, on the Western Road, on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Bootle, a publican, living on the Western Road, having had a few words with his wife, she left him in a pet, and went home to the house of her father, leaving her sister and another lady, visitors of hers, at Bootle's house; the next day she came for her clothes, accompanied by her father; Bootle, who had been engaged in opening some syrup, and had an iron bar in his hand, refused to allow his wife to hand over her band-box to her father; an altercation ensued, and Mr. Smith struck Bootle a severe blow on the forehead with the heavy end of a whip-handle, cutting it open; Bootle raised his hand and struck Mr. Smith on the side of the head with the iron bar; Mr. Smith fell, was removed to bed nearly insensible, and medical assistance called in; but he died in the course of the night. Bootle was described as a quiet inoffensive man.

Mr. Holroyd, for the defence, urged that the injury was most probably inflicted by Mr. Smith's head coming in violent contact with the bar when raised by Bootle to protect himself from a second blow with the whip handle.

Guilty, with a recommendation to mercy.

Sentence, six months' imprisonment.

#### MANSLAUGHTER

**ALEXANDER M'DONALD** was indicted for the manslaughter of **ALEXANDER GOLDING**, by shooting him, at Richmond River, on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Both men were sawyers on the Richmond; on the day named Golding and another sawyer named **WILSON** went to M'Donald's hut, and remained drinking rum till the evening; Golding got quarrelsome, abused Mrs. M'Donald grossly, and called her foul names; M'Donald told Golding he was a liar, on which Golding ran out, and got a boat paddle, with which he rushed back to strike M'Donald; M'Donald saw him coming, ran to his gun, and ordered him to stand off; Golding pressed on, M'Donald raised his gun to the rest, Golding struck at him, and at the same instant the gun, which was still at the rest, went off, and Golding was shot dead. M'Donald afterwards made his coffin, and attended his funeral.

Mr. Holryd was addressing the jury to show that thje discharge was acidental, when

His Honor stopped him, and put it to the jury if they thought a case of accident had not been clearly proved. The jury at once acquiesced, and acquitted M'Donald, who was discharged.

BRISBANE CIRCUIT COURT. - Before Mr. Justice Therry. *Thursday, Nov. 13*

**ANGEE**, a Chinaman, was indicted for the wilful murder of **JAMES HOLBERT**, in the Burnett district, on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Mr. Holbert was overseer in the employment of Mr. **J.B. REID**, and Angee and other Chinese were shepherds in his employ and under Holbert's orders; Holbert had for some offence brought Angee before the Gayndah bench, by whom he was sentenced to imprisonment in Brisbane gaol; three days after Angee had again reached the station, after being released, he was seen by two other Chinese to approach Mr. Holbert from behind with a gun, which he fired at him when three or four yards off, the ball entering Holbert's back and passing out at his stomach; Angee then ran away, and Holbert staggered to a hut, and died there in a short time, the only Chinaman who had courage to stay with him after he was shot being **FOOKSEE**, who afterwards hung himself because the constables were going to take him to Brisbane to give evidence. Guilty; sentenced to death.

*Friday, Nov. 14.*

**MOGGY MOGGY**, an aboriginal native, was indicted for the wilful murder of **WILLIAM BOWLER**, by spearing him, at the Pine River, on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1847. Bowler, **JAMES SMITH**, and **WILLIAM WALTER**, three sawyers, were at work near the Pine River on that day, when a lot of blacks, who had frequently been about them, acting in a friendly manner, attacked them, and speared Bowler so much that although Smith and him escaped together, Bowler died six days after in Brisbane hospital; Smith positively identified the prisoner as one of those blacks, and said he saw him spear Bowler; prisoner now said his name was **MAKE-I'-LIGHT**, to which form the indictment was altered. An interpreter named **JAMES DAVIS**, who had been fourteen years among the blacks, deposed to the difficulty of distinguishing one black from another. Guilty; sentenced to death, the Judge being unable to hold out any hope of mercy in that place.

**MORE MURDERS BY THE BLACKS.** - We are sorry to state that intelligence was brought to the settlement on Monday last, by Mr. **FREDERICK BRACKER**, which

confirms the report published in a supplement to this paper, dated 10<sup>th</sup> instant, of the murder of that gentleman's brother-in-law, Mr. **ALEXANDER ROSS**, on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at a place on the Dawson River, distant 70 miles from Port Curtis, 100 miles from Gayndah, and about 3 miles from a place called the Fish Hole. It appears that the lamented deceased had gone to assist Captain Coutts in removing from a station on the frontiers which he had occupied for about seven weeks, and which was distant about 75 miles from the nearest river. On this station Captain Coutts had 11,000 sheep, out of which he lost 1200 of full growth, besides 1500 lambs; and, more melancholy still, two of his men had been most barbarously murdered by the natives while he was staying there; and, to crown this catalogue of misfortunes, Mr. Alexander Ross has fallen a victim to the relentless enmity of the native tribes in that remote part of the country. It appears that the last melancholy event took place when the party had travelled about 20 miles on their return from the station alluded to. On the morning of Mr. Ross's murder, all the sheep had started from the spot which they had occupied during the night, and had reached about two miles from the camping ground when the occurrence took place. Just as they were leaving Mr. Ross came into the camp from the forest with the bullocks, and had his breakfast, after which the bullocks were yoked up, but not put to the dray. The deceased was engaged with two men securing the tarpaulin over the dray, when the blacks came out from the scrub, about half-gunshot off. Mr. Ross's mare was in a log yard, but not bridled or saddled, and the other two men had their horses ready for mounting. There were about 250 natives, and after a brief struggle Mr. Ross was killed, but the other two escaped, and carried the news of what had occurred to the party in front. Messrs. **COUTTS, JOHN ROSS, M'INTYRE** and **LIPSCOMB** immediately went back to try to recover the dray and supplies, but whether they succeeded in doing so was not ascertained, as the writer of the letter rode forward to obtain assistance; but it was feared it would scarcely be in time. There never had been known to be such a general muster of natives in all that border as there was at the date of the letter. No less than four tribes of blacks were at the time hemming in Captain Coutts and his handful of men. Altogether, since the place was occupied, there had been no less than thirty one persons murdered by the blacks. *Moreton Bay Free Press, Nov. 20*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - On Friday evening the coroner held an inquest at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS DUFFY**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. **JOHN WILLIAMS**, of George-street, stated that he was fishing at the Queen's Wharf on Friday morning, and hooked something which appeared to be very heavy. It proved to be the body of the deceased. He was quite dead. His hands were extended as if he had been attempting to swim. There were no marks of violence on the body. The Queen's Wharf is a very dangerous place in the night time, being imperfectly watched; and the wharf itself in a dilapidated condition. From the evidence of the sister of the deceased, it appeared that he had been drinking lately. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned, but by what means no evidence had been adduced. *Herald, Dec. 1*

**SYDNEY NEWS.** - **THE GOLD FIELDS.**

**TURON.** - **NOV. 25.** - A man with a horse team, from Bathurst, had both his legs broken yesterday afternoon, about three miles from Sofala.

**NEALE'S POINT.** - **Nov. 26.** - It is currently reported here that a man has died from the bite of a snake up at Mundy Point. I have seen a great many of these venomous reptiles about, but this is the first accident of this kind I have heard of here.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/776, 10/12/1851

PATRICK MACNAMARA. - A man was yesterday morning apprehended by Constable **SHORT**, on suspicion of being **PATRICK MACNAMARA**, who on the 9<sup>th</sup> August effected his escape from the Maitland Gaol, where he was under committal for the murder of his wife. He of course denied that his name was Macnamara; he said his name was **PETER MURRAY**, and that he was a native of Limerick; he at first refused to accompany Short, and drew out a knife, saying that he could beat three or four policemen; assistance however arrived, and the prisoner was secured; on the way to the watch-house, he said to the constable, "Mate, they have been a long time looking for me, and now that they have me, I suppose they will hang me like a ----- dog." He answers in every particular to the description published of Macnamara in the *Gazette* - 6 feet in height, of florid complexion, black hair, hazel eyes, a native of Limerick, with the letters PM on right fore arm. He stands remanded until Wednesday next. *S.M. Herald, Dec. 5*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT. - TUESDAY, DEC. 2.

(Before Mr. Justice Dickinson)

#### MURDER

**WILLIAM LYNCH** was indicted for having on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1842, aided and abetted one **JOHN M'CANN and JAMES O'DONNELL, alias M'DONNELL**, in the murder of **HENRY KINGSMILL ABBOTT**, a turnkey in the Parramatta gaol.

The Solicitor-General conducted the prosecution, and Messrs. Holroyd and Meymott the defence.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1842, the prisoner with the other two men named, were confined in the Parramatta gaol, on the charge of highway robbery. On the 4<sup>th</sup> December, of the same year, whilst one of the turnkeys was engaged in adjusting the straight jacket on a rather troublesome lunatic, the prisoners managed to escape from their cells into the yard. They immediately provided themselves with fire-arms and a cutlass, but in attempting to pass out through the gate, they were met by the deceased, who of course attempted to prevent them from passing. Some altercation ensued, which resulted in M'Cann's firing a ball through the body of deceased. One or two other turnkeys witnessed the occurrence, but were afraid to interfere lest they should share the same fate. Immediately after murdering Abbott, the prisoners licked the other turnkeys up, and then succeeded in making their escape unmolested. Since that time, the prisoner had not been heard of until the 5<sup>th</sup> of September last, when he, in consequence of information received by the police, was apprehended in the city of Adelaide on the charge now preferred against him. His identity was proved by **THOMAS ALLEN** and **JOHN KAYLE**, both turnkeys in the Parramatta gaol at the time of the murder. A farmer named **MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM** and Mr. **GILBERT ELLIOTT**, (Sheriff) also gave evidence as to the prisoner's identity. Mr. **BETHEL LYONS**, the coroner of Parramatta, and the Rev. Mr. **BOBART**, who attended the deceased in his last dying moments, and took his dying declaration, likewise gave evidence tending to establish the case against the prisoner.

His Honor summed up at some length, and the jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty. The prisoner was remanded for sentence.

On the next day he was brought up, and sentenced to death, the learned Judge stating that he could discover no mitigating circumstances in the case.

The prisoner, after sentence, besought permission to address the court, and admitted that he was the person charged in the indictment, but denied that he had any hand in killing Mr. Abbott; he saw the wicket open, and instantly took the opportunity of endeavouring to escape, but he asseverated solemnly that he used no violence to any

man, nor was a party to any. After escaping he got away into the interior, and by honest industry got a living, and finally found his way to Adelaide, where he married into a respectable family, and where he now had living a wife and children; during the many years that had elapsed since his escape he had never committed any offence against the laws, but always earned his living honestly.

**DEATH BY FIRE.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Blue Lion public-house, corner of Clarence and Market streets, on view of the body of **MARGARET LEWIS**, then lying dead at the residence of her parents in Clarence-street. It appeared that about 10 A.M. on Tuesday the mother of the deceased child left her house on business, and left the deceased under the verandah for safety. Soon afterwards, she was observed to have set her clothes on fire by means of some Lucifer matches, though how obtained was not known. Assistance was immediately rendered and the flames soon extinguished; but the poor child, who was about three years of age, was so much burned that all human remedies proved unavailing, and she expired about two o'clock yesterday morning. Verdict, "death caused by accidental burning." *Empire, Dec. 4*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - About one o'clock yesterday afternoon, a boy about seven years of age, named **WILLIAM COX**, fell into a waterhole at Newtown, and was drowned. The body lies at the residence of his parents, at Camperdown, awaiting a coroner's inquest. *Empire, Dec. 6*

**SYDNEY NEWS.** - **THE GOLD FIELDS.**

**THE TURON.** (*From the Empire*)

**SOFALA, DEC. 2.** - An accident occurred last night at Golden Point, through the incautious discharge of a pistol, whereby a woman, seated with an infant in her arms, at her tea in her tent, nearly lost her life. Several slugs entered her person, which had to be extracted by the knife, yet hopes are entertained of her recovery.

**AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Friday last, Mr. **ARCHIBALD OSBORNE**, J.P., who had been sleeping at the house of Mr. **BATTLE**, the clerk of the bench at Brisbane Water, fell down dead while walking in the rear of the premises; Mr. Osborne was apparently in good health and spirits a few minutes before he was discovered lying dead. He was in his thirty-sixth year, and has left a widow and two children; he was a son of the late Dr. J. Osborne, R.N., of Illawarra. *S.M. Herald, Dec. 4*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/777, 13/12/1851**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Thursday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at Glenarvon, near West Maitland, on the body of **ROBERT HARDING**. It appeared from the evidence that Harding had at times been very intemperate, and had latterly been troubled with a difficulty of breathing; some two months since he engaged with Mr. **CHARLES WOODWARD**, of Glenarvon, to do what work he could; during the last few days his difficulty of breathing increased, and on Tuesday morning, early, he was seized with vomiting of blood, and again in the evening; on Wednesday morning he appeared ailing, and remained in the hut, and about nine o'clock that morning a neighbour, named **WILLIAM BAYLEY**, entered the hut to get a drink of water, and found Harding trying to change his shirt; Harding told Bayley he was afraid to move much, for fear of bringing on the vomiting again, and Bayley had scarcely left the hut when Harding called him back, having been taken with another fit; his appearance had changed so much that Bayley ran for Mr. Woodward, who came, and found Harding dying, and in a very short time he expired. Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, from the evidence given, and his knowledge of Harding, gave his opinion that he had died from the

rupture of a blood-vessel at the chest. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

**PATRICK M'NAMARA.** - Yesterday this man was forwarded up by steamer from Sydney, in custody of two Sydney policemen, and was lodged in Maitland gaol. It will be remembered that he was committed for trial on the charge of murdering his wife; escaped from Maitland gaol; and was recaptured in Sydney last week. - M'Namara was to have been brought up again at the Sydney police-office on Wednesday, but the following paragraph from the *Empire* of Thursday shows why he was not:- "**IN RE PETER MURRAY, ALIAS PATRICK M'NAMARA.** - The above named prisoner was not brought before the bench at the police office yesterday, in consequence of a bench warrant having been issued against him by their Honors the Judges, upon the certificate of Mr. Dillon, the Crown Solicitor, who was present when M'Namara pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging him with the murder of his wife, at the Maitland assize previous to his escaping from the prison. Consequently M'Namara will be forwarded to the gaol at Maitland."

**INFANTICIDE.** - One of those diabolical cases of maternal, and perhaps paternal, depravity, has just transpired here - the first of this kind and we hope the last we may ever hear of in this district. Information having been communicated to the chief constable, about 11 A.M. on Tuesday, that the dead body of an infant was lying on the beach immediately behind the pound, Mr. **DAVIS** at once proceeded to the place, and found the body as described, placed a constable in charge, and immediately reported the circumstances to the magistrate (Mr. **D.W. MEARES**), by whose instructions the body was conveyed to the Farmer's Inn, for the purpose of holding a magisterial inquiry, the coroner, Mr. **ALICK OSBORNE**, being for some time absent in Sydney. Mr. Davis deposed that he found the body of a male infant about midway between high and low water mark; the eyes had been picked out, and part of the cheek had been eaten away by the birds. Dr. **FALDER** made a post mortem examination at the request of Mr. Meares, and was decidedly of opinion that the child was born alive, was at full maturity, and was a fine stout infant. *Wollongong Correspondent of the Herald.*

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday afternoon, a little boy, about five years of age, named **JAMES WORTHINGTON**, was amusing himself in Mr. Chisholm's paddock, on the South Head roads, by letting a mare with stones and pulling her tail. A young woman named **ANN LENNON** was passing by, and cautioned the child, but he still persisted in his dangerous sport, until the mare kicked him in the forehead, and knocked him down. He rose, but fell again. Miss Lennon ran for the child's father, who conveyed him to the infirmary, where he now lies in a precarious condition. *Empire, Dec. 5*

**MORETON BAY. - THE BLACKS.** - The conviction of the aboriginal at the late assizes has caused considerable sensation among the blacks in the neighbourhood. Since it has been fully understood that he is to be executed, they appear perfectly satisfied, and several of them now acknowledge his guilt, and state further that he was one of the murderers of the unfortunate Mr. **GREGOR** and Mrs. **SHANNAN**. It is certain that he is considered a terribly bad fellow even among his own colour. ...

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Saturday evening an inquest was held at the White Conduit House, Rushcutter's Bay, on view of the body of **WILLIAM KING**, then lying dead there. From the evidence of several of the neighbours, it appeared that the deceased was toll-keeper at the gate of the new South Head Road; that latterly he had been unusually depressed in spirits, and expressed a longing for death. On Saturday morning he was missed from the gate, and suspicions being excited, search was made,

and soon afterwards the body was found in the bay, floating about twenty-five yards from the shore. He was quite dead; there were no marks of violence on the body. The jury found a verdict that deceased drowned himself while labouring under temporary insanity. He was reputed to be possessed of considerable means, and was a man of extremely temperate habits. *Herald, Dec. 8*

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday last, a little girl, about four years old, named **ELIZA FIELD**, being left alone in a cottage at Michelago, her clothes caught fire, and she was unfortunately burnt to death before any assistance came to her aid. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. **JAMES FIELD**, shoemaker, of Goulburn, who was unfortunately drowned while bathing in the Wollondilly, in November, 1849.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/778, 17/12/1851**

**MAN DROWNED AT THE ABERCROMBIE.** - On Sabbath last, a party of twelve men were on their way from the Turon to the Araluen diggings; when they came to the crossing-place of the Abercrombie, one of the party named **SAMUEL HYNDS**, of Maitland, went in to bathe, and was carried down by the current into a whirlpool, and was drowned; one of the party named **MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**, of Gloucester-street, Sydney, reported the event to our chief constable to drag the place. Where it occurred is seventy-five miles from Goulburn. One of the party went in to try to raise the body, but could not on account of the hole being full of rocks and stumps. *Herald's Goulburn Correspondent, Dec. 10*

**PATRICK MACNAMARA.** - This man, apprehended a few days ago in Sydney, and subsequently charged with having broken gaol, at Maitland, and escaped therefrom while under committal for the murder of his wife, was last night forwarded under escort, by the steamer, to Maitland. It did not transpire in evidence, but we are aware of the fact, that the public are indebted to Mr. **PINHEY**, of Parramatta-street, chemist and druggist, for the apprehension of this ruffian. On Thursday se'nnight, Macnamara passed Mr. Pinhey's shop, and was at once recognised by that gentleman, who resided for several years at Maitland, as the Macnamara who was committed at the Maitland bench for the murder of his wife, who subsequently made his escape from gaol, and for whose apprehension a reward has been offered in the *Government Gazette*. Mr. Pinhey followed him, confronted him, and addressed him as Macnamara the murderer; and then, after exchanging a few sentences, beckoned a constable from the lock-up, close by, and gave him into custody. Mr. Pinhey, we presume, is entitled to the reward offered for Macnamara's apprehension, which, however, will doubtless be but of small consideration with him, in comparison with the consciousness of having performed an act which will lead to the punishment of so flagrant an evildoer, and thereby benefitting the community of which he has shown himself to be so worthy a member. *S.M. Herald, Dec. 12*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - On Sunday afternoon a girl named **MARY ANNE BRIND**, fifteen years old, who was in the service of Mr. **C.A. M'DOUGALL**, of Glenarvon, went to the river (Hunter) to bathe, a neighbour, **ELIZABETH HAMMOND**, accompanying her to the top of the bank; Mary Anne Brind remained in some quarter of an hour, in spite of the repeated request of her companion to come out, and at length she got out into deep water and after vainly struggling for a short time, sunk. Elizabeth Hammond screamed for assistance, and several persons came after a short time, one of whom went for Mr. M'Dougall, who was from home; but although active search was made for the body, it was not found till the next morning. On Monday an inquest was held on the body before Mr. **PARKER**, when a verdict of accidentally drowned was returned.

## HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

A MAN DROWNED. - Yesterday (Monday) an inquest was held at Brinkburn, near Black Creek, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, upon the body of **JOSEPH OSBORNE**, then lying dead. From the evidence of **JANNETT HEXHAM** and **JOHN SHANNAHAN** it appeared that on Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, the deceased was seen to come down the bank of the river opposite Hexham's house, where he took off his clothes with the exception of his shirt, entered the river and swam about half across; he was then seen apparently upright in the water, the crown of his head being only visible. Mrs. Hexham, seeing him in danger, went and told her husband, and then returned to the river with him, but could see nothing of deceased. Several men went into the river, but were unsuccessful in their attempts to find the body. On Sunday the body was taken out of the river between twelve and one o'clock, having been seen floating by the witness Shannahan. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned. December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1851.

REMARKABLE DEATH. - An inquest was held yesterday, in Phillip-street, on view of the body of **JOHN MORAN**, who died suddenly on Thursday night. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased, who was seventy years of age, had been taken with a sudden fit of weakness, and had fallen down with his mouth close to the ground, and died of suffocation. The jury returned a verdict accordingly. *Empire*, Dec. 12

DEATH BY LIGHTNING. - There was a violent thunderstorm in the Blue Mountains on Thursday afternoon. A young man named **DRAKE**, a carrier, went under a tree for shelter, and had scarcely been there a second when the lightning was attracted by the tree, which acted as a conductor, and conveyed the lightning to the unfortunate man, who was killed on the spot. *Herald*, Dec. 12

A MAN MISSING. - The barque *Francis*, from San Francisco, arrived in this port on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, and on the previous day (Friday) a passenger named **MICHAEL COONEY** was missed out of the vessel; it is supposed he fell overboard off Sydney Heads; but if so, the accident was not observed by any one on the boat.

## DEATHS.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> January last, in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of his age, on board the *Haddington*, at sea, two days' sail from Aden, from congestion of the brain, Mfr. **EDWARD PIGON**, of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's service, brother of Mr. **ROBERT PIGON**, West Maitland.

## MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/779, 20/12/1851

DEATH BY BURNING. - On Wednesday an inquest was held at the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Morpeth, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **EMILY LAMB**, a little girl of between three and four years old. It appeared from the evidence adduced that on Tuesday **WILLIAM LAMB**, the deceased girl's father, burnt off his stubble wheat, in readiness for a crop of corn; he was in the field watching the fire, when one of his elder daughters ran out to him, to help watch that the fire did not extend to a neighbour's land; the little girl, Emily, appears to have followed her sister out of the house, unperceived by her mother, and while Lamb and his elder daughter were busily engaged attending to the fire, the poor little girl got too close to the burning stubble, and before her father, who soon saw her unfortunate state, could reach her, she was dreadfully burned. Mrs. Lamb and a neighbour, Mrs. **ORSFIELD**, took the poor child in to Mr. Nainby's, the chemist, who gave some medicine to ease it, telling the mother the child could not survive; Mr. Nainby subsequently went to see her at Lamb's house, but the poor child died that night. Evidence at great length was taken

to prove whether or not much drinking had been going on at Lamb's – and particularly whether Lamb and his wife were sober; Lamb was sworn to be sober by several witnesses, and Mrs. Lamb, who appeared to Mr. Nainby and others in liquor, was pronounced sober by some witnesses, and by Dr. **MALLON**, who examined the body of the child at the inquest. The jury returned a verdict that the death was accidental, from burning, and that the parents were not drunk; and they added the following rider – “We would call the coroner's attention to the manner district constable **M'GUINNESS** gave his evidence, and his appearance, which evidently showed that he, constable M'Guinness, was under the influence of liquor at the time he was before the court.”

**THE GOLD FIELDS. - TURON.**

On Friday last a little boy about four years old was killed by the upsetting of a cart on the sidling pinch a short distance from Sofala. The side of the vehicle fell upon his head and chest and literally crushed him to death. There were several other children in the cart at the time, all of whom fortunately escaped unhurt. The remains of the boy were carried to Dr. **JOHNSON** by the bereaved father, but of course medical aid was out of the question. The mother it is said was intoxicated at the time.

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH. -** Between four and five yesterday afternoon, a Mr. **FREDERICK FINLAY** was violently thrown from his horse, near Dishington's public-house, George-street, South; his skull was fractured, and he survived but a very few minutes. The body was taken into Dishington's, and Mr. Surgeon **AITKIN** was immediately in attendance, but it was of no avail. *Herald, Dec. 13*

**CORONER'S INQUEST. -** An inquest was held on Saturday, at the house of **MICHAEL GANNON**, at Cook's River, on view of the body of **JAMES WALTERS**, then lying dead at his late residence, on the Cook's River road. It appeared from the father of the deceased, that on Friday evening he was drawing a load of wood into Sydney. Deceased was on top of the load. The father was walking near the horse, with the reins in his hand. The road in some places is very uneven, and one of the wheels went into a rut, and capsized the cart, throwing off the wood and deceased. His father immediately took him home, but he expired in two hours afterwards. Deceased was only seven years old. Dr. **TIERNEY** examined the body of deceased. He found the ham of the right thigh was broken; also several scratches and contusions on the body. In the doctor's opinion, death was caused by lesion of some of the internal organs. Verdict – “Accidental death.” *Empire, Dec. 16*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/780, 24/12/1851**

**SINGLETON.**

**DEATH BY DROWNING. -** An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the residence of Captain **WILLIAM RUSSELL**, of Ravensworth, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, upon the body of **MARY STEWART**, a fine young girl, about fifteen years of age, who had met with an untimely death through bathing in a waterhole. From the evidence of **ANN HINDMARSH** and Mr. **WILLIAM RUSSELL**, the eldest son of Captain Russell, it appeared that the two girls, Hindmarsh and deceased, had taken the opportunity, while the men on the farm were at dinner, at noon on Friday, of going to a waterhole in the creek near Captain Russell's residence, where both the girls, after having undressed, entered the water, when the deceased got out of her depth, and sank. Hindmarsh immediately hurried back to the house and gave an alarm, when Captain Russell's son and several men from the farm ran to render assistance. Mr. Russell plunged into the waterhole, and, after several attempts, succeeded in recovering the body, when every exertion that humanity could suggest

was used to resuscitate the body, but without avail – life being extinct. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned. Mr. Russell, jun., although suffering from illness, lost no time in exerting himself to save human life, and we are sorry that his humane efforts were not crowned with success. December 22.

#### SYDNEY NEWS.

On Sunday morning, about eight o'clock, the body of an infant, apparently about three days dead, was found in a cigar box under a rock at the water's edge in the Domain. It was removed to the dead house at the Infirmary.

LIVERPOOL. - INQUEST. - An inquest was held at the Union Inn, Liverpool, on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, on view of the body of **ELLEN BARRATT**. **SUSAN BARRATT** deposed that the deceased was her child; she was three years old. Witness had taken the dinner out of a pot of boiling water, to which she sat down, when the child screamed out; on looking round she saw that she had upset the contents of the pot over her; her thighs were much scalded. Dr. **RUSSELL** was sent for, who said that the child's death was almost inevitable. She died at ten o'clock next morning. The jury expressed themselves satisfied that the death was quite accidental, and returned a verdict accordingly.

#### *Herald's Parramatta Correspondent*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Thursday an inquest was held by the Coroner, at Dishington's Tavern, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **EDWIN PURNELL**, then lying dead there. It appeared by the evidence that deceased, who was about 22 years of age, was riding a spirited horse down Brickfield-hill on Wednesday afternoon, when he was suddenly thrown. He was taken into Mr. Dishington's house, and surgical assistance was procured immediately, but he expired in about twenty minutes after the accident. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Herald, Dec. 20*

#### WAGGA WAGGA. - DECEMBER 15.

On Thursday week, Mr. **JOHN CRICHTON** was killed by a fall from his horse near Booranbong, in this neighbourhood. The animal was perfectly quiet, but had a tender mouth; the bridle had a powerful bit, and in mounting he somehow or other gave a check with the bit which threw the animal back on its haunches, and the unfortunate man fell with such violence that caused the rupture of a blood vessel and rendered him insensible. Medical aid was applied for with all haste; but it was of no avail, the unfortunate man died the same night.

#### MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/781, 27/12/1851

MURDER OF A NATIVE BLACK BY ABORIGINES. - On Thursday (Christmas Day) an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Rose Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **JACKEY, a native black lad**, about seventeen years old. It appeared from the evidence that Jackey had been for years in the service of Mr. Fitzsimmons, of Gora, Castlereagh River, and that he had just come down the country with Mr. Fitzsimmons's drays. On Wednesday Jackey received from Mr. Fitzsimmons a shilling to buy some food, and sixpence from another person to buy drink; late that evening Jackey was seen by this latter person, **PATRICK ROURKE**, then stopping at Mr. Young's inn, the Queen's Arms, West Maitland, to enter Mr. Young's yard in company with four other aborigines (of the Maitland or Sugarloaf tribes); they appeared all more or less in liquor, and Rourke subsequently saw them drinking something out of a quart bottle they brought there with them; at a later hour, between ten and eleven o'clock, Mr. Young being in his yard saw **MURPHY, a Maitland black**, leaving the yard; Mr. Young was aware there had been a number of blacks

about his yard that afternoon and evening, but as the blacks made a practice of camping at the back of the yard he took no particular notice of them; Mr. Young was under the impression that all the blacks had left his yard about eight o'clock. That evening being Christmas Eve, Mr. Young was up till about one o'clock, his back windows being open to let in the breeze; **STEPHEN BALCOMB**, the night watchman, was about the street, and in and out of Mr. Young's yard, on his beat, all night; and chief constable **WOOD**, with some policemen, were about the streets till near two o'clock. None of these parties heard a noise of any kind from Mr. Young's yard during the night, yet next morning early Jackey was found lying dead near the lower fence, having been killed by two heavy blows from a waddy; a bondi, or club, was seen near him, with marks of blood on it. As soon as the alarm was given, the police were informed, and the six following aboriginals were apprehended: **MURPHY, TOMMY POTTS, MARTIN, and KING JOHN**, of the Maitland tribe; **JEMMY and RICHARD WISEMAN**, of the Sugarloaf tribe. Some blood was seen on the clothes or skin of some of them, but nothing further was elicited to being home the deed to either. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some aboriginals, unknown. We are sorry to learn, last evening, that Jackey's body was still lying unburied at the back of Mr. Young's yard. [All later brought before the bench for drunkenness, see 2d]

THE GOLD FIELDS. - THE TURON. - (*From the S.M. Herald*)

FLOOD AND LOSS OF LIFE AT THE TURON.

ERSKINE POINT, DEC. 19. - Yesterday afternoon we were visited with a storm (or rather the effects of a storm) of no ordinary description; ...One unfortunate party, a Captain **ROBINSON** (who formerly had command of one of the Sydney coasters) and two other men, were at work in a tunnel on Little Oakey Creek, about a quarter of a mile from its junction with the Turon River, when the waters rushed in upon them before they could make their escape. It appears that Captain Robinson was carried by the stream to the junction, and from thence about 500 yards down the Turon River, where on my return his body was being taken from the river in a dreadfully bruised condition from coming in contact with the trunks of trees, rocks, &c., no part of his clothing remaining excepting a leather belt; he was immediately carried into a tent occupied by the miners in the employ of Messrs. Trappitt and Co., on this point, and every means was used by two medical men to restore life, but without success; the other unfortunate person (his mate), whose name I believe is **RICHARDS**, from Adelaide, is no doubt still in the tunnel, and parties are now employed in digging down to endeavour to find his remains. ...

CORONER'S INQUEST. - Yesterday, an inquest was held by the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of a female infant, which, as reported in yesterday's *Herald*, was found in a box in the Outer Domain, on Sunday last. Constable **LUCAS**, stated, that some boys who were bathing found the box among the rocks, and ascertaining its contents gave the alarm. It was taken to the Infirmary. Dr. **NATHAN** stated, that the infant had apparently been born at the full time of uterogestation, but, having made a *post mortem* examination, he found that the lungs had never been inflated; and his opinion was, that the child had been still born. There were no marks of violence on the body. Under the Coroner's direction the jury found that the infant found concealed had been still born. *Herald, Dec. 24*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 9/782, 31/12/1851

INQUEST. - On Friday an inquest was commenced before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Northumberland Hotel, West Maitland, and was resumed on Monday, by

adjournment, at the Bricklayer's Arms, on the body of **WILLIAM FURLER**, a child of three years old. It appeared from the evidence adduced that Mrs. Furler (the deceased child's mother (and who was in custody, resides in Durham-street, West Maitland, her husband not living with her, and that she occasionally drinks, and her house was described as kept in a disorderly manner; the little boy was neglected by his mother when she was drinking, and was at times left unprotected and uncared for when she was away at work washing; the neighbours had frequently given it food, when crying from hunger, and had occasionally cleaned it when very dirty; none of the neighbours however appear to have thought the mother habitually neglected or ill-treated her children. Some months since the child was ill, and was attended by a medical man at the mother's request, and since that time it had not looked so well; on Christmas Day a neighbour heard Mrs. **FULLER** calling out, and crying that her child was dead, and on going to her house he found the child lying nearly dead; he went for medical assistance, but was unable to obtain it, and the child died soon afterwards. A post mortem examination was made by Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, who found that the child presented every appearance of having been much neglected and left without proper nutriment, but that its death was caused by disease of the stomach and intestines, caused by inflammation, the inflammation having been apparently of long standing. The Coroner pointed out the law of manslaughter as bearing on the case, expressing his opinion that the woman was chargeable with the death of her child, but the jury acquitted her of manslaughter, returning a verdict of died from natural causes.

**DUBBO. - MURDER.**

About three weeks ago an exile going under the name of **WILLIAM KNOT**, committed two fearful crimes. William Knot and his mate (the latter a married man) had some words arising through a black gin, his comrade properly objecting to the hut being the domicile of his sable "chere amie." Upon such similar expressions, we presume, Knot shot his comrade through the two arms, inflicting most serious wounds. The wife fell all but dead on the floor, and the poor man was more concerned about his family, begged of William to go with his flock, that he would not say a word about it, and everything would be forgotten. The culprit started after a horse running conveniently, and mounting he left this dreadful scene for one which the devil destined would be of a moiré serious nature. He arrived at a station where the owner of the horse happened to be; the latter claimed the animal in a very quiet manner, without even a quarrel. W. Knot shot him through the heart. Poor Alger, without a sentence, but merely crossing his arms on his breast, and closing his eyes languidly, and as if a pious idea had been his last, fell on his knees and expired. The direction of the criminal could not for some time be properly ascertained, though the Dubbo police were doing their duty in a praiseworthy manner. Knot was known to be at a station one day, and one hundred miles away the next; but however was closely chased by Mr. chief constable **LANG** and **FREDERICK MAHER**, who fell in with two horses he had broken down, one the animal which caused his crime; these two or three indefatigable constables, after riding hundreds of miles, were on his track, and drove him as into a well in the Wellington mountains. The next day of the seizing the lost horse, they made sure to capture him, when information came to Wellington of his camp within a few miles of the latter place. A party, composed of civilians and police, came on him while fast asleep, and his arms lying by his side, exhausted of fatigue; his captors only had a pleasant walk, but nevertheless deserve the thanks of the public for their activity. *Correspondent of People's Advocate*

**A HUSBAND CHARGED WITH MURDERING HIS WIFE. - IPSWICH, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17**

I regret that my report must commence this week with accidents and offences. *Imprimis*, and the most melancholy one is that of the death of Mrs. **HONORIA FOLEY**, wife of **HENRY FOLEY**, formerly a publican in this town. The circumstances relating to her death are these – that her body was found floating in the river yesterday morning, she having been missing since Saturday night last. An inquiry was immediately commenced by Dr. **DORSEY**, acting coroner of the district, and continued today, when the doctor was assisted by Messrs. **PANTON** and **RANKIN**. In cases of this kind it is but justice to an accused party to reserve particular remarks until a jury decide; I shall therefore merely state that the unfortunate deceased's husband was taken into charge for the wilful murder of his wife. *Correspondent of Moreton Bay Courier.*

**HENRY FOLEY**, the person mentioned above by our Ipswich correspondent, as having been detained on suspicion of having caused the death of his wife, was examined yesterday at the Ipswich police-office, before Messrs. Dorsey, Barney, and A. Hodgson, and was remanded till Monday next. The chief circumstances of suspicion, as we are informed, are these:- The prisoner had alleged that he last saw his wife at about three or four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, when she left him to go to the residence of Mr. M'Intyre, a short distance from Ipswich; but a man in the employment of Mr. Panton distinctly swears that about nine o'clock that evening he saw the prisoner and his wife going towards the Bremer, near the spot where the body was afterwards found, and that Foley was using very strong language to her, and vowing that she should never repeat some misconduct, which he mentioned. When the body was found on Tuesday, there was a cut on the forehead, and several other wounds on the person; and the intestines were protruding from the body in large quantity, and in a very shocking manner. *Moreton Bay Courier, Dec. 20*

#### THE CONDEMNED CONVICTS.

The death warrant for the execution of **ANGEE**, the Chinaman convicted of murder at the last Brisbane assizes, has been brought down by the under-sheriff, who arrived by the *Eagle* yesterday. The executioner arrived by the same conveyance. The sentence of the law will be carried into effect on the culprit on Tuesday morning, the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, (to-morrow fortnight).

The other condemned convict, "**MAKE-I-KIGHT**", the aboriginal native, also convicted of murder, is respited for the present, pending some inquiries concerning the identity of the convict, of which the learned judge who tried the case seems to have entertained a doubt; but it is understood that no hopes of mercy are to be held out to the prisoner in the event of that doubt being decided against him. *Moreton Bay Courier, Dec. 22*

SYD1852

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/783, 03/01/1852

WOLLOMBI

NEW YEAR'S DAY SPORTS. - ACCIDENT. - It has come to our notice, however, that one of the riders named **JAMES BELLAMY** had a dangerous fall from his horse, owing to the breaking of his bridle rein. He was quickly attended by Dr. **DUMOULIN**, who happened to be present, who resorted to all the means usual in such cases. He found him suffering under concussion of the brain, besides several severe bruises on various parts of the body. He (Dr. D.) expressed but little hope of recovery. This accident cast a gloom over the sports of the evening; for the sufferer is held in high esteem by all the inhabitants, amongst whom he has resided as a farmer for many years.

SYDNEY NEWS.

SUDDEN DEATH. - A man called **ROBERT**, but whose surname is unknown, died suddenly yesterday, at the house of a person named **M'GREGOR**, in Castlereagh-street. M'Gregor says that at five o'clock in the morning he drank a little brandy, of which deceased partook. They then parted to go to their respective occupations. Upon the return of M'Gregor to dinner, at one o'clock in the afternoon, he was told that Robert was dying. He went to see him in his chamber, and he expired in the course of a few minutes. He was in apparently perfect health in the morning. *Empire, 27<sup>th</sup> December*

SUDDEN DEATH. - Yesterday an inquest was held by the coroner at the Lemon Tree, Phillip-street, on the body of **JAMES CROCKETT**, then lying dead in the same street. It appeared from the evidence of constable **CARTY** and Mr. **KELLICK**, that the deceased, who was a carpenter by trade, was a man of long continued habits of intemperance; that about eleven o'clock on Monday night he was taken violently ill near Dun's timber-yard, in Sussex-street. He expressed a desire to be taken to Mr. Kellick's, in Phillip-street (he having long worked for that gentleman), but before medical assistance could be obtained he died. Dr. **DOUGLASS** stated, that having viewed the body of deceased he found no marks of violence thereon; that from its appearance, and having heard the history of the case, he was of opinion that death had resulted from natural causes. Intemperance of long duration, and the heat of the weather, would account for its suddenness. Verdict, died by the visitation of God. *Herald, Dec. 21*

A WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN BED. - About 10 a.m. yesterday, the inhabitants of May's Lane, Parramatta-street, were surprised to see the residence of an elderly woman, named **BRIDGET BLOUNT**, still closed, and some persons communicated their suspicion that something was wrong to constable **HICKEY**, who forced open the door, and found Mrs. Blount dead in her bed. She had, latterly, lived alone, her husband being employed up the country shepherding. *Empire, Dec. 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/784, 07/01/1852

SUICIDE. - On Saturday last a young woman named **BRIDGET CARNEY**, who has for some time past been stewardess on board the *Rose* steamer, and has been noticed latterly for peculiarities in dress and manner, jumped overboard from the steamer as she was proceeding down the river, being then between Osterley and Raymond Terrace. The action was seen by several persons, and the chief officer ran to the side, and jumped over after her, but the rate at which the steamer was moving had already moved her past the exact spot, and when the chief officer reached it no

traces of the unfortunate girl were found, excepting her bonnet. The engines were immediately stopped, boats lowered, and the search was subsequently continued with drags, but the body was not found till Monday, about the middle of the day.

#### HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

##### WOLLOMBI

Our village churchyard (that belonging to the Church of England) presented on Saturday last the melancholy and unusual spectacle of having the remains of two of our respected inhabitants consigned to the earth within its precincts on the same day. The sad interest of this scene was much increased from the knowledge that they had both been struck down at an age when life is most desirable, showing forth the evidence of every passing hour that even youth is not always a safeguard from the assaults of the grim and inexorable tyrant Death. One of those interred, Mr. **JAMES BELLAMY**, died in consequence of the accident which happened him at Laguna Races (reported in your last issue), from the effects of which he never rallied, nor had apparently even the slightest return to consciousness. An inquest on the body was held on Friday, by **B. SULLIVAN**, Esq., coroner of the district, and a verdict of accidental death returned. As a proof of the high degree of estimation in which he was held by the inhabitants, his remains were followed to the grave by the greatest concourse of people that ever assembled together on such a melancholy occasion in the Wollombi. Mrs. **WEIR'S** funeral was also numerously and respectably attended. January 6, 1852.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An inquest was yesterday held at the house of Mr. Turley, King-street, on view of the body of Mrs. **MARY ANN TURLEY**. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased, with her son and a friend, went on a pleasure trip to Garden Island on Thursday, when, after partaking of some refreshment, she suddenly complained of illness; she was put into a boat, but when it arrived at Woolloomooloo Bay she was dying, and by the time the boat touched shore she expired. Dr. **BLAND** stated that he had viewed the body, and having heard the history of the case, he was of opinion that deceased had died from the effects of indigestion and the intense heat of the sun during a particularly sultry and oppressive state of the atmosphere. Verdict, died by the visitation of God. *Herald, Jan. 3*

**MURDER AT THE TURON.** - **TUESDAY, DEC. 30.** - A murder was last night committed on Mundy Point upon a fine young man about 26 years of age. The particulars have not yet transpired, the murderer having absconded, but his wife and male companion were this morning taken into custody as accessories, and several troopers despatched in chase of the principal. The murder, it would appear, was effected by beating in the skull with stones. The unfortunate man lingered until morning, when information was immediately conveyed to the commissioners. The parties, whose names I was unable to ascertain, were located on Oakey Creek. *Turon Correspondent of Bell's Life.*

**SUICIDE.** - A man, named **GOULDEN**, who had been indulging for some time in habits of intemperance, was yesterday morning found in his stable at Concord, suspended by his neck, and quite dead. *Herald, Jan. 3*

**MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT.** - It is with feelings of extreme regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. **H. DAVIDSON**, whose appointment to a clerkship in the Gold Commission we published only a few weeks ago. The circumstances of the melancholy event, as communicated by the policeman who brought in the intelligence, and corroborated by a letter from Mr. Assistant Commissioner **ZOUCH**, are as follow. It appears that Mr. Davidson, accompanied by a policeman, was riding along the Turon river, in the execution of his duties, when

the pistol of the latter fell to the ground and striking against a rock, the concussion caused the weapon to explode, and lodge its contents in the muscular portion of his thigh. At first Mr. Davidson was disposed to treat the matter lightly, and after bandaging the wound was proceeding homeward, when the policeman drew his attention to his boot, which was full of blood. Shortly afterwards, a faintness took place, and it was found necessary to remove him to a tent until medical assistance could be procured; but, sorrowful to relate, the bleeding had proceeded so profusely in the meantime, that the two professional gentlemen whose services had been retained, arrived only to discover that his spirit had winged its flight. *Bathurst Free Press, Jan.*

3

#### DEATHS

At the Wollombi, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, by a fall from his horse, Mr. **JAMES BELLAMY**, aged 28, leaving a wife and three children to deplore their loss.

At the same place, and on the same day, after a short illness, **MARY ELIZABETH WEIR**, aged 20, wife of Mr. **G. WEIR**, and eldest daughter of Mr. [line missing]

Page 4 not done

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/785, 10/01/1852

INQUEST ON BRIDGET CARNEY. - On Tuesday last an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER** on the body of **BRIDGET CARNEY**, the late stewardess of the *Rose* steamer, the particulars of whose melancholy death we reported in our last. The evidence was substantially to the same effect as our report, all the witnesses agreeing that the conduct of the deceased, during the two years that she had been stewardess of the *Rose*, had been remarkably good. The jury returned a verdict that deceased threw herself overboard from the *Rose* and was drowned, while labouring under temporary insanity.

SUICIDE. - An inquest was to be held at the Paterson yesterday, by Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of an unfortunate woman who drowned herself in that river when labouring under *delirium tremens*, after having been drinking very hard for some time.

WINDSOR. - An inquest was holden at South Creek on the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, on the body of a man named **WARBOIS**, who died suddenly on the previous day. It appeared in evidence that the unfortunate man had been keeping up Christmas pretty strongly, and during intoxication had exposed himself to the broiling sun causing thereby sudden death. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. *Herald Correspondent*

DEATH FROM LIGHTNING. - A young woman, named **SARAH NIXON**, was, at Richmond during the thunderstorm on Tuesday, killed by the electric fluid. Her father and mother, together with some children, were in the room with her at the time; and both parents were struck down and stunned by the shock which killed the girl. Upon their recovery they discovered the girl (who was about eighteen years of age) lying dead in the door-way, very much scathed and seared about the breast and body. An inquest was held on the following day, when the above facts having been deposed to, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Herald, Jan. 8*

#### MAITLAND QUARTER SESSIONS

POSTPONEMENTS. - **THOMAS CLARKE**, who had been previously indicted for assaulting **MARY JOHNSON**, at Anambah, on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1851, was put to the bar, and his trial postponed till the next sessions for the same reason [the witnesses not being in attendance]; Clarke to be admitted to bail, himself in £40, and two sureties in £20 each. The recognizances of **MARY JOHNSON** and **GEORGE**

**JOHNSON**, the missing witnesses in the case against Clarke, were ordered to be estreated.

**THE GOLD FIELDS. - THE TURON.**

Upper Wallaby Rocks, Jan. 2. - On the same night [Tuesday] a man named **JOHN DONNELLY**, better known in the neighbourhood of Windsor as Mick Power's Johnny, was killed by another man near Munday Point, by a blow from a tomahawk. It appears some woman was the cause of the unfortunate affair. She has been apprehended; the man has made his exit for the present.

**COWRA. - DROWNING. -** A most melancholy occurrence took place here on Saturday morning, under the following circumstances:- A shepherd of the name of **WILLIAM SMIDT**, a native of Germany, in the employment of Mr. **FULTON**, whilst bathing in the River Lachlan, happened to get into deep water, and being, I believe, unable to swim, was drowned before any assistance could be rendered him. The young man was in the prime of life, and is much lamented by all who knew him. His remains were picked up a few hours after the fatal event took place, and conveyed to the Fitz Roy Inn, there to await a coroner's inquest. *Correspondent of Bathurst Free Press*

**SUDDEN DEATH. -** An inquest was held by the coroner yesterday at the St. John's Tavern, Brickfield-hill, on view of the body of **JOHN MORING**, then lying dead in Liverpool-street. It appeared from the evidence of Mrs. **GUERIN**, that deceased, who was a journeyman painter, lodged at her house; that he was a man of very intemperate habits, spending all his earnings in drink. He had been ailing lately and on Sunday he complained of intense thirst. She prepared some tea for him, and upon calling him to partake of it, and receiving no answer, she proceeded to his room and found that he was dead. Dr. **TIERNEY** was of opinion that death was the result of natural causes, accelerated by intemperance. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this opinion. *Herald, Jan. 6*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/786, 14/01/1852**

**INQUEST. -** On Saturday and by adjournment on Monday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Mr. Kerrigan's, Sportsman's Arms, West Maitland, on the body of an infant of seven weeks old, the child of **JOSEPH and AGNES TOWNSLEY**. The evidence taken on the inquest ran to some length, principally to ascertain the habitual conduct of the parents to the child, a post-mortem examination by Dr. **BEARDMORE** showing that death was caused by inflammation of the lungs and intestines, which would not have been necessarily attended with fatal results to an otherwise healthy though feeble child had it been properly attended, received proper nourishment, and had the advantage of medical treatment. The evidence was to the effect that, when sober, Townsley and his wife paid proper attention to this child and their three other children, but that they were not infrequently tipsy, sometimes so much as to be unable to take care of themselves or their children; while on one night in the early part of last week the neighbours saw a strong light in the house, and on breaking the door in found the bed on fire, with Mrs. Townsley (drunk) and three children laying on it, and Townsley (also drunk) and the fourth child laying on the floor close by. On that occasion it appeared quite providential the neighbours were aroused in time, or the whole family might have been burnt to death. At other times also great difficulty had been found in arousing Townsley or his wife at night when the baby or other children were crying; and on Friday night a neighbour who was disturbed by the poor baby's crying incessantly for above two hours found it impossible to arouse its parents; and between four and five o'clock next morning he

heard Mrs. Townsley call out suddenly "Oh, my God, my infant is gone," and almost immediately afterwards she cried out "Murder." Some discoloured marks on the skin of the dead body, noticed by the neighbours whom Mrs. Townsley called in, aroused suspicion, but Dr. Beardmore found no marks of violence on the body, and no indications of the child having been overlain, although it appeared quite feeble as if from neglect. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased child died from neglect, and from want of proper attention to its comforts, and they found Joseph Townsley and Agnes Townsley guilty of manslaughter.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday afternoon a serious accident occurred to a boy named **ROBERTS**, the son of a cabman, we are informed, residing in Castlereagh-street. It appears that as Mr. **BOND**, master of the Columbus, was riding at a smartish pace along the South Head Road, between the South Head Hotel and the Lighthouse, he was met by three boys on horseback, in full gallop. The foremost boy in passing exclaimed, "clear the way, we are racing," and passed on, as did also the second; but before Mr. Bond could get out of the way, the third horse came in violent collision with his, the effect of which was to throw both horses to the ground, and of course the riders - Mr. Bond being thrown a considerable distance into the bush. Both parties were very seriously injured, and it is even doubtful whether the boy will recover, he having fallen under his horse. The signal for a surgeon was immediately given at South Head, and Dr. **BLAND** was promptly in attendance. He administered the usual remedies, but with what effect remains to be seen. Mr. Bond was conveyed into Sydney by means of a cab, but his injuries, we are happy to state, are not of a serious nature. The horse on which he was riding had its near hind leg broken in the collision, and being therefore useless, was immediately shot. We are informed that before Dr. Bland arrived, a gentleman who happened to be on the spot attempted to bleed the boy with a knife, but his efforts were unavailing. *Empire, Jan. 12*

**CARCOAR. - FATAL ACCIDENT.** - The sports provided for the amusement of the townspeople on Boxing Day in the paddocks of the Miners' Arms, and reported in this journal, were resumed on New Year's Day, and were well attended. There were several well contested races, and the amusements of the day would have passed off without leaving any cause for regret but for a serious accident which occurred in the last race, by which a lad named **MURRAY**, a stepson of Mr. **ROBINSON** of this town, unfortunately lost his life. He was riding a horse belonging to Mr. **J.H. KIRKPATRICK**, named Meteor, and shortly after starting the horse fell, throwing the lad with much force to the ground. Mr. **ARNOLD** and Mr. Kirkpatrick, who were following the horses, were the first to perceive the accident, and arriving at the spot found Murray insensible, much bruised about the face and head, and bleeding considerably. He was conveyed to the Miners' Arms on a sofa, and everything that could be done was attended to; but I regret to say that shortly after twelve o'clock at night he died, consciousness never having returned. Concussion of the brain is supposed to have been the cause of death. On Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> instant) an inquest was held on the body, before **SAMUEL NORTH**, Esq., coroner, and a jury, when Messrs. Arnold and Kirkpatrick were examined touching the accident, as also Mrs. **FOX**, who attended deceased, and a verdict of accidental death returned. *Bathurst Free Press Correspondent.*

**SINGULAR AND FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Saturday night last, a shepherd in the employment of Mr. **DAVIS**, of King's Plains, met with his death by suffocation, produced by a piece of meat sticking in his throat, which he was in the act of swallowing. The unfortunate man had the presence of mind to seize a spoon, with which he attempted to remove the obstruction, but unavailingly, and as a matter of

course, death was almost instantaneous. The body was removed to Bathurst, where a judicial inquiry into the circumstances was instituted by the police magistrate, who officiated in the absence of the coroner, and the above particulars were elicited. There were several persons in the hut at the time of the occurrence, but they were unable to afford any assistance. Deceased was from 50 to 60 years of age. *Bathurst Free Press, Jan. 10*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An inquest was held over the body of **JOHN DWYER**, in the early part of last week, at Mr. Howard's, Shearers' Arms, village of Peel. Dwyer having taken a glass of brandy in the early part of the day lay down on a sofa, apparently well in health. No notice was taken of him until dinner was served up, when, upon attempting to wake him, it was discovered he was cold, and must have been dead at least half an hour. As several persons had sat near him on the sofa for a considerable time without being aware of his sickness, it is supposed that he must have died without a struggle. Verdict - "Died by the visitation of God." *Bathurst Free Press, Jan. 7*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/787, 17/01/1852**

**MURDER OF THREE MEN.** - We extract from the *Bathurst Free Press* of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant the following account of the successive murders of three men by a young exile named **THOMAS WILMORE**. The substance of this account has been previously given by us, but not the full particulars, and some time since our Coonabarabran correspondent briefly noticed that he had heard that Mr. **ALGER** was killed by some man.

Since the time of the monster **LYNCH** nothing like the following case has occurred in New South Wales, and the black calendar of crime will exhibit one of its darkest pages when the recital of the tale of blood now unfolded is committed to its keeping.

The author of the tragedy is one Thomas Wilmore, an exile by the *Randolph*, 1849, and now only 19 years of age. Upon his arrival in the colony a ticket-of-leave was granted to him for the district of Wellington, and he was allotted to Mr. **CORNISH**, a squatter in this district, in whose service he remained sixteen months, at the expiration of which he absconded, and nothing being heard of his whereabouts, he was dealt with by the Wellington bench as an absentee, and his ticket was cancelled. It now appears that he made for the Castlereagh River, where he obtained employment in the service of Mr. **ANDREW BROWN**, with whom he remained six months, and subsequently with Mr. **WILLIAM BROWN**, where he stayed three months only, which he concluded with his first deed of blood. The particulars have not further transpired, than that a person of the name of **RICHARD WHEELER** resided on the same station, with whom he had a quarrel because of something he had said about him, when Wilmore took summary revenge by shooting him with a pistol. Perceiving his intent, his unfortunate victim threw up his arms, which happening to cross each other, as if in defence of his body, the ball penetrated both at the point of contact, and striking against a button glanced off. Wheeler died shortly after of his wounds. Leaving the scene of his first murder immediately, his first object, it appears, was to possess himself of a horse, and he finally obtained one, it appears, at the expense of another man's life. Our information goes that he met a person on horseback, named **PHILIP ALGER**, not far distant from Mr. Brown's station, when he was making his escape; that he demanded the horse, and, meeting with resistance, shot the owner through the heart. From the time of this second murder nothing is heard of Wilmore or his proceedings until the commission of the third, for which he now stands committed to take his trial. And certainly there are few instances on record in which a

more ferocious and tiger-like disposition has manifested itself. Happening to stop at a hut one night in which a person named **MALACHI DALEY** was staying, he overheard him remark that he had £44 upon his person. His infernal purpose was immediately formed. On the following day he waylaid Daley in the bush, demanded the money, and upon meeting with a refusal shot him dead on the spot. Not finding the money in the clothes of his murdered victim, he tore his saddle to pieces in the expectation of finding it secreted there. He then took possession of the horse, and rode about ten miles down the river, with the terrible purpose, as appears, of looking out for another human being for slaughter! But Providence had mercifully willed it otherwise. Having heard in the course of his bushranging that a person named **WARD**, who acts as overseer to Mr. Cornish, was apprehensive that he intended shooting him, Wilmore called upon him to assure him that he had no such intent, but displayed great anxiety to ascertain who was Mr. Ward's informant, with it may be presumed no charitable purpose. His enquiries on this head all proving fruitless, he left the place and started down river, whither a party, consisting of Messrs. Cornish, Ward, and we believe one or two others, followed in pursuit. After beating about for some time, they espied the murderer asleep on a little island in the river. Ward rushed upon him at once and seized him. A desperate struggle ensued. Wilmore managed at last to gain his feet, but Ward, who is a powerful man, tripped up his heels, and prostrated him, and whilst in this position he was secured and finally taken into custody at Montefiore, where, after an investigation, he was committed for the wilful murder of Malachi Daley, and forwarded to Bathurst to await his trial.

Were it not that Wilmore conducts himself rationally, and talks sensibly upon all other topics, there would exist a strong presumption that his intellect was deranged. He openly confesses his crimes, says that he cares not a straw for his own life, but would rather be shot than hung, and if he had an opportunity, that he would shoot every one of his captors. Although only 19 years of age, he appears to be utterly hardened and depraved, and beyond the reach of all moral or religious influences. He refuses to have any communication with any religious minister, stating that he does not want to be troubled with their presence or advice. Whatever changes may be effected by time or solitude, at present there appears to be little hope of a softened spirit.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday the coroner opened an inquest at the house of Mr. **TUNKS**, Castlereagh-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM ROBERTS**, whose death, while riding on the South Head Road, on Sunday last, in consequence of coming into contact with another horseman, was reported in yesterday's *Herald*. The father of the deceased stated, that his son was an apprentice of Mr. **ROBINSON**, tinman, of George-street, and that it was without his, the father's knowledge, that he went out to ride on Sunday. In consequence of the inability of Mr. **BOND**, with whom the deceased came in contact, to attend to give evidence, by reason of the dangerous state in which he continues to lie, the inquest was adjourned until Saturday next, at twelve o'clock. *Herald, Jan. 15*

**MURDER AT THE BRAIDWOOD DIGGINGS.** - **BELL'S CREEK, JANUARY 10**  
We deeply regret having to relate that one of those scenes so common in this colony – a drunken row, has terminated fatally at Bell's Creek, and that one of the parties concerned has been guilty of the murder of his fellow. The quarrel appears to have arisen out of some foolish "chaffing" between the murderer and his victim. The deceased was **HUGH OWEN**, a native of the colony, and a resident of Parramatta. He has some family; the brother and son are at the diggings. The person guilty of the murder is **WILLIAM STIRLING**, supposed to be from the North of Ireland. Owen,

it appears, on Thursday night, while all the party were drunk, or at any rate were drinking, made some remarks, to the effect that he would fight any b-----y Irishman, &c., &c. A quarrel of course arose, blows were struck; the first turmoil, however, appears to have been in part over, but was renewed. Stirling goes into his tent, and having there armed himself with a knife, goes behind Owen, as he is sitting at the fire, and stabs him twice in the belly. This was about midnight. The alarm was given, and Dr. **FOWLIS**, who was in a neighbouring tent, was very promptly in attendance, but all in vain, the man died shortly after. An inquest was held yesterday, before the coroner, and a post mortem examination held by Dr. Fowlis. Stirling acknowledged the stabbing, and a verdict of wilful murder was accordingly returned. He will be forwarded to Goulburn to await his trial at the next Circuit Court, which will be holden on the second Monday in February. Stirling and Owen had been working in the same party since they first came, but had been quarrelling for some time. They were both middle-aged men; Stirling had been for upwards of ten years in the Middle District. The whole circumstance has created a strong sensation, and for the day completely stopped work. *Herald Correspondent*. - [The *Empire* states that Stirling was from Maitland.]

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An enquiry was held before the worshipful the Police Magistrate, on Monday last, touching the death of one **EDWARD STONE**, a reaper, &c. According to the evidence the deceased appeared to be in perfect health when he retired to rest on Sunday evening at Mr. **DOMINGO GRESSIER'S**, but complained of a pain in his chest in the middle of the night, which caused him to expectorate blood. About sunrise one of the men who was staying about the place discovered him lying with his head projecting over the foot of the bed, and upon a closer inspection found that he was quite dead, life having been extinct for some time. Stone was a finer young man in the very prime of life, and had been attracted to this side of the country from Queanbeyan by the gold discovery. *Bathurst Free Press*, 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the police-office, on view of the body of **MARY DUNDAS**, then laying dead at her late residence in George-street. **DAVID DUNDAS**, the husband of deceased, deposed that she had uniformly enjoyed excellent health. On Sunday they went on an excursion of pleasure to Cook's River, and returned in the evening; deceased was then well. She retired to rest at ten o'clock the same night, and about eleven o'clock deceased suddenly awoke, and screamed. She was holding her hand to her left side, as if enduring severe pain, and immediately expired. Drs. **BENNETT** and **A'BECKETT** were sent for, but deceased was beyond the reach of human aid. Dr. Bennett stated that he arrived at the residence of deceased about midnight on Sunday. She was dead. He was of opinion that death was the result of natural causes, most probably some disease of the heart, or rupture of a blood vessel in the chest. The jury returned a verdict "died from natural causes." *Empire*, 13<sup>th</sup> January

**EXECUTION.** - The extreme penalty of the law was enforced this morning on the body of **ANGEE**, the Chinaman condemned at last Brisbane Assizes for the murder of **JAMES HOLBERT**, his overseer. The prisoner manifested to the last the greatest indifference, and mounted the scaffold and submitted to the operation of the executioner without resistance or remark. When the drop fell, the unhappy man struggled violently for some minutes, then his limbs relaxed, and he hung lifeless. He appeared to be about 25 years of age, and was powerfully built. The chief peculiarity of his appearance was the remarkable shape of his head, which rose straight up behind to a great height. The ministers of religion who had occasionally visited him do not appear to have succeeded in engaging his interest in any way. The crowd assembled

to witness the awful spectacle was not large, and we observed only one Chinaman; but, disgraceful to say, a large proportion consisted of women and children. *Moreton Bay Courier*, Jan. 6

THE CONVICT "MAKE I' LIGHT." - This aboriginal native, convicted at the last Brisbane Assizes of the murder of **WILLIAM BOLLER**, and condemned to suffer death for the same, has now been finally reprieved, and is, we understand, to be kept in gaol for a few months, when an opportunity will be taken of forwarding him to Wide Bay. His fetters have been struck off, and he has been placed, for the present, with the other prisoners. *Moreton Bay Courier*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/788, 21/01/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Yesterday afternoon a dray belonging to Mr. **CRITTENDEN**, of Bolwarra, was standing at Mr. M'Laughlin's, Melbourne-street, East Maitland, when something startled the horse, and it started off along the street; it had got as far as Mr. **JOHN ECKFORD'S** unstopped, when Mrs. **JACKSON**, the wife of a wheelwright who lives opposite, ran out with other persons and endeavoured to stop the horse, but she was struck on the head by some portion of the dray and knocked down. Either from this blow, or from the wheel passing over her head, the unfortunate woman received a fearful wound, fracturing the skull, and causing almost instant death. Medical assistance was immediately sent for, but of course without avail.

THE GOLD FIELDS

(*From the Bathurst Free Press*, Jan. 17)

Dysentery appears to be rather on the increase than otherwise, and several deaths have occurred from its attacks. Amongst others we have to report the demise of Dr. **JOHNSON**, formerly editor of *Bell's Life in Sydney*, some say of dysentery, and others of apoplexy; also of a Mr. **SMITH**, a Sydney gentleman, but of what disease we have not heard.

FATAL QUARREL. - On New Year's Day a man named **SHORT** entered the Sportsman's Arms, on the South Head Road. A man named **BAKER** and his wife were also there. Another person, whose name is unknown, entered the public-house, and commenced a quarrel, in the course of which Short insulted Mrs. Baker; and her husband, greatly irritated at the opprobrious epithets used towards his wife, struck Short a blow with his fist, which knocked him down. Since then the unfortunate man has been ailing. He was attended by Dr. **CUTHILL**, but he was beyond the reach of human skill, and expired yesterday morning. An inquest will be held today. *Empire*, Jan. 19

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/789, 24/01/1852

DEATH OF A PRISONER IN GAOL. - Yesterday an inquest was held in the gaol, East Maitland, by Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, on the body of **PHOEBE SMITH**. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, who was convicted at the Quarter Sessions, in October last, of stealing perfumery, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, was suffering from dysentery at the time, and had been under Dr. **WILTON'S** care, in the gaol, ever since; she herself appears to have had and expressed a presentiment that she should never leave the gaol alive, and Dr. Wilton for some time past has been of opinion that she would sink under the disease; every attention was however paid to her, and medical comforts, &c., provided; on Thursday she appeared much the same as usual, but was taken worse, and died that afternoon. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

INQUEST ON MRS. JACKSON. - In our last we reported the fatal accident by which Mrs. **JACKSON**, of East Maitland, met her death on Tuesday afternoon. An inquest was held on the body by Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, on Wednesday, when evidence was taken agreeing in substance with our report, except that the horse and dray started from Mr. **BORTHWICK'S** door, the horse being frightened by a person named **M'LAUGHLIN** falling near him. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

#### THE GOLD FIELDS

DEVIL'S HOLE CREEK. - JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 1852. - A melancholy and fatal accident took place here yesterday afternoon to an old and respectable inhabitant, Mr. **JAMES BRODERICK**, Innkeeper, Paterson River. He was mining in company with a Mr. **PRATT** and a young man also from the Paterson named **STEPHEN STANBRIDGE**; after dinner they resumed their work, Pratt and Stanbridge went to the cradle, Broderick went into the mine; after an interval of fifteen or twenty minutes Stanbridge went for more earth to wash, and on asking Broderick if he was ready received no answer, and on going into the mine found the poor fellow buried – the soil, about two or three tons, having fallen in upon him. An inquest was held by Commissioner **BOWMAN**, and a verdict of accidental death returned. His remains are to be removed for interment, this day, into Mudgee. The deceased was much respected by the diggers, and leaves a wife and family to mourn after him.

THE TURON. - In our last Saturday's publication we took the liberty, as we then believed on good grounds, of formally announcing the death of Dr. **JOHNSON**, of Sofala. It now becomes our duty, and that gentleman may rest assured that it is performed with the greatest pleasure, editorially, to resuscitate him. Dr. Johnson then is not dead but alive, and from enquiries made on the spot, perfectly sound and healthy, and judging by external appearances, just such a subject as would be gladly received into the bosom of a life assurance association.

#### DEATHS

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1851, of the fever ague, on board the *Queen of Sheba*, on the passage from San Francisco to Sydney, **WILLIAM WARING**, aged 29 years, second son of the late Captain William Waring, of Shipton, county Kilkenny, Ireland.

#### MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/790, 28/01/1852

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. - On Friday afternoon two children of Mr. **CANVIN**, of the Hinton Hotel, were crossing the Hunter River in a punt – one, named **ROBERT**, being about five years old, and the other a little girl younger than him. The children were near the front of the punt, and Robert was on the flap, within a few inches of the water, playing with a little dog. **HENRY CURLEWIS**, the puntman, told him that was a dangerous place, and begged him to come back into the punt, but the lad refused. Curlewes was working across the punt by the rope, and was talking to a man, a passenger, and had reached the middle of the river, when the little girl suddenly called out, "Harry, Bob is overboard." Curlewes ran in a fright to the spot, and saw only the little boy's hat and the dog in the water, the poor lad having been most probably passed over by the advancing punt: Curlewes called loudly for assistance, and ran and stopped the punt; a boat and several persons specially came off to render help, but the poor boy was not seen again, nor could his body be found till Sunday, when it was observed floating in the river. An inquest was held on the body on Monday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when a verdict of accidentally drowned was returned.

EXAGGERATED REPORT. - On Sunday evening and Monday morning it was currently reported about Maitland that Mr. **WARDELL**, tailor, of East Maitland, had killed his wife, by inflicting a wound on her head with an axe, of which she died a few hours after in the hospital. Happily the report was not true. In the course of some quarrel on Sunday morning, arising from Mrs. Wardell's drunken habits, Wardell did, it is stated, strike her a blow on the back of the head with some weapon, which laid the flesh open, and caused a great flow of blood; Wardell was apprehended, and the surgeon who was called in, thinking Mrs. Wardell's case a very dangerous one, had her removed to the hospital; the wound happily proved less serious than was feared, and on Monday she was pronounced out of danger, and returned to her husband, who was released on this being announced.

THE GOLD FIELDS.

JAN. 20. - Mr. **BATEMAN SMITH**, a gentleman whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of recently making, died on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, from a complication of disorders. He was much and deservedly esteemed by all who knew him. **QUIN**, the tight-rope dancer, also paid the debt of nature a few days ago. An unfortunate digger, named **JOHN SHAW**, met with his death this morning from falling into a deep claim on Oakey Creek a few nights previously, while in a state of intoxication.

SYDNEY NEWS.

The anniversary of the colony ...I am sorry, however, to have to record a loss of life. A seaman and a boy belonging to the *Twins*, from Melbourne, and a passenger by the same vessel, went out in a boat together; the boat was upset, and the boy was picked up, but the two men were drowned.

INQUESTS. - MAN DROWNED AND ANOTHER FOUND DEAD. - On Monday last a man named **JOHN BRENAN**, in the employ of Mrs. **GIBSON**, of Tirrona, went into a waterhole on the establishment to bathe; after being some long time in the water he sank all at once, and never rose alive; considerable difficulty was experienced before the body could be found; a boat had to be brought from Mr. Thorn's on Wednesday morning, when by this means it was brought out of the water. An inquest was held at Tirrona on the body, and a verdict of found drowned returned. - Another inquest was held at the Travellers' Rest, this day, on the body of one **PATRICK DEVITT**, who was found dead near the boiling-down establishment of Messrs. Benjamin and Moses this morning; the post mortem examination showed that the deceased was labouring under very extensive disease in the liver and other internal organs. Verdict, died by the visitation of God. *Goulburn Correspondent of Herald*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/791, 31/01/1852

MAN DROWNED. - On Wednesday evening a man named **THOMAS JOHNSON** was drowned in the Hunter River, at Morpeth, off Mr. Griffin's wharf. The body had not been recovered up to yesterday, at noon, but a man named **PETER M'GRATH**, a fellow-workman of Johnson's, and who, it is stated, was with him in the small dingy just before Johnson was drowned, has been in custody since, pending the result of a coroner's inquest on the body.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. - The *Shamrock* arrived at the wharf on Wednesday morning at half-past two o'clock. On Tuesday morning, about none o'clock, a man named **PELLIT**, a steerage passenger, jumped overboard, in a fit of *delirium tremens*; the life-buoy was cast adrift, and the boat lowered, but every effort proved unavailing.

HEARTLESS DESERTION. - An inquest was held at the Sportsman's Arms, on view of the body of **LOUISA JEROME**, then lying dead in her late residence in Goulburn-street. **JOHN TODDAY** being sworn, stated:- About half-past four

o'clock on Monday afternoon, he was called by the mother of deceased, who told witness that her child was very ill. Witness replied that it needed medical assistance, to which the mother of deceased made reply that she could not get a doctor until the following morning. The child soon afterwards expired. Deceased was an extremely good-looking girl, and was only six years old. The mother screamed and fainted, and consequently was unable to assist the child, even if her assistance could have availed, but the poor child was beyond the reach of human help. The mother was a perfectly sober and honest woman, but had been deserted by her husband, who had gone to the diggings, leaving his wife and family without the means of support. The jury returned a verdict "died by the visitation of God." *Empire, Jan. 28*

#### DEATHS.

At Sofala, on the Turon River, Bathurst, on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, aged 31 years, **JOHN SKETCHLEY BATEMAN**, eldest son of the late Rev. John Jennings Smith, M.A., incumbent of Paterson. This gentleman was well known in this district; and for the last few years had been acting as Clerk of Petty Sessions at Tamworth and Murrurundi. At both of these places he was universally respected for his ability and zeal, his gentlemanly, courteous, and kind deportment. Last month Mr. Smith resigned his government appointment, and went to Sofala to conduct the business of, and purchase gold for, two mercantile firms in Sydney. He had only just completed his arrangements, when, from over exertion therein, and the heat of the place, he was on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant suddenly attacked with severe illness, and died on the 12<sup>th</sup>. His early and melancholy decease will long be regretted amongst a large circle of friends throughout the colony, by whom he was much and deservedly esteemed.

WIDE BAY. - On the 27<sup>th</sup> December, an inquiry was held concerning the death of **GEORGE RICHARDSON**, a passenger who had lately arrived from Sydney in the *Albion*. From the evidence it appeared that deceased, on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> December, came on board the *Albion* lying at the wharf. He had been indulging rather freely ashore. On coming aboard he sat on the combings of the main hatchway, and whilst talking with some other men close at hand, he accidentally overbalanced himself, and fell into the hold. On being taken up it was found that he had entirely lost the use of his legs, and was otherwise severely bruised. Medical aid was called in, but was of no ultimate avail, as the poor fellow died on the 26<sup>th</sup> December. By the medical evidence given at the court on enquiry, before **E.B. UHR**, Esq., J.P., it appeared that the deceased had sustained a severe fracture of the last but one of the dorsal vertebrae, thus accounting for the loss of motion and sensation in that portion of the body below the seat of injury. It appeared also that extensive niceration of the bladder set in, which terminated the life of the deceased sooner than might have been expected. *Herald Correspondent*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/792, 04/02/1852

A MAN DROWNED. - On Monday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Northumberland Hotel, West Maitland, on the body of **WILLIAM HORN**. Horn was an immigrant, and had been in the colony about four months, having a wife and three children; he was in the employment of Mr. **BALDWIN**, and on Monday morning, about eight o'clock, he went to the river at the Falls with a cart to get a cask of water; the river was in fresh, and some six or seven feet higher than usual, which quite changed the appearance of the approach to the watering place; poor Horn mistook the place, and had not got far in when the cart suddenly dropped off a little steep bank, the foot of which is usually reached at high-water mark; the horse plunged, and then swam, and the water of course coming into the cart, the cask and

bucket instantly floated; poor Horn's movements at that moment were not exactly noted, excepting from a considerable distance down the river, but it is supposed he either tried to save the cask, or else in his agitation caught hold of it instead of holding on by the cart; a woman living close by heard the plunging, and running out saw poor Horn trying to make for the shore, the cask being close by him, and the horse and cart further down the stream. Horn saw her, and called to her for God's sake to send some one to help him; she called out to a man she saw coming past, but he coldly said he could not swim, and in another minute poor Horn sunk, to rise no more. The body was found in the course of the morning, near where he was last seen. The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning. The horse got safely to shore with the cart.

**SUDDEN DEATH AT THE MEROO DIGGINGS.** - On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January Mr. **HENRY TEBBUTT** was riding through the bush in the neighbourhood of the Devil's Hole Creek, Meroo, when he came across the dead body of a man. Mr. Tebbutt rode to the Devil's Hole, and after some enquiry found the mates of the deceased, **RICHARD HUSBAND**; they accompanied him to the body, and searched it, and 2 lbs. of gold were found on him. The deceased had been suffering from palpitation of the heart for the past twenty years, and appears to have been on his way looking for his horses when suddenly attacked with illness, as he had a halter in his hand when found. An inquest was held on the body, and the jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God. *From our Correspondent*

**SUPPOSED INFANTICIDE.** - Yesterday the body of an infant, quite decomposed, was found in a privy at East Maitland. The coroner and the police were engaged at noon in making enquiries, preparatory to holding an inquest.

**THE MAN DROWNED AT MORPETH.** - The body of the poor man drowned at Morpeth had not been recovered up to yesterday, and it was supposed that the fresh might have driven it under some of the rubbish or trees that floated down.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - Yesterday a man named **DOLAN**, living at Redfern, who was to all appearance in good health, suddenly fell down, and ere medical assistance could be obtained, life was extinct. - The general opinion is, that the cause of death was a *coup de soleil*. *Bell's Life, 31<sup>st</sup> January*

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - About noon yesterday, a watchman at Campbell's Wharf, named **OWN MEMINY**, was drowned while attempting to save the life of a sailor who had fallen into the water. The sailor was rescued, but was unable to speak when first taken out of the water. As soon as he recovered his speech, he told them that another person was in the water; but Meminy was drowned. The Water Police recovered the inanimate body. *Empire, Jan. 30*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/793, 07/02/1852**

**SUPPOSED INFANTICIDE.** - It appears that the bones taken out of the water closet, in East Maitland, and supposed to be those of an infant, are now pronounced not to be the bones of an infant. A young woman has been apprehended on the charge, but the enquiry is not yet concluded.

**THE GOLD FIELD**

**THE TURON.** - If an earthquake had devastated the region of the Turon, its effects could scarcely have been more disastrous than those occasioned by the floods of the past week. ... As usual on such occasions, the floods have been attended with loss of life. Four dead bodies have been picked up at various parts of the river. One was found, having on only a hunting shirt, at Sheep Station Point, and interred there; another below Harbottle's store, and two others lower down the river.

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT**

Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**MURDER.**

**JAMES CROSSLEY** was indicted for having murdered **JAMES KENNY**, at Bega, on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1851, by beating him about the head and body.

The two men lived at or near Bega, and appear to have been friendly. Kenny went to Crossley's hut on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, accompanied by **JAMES KIRKLAND**, intending to borrow some hemp; Crossley lent him the hemp, but they had some rum together, in which Kenny left fall a cup, and on Crossley's requesting him not to break it he let it fall again; Crossley struck him with his fist, on which Kirkland took Crossley by the shoulder and told him to go outside if he wanted to fight; Crossley swore they both came to rob him, and that he would shoot them, and he ran into his room; Kirkland, alarmed, ran away, and when he looked back after some time he saw Kenny leaving Crossley's hut, and falling and getting up again like a drunken man, Crossley being near him with a gun; Kirkland returned and asked Crossley if he had murdered the man, and Crossley said "Yes, you b-----, and I'll kill you too," at the same time striking at Kirkland with the stock of the gun, but the blow struck Kirkland on the elbow, and did not hurt him much. Several running fights subsequently ensued between Crossley and Kirkland. A little boy named **UNDERHILL** was looking out of a window, and described having seen Crossley striking at Kenny, who was lying on the ground, with a piece of wood, or something, and Crossley called Kenny a coward, when the latter got up and went away. Kenny was found not far from Crossley's hut, lying insensible, and bleeding freely from a wound in the head; he lived for some hours, but only spoke once. No medical man resided near, or saw him after death. Mr. **NATHAN**, surgeon, who was in court and heard the evidence, was of opinion that death was caused by extravasation of blood on the brain, arising from the injuries described. Crossley, when apprehended, denied having had and hand in inflicting the injuries on Kenny.

Mr. **DARVALL**, for the defence, argued that the case was one of assault, from which unfortunately death ensued.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder.

His Honor said he quite concurred with the verdict; but he was happy to say that he did not consider the case on in which the extreme penalty of the law should be passed. He would therefore direct that sentence of death be recorded; but he was unable to say what amount of secondary punishment should be recommended until he had consulted with his brother judges.

**CHINESE LABOURERS.** - Twenty-six Chinamen, imported by the *Ganges*, arrived here on Thursday night, having been engaged as farm and other labourers for Mr. **R. FITZGERALD**, J.P. On arriving at Mr. Fitzgerald's farm it was found that three were unable to get out of the wagons, in which they had all come from Parramatta, and on further inspection it was found that two of them were dead, and the other very ill; Dr. **DOWE** was immediately sent for, who promptly attended, and had the sick man removed to hospital, where he now lies recovering. A magisterial enquiry was on the 30<sup>th</sup> held, on the bodies of the two deceased, by **JAMES ASCOUGH**, Esq., J.P., at the hospital. Their names were, it appeared, **CHIOONG HANG** and **ONG KHAI**. When the Chinamen left the *Ganges*, and went up to Parramatta in the steamer, they all appeared healthy. In Parramatta one or two seemed to suffer from the excessive heat of the day. They all had an abundant meal of bread and water at Parramatta, and during the journey from thence to Windsor, which was performed in a wagon that afternoon, Chioong Hang, a strong healthy man, took great exercise in running and drank copiously of water, until he was suddenly taken ill and was obliged

to be lifted into the wagon. Ong Khai was not a strong man and the heat appeared to take a very great effect on him. All the Chinese drank freely of water on the journey. The post-mortem examination by Dr. Dowe showed that Chioong Hang died from sudden inflammation of the lungs, produced by the sudden checking of perspiration caused by his drinking cold water while very hot; and that Ong Khai died from the effect of pre-existing disease aggravated by the heat of the day. *Abridged from the Herald's Windsor Correspondence.*

**MAN DROWNED.** - On Saturday last a young man named **CHAPPEL** was drowned in attempting to cross the Macquarie, near the junction, on horseback. He took the water at a deep still hole on the river, and arrived safely on the opposite bank, which is very steep; when in the act of landing, the horse fell back, the unfortunate youth struggling hard to release himself, but in vain. He was struck by the fore-foot of the horse in his attempt to regain his equilibrium, and it is believed disabled, as he was known to be a good swimmer. At that moment he disappeared under the water, and rose no more. *Bathurst Free Press, Feb. 4*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - A man named **MARTIN MANGLIN** fell down dead on Thursday morning, while at work fencing in Macquarie-street. He had the previous day been discharged from the hospital, and had for some months been under medical treatment. On the enquiry before **JAMES ASCOUGH**, Esq., J.P., (held on the same afternoon) medical testimony was adduced that the deceased had died from natural causes. *Herald, Dec. 3*

**INTESTATE ESTATES.** (*Compiled from the Government Gazette*)

From the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1851, inclusive:-

**PETER KILDUFF**, late of Patrick's Plains; money received, £11 0s. 6d.; payments made, £9 11s. 7d.; paid into bank, £1 18s. 11d.; died November 25, 1850; accidentally killed by a dray wheel passing over his head at Rin's Creek, about six miles from Singleton.

**GEORGE TICKEL**, late of Brinckburn, near Singleton; money received, £6 5s 8d.; payments made, £3 6s. 4d.; paid into bank, £2 19s 4d.; died March 2, 1851; accidentally killed by a fall from a horse.

**JAMES ROCHE**, late of Grafton; payments made, £2 7s 5d.; paid into bank, £19 10s 9d.; died March 2, 1851; accidentally drowned at the Firth Falls of the Clarence River.

**RICHARD SCARCE**, formerly of England; payments made, £10 1s. 5d.; died January 4, 1849; at sea; emigrant per ship *Fortitude*.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 10/794, 11/02/1852

**INQUEST ON THE MAN DROWNED AT MORPETH.** - On Friday last the body of a man named **THOMAS JOHNSTON**, drowned at Morpeth on the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo, was found floating in the river at Swan Reach, some two miles below where he was drowned. On Saturday, and by adjournment on Monday, an inquest was held on the body, before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Hinton Hotel. The evidence taken ran to a great length, rumours of foul play having been prevalent, and a man named **PETER M'GRAW** having been in custody. It appeared that M'Graw and Johnston were in the employ of Mr. **PORTUS**, and that, on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., they and three sailors from the *Jenny Lind* cutter were drinking together in Morpeth till ten o'clock, when the sailors started to go on board. Johnston was then very drunk, and M'Graw did not wish him to go into a small dingy with which he proposed to put the sailors on board; Johnston insisted, however, and all five got into the dingy; Johnston and M'Graw had some words, and Johnston struck M'Graw in the dingy, but two of the sailors parted them, while the third pulled the dingy; Johnston still struggled to get at

M’Graw, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the sailors that he would upset the dingy, and Johnston eventually threw himself on the side of the dingy in the endeavour, when she filled with water and capsized, all five being thrown into the river, there very deep; they were some thirty yards from the shore, for which the three sailors and M’Graw swam, and safely reached, but Johnston, who made an ineffectual grab at M’Graw’s leg, was never seen again. The jury returned a verdict of death by accidental drowning.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Monday a three-horse dray belonging to Mr. **M’DONALD**, of the Goulburn, was coming towards Maitland, and had just passed Jump-up Creek, about twenty miles from Maitland, when Mr. M’Donald and Mr. **GORDON**, who was with him, stopped to drink at the creek. In the dray were seated Mrs. M’Donald, holding her baby, and another child; and a servant of Mr. M’Donald’s, named **BRAGG**, held the horses. The shaft horse got restive, and ran against the leaders, who plunged till they got away from Bragg, an elderly man, and the horses then galloped off, and at some distance took the dray over a stump, capsizing it instantly. Mrs. M’Donald and her children were thrown out with violence, and the poor baby was struck on the head by some part of the dray, and lived but four hours afterwards; Mrs. M’Donald and the other child were also severely hurt. An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of the infant, when a verdict of accidental death was returned.

#### **THE GOLD FIELDS**

**OPHIR.** - (*From the Bathurst Free Pres, Feb. 7.*)

Another melancholy accident has occurred since my last letter, in which I informed you of the death of a young man named **CHAPPEL**, by drowning, at the junction of our creek with the Macquarie. It now becomes my painful duty to acquaint you with the death of his brother, also by drowning, and at the same place. The unfortunate man, it appears, was attempting to cross the stream, on horseback, to obtain intelligence of his lost relative, and when he had reached the middle, his horse plunged into a deep hole, and lost his equilibrium, by which means the rider was thrown into the water, and being unable to swim, drowned. The two surviving brothers, one of whom is a blacksmith at Ophir, having made a fruitless search for the bodies, offered a reward for their recovery, and they were shortly afterwards found by diving, within a short distance of each other, and about a hundred yards from where they sank.

**CORONER’S INQUEST.** - Yesterday the adjourned inquest on the death of **JOHN SHORT** was resumed at the Sportsman’s Arms, South Head Road. Short, it will be remembered, died on the 18<sup>th</sup> ultimo from the effect of injuries received in a quarrel at the Sportsman’s Arms, on New Year’s Eve. The evidence now given was still imperfect, and the accused parties had still not been apprehended, having proceeded to the Turon before Short died. Short was drinking at the house with other parties, and applied some opprobrious words to and struck a Mrs. **BAKER**, who was there with her husband. A man named **COLEMAN** was also there, and Short and Coleman had been quarrelling previously. After Short applied opprobrious language to Mrs. Baker, Baker or Coleman, or both, attacked Short, and a brief struggle between the three took place in the bar, Short falling; he was picked up by the landlord, **NEWBY**, having received some injury, and was laid on a sofa. Subsequently, Short was removed to his own house, and was treated by two medical men in the neighbourhood as for an injury to the abdomen, having complained of being kicked there. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, however, Dr. **CUTHILL** was called in, and he found that Short had a rib broken, and that neglect of this had made the case dangerous. The symptoms getting worse

Dr. **FULLERTON** was also called in on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and on that day Short died. Short had made statements to Dr. Cuthill as to how he was injured, but as that gentleman had not informed Short that he would not recover, the Coroner held, on objection taken by Mr. **NICHOLS**, who appeared for Baker, that the statement was not admissible. No statement was made by Short to Dr. Fullerton, who told him his case was hopeless. Two women, however, friends of Mrs. Short, said that Short told them he should die, and that he was killed by injuries received from Baker's kicking him. These statements were also rejected afterwards, as being not admissible. Newby, the landlord, said Baker did not touch Short, but that Coleman threw him in the struggle, when Short fell heavily on a spittoon on the floor. A policeman who was present was occupied in assisting Mrs. Baker, whose face was bleeding from a blow struck her by Short, and the policeman consequently did not see the final struggle, but he deposed that Short, Coleman, Baker, and Newby all ran into the bar from the room where Mrs. Baker was struck, and that when he next saw Short he was laid on the sofa; Short made no complaint to him of injury or ill-usage. Both medical men were of opinion that falling on a spittoon could not occasion the injury to the rib; that death was caused by inflammation of the lung arising from the pressure of the fractured rib; but that had the rib been properly seen to by the medical men at first, death would not necessarily have resulted. The jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide against Coleman, and exonerated Baker from any share in Short's death. *Abridged from the Herald, Feb. 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/795, 14/02/1852

UNFOUNDED CHARGE OF INFANTICIDE. - On the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, the Coroner, Mr. **PARKER**, received information from Dr. **MALLON**, of East Maitland, that he had cause to believe that his servant, **CATHERINE CODY**, had some time previously borne a child, and had made away with it; Dr. Mallon's statement being, as he subsequently deposed on oath, that the girl had been several months in his service, and was occasionally ailing soon after entering it, and in about two months appeared to get better; that at the time he had no suspicion of her being *enceinte*, but that latterly his suspicions had been aroused, and on making search about to see if there was any trace of a child, he discovered in the water-closet on his premises, some bones, some human hair, and some small pieces of bombazine, leading him to the conclusion that the child had been thrown in there, wrapped up in the bombazine. Mr. Parker, on hearing this information, from a medical man, waited upon the police magistrate, and obtained a warrant for Catherine Cody's apprehension on making affidavit of the information he had received; and Cody was accordingly apprehended, and further search was made in the water-closet, under direction of the police. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Dr. Mallon gave evidence on oath to the above effect, but he finished by further stating that on further examination he was of opinion that the bones were not those of a human being, and that the hair was that of an adult. Cody was further remanded on bail (Dr. Mallon becoming bond for her appearance) till the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, Wednesday last. On that day she again appeared before the bench, when one witness, a Mrs. **MORRISON**, deposed that she knew Catherine Cody before and since she entered Dr. Mallon's service, and had no reason to believe that she was then *enceinte*; another witness, Dr. **WILTON**, deposed that he was satisfied the bones found were not those of an infant, nor of a human body. Cody was then discharged. - It is stated that the bones were those of a cat. [Before preferring so serious a charge against the young woman, Dr. Mallon was surely bound to have thoroughly satisfied himself that the bones found were those of an infant. - ED. MM.]

## HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

### DUNGOG

**SEVERE ACCIDENT.** - On Friday last, after a severe illness, Mr. **JAMES BELL**, a respectable settler, died, and yesterday his funeral was attended by nearly all the neighbours. **THOMAS PAGE**, a butcher and horsebreaker, was proceeding with his horse and cart to convey the remains of the deceased to the grave, and had got outside the township, when his horse, a young one, took fright, and ran away, upsetting the cart, the unfortunate driver falling underneath; assistance was soon on the spot, and the cart raised, when it was found that it had rested on the chest of Page, who was insensible, and to all appearances dead. Dr. **STREET** was promptly in attendance, and found that life was not extinct. Page remained under his care till last night in an almost hopeless state, but this morning shows symptoms of recovery.

**A MAN KILLED.** - On Tuesday an inquest was held at the Three Tuns, Elizabeth-street, on the body of **JOHN JAMISON**, late a seaman of the barque *Jessie Byrne*. It appeared from the evidence that on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, about midday, Jamison and other seamen were on the deck of the barque, then lying in Sydney harbour, and the steward was carrying a tureen to the cabin, when Captain **BAKER**, the master of the barque, came out from the cabin carrying a gun; as Captain Baker had some short time previously been firing at a little dog on deck, once when the dog was between the carpenter's legs, the steward was alarmed to perceive that the gun was held by Captain Baker pointing directly at him; he therefore called out, begging the captain to turn the gun from him; Captain Baker immediately did so, slewing it round so as to point over the side, but unfortunately the gun went off while still pointing along the deck, and the charge (shot) struck Jamison about the face and head, a few of the shots also striking the carpenter, who was standing further off. Captain Baker expressed the greatest regret at the occurrence, and sent for a doctor immediately. Jamison was shortly after taken to the Sydney Infirmary, and was attended by the medical men of that establishment, but he never recovered from the shock his system had sustained, and died on Sunday morning. Jamison throughout maintained that the injury was inflicted by accident, and the officer and men on deck were carefully examined as to this point. The jury returned a verdict of death from the accidental discharge of a gun, but they appended a rider blaming Captain Baker for such careless use of fire-arms. *Abridged from the Sydney papers.*

**MURDER.** - Intelligence reached town yesterday of a murder having been committed at Bell's Creek Diggings, but we are not in possession of particulars. *Empire, Feb. 12*

### MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

This Court commences on Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> March. The following is a list of the persons for trial:-

**PATRICK M'BAMARA**, murder; Maitland coroner;

**JOSEPH TOWNSLEY and AGNES TOWNSLEY**, manslaughter; Maitland coroner; ...

**THE GOLD FIELDS.** - **SOFALA, FEBRUARY 10.** - A most melancholy accident occurred this forenoon at Mundy Point. A Mr. **WILLIAM DUNKIN**, a gentleman of highly respectable connections both in England and the two colonies, was in the act of removing a pillar in the shaft of a claim he purposed working, when the mass of earth fell in upon him and crushed him to such a frightful extent that he expired almost immediately. I understand that Mr. Dunkin was related to Mr. **BAYLY**, of Mudgee, and also to Major **O'HALLORAN**, of Adelaide, South Australia.

### GOULBURN CIRCUIT COURT.

This court opened on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> instant, before Mr. Justice Therry.  
Tuesday, February 10.

**MURDER.** - **WILLIAM STERLING** was indicted for the murder of **HUGH OWEN**, on the 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The witnesses called were **CHARLES OWEN**, son of the deceased, **THOMAS OWEN**, his brother, **JOHN WADE**, a digger, trooper **WILLIAM LEACH**, and Dr. **FOWLIS**. Sterling and the three Owens went to the Braidwood diggings; at Berrima Sterling had a dispute and a fight with Hugh Owen, in which Owen proved the best man, Owen having it appeared fought a prize fight some time since at Parramatta. After the fight at Berrima the parties appeared as good friends as ever, and went on to Bell's Creek, where they arrived about Christmas. They dug then together until the 8<sup>th</sup> January; on that day they had all been drinking, more or less, and some of them continued it after nightfall; at a late hour the conversation turned to fighting, and Hugh Owen said at length to Sterling "I am a better man than you;" Sterling said, "Don't strike me, you are a b-----y crawler, Hughy;" Hugh Owen then walked over to Sterling, and knocked him down with a blow of his fist; he told Sterling to get up, and Sterling rose, and they fought for two or three minutes, when Owen stepped back in a fighting attitude, and fell suddenly, exclaiming "Oh, I am done." Thomas Owen then saw a knife in Sterling's hand, and ran over to his brother, whom he found bleeding from two deep wounds in the abdomen. Charles Owen had just been aroused from sleep by the affray, and soon after he came out of the tent he saw his father fall, as described, and saw Sterling going in, and observed him shut up a knife, and put it in his pocket. Wade saw the fight, and saw Hugh Owen fall, but could say nothing as to the blows that passed. Sterling afterwards admitted to Leach that he had stabbed Owen, and said, apparently in great excitement, that he would serve any man so that kicked or knocked him about in his sleep. Owen only lived about an hour after received the wounds. Dr. Fowlis described the wounds; one was a mortal wound, two inches from the navel, penetrating and cutting the intestines; the other was also a deep wound, penetrating the liver.

Mr. **PUREFOY** addressed the jury for the defence. He contended that all the circumstances exonerated Sterling from the heavy charge of wilful murder, but admitted that a case of manslaughter had been made out against him.

In summing up, the Judge particularly defined to the jury the distinction between murder and manslaughter.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter.

The prisoner was sentenced to seven years' hard labour on the roads, the first two years in irons.

**MANSLAUGHTER.**

**GEORGE RILEY** was indicted for assaulting **JOHN BROWN**, and inflicting sundry blows and kicks, whereby his death was accelerated. This was another case of drunken quarrelling at the diggings.

Guilty of assault. Twelve months' imprisonment.

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 10/797, 21/02/1852

**A MAN KILLED IN A WELL.** - An inquest was held yesterday at the Prince Albert Inn, Old South Head Road, on the body of **SYDNEY SMITH**. It appeared that about seven o'clock on Monday evening a hat was lost down a well, 70 feet deep, on the premises of Mr. **COOPER**, Old South Head Road; Smith and another man named **DOOLAN** were present, and in spite of Doolan's remonstrances Smith descended the well in search of the hat; having reached the bottom he was about being drawn up

again by Doolan and a young man named **OLIVER GORRICK**, when the timber work around the windlass gave way, and some of the timber fell into the well. Smith was now compelled to remain in the well for nearly an hour, till grappling irons were obtained; with their aid he was drawn nearly to the top, apparently insensible or dead, when the hold gave way, and he was precipitated back into the well. His dead body was not got out till the next morning. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. *Abridged from the Herald, Feb. 18*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/798, 25/02/1852

THE GOLD FIELDS. - THE TURON, FEB 17. - The body of an elderly man, a Frenchman, was discovered hanging from a tree in the creek adjoining the town this morning. The body was quite cold and stiff. Matrimonial *bliss* is reported to have impelled him to the dreadful deed. - A nephew of Mr. **RYAN BRENNAN** died at Golden Point this morning from a *coup de soleil*, received whilst engaged in cradling. BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT.

This court opened on Thursday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., before Mr. Justice Dickinson. MURDER.

**THOMAS WILMORE** was indicted for the wilful murder of **PHILIP ALGER**, on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1851, in the district of Wellington, by shooting him in the belly with a pistol.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and was remanded for trial.

MURDER.

**NEWING**, a Chinese, was indicted for the wilful murder of **ING**, also a Chinese.

There being at present no possibility of obtaining an interpreter conversant with the dialect of the prisoner, a native of Amoy, the trial was postponed till the next sessions, his Honor remarking that it must take place then, or the prisoner must be discharged on his own recognizances.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On the afternoon of yesterday se'nnight, a young man named **M'FADDEN** met with his death at Major's Creek, in a singular manner. It appears he was walking on a limb of a felled tree which was lying beside his work, when his foot slipped, causing him to fall across another tree of a smaller size. On being asked if he was much hurt, he complained of a pain in the lower part of his abdomen. He survived only a short time after he was removed to his tent. Dr. **CAMPBELL** was quickly in attendance, but his aid was unavailing. An inquest was held on the body, at which a verdict of accidental death was recorded. *Goulburn Herald, Feb. 23*

SUDDEN DEATH. - Yesterday an inquest was held by the Coroner, at the Patent Slip Inn, Sussex-street, on view of the body of Mr. **GEORGE IRELAND**, then lying dead at his residence in the same street. From the evidence of two of the sons of deceased, it appears that on Wednesday afternoon he lay down to rest on a sofa, after having partaken of a hearty dinner, and was suddenly taken ill. Every possible assistance was rendered, and Dr. **TIERNEY** was immediately sent for, but before he arrived deceased had expired. Dt. Tierney stated that he had viewed the body, on which there were no marks of violence, and that he had no doubt of death having resulted from natural causes – very probably from the rupture of some blood vessel in the chest. The jury found a verdict of died from the visitation of God. Deceased was about 55 years of age, and a remarkably healthy man. *Herald, Feb. 20*

DEATH OF TWO PERSONS FROM EXPOSURE TO THE SUN. - The Windsor correspondent of the *S.M. Herald* reports the proceedings at an inquest held there on the bodies of **SAMUEL HENLEY and his wife**. It appeared that on the night of Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, they slept at a house in or near Windsor, and left the house on

Saturday morning, after breakfast, having each drunk some rum, and taking about three glasses more in a bottle. The heat of the sun was very great that day. About three o'clock in the afternoon a man coming into Windsor observed Henley and his wife lying insensible on the bank of the South Creek, and on giving the alarm the bodies were moved into the nearest house, and a surgeon called in. The woman was found to be then quite dead, but the man lived for a few minutes, and then died. The skin on the woman's legs was burnt by the sun as if scalding water had been thrown on them, and the skin on the body of each was found painfully hot, and liable to rub off on the least friction. The place where they lay was unshaded, and exposed to the full influence of the sun. In the opinion of the surgeon, Dr. **WHITE**, death was caused by the exposure to the sun, aggravated by intemperance. The jury returned a verdict to this effect.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/799, 28/02/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Yesterday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, Coroner, at Mr. Healy's, Governor Bourke Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **JOHN SMITH**. It appeared from the evidence that Smith was a stockman in the employ of Mr. **GROVENOR**, of the Barwin River, and had just come down with cattle; Mr. Grovenor having paid him £8 wages after he reached Maitland, Smith commenced drinking, and had never been quite sober since; on Wednesday he fell or was thrown from his horse opposite Dr. **LIDDELL'S**, who remonstrated with him on the dangers of riding while intoxicated. On Thursday Smith as riding past the *Mercury* office with two companions, when they commenced trotting, and Smith reining his horse up suddenly, it plunged and fell over, Smith falling heavily on his head. Smith lay insensible on the ground after the fall, and Dr. Liddell was sent for, but found that Smith was bleeding from the ears, and exhibited every symptom of the base of the skull being fractured. Smith died in about an hour, never having spoken after the accident. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death by a fall from a horse while intoxicated.

REPORTED SUICIDE. - We are informed that one day last week a woman, having a child in her arms, jumped into the William River, when both were drowned. Up to yesterday we had not heard of the bodies being found.

SUDDEN DEATH. - An inquest was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, by the coroner of the district, at the residence of Mr. **LEEMING**, Overton, on the body of **WILLIAM SIMS**, who it appeared from the evidence was a carrier, and a robust man, and to all appearances was in good health. On the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant he was sitting in a cart near the dwelling house husking corn; a witness was sitting near him; deceased saw Mr. Leeming and another person driving in some cattle, and he said to Mr. Leeming's wife "They are fetching in some more milkers for you;" she replied "We have enough already;" deceased turned round as if he was going to spit over the side of the cart; his hands then trembled very much, and he never spoke afterwards; the witness caught hold of him, and he was lifted out of the cart; he sighed twice, and died. Deceased had some time previous told Mr. Leeming, when talking of a sudden death, that that would be the way he should die. The jury returned a finding that deceased died from natural causes, by the visitation of God.

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1852. - MURDER.

**THOMAS WILMORE** was indicted for the wilful murder of **PHILIP ALGER**, in the district of Wellington, on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1851, by shooting him in the belly with a pistol.

The circumstances of this case were reported in the *Mercury* some time since at length. The evidence now given proves that Wilmore confessed having had a quarrel with a fellow shepherd, named **WHELAN**, and that he went to Whelan's hut one evening, and remonstrated with him for "jacketing" him; Whelan said he would drive him off the station yet, when Wilmore replied that he would not give him the chance, and immediately shot him in the shoulder, and left him for dead. Wilmore then walked to a station fifteen miles off with his "swag," and slept there that night. Next morning Mr. Alger called there on horseback and had some refreshment, and showed a match box of gold he had got at the diggings; according to Wilmore's confession, and the evidence of an old shepherd who was at the station, Wilmore got into a dispute with Mr. Alger about the horse the latter rode, Wilmore claiming it as a stray horse (wanting one to tide, as he himself stated), and words following after Mr. Alger had showed the brand, Wilmore shot him in the abdomen with a horse pistol. Mr. Alger only lived five minutes after receiving the shot. Whelan recovered.

Mr. **HOLROYD**, for the defence, cross-examined the shepherd to endeavour to prove that Mr. Alger had threatened to punch Wilmore's head' and constable **FITZGERALD**, who related Wilmore's confession to himself, to prove that Fitzgerald was unworthy of belief.

His Honor reviewed the evidence, commenting upon portions of it as he proceeded, and commenced by explaining that killing and murder were not necessarily synonymous terms. Some allusion had been made by the learned counsel for the prisoner about the absence of malicious intent. He would remind the jury, however, that the law presumed malice in such cases where there was no evidence to disprove its existence, and the burden lay with the prisoner of furnishing such testimony. The first point the jury would have to consider was, whether the death was caused by the prisoner's hand was accidental or not; and the next, whether any reasonable motive was discoverable for making up such a confession as that fixed upon the prisoner. The jury would recollect that all antecedent impressions respecting the prisoner were to be set aside – that even if otherwise satisfied that he had committed the murder, they were bound by a solemn oath to decide according to the evidence, and that alone.

The jury retired, and after a very short absence returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoner, who listened to the portentous word with the most callous indifference.

#### MURDER

**THOMAS WILMORE** was then arraigned on a second charge of murder, committed on the 29<sup>th</sup> November last, upon the body of one **MALACHI DALY**, at a place called the Sugar Loaf, about nine miles from Wellington.

The evidence to prove the committal of the murder by Wilmore was almost solely that of constable Fitzgerald, who stated that Wilmore, whilst confined in the lock-up on the previous charge, offered to take them to a spot where lay the dead body of a man he had shot some time before, Wilmore's account being that he asked the man to turn up his money, and on saying he had none, and turning away he, (Wilmore) shot him in the back of the head, and consequently cut off one pocket, having money and gold dust in it, and ripped up the saddle to find more. An old man had then been missing for some weeks, named Malachi Daly, but Wilmore would not say who it was he killed. Fitzgerald, however, and other parties, went to the spot with Wilmore, and there found a human body, just as Wilmore had described, every circumstance corresponding. None of the parties who accompanied them on this journey were now present to give evidence, but subsequently the body was visited by **JAMES DALY**, who identified it to be the body of his father, and Dr. **CURTIS** found that the old man

had been killed as described, the back of the skull having a bullet-hole in it, and a bullet being found inside the skull.

Mr. Holroyd cross-examined Fitzgerald severely, but made no speech in defence.

His Honor then proceeded to sum up the evidence, making, as before, a few remarks relative to the difference between killing and murder. The jury, he said, must satisfy themselves that the prisoner actually did kill a man named Malachi Daly with such a weapon as that described in the indictment. His Honor then read the evidence, and with regard to the body being that of Malachi Daly, drew particular attention to the circumstance of Daly, jun., in his evidence, having found a truss upon the body such as his father wore, to the prisoner's statement that he had cut out one of the trousers pockets, the trousers having been found precisely in that state, and the stitches upon the knee. His Honor conceived the identity perfect.

At the close of his address the jury retired, and after a consultation of about ten minutes, brought a verdict of guilty against the prisoner.

His Honor proceeded most impressively to address the prisoner, warning him to throw off the callous hardihood he had assumed, and endeavour to make his peace with God. He then sentenced him to death, holding out no hope of mercy.

During the delivery of the address the prisoner listened with a half careless, half languid air, and when the police proceeded into the dock to secure his person, he met them with a laugh. This being noticed by his Honor, he called out as if to remonstrate with him about the terrible impropriety of his conduct. Turning suddenly round, the prisoner said, "I have been guilty of one murder, but not of two; my blood will be on the head of that jury," nodding towards the gentlemen who had just given their verdict. Observing that his Honor was about to say something more, he remarked in a tone of impatience, "Oh! I don't want to hear anything – let me go," and he stepped out upon the floor of the court with an air of the most appalling recklessness, striking his heel against the iron bar over the entrance in his hurry to leave the dock.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest has been opened before the coroner, on view of the body of **MARY ANNE MACKLEROY**, who was found in the harbour of Balmain, on Tuesday morning. Mr. **W.B. WEARING**, residing at Balmain, perceived a body floating in the water, and having procured assistance, had it conveyed to the ferry. It was the body of a fine young woman neatly dressed. On the head and neck marks of violence were found, the skull being fractured, and other injuries visible. The body was identified by Mrs. Mackleroy, of South Head Road, who stated that deceased was her daughter; that she was 19 years of age; and had been lately living from home, supporting herself very comfortably by needle. Some time ago, she had formed an acquaintance with a young man who had gone to the gold diggings, and with whom she had some disagreement, but the whole affair was by no means of a character to urge her daughter to commit suicide. When she last saw her, about three weeks ago, deceased was in excellent health and spirits. The coroner ordered a post mortem examination of the body to be made, and adjourned the inquest until Friday (to-morrow). *Herald, Feb. 26*

**ANOTHER MURDER.** - An inquest was held yesterday on the body of **JOHN COSTIGAN**, which had been exhumed that morning, after having been buried some days. Our readers will remember that we have before alluded to this mysterious affair. From the evidence of a keeper of a lodging house, and a nurse, it was shown that some three weeks ago the deceased came down from the diggings, complaining that he had been severely beaten about the head; that he procured medical assistance, but that he gradually sank, and expired on Friday week. Several of his relations and friends visited him during his illness, but none gave any information to the authorities,

and he was buried the day after his death. Dr. **SINGLETON** said that death arose from fracture of the skull, and effusion on the brain. In his opinion the fracture was caused by some blunt instrument, such as a spade would have inflicted. The only evidence as to the cause of death was deceased's statement to the nurse who attended him. He informed her that he was out looking for a horse which he had lost, and on enquiring about it of two men one struck him on the head with a spade and the other with a heavy stone, and that he freely forgave them, as they mistook him for some other person. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown, and severely censured the conduct of all acquainted with this dark affair for not communicating with the proper authorities. *Herald, Feb. 17*

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1852. - MANSLAUGHTER.

**WILLIAM DEVITT** was indicted for assaulting and wounding **GEORGE HART**, at Mudgee, thus causing his death.

Devitt had been lodging at the house of a man named **JOHN BROOKES**, for two or three days; one night he returned at dusk, and knocking, Brookes opened the door to admit him; Brookes then noticed a man lying in the road, and going to him he tried to pull him up, to get him out of the way; the man, who was Hart, took offence at this, and struck at Brookes, who tried to pacify him, but Hart continued to strike at him, and got him down, nor could Brookes get away from him; while still struggling to release himself Brookes heard a blow struck, and instantly found that Hart leaned over to one side, and then fell, evidently badly hurt, and bleeding from a blow on the side of the head, near the ear; Brookes, rising, found prisoner standing close by, with a gun in his hand, and concluding he had struck the blow, told him he had killed the man. Brookes then sent for the chief constable, and a doctor, but Hart died almost instantaneously. The post mortem examination showed that the skull was fractured at the temple, and such a fracture as would be caused by a violent blow with a gun. Devitt, who had afterwards tried to destroy himself in the lockup, acknowledged in defence that he killed the man, but said he did not mean to do it, and struck in defence of Brookes, and from fear that the man would afterwards turn on him.

His Honor summed up, recapitulating the evidence. If prisoner had reasonable ground for believing that deceased was committing a felony, or that Brookes's life was in danger, he was justified in using violence with an instrument, even at the risk of killing the aggressor. If prisoner had not reasonable ground for doing so, he is liable to be found guilty of manslaughter.

The jury retired for fifteen minutes, and on their return found a verdict of guilty.

Devitt was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest was held on Saturday, at the Whaler's Arms, on view of the body of "**APHONG**," a Chinaman, who arrived in the colony in the *General Palmer*, and whose body then lay on board the said vessel. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased was suffering from dysentery, a complaint which had been prevalent among the poor creatures of Chinamen who were brought hither from Amoy by the *General Palmer*. So prevalent indeed had the complaint been, that seventy of them had died on the passage, and many of the survivors were said to be in a very sad and debilitated condition on their arrival, but had progressed favourably since allowed good fresh diet in Sydney. Aphong, the deceased, went on Friday afternoon to the butt of the bowsprit, when he accidentally fell overboard, into the water. He soon rose again, and caught hold of a rope, but he was in so weak a condition, through the sufferings he had undergone, that he let go his hold of the rope, and fell back into the water, he

was brought up in less than five minutes, but the vital spark had fled, and all efforts to re-animate him proved abortive. Verdict, "accidental drowning." *Empire*, 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.** - Shortly before one o'clock on Sunday morning, a female named **WOODFORD**, residing in Prince-street, attempted to destroy herself, while labouring under a fit of delirium tremens, by cutting her throat with a knife. The wound, happily for her, was but a very slight one, so that the police did not think it necessary to remove her to the Infirmary. About 8 o'clock on Sunday she returned to consciousness, and she was left in charge of a benevolent neighbour, who undertook to look after her. *Herald*, Feb. 24

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 10/780, 03/03/1852

**CIRCUIT COURT BUSINESS.** - This morning, we believe, the trial of **M'NAMARA**, for murder, will come on first thing. The business of the court is so far advanced that unless M'Namara's trial proves longer than expected, or some other cause of delay occurs, the criminal business may possibly be finished on Thursday.

**NON-ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES.** - Yesterday an application was made to the Chief Justice, in the Circuit Court, for a warrant to apprehend a lad named **EDWARD GLASHEEN**, a witness in the case of M'Namara, for murder, who had been in attendance on Monday, but who had not appeared that day, although specially warned to attend. Glasheen having been called at the door, it was decided, after some discussion, that the best course would be for the information of his non-attendance, in itself a misdemeanour, to be made before the police magistrate, and for a warrant or summons to be issued for him. This was done, and a warrant issued, and Glasheen was apprehended under it in the course of the afternoon.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.**

On Sunday night, about eleven or twelve o'clock, a young man named **JAMES HICKS** was drowned in the Hunter, at Morpeth. Hicks, an immigrant recently arrived by the *Kate*, had hired as farm servant to a settler living below Morpeth; on Sunday he and two shipmates came up river in a boat to Morpeth, and are stated to have spent the day there; late in the evening they started to return home, in the boat, but had not got further down than opposite Mrs. Cornelious's inn, when Hicks was drowned. The unfortunate occurrence is stated to have been quite accidental, but as not doubt an inquest will be held on the body, we do not give the reported particulars. The body could not be found on Sunday night, although every exertion was made with drags, &c. It was found yesterday morning.

**THE GOLD FIELDS.** - **THE TURON.** - An accident which terminated fatally within five minutes of its occurrence took place at Two Mile Creek, a station of Mr. Richards', about two miles from the Turon. A little boy of about five years of age, named **HILL**, whose father is a bullock-driver, was standing on the wheel of the dray, when the bullocks happening to start, he clung to the felloes in such a manner that his head passed underneath. Although not loaded his head was so horribly crushed as to cause his death in the time above mentioned.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Wednesday last a man named **JOHN HUTTON** was thrown from his horse in George-street, near the old burial ground, when his head coming in contact with a stump, a concussion of the brain took place, from which he died on the following day. The attendance of Dr. **M'HATTIE** was procured, but the injuries he had received were of so severe a nature that medical skill was of no avail. An inquest was held over his body at the White Horse Inn, on Thursday, before Captain **SUTHERLAND**, when a post mortem examination was instituted by Dr.

M'Hattie, the result of which is given above. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury. *Bathurst Free Press, Feb. 28*

THE CASE OF DROWNING. - An inquest was held yesterday at the Shipwright's Arms, Balmain, on view of the body of a young woman, name unknown, who was supposed to be **MARY JANE McELROY**. **ELISHA McELROY**, being sworn, stated that he lived on the South Head Road, and the body which the jury had viewed was not that of his daughter. She had not been living with him during the last three weeks. He believed a young man was paying his addresses to her, but he was not acquainted with his name. She sometimes went into service, but usually got her living by her needle. Witness received intelligence on Monday morning that a body was floating near Balmain. He pulled in his boat to it, and perceived it to be the corpse of a female. A visite was fastened about the head, covering the face; witness pulled it off; there was a cut on her right eye. Two other persons came, and assisted witness to tow the body on shore. Dr. **TIERNEY** made a post mortem examination of the body, which was in a state of decomposition, particularly about the face. He carefully examined the body, but could find no marks of violence; his attention had been particularly called to the face and scalp, but he could not detect any wound. Having been led to suppose that a fracture existed in the frontal bone, he cut down to the bone, and could detect no fracture. She was not pregnant, and he had no doubt that she died from suffocation by drowning. Dr. **ELLIOTT** deposed that he saw the body, and was present at the post mortem examination made by Dr. Tierney; he could not discover any cause of death save that of drowning. **JAMES M'CASKEY**, constable in the Sydney police, saw the body on Tuesday; she had on a black satin visite; she had ear-rings and drops to them; she wore a dark brown flowered delaine dress, satin boots, and white stockings. **MARY JANE McELROY**, residing in Prince-street, being sworn, deposed - "I am daughter to Elisha McElroy; I have three sisters; they are all living with my mother; they are all alive; my mother has been drinking lately, and owing to that circumstance I think that must have been the cause of the mistake." Verdict - Found drowned; how, or by what means no evidence being given, does not appear.

SUICIDE. - On Thursday an inquest was held at Mr. Driver's, "Three Tuns Tavern," on view of the body of **JOHN GAMBLE**, lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. From the evidence of two fellow lodgers it appeared that he was a shore-maker, aged 25 years, and that for some days he had been drinking to excess, and was usually a man of melancholy disposition. It appeared on the morning of Monday last the deceased had made an attempt to drown himself, but was prevented. In the evening two of his fellow lodgers went into his room to inquire how he was; they found him in bed with a razor in his hand, and his throat cut. Dr. **M'PHEE** was sent for, who dressed the wound and ordered his removal to the Infirmary, most of the people about the place being intoxicated. The jury returned a verdict of "died from cutting his throat whilst in a state of temporary insanity induced by intemperance." *People's Advocate, Feb. 23*

FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE BAY. - We regret to learn that the small schooner *Jenny Lind*, which has been for some time past employed in bringing shells to the township under the management of a man named **WILLIAMS**, was capsized while proceeding across the bay to the mouth of the river, we believe on Friday last. The only persons on board when the accident occurred were Williams and a native black and his gin, and according to the statement of the black, the small vessel being deeply laden with shells, went over in a squall. The aboriginal and his gin rescued Williams two or three times, whilst in the act of sinking; but unfortunately, notwithstanding all

their exertions, he at last went down. We have not heard whether the body has been recovered. *Moreton Bay Free Press, Feb. 19*

MARANOA DISTRICT, SURAT, JAN. 10.

PAGE DAMAGED. Drowned whilst bathing, chief constable ??Kenzy.

*Correspondent of the Moreton Bay Courier; page 5, column d*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/781, 06/03/1852

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

THURSDAY, MARCH 4.

MANSLAUGHTER

**JOSEPH TOWNSLEY and AGNES TOWNSLEY** were indicted for the manslaughter of their female child, aged seven weeks, by neglecting to give it proper food and nourishment, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1851, to the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1852, on which latter day it died, at West Maitland.

The witnesses called were **MARIA BALL, ELIZA HORNE, HARRIET NEWMAN, JOHN STONHAM, GEORGE NEW, MARY HENRY, JAMES DINAH, and Dr. FREDERICK JOSHUA BEARDMORE.**

Mrs. Ball, a married woman, lived near the house occupied by the prisoners, in West Maitland, and tenant under the same landlady, Mrs. Henry; prisoners had a baby, which died on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1852, witness believed; it was under three months old, and a male child; from the little witness saw of it, it appeared a healthy child, but witness believed it was neglected, as the prisoners were always drinking, both of them appearing to be intoxicated nearly every day, and particularly the female prisoner; this was the case more especially after the birth of the child; Townsley was a shoemaker; the prisoners frequently had men going backwards and forwards in their house, and witness and her husband were greatly annoyed by the noise from it, so much so that they left in consequence, on the 27<sup>th</sup> December; the baby used to cry very hard, often for a long time together, as if distressed and in want; this was particularly the case at night, the cry seeming to witness as if it was in want of food; witness twice seriously entreated the male prisoner to reform his life, to keep less bad company, and refrain from drinking; he promised to do so, but after a little time witness observed no change in their habits; witness said nothing to prisoner about the child, and witness's husband would not let her go into the house to see to the baby, when they heard it crying so, saying it was not a fit house for her to go into. Cross-examined: Could not say whether the child was or was not suckled and fed regularly, or washed and clothed as a child ought to be; nor could she say if it was not attended to when needing medical attendance; witness did not believe the prisoners ever neglected their child when sober, but solely from the influence of drink; the child was neglected when they were drinking. The witness was further cross-examined at considerable length. By a juror: Never saw the child look as if pining or delicate, never had any quarrel or acquaintanceship with the female prisoner. - Mrs. Horne lived near the prisoners, two court-yards lying between them; the morning the child died witness was sent for by the female prisoner, on a Saturday morning; the child was dead when witness reached the house; had never much noticed the conduct of the parents previously, but the night before the child's death heard the female prisoner talking, as if she was in liquor, to a man whom she accused of giving her poison; witness had seen the female prisoner out in the street, but did not know whether she had left any one at home to mind her child; had seen men and woman going in and out of the prisoner's house, sometimes drunk and sometime sober; some of them two or three days before the child's death; had seen the female prisoner in liquor at other times; was too far from

them to hear children crying. By his Honor: Had seen the female prisoner go too often to the nearest public-house; sometimes three times a day; she was often in liquor; witness had heard that drunkenness poisoned the milk of mothers; witness saw on the body of the dead child black marks down one side of its body; the female prisoner was present, and had been drinking; another woman present called attention to the marks, and the female prisoner said they came from the child lying on a hot bed; witness had seen the male prisoner drinking but had never seen him drunk. By Townsley: Witness heard the doctor who examined the child say at the inquest that the discoloration was the effect of inflammation of the lungs; did not hear him say it arose from violence, or a bruise, or a fall; the child was a boy. - Mrs. Newman, a married woman, living near the prisoners, saw the dead body; witness confined the female prisoner of the child, as a midwife; did not see much of the male prisoner's conduct afterwards; saw the mother afterwards tipsy, and neglecting her baby from being unable to attend to it; witness continued to attend on the mother for nearly a fortnight; four or five days after the baby was born witness saw the mother intoxicated; saw her intoxicated six or eight times after, day by day; never found her sober afterwards, when witness visited her; for a month or five weeks before the death of the child witness did not go to the house, or see the mother; saw men visiting the house, some coming out tipsy; the female prisoner was sober when witness visited the house on the morning the child died; the father used to drink, but not so bad but what he could conduct himself; when witness reached the house after hearing the child was dead, she asked the male prisoner why he had not told her of it when she saw him; he said he did not want any one to know, did not want to make any bother about it; the previous evening witness heard the female prisoner quarrelling with a man as if in liquor. Cross-examined: The male prisoner did make the remark she said; witness and others advised him to report the death to the police and coroner, as it was so sudden; it was about eight o'clock in the morning when she reached the house. - Stonham, a night watchman, heard a very young child cry very much in prisoner's house, a night or two before it died; it was about midnight; the child cried as if it had cried much before, and was in a suffocating state; witness called up the next neighbour, George New, who went into the house and roused the people, and the crying ceased; twice before during the previous six weeks witness heard the child crying in that manner, and went to the house and tried to rouse the people by knocking, but failing he called up George. - George New had often heard the child crying by night, and had waked the people up; it cried very weakly the night before it died, and he went all round the house, knocking at the doors and windows, and could not rouse the people; the child cried for several hours, and witness tried twice to rouse them, but could not, the door being locked; about five o'clock in the morning witness heard Mrs. Townsley calling out "murder, murder, my infant's gone, what shall I do?" witness had gone in repeatedly before to arouse them when hearing the child, and had found the mother too drunk to lift her child, and sometimes the male prisoner was too tipsy to be aroused by shaking; two nights before the child's death witness was alarmed, saw flames in their house, and burst in the door, and found the straw bed on fire, one little boy, who had his hair singed, having got away into a corner of the room, crying, Townsley lying drunk on the floor, and the others on the bed, the fire being within a few inches of Mrs. Townsley's head; she was so drunk that neither the noise nor the cold water used to put out the fire waked her up; the baby was lying on the bed; many men visited the house; most of the men who went there were shoemakers, he thought; they used to come out all hours of the night; they were drinking there; the evening before the child died Mrs. Townsley came home in liquor, with the child under her

shawl. Cross-examined: The child always looked very well, and very clean, for what witness saw; it was neglected of a night; never heard of the child being unwell, or taking medicine. - James Dinah was sworn, as being a witness before the coroner, but was not questioned by the crown. Cross-examined: Never saw the prisoners neglect their children; the death of the child was reported by them to witness between six and eight o'clock. - Dr. Beardmore examined the body of the dead child on the morning it died; the discoloration of the skin was only what would be caused by the mode in which it lay; on opening it no blood was found in the organs; there was some inflammation of the pleura and the bowels, but not enough to cause death; the other organs were healthy; the bowels and stomach were empty, but that might be caused by dysentery; the child had been much reduced in body; that might arise from many causes; sickness or other things, such as want of food, might cause it; he would not swear positively to the cause of death; the disorder of the bowels he described would have been removed by medical treatment and care, and the child might have become a healthy child; it was a male child. By his Honor: The stomach and bowels were not perfectly empty, there being traces of food in each; the child was in an exceedingly weak state, which might have been owing to the inflammation he found; there was no sign on the body of leeches or blisters having been applied; the want of blood must have been caused either by the child being very ill or very badly fed; the habitual use of spirits to excess by mothers was very injurious to the milk, and brought on many diseases in children; a child during the first eight weeks of its life required very great care, pure milk from the mother, and constant attendance; if a young child was left two or three nights in a week unattended for hours together, and its mother lying drunk on a bed, it would tend to produce the appearances witness saw; generally, but not always, the use of spirits diminishes the quantity of milk. Cross-examined: Townsley called in witness, about five in the morning, to see the dead child, and to enquire whether the Coroner should be sent for; Townsley told him he had been at his house to call him previously that morning; witness thought the child died from neglect and want of treatment, as it would he thought have lived had it been treated properly, and attended to. By his Honor: The use of spirits by a suckling woman was undoubtedly injurious, particularly if used in excess; could not say whether it would necessarily produce inflammation in the infant.

On the application of the Solicitor General his Honor directed the indictment to be amended by substituting a "male child" for a "female child."

In defence Townsley said that the child was delicate from its birth, and he and his wife treated it with all the care they bestowed on their other children, and they lost it by the visitation of God, and not by their own neglect. He denied that such a fire occurred as New had stated. He had a full appreciation of the duties incumbent on parents, and believed that he and his wife had discharged them to their dead infant. He relied with confidence that the jury would not come to the conclusion that on the evidence they could convict him and his wife of causing by neglect the death of their own child. - He called one witness, **DANIEL JAMES**, but he did not appear.

His Honor summed up. As in cases of this kind the verdict of the jury must be very materially influenced by the opinions expressed by the medical witnesses, he always thought it most desirable that the coroner should call in two medical men. The jury must in regard to the prisoners determine their respective innocence or guilt, whether each had or had not discharged a parent's duty, or had or had not by neglect caused the death of their child – solely on the evidence given in relation to each. If the jury came to the conclusion that the poor child did die of neglect, one or both of the prisoners, as its parents, were responsible for its death, inasmuch as it was the duty of

a parent, as such, to take proper care of, and give proper food or nourishment to his or her child.

The jury, after a few minutes' consultation, returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners, but recommended the male prisoner to mercy. The female prisoner entreated his Honor to let all the punishment fall on her, for no one could be a better husband or father than her husband was. Agnes Townsley was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, in Maitland gaol; and Joseph Townsley to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, in Parramatta gaol.

#### INQUEST.

On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, at Mr. Eckford's, the White Swan Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **MARY NOBBS**, an infant child of a few days old. The body of the child, which had been some days buried, and had been exhumed by order of the Coroner, information having been given from hearsay that the death had been sudden, and the burial conducted very quietly. From the evidence it appeared that the mother of the child was confined at the house of Mr. **BROWN**, the Royal Oak Inn, on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult., and was attended in her confinement by Mrs. Brown, and professionally by Dr. **M'CARTNEY**; Dr. M'Cartney visited his patient, who appeared very fond of her infant, for three days, and then left, Mrs. Brown having some words with him, and paying his fees; up to that time the child was healthy, but suffering somewhat from the mother having no milk; Mr. and Mrs. Brown tried over Maitland to get a wet nurse for it, but could not, and Mrs. Brown accordingly fed the child with such food as she thought was best on the occasion; the infant got sick about the 21<sup>st</sup>, and Mrs. Brown gave it some castor oil, but it did not seem relieved; on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. Brown and the mother took the child to be christened, which was done by the Rev. Dean **LYNCH**, when it was remarked by the clerk that the child appeared very ill; still Mrs. Brown, who has five children, did not think the child dangerously ill, and neither she nor the mother thought it necessary to call in a medical man; the child died, however, next day. On the 24<sup>th</sup> it was buried in the Catholic burial ground, West Maitland, notice of the death having been given to Mr. Lynch and the clerk, in the usual way, and the sexton receiving the usual directions to dig the grave; the body was taken to the grave by Mrs. Brown and the mother in a gig. Dr. M'Cartney was examined, and deposed to the confinement, &c., as above, and stated that under the circumstances he should have expected to be sent for when the child became ill, and should have attended had he been sent for. Dr. **LIDDELL** performed a post-mortem examination, but decomposition had proceeded so far that he could only say all the bones were perfect, and no traces of violence or an unnatural death were perceptible. The jury returned the following verdict: "The jury find that Mary Nobbs came to her death by natural causes, and further that no blame is to be attributed to any party." The coroner was dissatisfied with this verdict, and he added the following memorandum: "I, the Coroner, dissent from this verdict, and consider that much blame is to be attached to the mother, and the residents of the house, for not sending for a surgeon. **JOHN S. PARKER**, Coroner."

**DEATH FROM DROWNING.** - On Tuesday, and by adjournment on Wednesday, an inquest was held at Morpeth by Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **JAMES HICKS**, whose death by drowning while passing with others in a boat down the Hunter on the evening of Sunday last we reported in Wednesday's *Mercury*. The evidence proved that Hicks and several shipmates had been drinking at the Globe Tavern, Morpeth, that evening, and that when they left in the boat to return to their homes down the river, Hicks was quite drunk, lying in the fore part of the boat; he fell into the water before the boat had gone a hundred yards, but only one of the three, **WILLIAM**

**CAMPKIN**, was sober enough to know what he was about, and Campkin was pulling with his back to Hicks, and heard no noise previous to a splash in the water; Hicks sunk before Campkin could reach him. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was drowned out of a boat, but how there was no evidence to show.

**CORONER'S INQUEST. - MANSLAUGHTER.** - Yesterday evening an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Sportsman's Arms, Pitt-street, on view of the body of **ELIZABETH MALLON**, an infant seven weeks old. **MARY ANNE BAGNEY**, the mother of the deceased, appeared in custody. The evidence disclosed a sad case of intemperance and dissolute habits on the part of the prisoner, who it appears has scarcely been sober since the birth of the child, and which was found dead in her arms by some of the inmates of the rookery which she and the father inhabited in one of the courts of Pitt-street South, on Tuesday last; the mother being then asleep, in a state of intoxication. Dr. **FULLERTON** stated, that he had made a post mortem examination of the body of the infant, which was of a very small size for the age stated, and apparently had not received enough nourishment. No external marks of violence were visible. On opening the abdomen the internal organs were in a healthy state. The appearances were such as are always found in cases of sudden death, and Dr. Fullerton was of opinion that suffocation was the cause of death, the mouth and nostrils being immoveably open, as if the child had been gasping to breathe before it expired. The Coroner having charged the jury, and adverted to the deplorable features of the case, the jury, under his direction, found a verdict of manslaughter against the mother, who was committed to take her trial at the ensuing session of the Central Criminal Court. *Herald, March 4*

**WATER POLICE OFFICE. - "THE GANGES."** - Mr. **W.G. MARTIN** and Mr. **R.H. NEWMAN**, the first and second officers of this ship, who stand charged with the manslaughter of a Chinese immigrant, name unknown, during the voyage of the *Ganges* from Amoy hither, and whose case was postponed from the 18<sup>th</sup> ultimo until yesterday, in order that Major **LOCKYER**, the presiding magistrate, might ascertain the opinion of the Attorney General thereon, again appeared before this court. Major Lockyer said, that upon consideration, he found that it would not be fair to the Attorney General to ask his opinion of this very serious matter at this stage of the proceedings; and, therefore, looking at the evidence, it was his painful duty to commit both the defendants to take their trial for manslaughter at the ensuing session of the Central Criminal Court. He would admit them to bail in the same amounts as before, themselves in £100, and two sureties in £50 each. The case, which Mr. **ROBERT JOHNSON**, at the last hearing, declared was beset with more conflicting evidence than any one which he had met with in the whole course of his experience, may be briefly described as follows:-

Upon the arrival of the *Ganges* in Port Jackson, with 216 Coolies, on the 26<sup>th</sup> January ult., the steward, **JOHN QUIGLEY**, was confined, in irons, in the water-closet, where he had been kept for 83 days, on a charge of having thrown one of the Coolies overboard during the voyage. Captain **CONNELL** did not, however, follow up this charge, and upon Quigley being released, he exhibited an information against the first and second officers charging them with having caused the death of another of the Coolies by beating him and otherwise ill-using him on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> January last. From the mass of most conflicting evidence which was taken before the Water Police bench, the following facts were gathered:-

- namely, that on the night in question, the Coolie in question was detected by Mr. Martin in the act of stealing the stores in the cuddy, and that he was thereupon taken up to the poop, and tied to the mizenmast, where, about four o'clock in the morning,

he was found dead. Quigley, who at the time was confined in the water-closet, swore that he saw both the first and second officers beat the Coolie most severely before they dragged him on to the poop; and this statement was partly corroborated by two of the seaman; but a little boy **BENJAMIN WOOD**, about eight years of age, and who gave his evidence in a most intelligent manner, stated, that the Coolie having attempted when the boat was being put about, during the time he was confined to the poop, to escape therefrom, he had slipped down the poop ladder, and severely cut his head among the buckets on the quarter deck. Dr. **LIDDLE**, the surgeon-superintendent, who made a post mortem examination of the body on the following morning, described the injuries on the head to be such as, in his opinion, would have been inflicted by such a fall as described by the boy, and not such as would have been inflicted in the manner sworn to by Quigley. He bore the highest testimony to the humane treatment of the coolies by both the officers. The evidence of the boy Wood was to a great extent corroborated by the carpenter; and the whole of the witnesses admitted, that until the *Ganges* arrived here no charge of having caused the death of the coolie was made by any of the crew against either of the officers. Captain **MALLARD**, who sat on the bench with Major Lockyer during the first two days, expressed an opinion that no case was made out against either of the defendants, and declined to go on with the investigation; but Major Lockyer said that in the face of the evidence of Quigley, and the seaman who was at the wheel when the deceased was confined on the poop, he could not consent to dismiss the case on his own responsibility. *Herald, March 4*

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>, 1852. - MURDER.

**PATRICK M'NAMARA** was indicted for the wilful murder of **ROSE M'NAMARA**, at Aberglaslyn, on the 2nd March, 1851, by striking and thrusting at her with a knife, and thereby inflicting on the left side of her neck one mortal wound, whereof she instantly died.

The prisoner was not defended by counsel. He had, it appeared, applied to the Chief Justice, by affidavit, in Sydney, to have counsel assigned for his defence; so much attention had been paid to this application that a solicitor had, by direction of his Honor, obtained a copy of the depositions, and read them over to the prisoner; but as the only counsel now in attendance declines to act unless retained, under the impression that the prisoner or his friends had ample means to retain counsel, his Honor said he could do no more than watch the case himself for the prisoner.

**HENRY HINTON** deposed that he lived at Aberglaslyn, five or six miles from West Maitland; **JAMES M'PHELEMY** also lived there, his hut being 300 or 400 yards from witness's; the ground between was level, and one hut could be seen from the other; a prickly pear hedge ran along a fence through part of the ground, which was all visible from witness's; it ran near M'Phelemy's house; there was a gate in the fence, down to which a fence ran from witness's hut; witness recollected Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1851; saw a man on that day, before ten o'clock in the morning, at the gate in the fence; witness was expecting a shipmate, and was looking out, but saw that this man was M'Namara, the prisoner; prisoner went from the gate along the prickly pear hedge towards M'Phelemy's hut, but on witness's side of the fence; prisoner went up to M'Phelemy's premises, and witness saw him draw the slip panel there, five or six yards from the hut; prisoner then went round the corner of the hut, and witness lost sight of him; about twenty minutes had passed in the interval, from when witness first saw him at the gate; but witness was not looking at prisoner all the while; that morning saw M'Phelemy and his wife go out in their cart, after the prisoner was first

seen at the gate, but before he went along the fence from it; other persons also passed on their way to chapel, as the M'Phelemy's had done; these persons had all to pass through the gate, but prisoner withdrew each time any person approached; Rose M'Namara was then living at M'Phelemy's; witness's wife went out to go to M'Phelemy's with milk after having been looking at prisoner's movements with witness, and she immediately returned and said something; she went out a second time, and returned in a few minutes afterwards with the boy **GLASSHEEN**; that was perhaps a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes after prisoner was lost sight of round the corner of M'Phelemy's hut; witness then went with Glasheen to M'Phelemy's slip panel, and met three of M'Phelemy's young children, and met also little **ANNIE M'NAMARA**, Mrs. M'Namara's child; she was about a year and a half old, and quite covered with blood; this was about ten rods from the hut; witness took the little child home to his own house, and handed her to an old man there. Witness did not like to enter M'Phelemy's house alone, but went for some neighbours named **DAN HARTIGAN**, **PRICE**, and **BRIDGET RILEY**; Mrs. Riley and witness went and looked in at the back window of M'Phelemy's hut, and saw Rose M'Namara lying quite dead, and the blood about her looking cold and thick; there was blood all over the house, in both the front room and the back skillion room; the door between the two rooms was lying on the floor inside the back room. Had not observed any other persons about than those he mentioned. Witness saw no more of prisoner after they lost sight of him round the corner of M'Phelemy's hut; there was no roadway front. On the slip panel they found the marks as of two bloody hands, apparently those of a grown person; not far from this point there is a hole in a kind of a creeping rose fence, from which a person could go into the Aberglaslyn vineyard; at the slip panel a man would be in sight from witness's hut, but he could get out of sight after coming out through the panel. By his Honor: There was but one outer door to M'Phelemy's hut, and it was in the front. It was perhaps three quarters of an hour from the time witness first saw prisoner at the gate, till witness met the child covered with blood. Witness thought no other persons could have passed without being seen by either himself or his wife, as they were looking out expecting a shipmate to come; he did not come that day. The front of M'Phelemy's hut faced the river, and was perhaps 400 yards from it; witness thought no one had approached the hut from that way; the river was too deep there.

Prisoner said he would ask no questions himself, and did not know how to ask them.

**ANNE HINTON**, wife of Henry Hinton, corroborated her husband's evidence. She could not identify the man she saw at the gate, nor say whether it was the same man they just saw there whom she afterwards saw go round the corner of M'Phelemy's hut; she was going with milk to M'Phelemy's, but seeing the man go round the corner of the hut she did not like to go on, and returned. About a quarter of an hour afterwards witness went again, but met the boy Glasheen, and having heard something from him, and seeing the children near M'Phelemy's, she ran back to her own house, and told her husband. Her husband went over with Glasheen, and brought back the prisoner's child, covered with blood, the child itself being unhurt. Witness could not identify the man she saw from previous knowledge, but she believed it to be the prisoner.

By his Honor: Witness knew Mrs. M'Namara, but not M'Namara himself; Mrs. M'Namara had left her husband, and has been living with her sister, Mrs. M'Phelemy, for three or four weeks before this. Saw no other person about the place than those she now mentioned.

**EDWARD GLASHEEN** deposed that he was thirteen years old; in March last years he was employed as a shepherd by Mr. **NICHOLSON**; on a Sunday morning he was watching his sheep, at Aberglaslyn, when he saw the prisoner, whom he did not then know; witness saw the M'Phelemy's going to chapel, and near an hour afterwards saw prisoner near Hinton's, near the prickly pear fence, prisoner being then walking up through the paddock; prisoner spoke to witness, asking him who lived in the huts occupied by Hinton, Hartigan, and James M'Phelemy; witness told him; prisoner asked who was at home at M'Phelemy's; witness told him M'Phelemy's sister-in-law, **Rosey Kelly** [Mrs. M'Namara's maiden name], and the children; witness had seen prisoner previously walking as if towards Hinton's hut, but on witness whistling to his sheep prisoner turned, and came to him, and asked the questions described; prisoner, after the conversation, went towards M'Phelemy's hut; witness went after his sheep, and lost sight of prisoner. Some time after this met M'Phelemy's children outside their hut, and Annie, Rosey's child, covered with blood, and witness met Mrs. Hinton, and told her; the children turned towards witness when they saw him with the sheep, and spoke to him. When the men had come witness looked into M'Phelemy's hut, and saw Rosey Kelly lying dead there.

Prisoner denied asking any such questions as described, saying he knew the place well and had no occasion to ask the questions. The witness was positive the questions were asked, and that prisoner was the man who asked them.

**DANIEL HARTIGAN** described his accompanying Hinton and others, as already deposed, to James M'Phelemy's hut; he thought this was some where between eleven and twelve o'clock, but probably he recollected the time better when examined a year ago. Witness saw the dead body of Rose M'Namara in the hut, and noticed two or three cuts on her neck; there was a great quantity of blood about her, and about the articles in the room; the middle door was lying on the floor in the back room, as if it had been violently pushed inwards; the body was cold, witness having put his hand to the cheek to feel; witness was there when the Coroner came and saw the body, and when Dr. **M'CARTNEY** arrived to examine it.

By Prisoner: Prisoner had been at a former time reaping on one of three farms there, and witness should think he would know all the houses about there; prisoner was twice in witness's house.

**EDMUND DOYLE** deposed that he kept a lodging house in West Maitland; prisoner lodged there for some weeks; On Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, prisoner rose early, and he and witness had some liquor together; prisoner cleaned himself and left, about seven o'clock, saying he was going into the bush; he had borrowed a shilling from witness's wife; he had on white trousers, tweed coat, or something similar, and black waistcoat, and witness believed a white shirt. Did not remember that prisoner said anything about returning, or about his clothes. Conversation about prisoner's wife had at different times passed in the house before; witness had once heard prisoner say "it would not end well," when a Mrs. **HOWE** was talking about his wife and her relations, and about prisoner and his wife living apart; could not fix the date of that conversation. The coat produced was the one prisoner wore on the morning he left, to the best of witness's knowledge.

**MICHAEL M'CARTNEY**, surgeon, deposed that he examined the dead body of Rose M'Namara in M'Phelemy's hut, on the Sunday evening; death was immediately caused by a deep wound in the left side of the neck, separating the inner and outer carotid arteries; there as a great deal of blood about her; it appeared to witness that she must have been on the ground when she received the fatal wounds, and must have died in a few seconds; there were numerous other wounds on the body, one deep one,

as from a stab, being in front, just above the breast-bone; there were upwards of twenty-seven wounds and bruises on the body; several, and one in particular, could not have been inflicted by deceased herself; the fingers were also cut inside, as if she had received a wound while trying to defend herself; there was every appearance as if a struggle had taken place before the fatal wound was inflicted. Many of the wounds were long cuts, slashes; they must have been inflicted with a very sharp knife; witness never saw a body so gashed and wounded.

**WILLIAM WARD** deposed that he was then living at Melville, near Aberglaslyn; in coming to Maitland from Melville he would pass through the Aberglaslyn paddocks. On Sunday morning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, witness was coming to Maitland, and met thre prisoner in one of the Aberglaslyn paddocks, nears a waterhole, neat two miles from M'Phelemy's; prisoner asked the way to Hobler's farm; witness told him the road; Aberglaslyn used to be Mr. Hobler's, and was often called by his name still; witness thought that was about ten o'clock; they parted, prisoner going along the way pointed out, towards Aberglaslyn.

By prisoner: Witness knew prisoner previously by sight; witness was certain prisoner was the man he met.

**JAMES CAVENAGH** deposed that he lived on Mr. Cobb's farm, about three miles further from Maitland than Aberglaslyn; that day witness saw the dead body as he was returning home; in the evening, about twilight, witness saw prisoner at Mr. Cobb's lagoon, walking slowly; prisoner said something; witness inquired what he said, and repeated the question, but prisoner made no reply; was sure it was the prisoner; prisoner wore white trousers, apparently daubed on the knees with blood; witness felt satisfied it was blood, but would not like to swear positively; prisoner was then going towards the head of the lagoon, towards Bill Ling's place.

By a juror: Witness knew prisoner before.

**WILLIAM LING** deposed that he lived on Mr. Cobb's farm, seven or eight miles from Aberglaslyn; on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, an hour after dusk, a man tapped at the door, and asked for a drink of water; witness asked him to come in, and take a drink of tea; the man, who was the prisoner, was coming in, when witness asked him did he hear of the murder that was committed that day; prisoner drank the tea, and said murder was very bad work; prisoner's jacket sleeve was all covered with blood, from the cuff to the elbow; the coat produced resembled it, but did not look so clean as the jacket did; prisoner pulled his hat on his eyes when he entered the door, but witness was sure it was him. Prisoner went out again after taking the tea; witness followed him a little, and told him the roads to Maitland, at his request. The coat produced had some stains on it, but witness could not say that they were blood.

The prisoner here remarked that at that time he worked in a tanyard, and that all his clothes were stained with the tan liquor.

**ANN KILFOIL** deposed that she was the daughter of **JOHN KILFOIL**; on Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, between twelve and one o'clock, prisoner entered her father's house by the front door; witness and her mother only were at home at the time; witness's mother, who saw prisoner first, made signs to witness; her mother went away towards the Rev. Dean Lynch's, and witness remained about the place; while witness's mother was away prisoner asked where she was gone; and witness told him she was gone to get some eggs; her mother and Mr. **LYNCH** came, and Dean Lynch conversed alone with prisoner half an hour, and then Mr. Lynch left; after this prisoner asked witness for a pair of trousers and a shirt; witness got some of her father's, and prisoner shut himself in the kitchen for some time, and when witness next saw him he had on the fresh shirt and trousers; prisoner's trousers, when he

entered the house, were bloody; after prisoner left the kitchen witness went in, and noticed a smell of clothes burning, and in the fire she saw a quantity of timber, and the remains of the waistband of a pair of trousers burning; she saw nothing more of the trousers and shirt he had on at first. Prisoner remained about the house till night. The coat produced was the one prisoner had on; did not notice any blood on it; did not notice any waistcoat on prisoner.

Prisoner here said he was at the house, and that Mr. Lynch told him his wife was murdered, and that he was accused of the murder, and advised him to go and give himself up to the authorities; he (prisoner) consented to do this, and remained there till evening, intending then to go into Maitland to give himself up, and gave himself up quietly to two constables who came to the house.

**LING** was re-called by his Honor, and said prisoner had a dark waistcoat on when he called at his place.

**SOPHIA MOY**, wife of **JAMES MOY**, of Maitland, knew prisoner; her and his wife formerly lived near witness; they were quarrelling some time in January, on a Sunday, and witness went across the paddock to save his wife from M'Namara's violence; he was trying to push her into the house; witness interfered; M'Namara said he would kill her if she did not go in; Mrs. M'Namara got away from him, and ran to witness's house, and witness walked home with M'Namara; Mrs. M'Namara went into witness's bedroom, and M'Namara stopped in the other room, M'Namara and his wife were wrangling together still, she accusing him of starving and beating her; M'Namara said once to his wife, in the course of angry words, "I'll hang for you as sure as ever Bill Hayes will hand." M'Namara kept saying he'd kill her as he and witness were coming across the paddock, using a bad expression. Mrs. M'Namara stopped at witness's place for an hour, and then went to her mother's place, some distance off; the next day, at prisoner's request, witness sent her little girl to Mrs. M'Namara to ask her to come back; when the little girl returned she told the prisoner that Mrs. M'Namara said it was of no use for her to come to live with him, for he'd kill her. Witness had only before that day heard a few quarrelsome words at times between them. Mrs. M'Namara was a young woman, about 22 or 23 years old, and had a little child.

Prisoner denied the truth of Mrs. Moy's statements as to what passed giving a long detail of the occurrences himself; he said that he used no violence to his wife that day, and made no threats against her; she only left him because she was advised to do so by Mrs. Moy and other friends, and never sent any message that she feared he'd kill her.

**THOMAS MITCHELL** deposed that he was an apprentice to Mr. **QUIGAN**, tanner, Maitland, where prisoner was at work; prisoner had previously made an appointment to go out to Rosebrook with witness on Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March; on the Friday previous prisoner sharpened a single-bladed common knife on the stone where they usually sharpened their knives; the blade was larger than the one now shown to witness, but no so long; prisoner ribbed the knife to a keen edge, rubbed his finger along it, and went to his work; next day witness refused to go on the excursion; that Saturday evening prisoner again sharpened the knife on the stone.

Bt prisoner: Tan liquor would stain clothes, something like blood perhaps; one stain might be mistaken for the other by twilight; witness thought nothing at the time of prisoner's sharpening the knife.

Re-examined: When prisoner left on that Sunday morning his trousers were quite white and clean, fresh from washing; the jacket or coat had been worn before.

**GLASHEEN** recalled: Prisoner had on a pair of white trousers when witness met him; they appeared clean, but witness took no particular notice.

**HENRY HINTON** recalled: Prisoner had on white trousers, which appeared quite clean; witness was not near enough to see exactly.

**ALEXANDER M'PHERSON**, tailor, of East Maitland, deposed that the coat produced had been washed since it was made; there were some stains on the right arm, which appeared as if they were there before washing.

**JOHN [HERNEY?][TIERNEY?]**, tailor, of West Maitland, called by the prisoner, deposed that he did something to a coat for prisoner, some weeks before witness heard of the murder; the coat produced was the same, witness put additional pieces in it, as it was tight.

By the **SOLICITOR GENERAL**: The coat had been washed since witness made those alterations in it.

**ALEXANDER M'MANUS**, constable in the Maitland police, apprehended prisoner on Monday evening, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, about two miles from Maitland, at Kilfoil's house; witness said "It's a bad job, Pat" prisoner said "It couldn't be helped"; on their way to the lockup prisoner said he had intended to come to East Maitland lockup, after dark, and give himself up; prisoner wanted to get some of his things from Doyle's lodging-house; a man was sent, and said something about the inquest on his return; prisoner asked what inquest; witness said he did not know; prisoner asked if there was an inquest on Rosey; witness said yes, at the house where she was killed; prisoner asked how they brought it in; witness said he did not know, as he was looking for him; prisoner said he hoped she was happy, and that the poor child would be badly done for now; subsequently witness received from the Coroner the warrant for prisoner's apprehension, and prisoner, having learnt the nature of it, asked witness if his trial could not be put off, as he wanted to see his brother, who was at Moreton Bay. Prisoner had on the coat now produced.

By prisoner: Constable **RAFFERTY** was with witness, and the Rev. Dean Lynch and his servant joined them before they reached the house.

**RICHARD WRIGHT GOODALL**, surveyor, deposed that he had examined the ground in the neighbourhood of M'Phelemy's and Hinton's huts, on Aberglaslyn, and drew the plan produced; it was a correct representation of the ground and huts; witness now pointed out the localities on the plan.

**CHRISTOPHER M'DONALD** deposed that he was a turnkey in Maitland gaol; remembered prisoner being in custody there from a few days after the murder; he made his escape from the gaol on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1851, with another prisoner, in the mode witness described; prisoner was not brought back to the gaol again till about two months since.

By prisoner: Prisoner did not ill-use witness when getting out.

By his Honor: Witness could not remember the date of the last Circuit Court held in Maitland; it was after prisoner got out of gaol.

**GEORGE WOOD**, chief constable of the Maitland police, deposed that the last Maitland Circuit Court was held in September, 1851, commencing on the first Monday.

Prisoner, when called on for his defence, said that his wife had been away from him seven weeks before the murder was committed; he was innocent of the charge; she had been away from him two or three times before. He had endeavoured to obtain an important witness, named **RICHARD HORRIGAN**, who could have proved his innocence, but he could not be found. He called one witness to prove his statements relative to Mrs. Moy's evidence.

**SARAH MOY**, 14 years old, daughter of Mrs. Moy, deposed that she went by prisoner's request to ask his wife to return to him, but Mrs. M'Namara said she would not come, that if she did she was sure he'd kill her; this message she delivered to prisoner; she heard prisoner say the day he was in her mother's house with his wife, that he'd murder her, and that he would hang for her.

His Honor summed up. There could be no doubt from the evidence that a woman named Rose M'Namara was barbarously murdered, as laid in the indictment, by some one. The sole question for the jury to decide therefore would be – was the prisoner, her husband, the man who committed that murder? The whole evidence bearing on this point was circumstantial, as was indeed almost always, as they would be naturally led to expect, the case in charges of murder. Few men would commit that fearful crime in the presence of others than their victim. Circumstantial evidence had been occasionally found to lead to sad and fatal mistakes, but in the great majority of cases it did not fail to lead to right conclusions; and indeed his own long experience, of twenty-seven years, was without a single exception in favor of circumstantial evidence being relied upon. Still, looking at the fearful consequences of error in the conclusion arrived at on this charge, it required the most careful, the most rigid consideration on the part of the jury before they could return a verdict of guilty. In the present case he had no hesitation in saying that if the verdict of the jury was against the prisoner, there were no circumstances in the case that would lead him to recommend to the Executive that mercy should be extended to him. He would proceed to point out to them the whole circumstances of the case, as proved by evidence, as bearing on the question of the guilt or innocence of the prisoner; warning them, however, that if their conclusion on any point was different from the one he might be supposed to indicate, they were bound by their oath to adhere solely to the conclusions formed by their own judgement, and throw his opinion, as to the facts, aside altogether. His Honor then went through the evidence, taking the points proved in a chronological view, pointing out carefully the bearing of each on the whole case against the prisoner. The jury must arrive at the conclusion, beyond all reasonable doubt, that the prisoner was proved to have been the man who committed the crime, before they could return a verdict of guilty; a single fact, inconsistent with the prisoner's guilt, if proved to their satisfaction, must be of more weight with them than a multitude bearing against him. If a doubt remained on their minds, that they could not get rid of, they must give the prisoner the benefit of that doubt and acquit him. On the other hand, if they were satisfied that his guilt was proved, they were equally bound to return a verdict of guilty. He warned them, however, speaking more particularly in reference to the mere physical possibility of some other man having entered the house unseen by the Hintons or other witnesses and committed the murder, that they must not hesitate so much in regard to their conclusion as to return a verdict of guilty because they found it was not absolutely impossible on the evidence that another might have committed the murder, for such a feeling of certainty could but very seldom be arrived at in any case. He should now leave the case with perfect confidence in their hands, satisfied that they would bestow on it that solemn and close consideration that a charge involving the life of a human being always received at the hands of the jury.

The jury retired at four o'clock, and returned about half past with a verdict of guilty. Judgement having been prayed,

His Honor impressively addressed the prisoner. The prisoner had been convicted by the jury after a careful and patient consideration. He might mention now that in his address to them in summing up, he was in error in saying that no eye but that of the

Almighty witnessed the crime. There was another eye. Since he had concluded his address he had seen an intelligent little girl, of six years old, a daughter of M'Phelemy, a niece of the murdered woman, and that little girl, whom he had closely questioned, had told him that she saw the murder committed, and that the man who committed it was her uncle, the prisoner now before him. That little girl was now close at hand, and could be produced if the prisoner wished it, and examined in his presence on oath. The prisoner therefore was convicted purely on circumstantial evidence, but there was also evidence, which he had full confidence in, of the most direct nature. On the evidence they had heard, there was every antecedent probability that the prisoner would commit the murder; there was on the other hand the greatest antecedent improbability that any other man would. It was proved that the prisoner had every opportunity of committing it, was close at hand, had probably made arrangements beforehand for committing it, and that after the deed every step had been taken by him to throw doubt on the fact of his having committed it. The jury, weighing carefully all these facts, and the inferences that must unavoidably be drawn from them, had pronounced that they believed him guilty. He also believed the prisoner was guilty, and he knew he was guilty; not only from the evidence they had heard, but because it was impossible to disbelieve the statement of the little girl. There was indeed no single point of the evidence on which a finger could be laid as throwing a doubt on the guilt of the prisoner. The verdict was amply supported by the evidence. It had since his address been pointed out to him, and rightly pointed out, that he had omitted one material feature in the case against the prisoner. But it was needless now to go over these circumstances again, nor would he dwell on them, since the prisoner himself knew he was guilty, and therefore it was needless to point out to him the facts that proved his guilt. He would rather urge him now to cast off all thoughts connected with this world, and endeavour to make his peace with God while he had yet time on earth. But he would urge him solemnly, knowing his guilt, as the prisoner must know it, not to let the last act of his life be a lie, not by any useless assertion of his innocence at the last dread moment to pass into eternity with a lie on his lips. There was something to his mind inconceivably dreadful; in the thought of a human being thus meeting his God. He would not urge him to confess to any one – that he would leave to his own conscience, to the counsels of one to whom the duty more properly belonged – but he would solemnly urge him if he said anything, not to say a lie. Turning now to the circumstances of the case he could not see in them the slightest hope of mercy for the prisoner in this world. To spare the life of a man who had committed so dreadful a crime would be to deny mercy to the unprotected, the unoffending, the weaker members of society; to hold out an incitement and a temptation to men of violent and base passions to go and do likewise. The case was one surrounded with great atrocity, and of which in some of its features he could hardly think without tears. What did it disclose to them? They found a woman, young, of good character and behaviour, driven with her child from the care of her natural protector by his brutality, and seeking refuge with her father and her sister; they found her left on a Sunday morning, when these her next most natural protectors were gone to the house of worship, with only her little child, and the little children of her sister, around her; and here, in her last refuge, they found the man who ought to have been the first to shield her and his and her child from all harm, breaking violently in, with his sharpened knife to attack her; they could in imagination hear her cries for mercy, could see her vain attempts to escape his fury by fleeing to the inner room; but her husband, the father of her child, pursues her with the knife, dashes down the frail door between them, gashes and cuts her with almost numberless

wounds, and when she again fled back in despair to the front room he plunges the knife with fatal force in her prostrate body, covering her poor child with the life's blood of its mother and his wife. What words would properly characterize so dreadful a scene as this? He had to perform but one more duty, to pass the last sentence of the law on the prisoner. His Honor then, in the usual form, passed sentence of death on the prisoner.

The prisoner was then removed from the dock, and shortly afterwards was taken to the gaol in a cab, guarded. During the trial he appeared to show little feeling at the recital of the witnesses of the state in which they found the body of his wife, and in regard to several of the witnesses he denied the truth of their statements. He appeared somewhat struck when the verdict was announced, and when the statement of the little girl was mentioned by his Honor, but it was not until his Honor so forcibly depicted the murder itself at the closer of his address that the prisoner evinced much emotion.

The court-room was more nearly filled than we have ever seen it previously, at least 300 persons being present during the latter part of the trial.

ORANGE, FEBRUARY 28. - BODY FOUND. - I mentioned in my last, the report which prevailed here relative to a murder having been committed here at Molong. I have since learned some particulars, and am told that the body of a man was discovered by the Wellington mailman, near the Three Rivers, against a tree, at high water mark, where the flood had left it. There were but few patches of flesh adherent to the bones, and those completely burned, and hard from exposure to the sun; the bones of the hands are wanting, but the skull is entire, with here and there small portions of the scalp on it. This skeleton is supposed to be the remains of a man named **WYATT**, from somewhere in the Wellington district, and who, about six weeks ago, was in the neighbourhood of the Three Rivers, and left his traps at Butler's public house. He was last seen in company with a woman named **MARY THE MAID**, who had asked him to see her home, and this woman's husband, a man named **BUCKLEY**, had been heard to say that if he caught Wyatt at his place he would put him from coming there again. An inquiry has been instituted by the bench at Molong, and Buckley and his wife are in custody. A coat was found about 100 yards from where the remains were discovered, and it is hoped will be identified by the friends of Wyatt, who have been sent for. As soon as I hear further particulars I will communicate them. *Herald Correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/802, 10/03/1852

CORONER'S INQUEST. - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner at the house of Mr. **PARKINSON**, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of --- **TROUNSON**, then lying dead at the Sydney Infirmary. Constable **THOMAS**, of the Sydney Police, stated that on Thursday morning, having business in Parramatta-street, he, whilst in the company of Inspector **M'COOK**, saw a man hanging from a wild peach tree, on the south side of Mrs. Shepherd's dwelling house. Assistance was procured, and the body, which must, from the appearances, have been hanging for some time, was cut down. **SAMUEL TROUNSON** stated that he was the brother of the deceased. Both he and deceased arrived here a fortnight ago. Deceased was 22 years of age, and is married. He at once proceeded to the gold diggings, but was compelled by a severe fit of illness to return. Some painful domestic differences, and the having spent all his money, compelled him to accept employment in Sydney as a drayman. The witness, who was painfully affected, stated that, by reason of the unhappy matters to which he had alluded, his brother's mind had given way. He was usually a man of low spirits, and easily depressed; he was of extremely temperate

habits. The jury, under the coroner's direction, found "that deceased had put a period to his existence whilst labouring under temporary insanity." *Herald, March 6*

**INQUEST ON A CHINAMAN.** - An inquest was held at the Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on view of the body of a native of China, then lying dead in the Infirmary. **TANJOR**, a native of China, a very intelligent man, was sworn as interpreter, and stated, that the name of the deceased was **PANKEENE**, and that he was an emigrant on board the *General Palmer*, from Amoy. He was plentifully supplied with food, and after taking sick he was properly attended to by the doctor and his attendant. He was unable to get up and walk for a long time. He was sent to the Infirmary on Tuesday evening. He was in good health when sent on board at Amoy. **YINAWEE**, a native of Amoy, also a passenger per *General Palmer*, was then sworn, and deposed that he knew the deceased, who was about forty years of age. He corroborated the evidence of Tanjor. The mode of swearing in the witnesses, according to the custom of their tribe, was a novel one. The witnesses wrote their names on paper, and having sworn to tell the whole truth, burnt the paper containing their signatures in the blaze of a candle; such an oath being binding on their consciences. From their testimony it appeared that the deceased had met with invariably good usage. He had, while in health, a sufficiency of rice, beef, fish, and pickles, and when sick he was regularly attended by the doctor, and had a diet of congee water, rice, and tea. Dr. **DOUGLASS** deposed that he saw the deceased soon after his admission into the infirmary. He was in the last stages of dysentery. His case was hopeless, but every possible remedy was afforded him. A post mortem examination was made, and a chronic inflammation and ulceration of the larger intestines was apparent, which was sufficient to account for death. Mortality had been great among the Chinese lately, not only from the emigrant ship *General Palmer*, but from other arrivals; he had no doubt, from the character of the persons on board the ship, that every care was taken of him. The Chinese appeared to have no stamina whatever, and soon sunk under their complaints, which were generally dysentery. Dr. **D. STOLWORTHY**, surgeon-superintendent of the *General Palmer*, deposed that when the deceased embarked at Amoy he and his fellow-countrymen were in good health. The vessel had to go into Laboage for water, poultry, &c. He attributed the breaking out of the dysentery to the quality of the water. The Malays informed him that the ship had arrived in a bad season (in the latter part of November, and early part of December). The complaint was very prevalent, not only among the Chinese, but also among the Europeans. Another vessel, the *John Bartlett*, had finished watering a few days prior to the *General Palmer*, and had dysentery on board all the way to Sydney. The deceased, and the other emigrants, had the best and most suitable food and nourishment when in health and when sick. The reason the deceased and other sick persons were not sent to the infirmary was because they were expected to get better; they were frequently visited by Drs. **O'BRIEN** and **SAVAGE**, and because he thought they would fret if sent into a hospital among strangers. Verdict - "Died by the visitation of God." *Empire, March 5*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Saturday evening last, as a man named **MENDHAM** was on his way from the neighbourhood of Mount Macquarie to Bathurst with a load of shingles, an accident occurred which has been attended with loss of life. It seems that on the day named, when near Mr. Goldsby's farm, Mendham allowed a lad named **THOMAS AHERNE**, by whom he was accompanied, to get on the top of the load, and that, coming to a bad part of the road, the dray was capsized. The unfortunate lad clung to the ropes which secured the loading, and fell under the load. The inequalities of the load alone saved him from being literally crushed. As it was

he survived till next morning, when he was brought to Bathurst, and expired on Monday. A coroner's inquest was held at Mr. Horan's, the Traveller's Rest, before **C. SUTHERLAND**, Esq., where the body lay, and a verdict returned of accidental death. *Bathurst F. Press, March 3*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/803, 13/03/1852

DEATH FROM INTEMPERANCE. - On Wednesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at the Angel Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **ELIZABETH TOOZE**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Tooze, who was residing with her sons in Maitland while her husband was at the diggings, had latterly been drinking hard, principally of ale, and that she had always been subject to fits after drinking much. On Monday afternoon she appeared to be suffering, and complained of illness, and **EMILY TURNER**, the wife of a shoemaker, who was stopping with her, and also drinking, advised her not to take any more ale. Neither Mrs. Turner nor Mrs. Tooze's sons thought it necessary to call in medical aid. On Monday evening Mrs. Tooze went out and obtained more drink, and she drank more ale after her return home, Mrs. Turner refusing to join her in drinking. On Tuesday Mrs. Tooze complained of being ill, and of feeling a pain in her stomach, but she took no medicine, and at night retired to rest after drinking some tea, Mrs. Turner having refused to get her any ale during the day, although she pressed for it. About three o'clock on Wednesday morning Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Tooze were aroused by the noise of a window slipping down, and Mrs. Tooze got up to see what it was. They fell asleep again, but when, at seven o'clock in the morning, one of the young Toozes entered his mother's room he was shocked to find her lying dead in bed. Dr. **BEARDMORE** looked at the body, and gave it as his opinion that death resulted from natural causes, accelerated by acts of intemperance. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

CHILD DROWNED. - A young boy named **CATTON** unfortunately lost his life on Sunday last, at Kangaroo Point, by falling into a well. It is supposed that the deceased had been amusing himself by jumping over the opening, which was partly uncocered, and falling in, he was not discovered until it was too late to save his life. An inquest was held on Monday, and a verdict in conformity to the above circumstances recorded. *Moreton Bay Free Press, Feb. 28*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/804, 17/03/1852

PATRICK M'NAMARA. - The execution of **PATRICK M'NAMARA**, convicted at the recent Maitland Circuit Court of the murder of his wife, **ROSE M'NAMARA**, has been fixed to take place on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> instant, at the gaol, East Maitland.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. - We regret to learn that Captain **DRYSDALE**, died suddenly, on board the *Jessie Byrnes*, on Thursday morning. *March 13*

DAWSON RIVER

From this locality we learn that several persons have been searching for a Mr. **MITCHELL**, from the Clarence River, and a young man named **HEADLEY**, son of Mr. **WALTER HEADLEY**, formerly overseer for Sir Evan Mackenzie. Some weeks ago they left one of the stations on the Dawson, Mr. Mitchell being in search of a run, and they have not since been heard of. The last party returned without finding any trace of them. The blacks were exceedingly troublesome, and it is reported that they had attacked Mr. Trevethan's station. Mr. **MURRAY**, the recently appointed Lieutenant of Native Police, was about to start with a party to Mr. Trevethan's. *Moreton Bay Courier, 6<sup>th</sup> March*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the St. John's Tavern, George-street; on view of the body of **ELIZABETH AIKEN** then lying dead, at her late residence in Charlotte-place. **CHRISTINA AIKEN**, deposed that she was the mother of the deceased child, who was four and a half years old, and was a very healthy child. About five o'clock on Thursday afternoon she went down George-street, taking deceased and a younger child with her, to the Queen's wharf, for the benefit of the sea air. There was a gate between the place they were at and where they were about to go. Witness pulled the gate towards her to open it, not perceiving it had no hinges. It was a very heavy gate, and fell from witness upon the deceased. Witness had a sore hand, and her youngest child at the time in her arms, which prevented her from keeping the gate from falling. Witness picked up the deceased, and ran with her to Dr. **MACKELLAR'S**, but the child expired almost immediately. Dr. Mackellar stated that the deceased child was brought to his shop on Friday afternoon, between the hours of five and six. She was bleeding from the mouth and nose, and appeared to be labouring from fracture of the base of the scull, which was the cause of death. Dr. Mackellar examined the paling and fence where the accident occurred. They were in a very improper and dangerous state. Messrs. Moorehead and Young are the proprietors of the Bon Accord wharf where the fence is. Verdict – "Accidental death." *Empire, March 13*

**DEATH OF A CHINESE LABOURER ON THE ROAD.** - The Goulburn Correspondent of the *Sydney Morning Herald* reports the proceedings at an inquest on the body of **TANG KI**, one of a number of eight Chinese labourers who were conveyed from Sydney to Dr. Nicholson's estate, Lake George. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was ill almost throughout the voyage from China to this colony, and on the journey up from Sydney was so ill, suffering from constant purging and weakness, that he rode the whole distance (except six miles) on the dray, and could scarcely take any food, although the party were amply supplied. A post mortem examination by Dr. **GERARD** disclosed extensive disease of the intestines, &c., and proved that the immediate cause of death was dysentery.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/805, 20/03/1852**

**WILFUL MURDERS AT RYLSTONE AND THE TURON.**

*(From the Bathurst Free Press, March 17.)*

This week it falls to our lot to record two cases of wilful murder. The particulars of the Rylstone murder, as communicated to us *viva voce* by a respectable resident of the neighbourhood, who is intimately acquainted with all the circumstances, are as follows:

On Wednesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, two men respectively named **RICHMOND** (better known as **Stoney**) and **ARMSTRONG**, who were drinking at Tindall's public-house, Rylstone, commenced quarrelling in their cups. Richmond shortly afterwards left the house and proceeded into the yard, whither he was followed by Armstrong. The quarrel re-commenced, when Armstrong, who was a much larger and more powerful man than his antagonist, threw him upon the ground and whilst kneeling upon his breast and holding him by the throat with one hand, he deliberately employed the other in taking a knife out of his pocket, and after opening it with his teeth, inflicted three wounds – one between the ribs, and two upon the belly, from the latter of which the entrails protruded in a shocking manner. Having completed his human butchery, Armstrong mounted his horse and galloped off. The inmates of the house being apprised of the occurrence by a little girl of ten years of age who had been an eye-witness of the whole, he was removed inside in a very faint condition, and as there

was no regular practitioner in the neighbourhood, the service of a Mr. **OWEN**, of Carwell, who is something of a doctor, were called into requisition. After considerable difficulty, the intestines were replaced, and a little adhesive plaster applied. Internal medicine was administered, which produced nausea and was succeeded by vomiting. The muscular action thus caused re-opened the wounds, the plaster gave way, and an extensive eruption of the intestines was the result. An effort was made again to replace them, but without success, and after two days spent in the most intense agony, the unfortunate victim of a relentless vengeance expired. A judicial inquiry into the circumstances was instituted by **R.N. M'DONALD**, Esq., J.P., when the above details transpired in evidence, and a verdict of wilful murder was returned against Armstrong. As yet no intelligence of his capture has reached Bathurst.

Of the Turon murder nothing is known, but that some unfortunate individual had met with his death by a gun-shot wound, and from the manner in which the wound was inflicted, there is not the slightest room to doubt that it was the work of an assassin. The body was found in a water-hole by a blackfellow whilst on his way from Dirt Hole Creek to Sofala, about four miles beyond Monk's Hill, and in the gold district superintended by Mr. Assistant Commissioner **MILLER**. Information having been communicated to that gentleman, he repaired to Sofala, where he obtained the professional services of Dr. **JOHNSON**, in company with whom he returned to the body to hold an enquiry. A post mortem examination revealed the startling information that the deceased had been shot, a bullet wound extending from the back of the neck, penetrating the spinal column, to the jaw bone, which was shattered, and underneath which the ball was found. The unfortunate man was apparently about 35 years of age, of robust frame, had dark curly hair, and sandy moustachios and whiskers. He had on a blue shirt, figured satin vest, striped Guernsey under shirt, and carpet slippers. No money or documents of any kind were found upon his person, the probability being that his murderer had robbed him of whatever valuables he possessed, and destroyed any papers which might throw any or the slightest light upon this dark deed of blood. A report has been afloat that a receipt for the purchase of a bullock team in the district of Bathurst was found not far from the fatal spot, but as none of the particulars of the receipt are mentioned, we attach little importance to it. The place where he was found is just such a solitary and gloomy retreat as would be selected by the plotter against human life for the execution of his diabolical purpose. For the present the affair is involved in a mystery, from which, except by a very rare accident, it is not likely to be relieved.

**MANSslaughter.** - The Attorney-General, we are informed, has determined to file a bill in the case against the first and second officers of the *Ganges*, for having caused the death of a Chinaman during the voyage from Amoy to Sydney. *Empire*.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was yesterday held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **ALEXANDER GRANT**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. It appears from the evidence that the deceased was an apprentice on board the ship *Prince of Wales*; he was about twenty years of age, and of very temperate habits; on Friday last, he was coming off the top of the ship's galley, and in coming down to the combings of the hatch he touched a light plank which was lying across the lower deck hatch, and not being able to recover his balance he fell into the lower hold; the depth was about eighteen feet. Dr. **M'EWEN** stated that deceased was admitted into the Infirmary shortly after the accident; and he described the injuries received by him in his fall, and which he was of opinion were the cause of death. Verdict - Accidental death. *Herald, March 16*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, upon view of the body of **ELIZABETH TAYLOR**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. The case disclosed a fearful scene of drunkenness. **CHARLES GOLDING**, a servant in the employ of Mr. **STIRLING**, Inspector of Distilleries, residing on the North Shore, stated, that on Monday evening he was called by his wife to assist a woman who was drowning. He went to the water side, and found deceased lying across the gunwhale of a boat. Her husband and a man named **GEORGE CHAMPION** were in the boat. Deceased appeared to be dead, and the men were very drunk. They wanted to take the body to Sydney at once, but witness detained them until Mr. Stirling arrived, and got the unfortunate woman out of the boat. The account which the men gave was an incoherent one. They said that deceased, who had been drinking with them, had left the boat to go to a dingy lying a little way off, to get some fish, and that shortly afterwards they had found the body floating in the water. Neither of the men could give any account of the time that deceased had been absent from the boat. Everything was done for deceased by a female servant of Mr. Stirling, who applied bottles of hot water and other restoratives for nearly two hours, but without success. Deceased once opened her eyes. Her husband seemed greatly distressed, and there were no marks of violence on the body. Champion, and the husband, Taylor, deposed to what they knew of the circumstances, Taylor having first seen his wife floating on the water; they had been all fishing, and subsequently drinking at Champion's house. It was proved that Taylor and his wife were on very good terms. The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning. *Herald, March 18*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., a man named **CHARLES DORAN**, who was employed with Mr. **DAVIDSON**, the surveyor, met with his death in the following manner, near Wellington. Whilst riding on the dray, his horses, which were very fresh, took fright, and started off at full gallop, swerving from the road, and taking the bush. Leaping from the front of the dray with the intention, as is supposed, of endeavouring to stop the horses, he was thrown to the ground by the impetus of the flying vehicle, when one of the wheels passed over his head, and killed him instantly. An inquiry into the circumstances was instituted by Mr. **CORNISH**, when the above particulars were elicited. *Bathurst Free Press, March 17*

**SYDNEY NEWS.** - **THE GOLD FIELDS.**

**TURON**

A neighbour just arrived from the Dirt Hole Creek informs me that a man was found murdered near Monkey Hill. From his habiliments he appears to have been a digger, and the body was found, head downwards, in a waterhole by the blacks, the place being covered over with a quantity of boughs. There were two wounds on the head, apparently inflicted by a tomahawk. The Turon has hitherto been pretty free from outrages of this kind, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the perpetrators of this heinous crime will very speedily be brought to justice.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/806, 24/03/1852**

**SHIPPING.** - On the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, as the *Pelham*, brig, from San Francisco, was coming in, one of the steerage passengers (a German) fell overboard, but being a person of eccentric manners, he was not missed until after the ship came to anchor, when search was made for him, but without success.

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - It will be remembered that on Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, one **HUGH ROBERTSON**, said to be of unsound mind, was given into the custody of the police, charged with having stabbed his brother, **WILLIAM ROBERTSON**, in

the neck, at the house of their father, in Gloucester-street, Church Hill. The wounded man was immediately attended by Dr. **MACKELLAR**, and conveyed to the Sydney Infirmary, where he lingered until the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, when he died. An inquest was opened by the coroner, adjourned until the 16<sup>th</sup>, and again until yesterday, when it was concluded. The following are the circumstances of this painful case as detailed in the evidence before the coroner. The deceased, his brother the prisoner, Hugh Robertson, and their sister, were all of unsound mind. They lived with their father in Gloucester-street. On the morning of Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, Hugh and his sister were quarrelling, and the deceased hearing the noise, got out of bed and went down stairs to endeavour to pacify them. In attempting to separate them a struggle ensued, in the course of which Hugh took a clasp knife from his pocket, and having dashed it at the head of the deceased, opened it, and stabbed him in the neck. The father ran for Dr. Mackellar, who attended immediately and dressed the wound, and then took deceased to the infirmary. The father, **RONALD ROBERTSON**, stated that his son Hugh had been insane for the last four years, that he did know that there is a God; nor was he aware of the difference of right and wrong. The dying man's declaration had been taken by the Superintendent of Police, who deposed to his unhappy state of mind; and who stated that his incoherent account was to the same effect as that given by the father. The prisoner had been confined in the Lunatic Asylum at Tarban Creek, for about twelve months, some time ago. Dr. Mackellar described the mode of his treating deceased when called in to attend him. It was a hopeless case from the first. He also stated that he had known the family for the last five years; was aware that Hugh Robertson, the brother of the deceased, and who was then in custody for the infliction of the wound, was a dangerous lunatic and unfit to be at large. Dr. Mackellar added that the deceased was of weak intellect and unsound mind, though not dangerous; and that the sister was a confirmed lunatic. Other evidence as to deceased's insanity was taken, and yesterday the coroner, having minutely recapitulated the whole of the evidence, and explained the law as to insanity, the jury found the following verdict:- "Murder by Hugh Robertson, who was then and there not in sane mind, memory, and understanding, but lunatic and distracted." The prisoner will be detailed until the pleasure of the Executive as to his future disposal to be made known.

A second inquest was held at the Blue Bell, Esrkine-street, on view of the body of **CATHERINE MAXWELL**, then lying dead there. It appeared in evidence, that about ten o'clock on Thursday night, some sea-faring men were standing on Northwood's wharf; they had a lamp, and one of them exclaimed, that he thought he perceived the body of a woman in the water; and paddling out into the stream he found the body which the jury had viewed. It was quite cold. Mrs. **LACY**, residing in Brougham-place, identified the body as that of Catherine Maxwell, who had been living in Macquarie-street, but apart from her husband. She was a woman of intemperate habits, and had been refused drink on the previous day by the witness. She then appeared in good health. Dr. **TIERNEY** stated, that having been sent for when the body of deceased was found, he proceeded to the house where it lay, and assisted by several female neighbours used every exertion to restore animation, but without effect. There were no marks of violence on the body, and there was no doubt that death had been caused by suffocation from drowning. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned, but under what circumstances there was no evidence to determine.  
*Herald, March 20*

**LAMENTABLE EVENT.** - Captain **LAURENCE**, of the schooner *Fancy*, which arrived on Thursday from the South Sea Islands, has reported to the Water Police that

a seaman belonging to that vessel threw himself overboard when off Twofold Bay during the progress of the voyage here. What makes the matter wear a more melancholy aspect is, that the wife and three children of the unfortunate man reside in that vicinity, and were daily expecting his return. It is thought the deceased committed the rash act whilst suffering from the effects of *delirium tremens*. *Bell's Life, March 20*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/807, 27/03/1852

A CHILD DROWNED. - On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at the Buck's Head, West Maitland, on the body of **MARY ANN MONTON**, a girl of nine years old. It appeared that on Wednesday afternoon, Monton was entrusted with the care of her little sister, daughter of **ALFRED THIRKETTLE**, to whom Monton was step-daughter. She was usually careful, and had been often cautioned by Thirkettle not to go on the bank of the river, and so far as he knew she never did. On that afternoon, however, she went to the bank, playing with other girls, near Mr. Drew's, the Buck's Head; after being there some time the little girl fell into the river by some means, and Mary Ann Monton unhesitatingly plunged in after it; unhappily the river was in fresh, and the current strong, and Monton was instantly borne away by it. The screams of the children on the bank, who all ran away, were heard by a Mrs. **WARD**, living nearby, and she, being directed to the spot by the children, courageously went into the river to her middle, and succeeded in reaching and saving the baby, then just sinking. Poor Monton was struggling further out, in a deep part, and by the time Mrs. Ward had reached the bank with the bay had sunk, nor could Mrs. Ward for some time find any man about, a horse race having drawn them all away. At length, after some time, the dead body of the poor girl Monton was found by Thirkettle, in a deep hole some distance from where she sprang in. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and appended a rider testifying their admiration of Mrs. Ward's conduct.

EXECUTION OF WHILMORE. - The death warrant of **WHILMORE** arrived in Bathurst on Sunday last, and the day fixed for his execution the 14<sup>th</sup> proximo. We understand he still retains the improved state of mind of which we spoke in a previous publication, and is assiduously attended in his devotional exercises by the Rev. **THOMAS SHARPE**, Episcopalian minister, of Bathurst. *Bathurst Free Press, March 20.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/808, 31/03/1852

#### EXECUTION OF PATRICK M'NAMARA.

Since the trial and conviction of **M'NAMARA**, at the recent Maitland Circuit Court, of the murder of his wife, **ROSE M'NAMARA**, a considerable change had gradually taken place in his demeanour; up to the time of his trial he had always appeared hardened and defying, but his sentence appeared to make a great impression on him. The Rev. Dean **LYNCH** was in constant attendance on him, and we believe that latterly M'Namara was most attentive to his religious duties, exhibiting a chastened and repentant spirit. He became altered and more gentle in his demeanour to the gaol officials, and on Friday last took an affectionate leave of his child, bequeathing her to the care of his wife's relatives, **MYLES KELLY** and his wife.

On the morning of the execution, Monday last, The Rev. Dean Lynch was in early attendance, and he attended M'Namara to the scaffold. M'Namara showed a penitent and resigned feeling, and by his desire the Rev. Dean Lynch briefly addressed the crowd below, stating that M'Namara acknowledged his crime, and regretted the

passion which led to its commission; that he forgave all his enemies, and was grateful to Mr. Wallace and the gaol officers for their persevering kindness to him. After a short delay the bolt was then drawn, and M'Namara ceased to exist.

A large crowd assembled to witness the execution, the largest probably ever assembled in Maitland, and amongst them a large number of women. Doubtless the crowd was so large partly on account of M'Namara and his poor wife having lived many years in Maitland.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Saturday evening last, at a late hour, three men, named **HUGH MATTHEWSON, PETER ALCOCK, and JAMES CANE**, were returning from East Maitland to the Doghole Farm, 13 miles off, with a bullock dray; Matthewson, who was sober, was driving the team, and Alcock and Cane, who were rather tipsy, were walking alongside; as they neared home, Alcock and Cane, unknown to Matthewson, seated themselves on the tail of the dray; it was very dark, and the dray wheel struck a stump as they were descending a hill, and then striking against a tree the dray was turned over on its face, and was so dragged to the bottom of the hill before Matthewson could stop the bullocks; the overturn sent Cane to some distance, hurting him, but Alcock was thrown under the dray, and the iron pin, used to fasten the load was driven into his belly, and in that horrid condition his mates found him when the dray was stopped at the bottom of the hill, he having been so dragged 4 or 5 rods. He lived for some hours afterwards, Matthewson returning to East Maitland to seek medical aid, but unsuccessfully. Alcock, who was a sawyer, has left a wife and four young children to mourn his loss. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

**THE GOLD FIELDS.** - **THE MEROO.**

(From our own Correspondent)

**DEVIL'S HOLE CREEK, MARCH 21.** - I have the painful duty to write about the melancholy accident which happened here on Monday last to Mr. **JOHN LONG**, son of Mr. **BENJAMIN LONG**, of Anambah, near Maitland. On Monday Mr. John Long was undermining a portion of his claim, for the purpose of clearing off the top, the hole being about ten feet deep, about eight feet wide, and ten feet long. Having worked out part of his claim, he was going to throw the soil back into the part that was worked, and commenced to tunnel under the bank, cutting away the sides. He had gone under about three feet, when he came out and endeavoured to throw the top in with crowbars; the earth cracked, but he could not move it with the purchase he had given it; he jumped into the claim to tunnel further, and had not been more than three minutes under when about twenty tons of earth fell in upon him. A party in the next claim, named **JAMES FITZPATRICK**, and his brother, seeing the earth fall, went into the claim and released Long's mate, named **FREDERICK TUCKER**, from under the earth, when Tucker pointed to where Long was, and four men immediately dug down, and in the course of half an hour they got him out, quite dead. His remains were taken into Mudgee and interred on the following day.

**SUDDEN DEATH FROM OVER EXERTION.** - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Wellington Inn, George-street, on view of the body of **PHILIP EGERTON**. From the evidence it appears that deceased was a carter, and whilst engaged yesterday morning at Mr. Daly's inn, in George-street, loading a dray for Bathurst, he, whilst lifting a heavy cask, exclaimed, "I'm done, I'm done," and dropping the cask, vomited a quantity of blood. He was taken to the Benevolent Asylum, where every attention was given to him by the house surgeon, Mr. **NORRIS**, but he died shortly after his being received. Mr. Norris stated that in his opinion death

had been caused by the rupture of a large blood vessel in the chest, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with that opinion. *Herald, March 27.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/809, 03/04/1852

SHIPPING. - A person named **JAMES STAUNTON**, who went from here in the *Phoebe*, took a life buoy when off Wilson's Promontory and jumped overboard, and it is supposed would reach shore.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Sydney Police Office, on view of the body of **ROBERT DUNSHEATH**, then lying dead in Sussex-street. **ALEXANDER WATTS**, a seafaring man, charged with having caused deceased's death, was in custody. From the evidence, it appeared, that on Saturday night deceased, who was a journeyman baker, had been drinking rather freely, and was walking in company with a fellow workman, **JAMES STAUNTON**, down George-street, when some seafaring people passed them, one of whom, Mr. **SAMUEL HENRY GREER**, the third officer of the barque *Prince of Wales*, pushed against the deceased. The latter turned round, and squared at the prisoner Watts, who was with Mr. Greer, and each having exchanged a blow, deceased fell. Staunton then got him away on conveyed him home in a cab. The landlord did not suspect that he was much hurt, and had his head bathed with vinegar, and put him to bed. Staunton described the blow which deceased received as a heavy one on the chin; he falling on the back of his head on the flags. Deceased pushed or struck prisoner first. On Sunday morning deceased appearing very bad, his landlord sent for Dr. **AITKEN**; but he died in a few minutes after that gentleman's arrival. Dr. Aitken subsequently performed a post mortem examination, and found that there was a fracture of the skull at the back of the head, and that the base of the skull was injured; the fractured bone had pressed on the brain, and extensive extravasation of blood had followed, particularly on the base of the brain; this had caused congestion of the brain, leading to death. Mr. Greer deposed that he accidentally ran against Dunsheath, who turned and struck at Watts, and Watts struck him, when he fell back on the pavement; Dunsheath was raised to a sitting position by Staunton, but did not speak while witness remained. The jury, after considerable consultation, returned a verdict of accidental death, and Watts was discharged. *Abridged from the Herald, March 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/810, 07/04/1852

THE GOLD FIELDS – THE MEROO.

DEATH. - A person named **EDWARD WOOLLEY** died in this neighbourhood on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant. The circumstances are not precisely known, in the absence of an inquest, but the following is the report that has reached me. Woolley was fighting with another man on Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, and was knocked down, and before he could recover himself was, it is stated, struck by the man a heavy blow on the loins with part of the axletree of a cart. Dr. **STREET** was immediately called in, but Woolley died on the Tuesday following. Two conflicting statements are imputed to the doctor as to the matter, one said to have been uttered by him when he was first called in, that he would hold the other man responsible for Woolley's life; and the second, said to be spoken since Woolley's death, that Woolley died from the effects of intoxicating liquor.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. - On Monday last a mounted trooper named **BARTON** was thrown from his horse at Carcoar with great violence, when his head unfortunately came in contact with the ground, and a concussion of the brain was the consequence.

From the time of the accident he has remained in a state of insensibility, from which it appears somewhat doubtful if he will ever recover. *Bathurst Free Press, April 3*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. - We are indebted to Mr. **TAIT**, who has just returned from the Lachlan, for the following particulars of a fatal accident which occurred on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> March, near Mr. Icely's Bangaroo station. At the time referred to the river was running some ten or twelve feet about its ordinary level, thereby cutting off all communication with the opposite side, at which the post office at Canowindra is situated. Mr. Tait having expressed an anxiety to obtain his letters and papers, it appears the unfortunate subject of this paragraph, a small settler of the Lachlan, named **HUGH O'NEIL**, and a very worthy man, volunteered to swim across the river, but perceiving the extreme hazard of such an undertaking, Mr. Tait strongly objected to it, and for the time O'Neil seemed to have dropped his intention. During the absence of Mr. Tait, however, who walked some short distance in search of a horse, with the purpose of proceeding further up the river, he stripped and dashed into the stream, but had not made many strokes before he sank. A few minutes afterwards he re-appeared on the surface, and took off a red handkerchief which was tied round his head, but without any apparent object, when he immediately sank to rise no more. A man who stood by witnessed the fatal affair, and "cooed" to Mr. Tait to return, but upon his arrival, nothing was to be observed where the unfortunate man disappeared but the turbid stream. After considerable exertion the body was discovered on the Friday night following, and deposited in its final resting place. O'Neil was one of a number of the neighbours who had assembled, according to custom, to assist Mr. Tait at muster. He has left a wife and family of several children to deplore their loss.

*Bathurst Free Press, April 3*

ACCIDENT. - An accident, which was near proving fatal, occurred on Thursday last on Botany Road, to Mrs. **CHEESEMEN**, widow of a man named Cheeseman, a market gardener, who a short time ago was killed by the upsetting of his cart on the same road and almost at the same spot where this accident occurred. Mrs. Cheeseman was proceeding homewards in her cart, driving the same horse by means of which her late husband lost his life. When near the water hole, just beyond the Waterloo Mills, the horse shied at something, and the poor woman was thrown from the cart in which she was riding, the wheel of which passed over her head. She lay for some time on the road in sensible, until she was discovered by a neighbour passing, who, finding that an accident had occurred, conveyed her to Dr. **JENKINS**, of Chippendale, where her wounds were dressed, and though severely cut and injured, we are happy to say she is now out of danger. *People's Advocate, April 3*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/812, 10/04/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at a house on the Upper Paterson, on the body of **JOHN WATTS**, a settler living there. It appeared from the evidence that on Saturday evening last, at a late hour, Watts was on his way home from Paterson with a bullock team, and was seated on a box or case at the hind part of his dray, when the wheel going into a hole the jerk threw him off, and he fell on his back, and was so seriously hurt inwardly that he was unable to move or call out, and lay there till Sunday morning; a beggar man next morning met with his bullock team entangled in the bush, and went and told Mrs. Watts, who came and looked about for her husband, but he was not seen for some time, when the beggar man found him, and called back Mrs. Watts, who removed her husband home on the dray. He had not lost any blood, but said he should die, telling his wife how the accident occurred, and that he was quite sober at the time. Dr. **LINDIMAN** saw

Watts that evening, but found him injured past recovery, and next day Watts died, after having given his son-in-law the same account of how he was injured. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and called attention to the very bad state of the road.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Mr. Eckford's, the White Swan, West Maitland, on the body of **WILLIAM SPINDLES**. It appeared that Spindles, a carrier or driver, came to Mr. Brown's public-house, Campbell's Hill, with his dray on Monday evening, and stopped there, putting the dray in the paddock, and sleeping under it; he appeared to have been drinking, and had one glass of rum that night at Mr. Brown's. Next morning he treated another man, then stopping in Mr. Eckford's paddock, and had himself two glasses of rum. He then went into the paddock to look for his horses, and while there, in company with, or rather being about thirty yards from, another driver, **SAMUEL SWINDLES**, he fell forward suddenly as he was attempting to rise from a stooping position; Swindles ran up, and found him speechless, and blood coming from one ear, and he immediately ran for Mr. Brown, but before they could reach the spot, Spindles was quite dead. A post mortem examination by Dr. **M'CARTNEY** showed that the vessels of the brain were engorged with blood, arising from the rupture of one of the vessels, which would cause death in a few minutes; the stomach was also highly congested with blood, and inflamed. The jury returned a verdict of died from apoplexy, produced by intemperance.

**AN EXPLORING PARTY MISSING.** - Update on **JAMES MITCHELL** and young man named **HEDLEY**; mentions a **DANIEL CONNOR**. No further news.

**SUSPICION OF MURDER.** - It will be in the remembrance of our readers that about two months since the body of a female (at first supposed to be a Miss **McELROY**) was found in the water at the Balmain side of the harbour, under circumstances which gave rise to a suspicion that she had been murdered. At the adjourned inquest held upon the body there was no evidence even as to the identity of the body, much less as to the means by which or the circumstances under which the female had lost her life. Subsequent enquiries made by the police appear to have established it as a fact that the body in question was that of **JANE CHAMPION or AYERST**. Two persons (a male and a female) were on Sunday last apprehended by Inspector **SINGLETON** on suspicion of having been implicated in the murder of the deceased, and yesterday an examination as to the grounds of suspicion against the accused was held, in the private room, by the Superintendent of Police, which resulted in the discharge of both parties from custody. *Herald, March 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/813, 14/04/1852

**INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS.**

**NEW INSOLVENTS.** - APRIL 8. - **DANIEL JOSEPH TIERNEY**, of York-street, Sydney, Doctor of Medicine. Amount of liabilities, £1007 2s. 6d., of assets, £337 2s., and of deficiency £630 0s.6d. Mr. **GEORGE KING**, official assignee.

**REPORTED SUICIDE.** - Yesterday morning a man, whose name we were told was **SMITH**, in the employ of Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, was found dead, having apparently hung himself. An inquest will doubtless be held on the body today. [SEE 10/814, 17/04/1852 – ACTUAL NAME **JAMES COLLINS**.]

**THE GOLD FIELDS**

APRIL 6. - **CUTTS**, the livery stable keeper, fell off his horse on Saturday evening about six o'clock, and died instantly – the cause of death was apoplexy. An inquest was held on Sunday, and a verdict returned accordingly.

A magisterial inquiry was held on Wednesday, touching the death of a woman of the name of **WILLIAMS**, who died in childbed, having been attended by a person named **GAINS**, he not being a qualified surgeon. The depositions have been sent to the Attorney General for his opinion.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

Saturday, APRIL 10, 1852 - Before his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson

MANSLAUGHTER. - **ROBERT ANDREW NEWMAN** and **WILLIAM GILLEY MARTIN** were indicted for the manslaughter of **TI KIO**, a Chinese, on board the ship *Ganges*, on the high seas, on the 21<sup>st</sup> January; Newman being charged as inflicting the injuries, and Martin as aiding and abetting. The trial was postponed till the next session, the prisoners being admitted to bail.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A melancholy accident, which terminated fatally, happened at Parramatta to the engineer of the *Comet*, as he was proceeding on board the steamer, on the evening of Saturday. The deceased, named **ROBERT M'DOUGAL**, when crossing a plank laid from the wharf to the steamer, missed his footing, and fell into the water. Grapnells were immediately procured, and in about seven minutes the body was recovered. Life was not extinct, and the unfortunate man lived for seven hours, expiring at seven o'clock yesterday morning. The body was brought down to Sydney for interment. *Empire, April 12*

ACCIDENT. - On Good Friday a youth named **MOIR SULLIVAN**, fifteen years of age, was riding home to his father's house, in Pitt-street, when the horse ran away with him, and carried him through a low arched passage communicating with the rear of the premises. His head struck the arch, by means of which a severe wound was inflicted on his forehead. The lad was carried to Mr. Row's shop, Pitt and Liverpool-streets, where Dr. **WEST** dressed his wound. Dr. West cannot at present express any opinion as to the probable result. The youth lies in a sad state at his father's residence. *Empire, April 12*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday last a little boy about ten years of age, belonging to a person named **MEALY**, of Rylston, was missed by his parents, who forthwith instituted a search about the neighbourhood, which terminated on finding his clothes on the bank of the Mudgee River, nearly opposite the inn kept by Mr. **WILLIAM TINDALL**. The waterhole, which is rather deep, was immediately dragged, and the lifeless body of the unfortunate boy finally discovered. An inquiry into the circumstances was instituted, when it was concluded that he had proceeded into the water with the intention of bathing, and was drowned. A verdict of accidental death was accordingly returned. *Bathurst Free Press, April 10*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> 1852. (Before the Chief Justice)

MANSLAUGHTER. - **ROBERT JONES** was indicted for discharging a gun at **MICKEY**, an aboriginal native, at Broulee, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, inflicting on him a wound, which caused his death.

The prisoner keeps a public house at Broulee, and was friendly with the blacks there, to whom he was usually very kind; on that day there was a quarrel outside the house between several blacks and some white men, in which Mickey was very violent, striking several people with his waddy; Jones went out to separate Mickey and a white man, and Mickey turned on him, struck at him with his waddy, and on Jones's retreating, threw his tomahawk at him, and then ran after him; Jones ran and took refuge in a room of the inn, but Mickey tried to force his way in; a gun was heard to go off, and shortly after Mickey was seen lying wounded under the window of the room; he died from the wound, which a surgeon deposed to be a gun shot one. No

witness saw Jones use a gun, or saw the gun fired, but Jones told one witness to go and tell the chief constable he had shot a man.

Mr. **DARVALL**, in defence, contended that the shot was fired in self defence, and that Mickey was endeavouring to get at Jones to kill him.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, with which his Honor expressed his perfect concurrence.

**MURDER.** - **HUGH ROBERTSON** was indicted for the wilful murder of **WILLIAM ROBERTSON**, by stabbing him in the neck, on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, inflicting a wound whereof he lingered until the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, when he died.

This was a very painful case. The prisoner and deceased were brothers, and they were both insane, as was also their sister. All three resided with their father, in Sydney, the deceased being usually of violent temperament, and the prisoner silly but harmless. On the 7<sup>th</sup> March prisoner accused his sister of having put a plague on him, and they quarrelled violently; deceased interfered, seized his brother, and attempted to drag him away from their sister; prisoner resisted, and desired his brother to let him go; deceased refused, and after some altercation prisoner stabbed him in the throat. Although the wound thus inflicted was a very severe one, and eventually proved mortal, the blood flowing freely, prisoner appeared not to be aware of the nature of the deed he had done, but on being loosed by his brother commenced eating. The deceased would not believe that he was near death, violently resisted being taken to hospital, and continued violent there until his death, on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, on the ground of insanity. The prisoner, who had throughout the trial appeared quite unconscious of what was going on, was remanded in custody to await the pleasure of the Governor General.

#### **TAKING POISON IN MISTAKE.**

An inquest was held on Wednesday before the Coroner, on view of the body of **ELLEN KERR**, then lying dead at her residence in George-street. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased was a widow, with a family of young children, and she kept a small shop in George-street. On Tuesday she complained of a pain in her head, and went to Dr. **M'PHEE'S** house, where she purchased a dose of salts. At the same time she bought half an ounce of arsenic, for the purpose of destroying the rats, with which her house was infested. On her return home, she mixed what she imagined was the salts (having placed both the packets in her pocket) and swallowed it. She soon began to vomit, and told her sister, **ALICE MORGAN**, that she feared she had taken the poison instead of the salts. Dr. M'Phee believed that her case was hopeless. She said before she died that she had taken the poison in mistake, and there was no reasonable cause shown to believe the contrary to have been the case. The arsenic was labelled, and the word "poison" was legibly written on it. The jury returned a verdict, that the deceased died from the effects of poison which she had taken by mistake. *Empire, April 9*

#### **MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/814, 17/04/1852**

**SUICIDE.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at the Bricklayer's Arms, West Maitland, on the body of **JAMES COLLINS**, the man whose death by hanging we reported in the last *Mercury*, under the name of **SMITH**. It appeared from the evidence that Collins, who was some time since in the employ of Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, had at one time been in the hospital, and had a portion of his skull removed; since then he was liable to be greatly affected by drinking, to which he was unfortunately addicted. Since he left Dr. M'Cartney's Collins had been lodging at a lodging-house, kept by Mrs. **BATTY**, and had been frequently drinking. On Monday

evening last he was at Mr. Kerrigan's public house, intoxicated, and while there had some words with another man, **DAN HENRY**, who had pushed him away from a glass of ale, and Collin's head struck against the mantel-piece, breaking the skin, and causing blod to flow rather freely. When Collins was about to leave, some time afterwards, he appeared rather stupid, and staggered, and the barman wanted him to remain for the night, but Collins refused and left. Some short time afterwards Mr. and Mrs. **MULLINS** were going homewards, and noticed a man laying in the road opposite the Northumberland Hotel; the man half rose up, and Mr. Mullins recognized him to be Collins, and he then took Collins home to Mrs. Batty's. Collins there went to be as usual, and the next morning early he went to the water-closet, and returned to the house, but after breakfast another lodger chanced to go to the closet, and found Collin s hanging, dead, suspended to the beam by a strap. Dr. M'Cartney examined the body, but found no marks of violence except a slight wound on the head, which could not have affected him. The jury returned a verdict that Collins hung himself while labouring under temporary insanity, from intemperance.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - An inquest was held yesterday at Parkinson's public house, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **JOHN NEILL**, then lying dead in the Benevolent Asylum. It appeared that Neill had entered Mr. Goodwin's public house, George-street, and called for some ale, but as he seemed very weak and ill Mrs. Goodwin gave him some warm port wine, while Mr. Goodwin called sergeant **BOURKE** of the police, as he feared Neill would die shortly. Neill told the sergeant that he had come down the country, was 45 years old, and had had no food for four days. He was removed to the Benevolent Asylum without delay, but died immediately after his arrival there. A post mortem examination showed that long standing ulceration of the stomach, which contained not a particle of food, was the cause of death. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God. *Abridged from the Empire, April 14.*

**AN OLD MAN FOUND DEAD IN THE BUSH.** - On Monday last a Coroner's enquiry was held at Lower Boro, before **ROBERT WAUGH**, Esq., on view of the remains of a man found in the bush on the previous Friday. The following evidence was given:- Mrs. **MARY HAYES** deposed that she resides at Lower Boro, in the house lately occupied by Mr. **WOODFIELD** as an inn; the deceased was her husband; his name was **RICHARD HAYES**; he was about 72 years of age. Deceased had been unable to work for about two years, and upwards of a year ago was admitted to the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, where however he only remained about a month, and then came up to this part of the country, where they had lived in different services. Deceased had been childish for the last three or four months, and had three or four times strayed away from home and been absent some days; he was sent home by parties who found him, being sometimes as far as four or five miles away in the bush; last saw the deceased alive on the afternoon of this day three weeks, when witness left him here, she herself going to Mr. **MULLINS**, who lives about two miles, to get some provisions and borrow a horse and cart to take deceased to Braidwood, where she hoped to get a little money subscribed to help to maintain him; on her return in the evening she found deceased had left the house; witness watched after him that night and the next day, and two men who were shepherding in the neighbourhood had also been in search of him; she got no information about deceased until Friday afternoon. Mr. **THOMAS WEALANDS** deposed that he lives at Millindett, near Lake Bathurst; went in search of deceased early last week and succeeded in finding his remains on Friday last, in Curra Creek, about a quarter of a mile from here; coming down this creek about two hundred rods above where his

body lies he found a handkerchief; on coming a little further down the dog gave a cry, and riding up to the spot he found the body; some articles of clothing were near the body. **JOHN GERARD**, Esq., deposed that he had made a post mortem examination on the remains of deceased; the body was that of a male adult evidently far advanced in years; decomposition had far advanced; the body was much mutilated apparently by dogs; the right leg below the knee had been torn away; the whole of the right hand and all the flesh of the right arm, together with the forefinger of the left hand, had also been torn away; the face also had been much torn; witness's opinion was that deceased's death was not caused by any violence directly applied; from the situation of the body when found, and the appearance of recent floods, was inclined to the belief that the deceased came by his death by drowning. A verdict of "found dead" was returned. *Goulburn Herald, April 10*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/814, 21/04/1852

DEATH OF CAPTAIN BLYTH BY DROWNING. - We are sorry to learn, by a letter from Newcastle, that Captain **BLYTH**, of the ship *Xylon*, was drowned near Bullock Island, by the upsetting of a boat. Bullock Island is one of the islands in the Hunter, above Newcastle.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER** at Mr. Cooper's, the Rose Inn, East Maitland, on the body of **FRANCIS JOHN BLAKELEY**. It appeared from the evidence that Blakeley, a young man of 21 years old, was the nephew of Mr. Cooper, and employed by him in his saddlery establishment. On Monday evening, Mr. Cooper, his son, and Blakeley, had been out at Mr. C.'s farm, some two miles from the town, and in returning young Cooper and Blakeley, who were riding, were joined by a Mr. **WILLIAMSON**, also on horseback. They were riding at a fast trot, at some little distance apart, the dust they raised concealing them from each other, when Williamson, who was hindmost, unexpectedly found Blakeley lying on his back in the road, and just trying, but unable to get up, blood issuing from his mouth. Williamson immediately dismounted, and was soon joined by young Cooper, who as riding in advance, but had been alarmed by Blakeley's riderless pony passing him. Shortly after they were joined by Mr. Cooper himself, who as following in a dray, and had been alarmed by a passer-by. Poor Blakeley continued unable to speak, and he was carefully brought home on the dray, Dr. **WILTON** having been sent for. He died in an hour after the occurrence. Blakeley, when found, was lying close by two stumps, and his pony's hind legs being found cut, the stumps were examined, and marks found as if the pony had stumbled over one, when the sudden check threw Blakeley over his head. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - We are informed that **BARTON**, the trooper, whose accident by a fall from his horse was recorded in a late publication, has died from concussion of the brain thereby produced. It appears that he was thrown upon the top of a neighbouring hill, where he was found in a state of insensibility, but how long the accident had occurred is not known. *Bathurst Free Press, April 14*

THE RYLSTON MURDER. - Mr. Jenner's coach-man **ARMSTRONG**, who was apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in the Rylston murder on Monday week, underwent a re-examination on Wednesday, which eventuated in his release upon bail, as the correspondence between his person and the description given in the *Hue and Cry* was first discovered not to be quite so close as was at first believed. Other circumstances also rendered it extremely improbable that he was connected with the murderous transaction. *Bathurst Free Press, April 14*

THOMAS WHILMORE. - This unfortunate young man expiated his crimes on the scaffold this morning, the 14<sup>th</sup>. He was attended during his last moments by the Rev. **THOMAS SHARP**, A.M., and the Rev. **WILLIAM** [too faint to read] of Kelso, and, we understand, died penitent. He walked firmly and composedly to the place of execution, and his death seemed instantaneous, as he died without a struggle. Mr. **PROUT**, the under-sheriff, was present. *Herald's Bathurst Correspondent*

#### DEATHS

Drowned, off Bullock Island, near Newcastle, on the evening of Monday, April 19, 1852, by the upsetting of a boat, **JOHN BLYTH**, master of the ship *Xylon*, of Launceston, aged 26 years.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April, at his residence, West Maitland, Mr. **HENRY REEVES**, aged 47 years. Mr. Reeves had been for years labouring under disease of the heart, and had been ailing, and under medical care, for weeks before his death, but he died at last quite suddenly. Few men possessed a wider circle of attached friends than Mr. Reeves, who had been for many years an inhabitant of Maitland, and is very generally and deservedly regretted.

DEATHS BY DROWNING. - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM MURRAY**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. From the evidence it appears that the deceased was about 55 years of age, and had lately been an inmate of the Asylum. He left there when a removal of some of the patients to Liverpool took place, and had been since living in a humble lodging, which he left on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, saying that he was going on a long journey, and might not return. He had been ailing of late, and thanked the people of the house for their kindness. Nothing more was heard or seen of him until Tuesday last, when his body was found floating in Darling Harbour, off the Market Wharf. It had not the appearance of having been long in the water, being quite fresh. This was all the evidence before the jury, who, in accordance with the direction of the Coroner, returned a verdict of "found drowned, but how or by what means so drowned there is no evidence to determine." *Herald, April 15*

Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of Mr. **JOHN CRAWFORD**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased was a tidewaiter in the customs, and about 40 years of age. On Easter Monday he left his sister's house to go on board the ship *Earl of Charlemont*. He was then not quite sober. He never returned alive. The *Earl of Charlemont* lies off the Circular Quay, and deceased lived in Domain Terrace. Yesterday the body was found floating in the harbour, about thirty yards from the shore, near the Circular Quay. The body was towed to the water police office stairs. Deceased was fully dressed, and a watch and six shillings were found in his pocket. S. The body seemed quite fresh, as if it had been but a short time in the water. The Coroner's constable stated that he had made enquiries on board the *Earl of Charlemont*, and had ascertained that deceased did not go on board on Monday evening, having had leave of absence, it being a holiday. The jury returned a verdict of "found drowned." *Herald, April 17*

WINDSOR. - FATAL EFFECTS OF INTOXICATION. - An inquest was this day, 10<sup>th</sup> April, held before **JOSHUA DOWE**, Esq., M.D., J.P., the coroner, on view of the body of **MARY BAKER**, an old woman, who was found dead this morning, floating in the Hawkesbury, near the Windsor and Wilberforce punt. From the evidence adduced, it appears that the unfortunate deceased had been drinking to excess during the whole of Good Friday, and at about eight o'clock in the evening

was seen very drunk, on the bank of the river, at a most precipitous and dangerous spot; she was not again seen alive, nor seen at all, until next morning at daylight, when she was found floating in the river, near to where she had been last seen on the previous evening. The jury returned a verdict that deceased was found drowned, and, in their opinion, had fallen into the river while in a state of intoxication. *Herald Correspondent.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/815, 24/04/1852

SYDNEY NEWS. - An accident of a serious nature occurred today, about noon, at the Circular Quay, where a pot of boiling pitch was capsized over two lads, both of whom were very seriously injured – one is scarcely expected to live.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - Yesterday morning, the body of a female, apparently about forty years of age [**ANN GOODWIN**], was found floating in the harbour off Dawes's Battery. It was conveyed to the Infirmary, where it now remains for identification. The deceased is dressed in a dark cotton gown and straw bonnet, with earrings, and two gold finger rings. A paper was found in her pocket, on which is written, in pencil, "Mr. **GIPPS** or **GIBBS**, next door to Mr. **THOMPSON**." An eye-glass is round her neck, attached with brown silk cord. *Herald, April 22*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/816, 28/04/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday morning a lad [**JAMES GILLARD**] of about twelve years old, the son of an immigrant, met with a fatal injury at the Sugar Loaf. He was in the employ of a small settler named **PATRICK HAFEY**, and on Sunday morning was sent out to get in a mare from the paddock; as the lad subsequently told Hafey, he caught the mare, and was leading her to a stump, when she became fractious, and kicked him in the stomach. The poor lad, whose father is employed on a farm near, lived in great agony till Monday evening, when he died. An inquest will no doubt be held on the body to-day.

DEATH IN THE GAOL. - On Saturday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Maitland Gaol, on the body of **JAMES BROWN**, a prisoner there, awaiting trial on two charges of larceny. It appeared from the evidence that Brown, who was with the other prisoners for trial brought down at the late Quarter Sessions and remanded. Became from some cause very much depressed in spirits immediately afterwards, and told his brother, who is also in gaol awaiting trial (both being ticket-of-leave holders ex *Randolph*), that "he was fretting under his misfortunes." Dr. **WILTON**, the medical attendant at the gaol, saw Brown that day, and prescribed restoratives for him, and has continued since in close attendance on him; but Brown's illness increased and he was seized with typhus fever, and died on Friday evening. The witnesses described the gaol authorities as having been very attentive to Brown. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

THE GOLD FIELDS.

WALLABY POINT

*(From the Bathurst Free Press, April 24)*

A few days ago a monster in human form went into one of the tents on Paterson Point and attempted to violate the person of a girl about 12 years of age. The father of the girl was away at work and her mother was gone to Sofala. It appears that the wretch must have watched the departure of the mother, for very shortly after she left the tent he entered and attempted his diabolical offence immediately. Upon the return of the mother she was told by the child of the assault, and the man, who was working in the neighbourhood, made his escape. On the following day the father procured a warrant

for his apprehension, the police were sent on his trail, and the day after the warrant was issued the man was taken at the Dirt Hole, whence he was brought to Sofala. After a patient investigation of the affair, and the examination of a host of witnesses, he was committed for trial at the ensuing assizes, but allowed bail. This is the first case of this kind I have heard of on the river, and I hope it will be the last.

**BURNETT DISTRICT**

*(From a Correspondent of the Moreton Bay Courier)*

MARCH 31. - The aborigines have again commenced hostilities in this district. A special messenger arrived last night from the Upper Burnett, to report the death of Mr. **ADOLPHUS H. TREVETHAN**, one of the most extensive flockowners in the district. It appears that on Monday last the blacks appeared upon the station in numbers, killed two Chinamen, and drove away 1700 sheep. Before Mr. Trevethan was aware of this they marched on the head station, some 500 strong, and with loud voices and gesticulations, demanded that Mrs. **THOMPSON**, the wife of the overseer, should be given up to them. On this Mr. Trevethan ran out of his hut, unarmed, to hold a parley. He was in the act of picking up some tobacco he had given, which they threw with vengeance to the ground, when he was speared in several places. The unfortunate man succeeded in getting back to his hut, where he expired in about two hours.

The blacks then drove away the whole of the rams, with the rest of the sheep. The station is the same as that on which Mr. **STREET** was killed some months ago. Only last shearing the blacks bailed up all the shearers, and took the whole of their blankets, tea, sugar, quart and pint pots, and clothing away; the men not being able to resist for want of arms and ammunition. Rowbell is not far from the head quarters of the Native Police, but unfortunately Lieutenant **MURRAY** with his division are out on the Murray, almost to a man laid up with fever and ague. Lieutenant **MARSHALL** is at Ideraway with his division, his horses knocked up with excessive duty. Surely this zealous, active officer ought to have more means at his command for the heavy duties he has to perform. Two horses at least are required for each trooper, as it appears that these Native Police have not only to do duty as a frontier force, but also as a patrol. They came into Gayndah the other days with four of Mr. **GORDON SANDEMAN'S** Chinamen, the ringleaders in a revolt, in which the Chinese shepherds left 28,000 sheep in the hurdles, and fled the station. Fortunately Lieutenant Marshall happened to be in the neighbourhood, and he arrested the ringleaders, and persuaded the others back to their duty. The four mentioned were brought up at the Police-office on Tuesday, and fully committed to the next Brisbane Assizes. A petition is about to go the round amongst the whole of the squatters in the Burnett district – for they are all employers of Chinese labour – praying his Excellency will appoint a Chinese interpreter to the bench; the whole of their worship's attention being taken up every court day in deciding disputes between the celestials and their employers; and as they do not yet exactly understand the language, these trials are necessarily one-sided. The bench, it is stated, have therefore decided upon applying for a paid Chinese interpreter. ...

April 4. - Since writing the above, Lieutenant Marshall has marched through Gayndah with his division, *en route* to the scene of the late horrid disasters. We hope soon to hear of the murderers being taken or shot. There appears to be some doubt amongst the squatters as to which of the Trevethans it is that has been murdered, as there are two brothers, but from all I can gather I believe it is the youngest, Mr. A.H. Trevethan.

April 5. - A messenger has just arrived to report that the blacks have again attacked Mr. Foster's station, the same where Mr. Blaxland was killed, on the Lower Burnett. They attacked two of the shepherds in the bush, who immediately mixed their flocks, and fought them manfully, beating them off, with the loss of ten sheep, and one man speared in the trousers. I forgot to mention that a few days ago the blacks robbed and sacked a station of Mr. Reid's, within a mile of the town, while the inmates were away.

It is anticipated that there will be a general rising amongst the aborigines in this part of the colony this winter, stations on the river having been attacked at three different points almost simultaneously. Mr. **P. STEPHEN** has disposed of his station, and removed a great part of the cattle; so, not having beef to cut at, they say they are determined upon trying our mutton!

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Three Tuns Tavern, on the body of a female who was found drowned near Dawes Battery, on Wednesday morning, the particulars of which appeared in Thursday's paper. She was a married woman, about fifty-nine years of age. Her husband is at the diggings, and she resided at the Glebe. She had no children of her own, and prevailed upon two little children belonging to a neighbour to accompany her to Woolloomooloo, where she was taking some clothes which she had washed. On the road she took a glass of ale, and, when at the house where she took the clothes to, she had a glass of spirits and water. She was a woman of very temperate habits, but it would seem that the drink she took on that occasion flew to her head. She set out on her return about dusk. She fell down, and when she recovered she said she would go back to the house where she had taken the clothes. The children then left her, and went to their home. A man residing in Woolloomooloo, gave evidence that on Wednesday evening about dusk, he was returning to his home from his work, when he saw the woman lying in a dry hole near the Bay, about three hundred yards from the water. A number of boys were throwing stones at her. He assisted her to rise, when she told him her name and residence. She also requested him to see her home. He refused, as he believed her capable of taking care of herself. She walked steadily towards her home. She was not seen alive again, but on the following morning her corpse was found at the landing place at Dawes' Point. Constable **COWELL**, of the Water Police, found the body, and he believed she had been about an hour in the water. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental drowning." *Empire, April 24*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/817, 01/05/1852**

**DEATH FROM THE KICK OF A HORSE.** - On Wednesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Mr. Mayo's, the Hunter River Hotel, East Maitland, on the body of **JAMES GILLARD**, who died on Monday (as reported by us) from the injuries received by a mare kicking him, at the Sugarloaf, in the lower part of the stomach, on Sunday morning. The evidence differed but little from the account given by us. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Wednesday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, **JOSEPH CHAMBERS**, the well known horse-breaker, and an admirable rider, was killed instantaneously by being thrown from a horse, the back of his head coming on a stone, and being dreadfully fractured. Chambers had borrowed a young spirited horse from Mr. **LUSCOMB**, of West Maitland, that morning, receiving special caution not to use the spur, or the horse would immediately buck-jump; he rode him, however, with spurs, but returned him safely. In the afternoon he again borrowed the horse to go to East Maitland, and returned to Mr. Luscomb with him about half-past seven

o'clock, remarking that the horse was a good one, but would buck jump directly he was spurred. As Chambers was a little fresh, and the horse was prancing about restlessly, Mr. Luscomb was anxious that Chambers should dismount, and begged him to do so; Chambers would not at the time, and Mr. Luscomb was called away for a moment. The horse was just after seen to take two or three forward plunges, and then to run up the opening between Mr. Cohen's residence and the stores now building by Messrs. D. Cohen and Co., the ground all round being strewn with stones, &c. Constable **KEDWELL** and a Mr. **HARMER**, who saw this, ran after them, fearing something would happen, and they had scarcely entered when they met the riderless horse, which eluded Kedwell's grasp; proceeding a little further Kedwell found Chambers lying on his face by a stone, and caught him by the arm, saying "Joe, are you hurt;" no answer was returned, and Kedwell found that Chambers was dead, scarcely a minute having elapsed from the time the horse turned up from the High-street. Medical assistance was immediately procured, but of course in vain, the back of the skull being completely driven in. The horse was just afterwards caught by Mr. Luscomb, and it was found that the bit was broken, which had no doubt deprived poor Chambers of all power over him. An inquest was held on the body, by Mr. **PARKER**, on Thursday, and a verdict of accidental death returned. Chambers had been a resident of Maitland many years, and was generally liked. He has left a family of several young children, for whose benefit a subscription is now being made, and very generally responded to.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at the George and Dragon Inn, East Maitland, on the body of **JANET PLAIN**. It appeared that Mrs. Plain, who was about 45 years old, was much given to intemperance, and had been drunk on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday afternoon she called at the hut of **JOHN CHRISTIAN**, on the Pitnacree road, and sat down on a chair, saying she was bad, and asking Mrs. Christian for a drink of water; Mrs. Christian went to fetch her a cup of water, and was shocked when she returned to find Mrs. Plain lying on the floor, apparently dead; Mrs. Christian ran for her husband, and Mr. **RICHARD MAYO**, who were ploughing close by, but they found, on coming to the house, that Mrs. Plain was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of died from apoplexy, caused by intemperate habits.

**DEATH OF A PERSEVERING GAOL INMATE.** - On Monday, an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Queen's Arms Inn, South Head Road, on view of the body of **JOHN O'NEIL**, then lying dead in the Darlinghurst Gaol. Dr. **GRANT**, dispenser to the gaol, stated that the deceased was under sentence of two years' imprisonment. He was about 78 years of age, and had been an almost constant inmate of a gaol or penal establishment for the last thirty-seven years. For the last two years, since he had been in Darlinghurst, he had been labouring under chronic disease of the mucous membrane of the bowels. He had been in the hospital since the 6<sup>th</sup> of September last. About three days ago, a severe attack of diarrhoea set in, which caused his death. Dr. Grant added, that deceased arrived here under sentence in 1815, and had been, he believed, at every penal settlement in these colonies. Verdict, death from natural causes. *Herald, April 28*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/818, 05/05/1852**

**RIDING ON A DRAY.** - Yesterday **JOHN DORAN** appeared before the bench, charged with riding on his dray, drawn by four horses, in Maitland; he was convicted, and fined 10s. and costs.

**BODY FOUND.** - On last Friday evening, in consequence of information received, police sergeant **M'MAKIN**, stationed at the North Shore, proceeded to a place in the bush at a short distance from the road leading to Middle Head, and found the remains of a man [**WILLIAM KELLY**] lying on a rock. The left foot and right arm were completely gone, and scarcely any flesh on any part of the body. About six yards from the body was found a revolver, with some percussion caps, and a few bullets, but no powder. In the pocket of his trowsers were found 10s. in silver, and a roll of notes, the latter so saturated that it was impossible to count how many it contained. Nothing has since transpired affording a clue to the identification of the unfortunate man. He appears to have had on a brown pilot cloth coat, with velvet collar, which, so far as can be judged from its present appearance, had been a considerable time in use. It is to be hoped that something may transpire by which the body may be identified at the Coroner's inquest. *Herald, May 3*

**MR. TREVETHAN'S MURDER.** - We believe the following to be an authentic account of the melancholy death of Mr. Trevethan:- A few days previous to the murder, the blacks bailed up the head station, robbed the men's huts, and destroyed much they could not carry away, and were only prevented from obtaining possession of the store by the number of men shearing at the station. Had the men exercised a little courage they might have kept the blacks away, but they no sooner saw the way clear than they left in a body, leaving poor Trevethan to fight his own battle. The blacks then left, taking with them some rams and wethers from the head station. They visited the station again in a day or two, when a little black boy assisting a Chinaman in driving some sheep up a ridge at the back of the kitchen, observed a number of blacks lying flat on the ground. The black boy then gave the alarm, running towards the huts, calling the Chinaman to follow him, who probably not understanding the boy remained behind, when he was tomahawked. Mr. Trevethan, with the assistance of the white men on the station, who had heard the alarm and made for the hut, succeeded in driving the blacks back towards the top of the ridge, when they turned round and threw spears without doing any damage. Mr. Trevethan, anxious for the safety of his nephew, who had been cut off from the hut during the attack, and hoping the blacks would disperse by fair means, gave them tobacco, &c., upon which some came forward without their spears, and the men handed them tobacco. Some of the blacks were not dissatisfied, stating it was not enough; when Mr. Trevethan took out more and offered it to one of them, who let it fall to the ground, saying it was pipes they wanted. Mr. Trevethan then stooped to pick up the tobacco, and when rising he received three spears, two in the breast and one through the cheeks; he staggered back to the hut, and fell, saying, "I'm dead," and spoke no more. The blacks then moved off, taking with them 1700 sheep. Mr. Trevethan's nephew concealed himself in the bed of the river during the affray. *Herald, April 30*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/819, 08/05/1852**

**MUSWELL BROOK**

**INQUEST.** - On the 26<sup>th</sup> April an inquest was commenced before **J.B. WEST**, Esq., coroner of the district, at the White Hart Inn, Muswell Brook, on view of the body of **ESKET EVERETT**, then lying dead at the residence of Mr. **MORRISON**. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased and two men, named **GEORGE CLARK** and **SAMUEL BAKER**, had some weeks since returned to this neighbourhood from the gold diggings, and that on the 11<sup>th</sup> April they left Muswell Brook with Clarke's horse team for Maitland, and were on their journey till the 13<sup>th</sup>, when they camped about 8 miles from Singleton, on the Maitland Road. The next day

being wet, they could not travel, and deceased and Baker went to the Freugh Arms Inn; and some time before day-light the next morning deceased returned to the dray, and said, "O Lord, Clark, I am mated all the pieces;" and he named the parties from whom (Everett) said he had received the injuries. Clark saw that Everett's head and face were much bruised and covered with blood. (As the inquest is not yet concluded we omit the names mentioned by Everett.) On the 24<sup>th</sup> Everett, Clark, and Baker returned to Muswell Brook, when Everett was taken to the resident surgeon, but he died the following day. Dr. **FOWLER**, of Scone, made a post mortem examination of the body, and proved that the deceased died from violent injuries he had received on his head and face. Four other witnesses were examined, and the inquiry adjourned till the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. In the interval Mr. **FOX**, chief constable of Muswell Brook, went to the neighbourhood where Everett received the injuries. This day (3<sup>rd</sup> May) four other witnesses were examined, and the inquest further adjourned till Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup> instant. May 3, 1852.

**PARRAMATTA.** - An inquest was held at the Lunatic Asylum, Tarban Creek, on Monday last, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, coroner for the district, on view of the body of **MARY ANN SRUHEN**, then and there lying dead. Dr. **CAMPBELL**, superintendent of the establishment, being sworn, stated that deceased, Mary Ann Sruhen, was received into the establishment on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1850, under a warrant of the Governor General, from Maitland Gaol, as a dangerous lunatic, where she had been confined for protection. No history of her case had been sent with her. She was labouring under incoherent mania; her general health was tolerably good, and her appearance favourable. On the first instant she complained that she was not well, but did not describe her ailment; shortly afterwards a fluttering at the heart was perceivable, and then she said she was sick; she lost her colour, and became faint; complained of great pain at the region of the heart, and exclaimed that her heart felt as if it would leap out of her. She was immediately put to bed, but died in two minutes after. A verdict of died from disease of the heart was returned. *Herald, May 6*

**GOULBURN.** - **MELANCHOLY AFFAIR.** - On Thursday evening last, Mr. Faithfull's gardener was in town from Springfield, with a cart-load of fruit, which, by an early hour in the afternoon, he had disposed of. He remained in town, drinking at several public-houses, and by the time he started for home, which was about half-past four o'clock, he was rather intoxicated. A man known by the name of "Scotchie" accompanied him in the cart; but I cannot say whether he was drunk or not; though I have reason to believe he was little soberer than his companion. Not returning home in reasonable time, Mr. Faithfull sent into town on Friday evening, to know where his man was, suspecting that he had remained in Goulburn drinking. Having been seen to leave the town on Thursday night, apprehensions as to his safety were excited, and a search was made. On Saturday morning, his unfortunate fate was ascertained. In a large water-hole, in the Mulwarree Ponds, between Brisbane Grove and Landsdowne, the horse and cart were found immersed, and not the slightest doubt is entertained, that the unfortunate men have perished in the stream. It is surmised that, shortly after leaving town, the gardener and his companion fell asleep, and the horse finding that he had no guide, (and doubtless very hungry after his journey to town), strayed off the road to feed, and on arriving at the brink of the water-hole, attempted to get a drink, but the bank being very precipitous, he fell in, dragging the cart along with him. He was found on the other side of the creek, quite dead, with the cart still attached to him. Several boxes that were in the cart were found floating down the stream, but the search after the bodies that day proved unsuccessful. Early this (Sunday) morning, the search was resumed, and at about three o'clock in the afternoon, the body of the

gardener was seen rising to near the surface. It was brought on shore, and conveyed to Mr. Mandelson's hotel, where an inquest will be held by Dr. **WAUGH**, the Coroner. The other body has not as yet been found. The gardener had lived a number of years with Mr. **FAITHFULL**, and was well known in this town and its neighbourhood. He was a married man, but had no family. Scotchie was also working at Springfield, and was unmarried. [Since I wrote the above, I have heard that the other body has been found]. *Correspondent of Empire*

PORT MACQUARIE. - THE FLOODS. - The hut of a man named "**JOE NUTT**" could not resist the flood, and was carried away – of course the poor fellow was drowned; his body was recovered a few days after.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - Yesterday, an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street on view of the body of **WILLIAM KELLY**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. **JOHN THOMAS**, in the employ of Mr. **STERLING**, of the North Shore, stated that on Thursday last, he and another man were cutting wood in that locality, and whilst getting some water from the creek he was oppressed by a fearful stench. Being a stranger, he attributed it to the opossums; but on the following day the same stench continuing, he searched about, and soon found a new shirt, and a short distance therefrom he saw what appeared to be a dead body. It was much mutilated. Some clothes were lying about. Witness found a pistol, a box of percussion caps, and a powder flask (produced before the coroner), lying on the ground. By the side of these lay a coat and handkerchief, a red striped waistcoat, and a two-bladed knife. Witness reported the circumstance to Mrs. Sterling, Mr. Sterling being from home. - Mr. Sterling, J.P., stated, that one of his servants, the last witness, reported to him, upon his return home, that the dead body of a man had been found near the house; and that a paper, produced, had been found on the body. He, Mr. Sterling, immediately sent for the police, who proceeded with him to the place described, and took charge of the body and various articles found near it; namely, a roll of bank notes, saturated with moisture, ten shillings in silver, two penny pieces, a revolving pistol, a powder flask, a box of percussion caps, a bag of pistol bullets, a knife, a comb, and sundry articles of wearing apparel. Mr. Sterling directed the constables to remove the body and the property to Sydney, and to give the necessary notice to the proper authorities. One barrel of the revolving pistol was loaded. Mr. Sterling perceived traces of a stream of blood on the rocks, and also a dark spot where the deceased had probably lain, and which was about four or five yards from where the remains were found. Portions of hair were discernable on the rock. A certificate of discharge from the services of the Messrs. **MACARTHUR** was also found, dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April ultimo, and naming deceased as William Kelly. Sergeant **M'MACKIN**, of the Sydney Police, stated, that in obedience to Mr. Sterling's orders, he and other constables had proceeded to the spot described by that gentleman's servant, and had found the body, and the various articles described. The notes had since been dried, and amounted to £22. The pistol was found close to where traces of blood were observable on the rock. Dr. **NATHAN** stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the remains of the deceased. From the absence of most of the flesh and soft parts, and the appearance of those which remained, he, Dr. N., was of opinion that deceased must have been dead some time – certainly weeks. The right hand and the right foot were absent altogether. He Dr. N., had most carefully examined the bones of the skull, spinal column, and other bones which remained, and could not find that any ante-mortem injury had been inflicted on them. The marks, apparently of native dogs, appeared on some of the bones. He, Dr. N., had

no means of arriving at the causes of death. The jury returned the following verdict, "found dead, but how and by what means, the jury cannot say." *Herald, May 4*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/820, 12/05/1852

SUDDEN DEATH OF CAPTAIN WRIGHT. - Great fear is entertained by the friends of Captain **WRIGHT**, J.P., of Bengalla, near Muswell Brook, that he has met with an untimely end. On Thursday evening, the 25<sup>th</sup> March, Captain Wright took his passage at Sydney for Maitland in the up-steamer, and was seen lying on a berth in the cabin, reading a newspaper, by a gentleman who knew him. Since that moment, nearly seven weeks ago, nothing has been seen of the unfortunate gentleman, nor have his friends been able to trace the slightest clue to his fate. In the morning, it is stated, his hat and glove were found in the water-closet of the steamer, but singularly enough the occurrence seems to have excited no remark at the time; and it is quite possible, indeed, that none of the steamer's officers, nor the steward, may have observed him on board, if, as is frequently the case with passengers, he went straight to his berth directly on coming aboard from the wharf in Sydney. Captain Wright has no family, at least in the colony, and consequently enquires were not set on foot so quickly as they doubtless would have been otherwise, but although every enquiry has been made during the last few days, nothing has been elicited further than the above; except that it is stated he left a portmanteau and other articles at his agent's, in Sydney, a day or two before leaving, and that in the portmanteau has been since found his will.

THE GOLD FIELDS

THE TURON. - A fatal accident occurred yesterday, about a mile from the township, on the Bathurst road. A man named **JAMES HARPUR** was riding on a dray, when it capsized, and he was killed on the spot. Another accident happened at the same place, and in the like manner, a few days ago; a woman and her child were very seriously injured. From the state of the road at this spot it is almost miraculous that no more accidents occur; but, perhaps, now that one life has been lost, and two other parties seriously injured, the proper authorities will see to it.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Yesterday, an inquest was held at Canterbury, before the Coroner, at the house of Mr. **WEST**, on view of the body of **ELIZABETH ANN PHILLES**, then lying dead at Canterbury aforesaid. It would appear from the evidence that the deceased, an infant, was in the cart with her mother, in the Canterbury bush, and that the horse ran against a tree, and threw the cart over both mother and child. The mother was too ill to give evidence; and Dr. **AITKEN'S** evidence corroborated the statement made by the witness, who found the cart upset, and the mother and child under the wheels. Verdict, accidental death. *Herald, May 8*

BURNETT DISTRICT. - The news contained in our last with reference to the death of Mr. **CLARKE**, nephew of **F.W. ROCHE**, Esq., has been substantially confirmed; there is now no doubt of the fact, as described in my last; and, to add to Mr. Roche's misfortunes, at the time the blacks killed his nephew they took away 2000 sheep, which up to this date have not been recovered. The Native Police have been entirely unsuccessful in tracing the murderers of Mr. Trevethan, and have returned to Rowbell, beaten – their horses broken-hearted – after 14 days absence – There is no further news, except the usual Chinese troubles. ...

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday last, as the steam-boat *Swallow* was returning from Ipswich, and when between that place and the confluence of the Bremer and the Brisbane, a man named **JAMES YOUNG**, employed on board the vessel, was in the act of raising a bucket of water from the river, when – owing, as it is supposed, to the bucket being caught by the paddle wheel in front of which it was thrown, the

unfortunate man was drawn overboard. He was only seen once afterwards, and immediately sunk again. The steamer was stopped for three hours, and grappling irons having been produced, search was made for the body, which, however, was not found till next day. A magisterial investigation was held before Mr. **M'ARTHUR**, Police Magistrate of Ipswich, when Dr. **GLISSAN**, who examined the body, deposed that he found no external injuries thereon. It is supposed the agitation of the water caused by the paddles kept the deceased below the surface until suffocation ensued.

*Moreton Bay Courier, May 1*

**SUICIDE.** - A man who has been lately lodging at Mr. Weedon's public house, the Cherry Gardens, on the Parramatta road, was found in his bed yesterday morning, with his throat cut from one ear to the other. He was quite dead. From some papers which were found among his property, it appears that his name was **WALKER**, that he was a married man and had recently arrived in the colony from England. No cause has yet been assigned for the rash act. An inquest will probably be held on the body to-day. *Empire, May 10*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/821, 15/05/1852

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.** - About seven o'clock on Saturday evening a girl, named **JANE WARP**, residing on the Strawberry Hills, drunk some vitriol, by mistake, out of a bottle that was on a shelf in the house. Dr. **AITKEN** was promptly in attendance on the sufferer, who is only ten years of age, and whose recovery is hopeless. *Empire, May 11*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Cherry Garden Inn, Parramatta Road, on view of the body of **THOMAS WALKER**, then lying dead there. From the evidence of Mrs. **WEEDON**, the land-lady of the house, and her servant, it appears, that on Friday evening last deceased came to the inn, and asked to be accommodated with a bed. He was sober, but appeared to have a peculiar and strange manner. He was about twenty-five years of age, and of very respectable appearance. He stated that he had only been in the colony between two and three weeks, and was on his road to the Turon. Soon after retiring to bed he rushed from his room in his shirt and seemingly labouring under delirium, exclaimed that "Lizzezy was in the room and wanted to kill him." Mrs. Weedon endeavoured to pacify him, and had him placed in another room. In the morning the servant was sent into the room to get some article of dress, when she saw blood on the wall, and the deceased lying in the bed covered with blood, and dead. The alarm was given, and a report made to district constable **JAMES**, who examined the body, and found that it lay on its side, with a penknife firmly clenched in the right hand. In the course of Sunday, the master of the vessel in which deceased lately arrived in the colony identified the body, and stated it to be that of Thomas Walker, one of his passengers. Dr. **TIERNEY** stated that he had viewed the body of the deceased. He found it lying on the right side, with a penknife clenched in the right hand. There was a wound of about three inches long on the right side of the neck, which had completely severed the jugular vein. The hemorrhage from this wound was the cause of death. The wound was such a one as the deceased could have inflicted himself with the knife. The jury found that deceased had put an end to his existence whilst in a state of temporary insanity. *Herald, May 11*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/822, 19/05/1852

**WILLIAM KELLY.** - It will be remembered that on the 4<sup>th</sup> May last we published the report of an inquest held at the Three Tuns on the remains of a man found in a

creek on the North Shore, and whose name, according to a certificate found among his clothes, was discovered to be **WILLIAM KELLY**. The circumstances of his death and his connections in life still remain a mystery; whether they will continue so or not it is of course impossible to say. We may state, however, that a letter has been received from a person in Maitland signing himself "**John Tierney**," who expresses his belief that, judging from the name and other circumstances connected with the affair, the deceased was the brother of his wife. Among other things, he says that the deceased was very much addicted to intemperance, and, generally speaking, "unfortunate," – that he was a butcher by trade, that they had not seen nor heard of him for two years, except that they were informed a few days ago that he was residing in or about Sydney. Supposing these particulars to be facts, there does not appear to be anything inconsistent in the conclusion that the deceased is the person alluded to. But whether he is or not, we should say might easily be ascertained by a reference to the Messrs. Macarthur, in whose service he was last. If it is true, as stated by Tierney, that the deceased was a butcher, it is not at all improbable that those gentlemen, or somebody in their employ, might be aware of it. It is the more necessary that the truth of this matter should be thoroughly ascertained, from the fact that the sum of £22 10s., was found in his clothes, which, if he has any poor relatives, would be better in their pocket than in that of the government. *Sydney Empire, May 14*

THE LOST FOUND. - THE DEAD ALIVE. - On Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> April, a youth of about 14 years of age, a son of Mr. **EVAN EVANS**, of Greendale, was sent to a blacksmith in the neighbourhood for the purpose of getting a horse shod, which he was leading, and riding on another. The boy left the forge between three and four o'clock in the afternoon with the horses, for the purpose of returning home, but did not arrive there. The friends of the missing boy commenced a search that night, and continued the same for several days without success; and the conclusion was that he had met with foul play at the hands of some person or other, as the saddle was discovered, on a by-road, with blood upon it, and also blood on the road. The two horses returned home on the following day. The blacksmith, whose name is **EDWARD FARRALL**, a black woman, and **HENRY BENTLEY**, all residing in the neighbourhood, were apprehended on suspicion of having murdered the boy; the black woman and Bentley were discharged, but Farrall was held in custody from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month (May), on account of his different statements as to his whereabouts on the night of the afternoon that the boy left his place. All hopes of ever finding the body, dead or alive, were despaired of by his friends, as not less than a hundred different persons had been out searching in every direction. On Sunday last, a man described to us as an idiot went into the bush to get some small saplings for flails, and returned, saying to all who met him, "I have found Georgey, I have found Georgey." Upon this some parties proceeded to the spot shown them by the idiot (we have not learnt his proper name), and there beheld the boy, on the brink of death; having been nine days without food, in a dense scrub, not two miles from his own home, and within hearing of great numbers that were searching for him. His statement is that he was thrown from his horse, and on his recovery from the shock could not make his way through the scrub. The probability is, that he lay in a state of insensibility for two days or more, or he must have heard the persons in search of him. *Herald's Penrith Correspondent.*

MURDER. - It will be remembered that some time in February, or early in March last, a person named **JONES** was murdered at or in the neighbourhood of the Turon. **THOMAS FRANCIS GREEN**, alias **JOHN BROWN**, has been apprehended at Braidwood, charged with having been the perpetrator of the deed, and yesterday

morning was received into the custody of the metropolitan police authorities, the witnesses in the case being, as we are informed, resident in Sydney. *Herald*, 15<sup>th</sup> May

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/823, 22/05/1852

THE LATE CAPTAIN WRIGHT. - We are sorry to learn that the result of the inquiries made as to the disappearance of Captain **WRIGHT**, J.P., of Bengalla, Muswellbrook (reported in the *Mercury* recently), leave no moral doubt that he was drowned on the passage. It is ascertained that on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> march Captain Wright not only was a passenger on board the *Rose* steamer, on her passage up from Sydney to Morpeth, but took a cup of coffee from the steward before retiring to his berth, which was put down to his account. Captain Wright was also seen that night lying in his berth by Mr. **BEAMES**, of Muswellbrook. The next morning early the *Rose* was at Newcastle, and Mr. Beames and others landed there, and it is positively ascertained that Captain Wright did not land there or any where on the passage up the river. Mr. Beames, about daylight, found a hat lying on the sponsons just outside the water closet, then hat then being wet and crushed, and inside the lining has since been found the name of "Wright." The steward has an indistinct belief that when, as is usual, he went round that morning very early to ask if any of the passengers would take coffee before landing at Newcastle, he saw Captain Wright lying in his berth – but the result of all other enquiries make it very unlikely that that could be the case. Nothing has been ascertained to warrant the slightest suspicion of any violence having been done to Captain Wright, and indeed the melancholy conclusion drawn is that the unfortunate gentleman jumped overboard.

CHARGE OF MURDER. - Yesterday a man named **RICHARD MINARD** was brought before the bench, under the following circumstances. Some time since a man named **STONEY** was murdered at Rylston, and a warrant was subsequently issued for the apprehension of a man named **FRANCIS ARMSTRONG**. From information received chief constable **ABBOTT**, of Dungog, went to an island or peninsula on the Manning River, known as Pelican Island, to apprehend Armstrong, who was stated to be at the house of **WILLIAM MINARD** (the present prisoner) who resides there; Mr. Abbott reached the spot on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, but found that Armstrong was not there, and that Minard himself had just left, and he was informed he left after hearing that he (Mr. Abbott) had come on the river. Subsequent information led to the suspicion that Minard was present at the murder, at least, and hearing afterwards that he had been seen returning to the Manning, by the Port Macquarie road, Mr. Abbott went to the Manning again, and reached it on the 14<sup>th</sup> May; he found Minard was then at his house, and as he approached Minard came out and met him, saying "Is it me you want." Mr. **TURNER**, for the prisoner, cross-examined Mr. Abbott, who described some of the conversations that led to Minard being suspected. Mr. **DAY**, inspector of police, at whose instance Minard was brought before the bench, applied that he might be remanded to the bench of the district in which Rylston is situated, stating the further evidence, as to admissions by Minard, he could call from the Manning River if thought requisite. The bench remanded Minard in accordance with the application.

ACCIDENT. - Last evening a little boy, about ten years of age, the son of a man named **DOUCE**, a carrier, was seriously injured by the explosion of gunpowder. It seems that the lad was in the act of shaking some powder over a fire from a flask, when the flame caught what remained in the flask, causing the whole to explode. The poor boy was so much injured that but slight hopes are entertained of his recovery. *Goulburn Correspondent of Empire*.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday last, a young man named **JOHN SHANNON** went out after some horses in the bush, and when near home, and close to the mail road, the horse he was riding became unmanageable, and dashed him with violence against a tree. The concussion was so great as to detach a large limb, which at first was supposed to have crushed him. But no so, his body never came in contact with it, nor were there any marks of bruises discernable. Some people near witnessed the occurrence and immediately ran to the poor lad's assistance, and though still living when picked up, he survived the accident but little more than half-an-hour. *Orange Correspondent of Bathurst Free Press.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/824, 26/05/1852

CHINAMEN DYING IN THE BUSH. - A gentleman recently returned from Wollongong, informs us, that very recently the dead body of a Chinaman was found at Fairy Meadow, where the unhappy creature sank from exhaustion, after wandering as he must have done from some station at a great distance. Two other bodies were found about the same time at Shell Harbour. In both cases, the forms were emaciated with hunger and suffering, and there was evidence that the only food before death had been wild herbs and the leaves of trees. We are assured that these horrible discoveries have been fully reported to the resident magistrates. *Empire, May 21*

DEATH BY DROWNING. - About half-past seven o'clock yesterday evening, the body of a seafaring man was picked up in the water, at the bottom of Bathurst-street, by the master of a coaster, moored at the wharf. It is supposed that the deceased is a seaman belonging to the *Seabird*, schooner, called **TOM**. Nothing further is at present known, as no person has yet identified the body, which was conveyed by the police to the Infirmary. An inquest will probably be held on the body to-day. *Empire, May 22*

MURDERS BY THE BURNETT BLACKS. - We have received a minute of inquiry held by Mr. **R.P. MARSHALL**, J.P., on the 4<sup>th</sup> ultimo, at Rawbell, in the Burnett district, touching the murder of Mr. **A.H. TREVETHAN**, and one of his Chinese shepherds, by the native blacks. It appears that on the 29<sup>th</sup> March last, a servant on the Rawbell station, **JOHN THOMPSON**, sent a black boy to bring down the working bullocks from the ridge at the back of the homestead. The boy shortly afterwards came back in terror, saying that a large party of blacks were "close up." Thompson armed himself and saw that a party of the aborigines, headed by two well-known chiefs, **JACKY** and **KILL-COM-CURRY**, were advancing. He presented his piece at the leaders, who threw their boomerangs at him. Mr. Trevethan, by this time, hearing the alarm, came out, and at the head of five of his servants drove the blacks up the ridge. Recollecting, however, that his nephew was in the neighbouring bush, looking after some stray horses, he forbade his party to fire. The two leaders called out to Mr. Trevethan that they were not "coola" (angry), only those with them were "coola." Mr. Trevethan, entrapped by this assurance, and anxious for his nephew's safety, threw down his piece, and went towards the blacks; the two black leaders throwing down their weapons at the same time, and asking for tobacco. Mr. Trevethan told them that he would give them tobacco when they brought back the property of which they had robbed the station. Jacky thereupon consulted with his party, and a blanket, coat, and some other articles were produced, which had been stolen from the station some time before. Mr. Trevethan then went back to the store, and got some tobacco, which he distributed to the blacks. He returned to the store for a second supply, and having given it to them he stooped to pick up the returned stolen property, when five spears were hurled at him, and the unfortunate gentleman

staggered back mortally wounded to his own servants. The blacks followed, yelling and throwing their boomerangs; but upon a shot being fired by one of the servants, they retired. Mr. Trevethan died a few minutes afterwards. He had received two wounds in the chest, one in the belly, one near the ear, and one in the face. His nephew, Mr. **RICHARD TREVETHAN**, for whose safety he had temporised with his murderers, was in sight of the party, and attempted to reach the homestead,; but finding this impracticable in the face of about a hundred savages, he hid himself among the reeds of the neighbouring river. After murdering his uncle, several of the blacks passed close to the spot where the young man lay hid, but providentially without perceiving him. After two hours of fearful suspense, he made his way to the house, when he found that his uncle had died of the wounds received from the natives' spears. About an hour after the murder, the stockman Thompson missed a Chinese shepherd, who had charge of the rams, and, accompanied by three men, he went in search of him; at the distance of about 120 yards from the homestead, they found the body of the poor fellow, horribly wounded; the skull being completely smashed. The rams, by the traces, had been driven off by the murderers. A detachment of the native police, by Mr. **WILLIAM TREVETHAN**, a brother of the deceased, some time afterwards proceeded in quest of the murderers; and on the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo, Lieutenant Marshall found the body of a black lying in the scrub, which was identified to be that of Jacky, one of the leaders of the attacking party. From the evidence afterwards taken before the magistrates, it appears, that Jacky, in endeavouring to effect his escape from his pursuers, was shot through the head by a trooper of the native police. *Herald, May 20*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/825, 29/05/1852

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Thursday afternoon **STEPHEN BALCOMB**, for several years night watchman in West Maitland, expired quite suddenly. Balcomb had occasionally complained of feeling unwell for some time past, and the wet weather of the last fortnight had given him cold, and made him feel much worse. Still he continued to perform the duty up to Wednesday night, and on Thursday went to the Catholic burial ground to dig a grave, it being his custom to do odd jobs about the town during the day. He became so unwell while at the burial ground that he was obliged to return home, obtaining some medicine on the way from Dr. **M'CARTNEY**; he drank a hot drink, and had his feet bathed, after coming home, and then lay down on the bed, complaining of being very cold, and of pain and spasms in his chest; he had lain there but a short time when his wife was alarmed to see him suddenly became very ill, and she had but just time to call in some of the neighbours when he expired. An inquest was held on the body yesterday, before Mr. **PARKER**, when the above evidence was given, and Dr. M'Cartney, from his knowledge of the case, gave it as his opinion that Balcomb died from natural causes. A verdict to that effect was returned. His sudden death leaves a widow and three young children totally unprovided for, and a subscription for their benefit has been commenced.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

DUNGOG

MELANCHOLY DEATH. - It is with the deepest regret I report the melancholy news of the death of Mr. **THOMAS COOK**, jun. youngest son of Thomas Cook, Esq., J.P., of this district. On Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, Mr. Cook was riding a spirited horse, and going at a good pace, when the animal swerved, and brought his rider against a tree, somewhat injuring him, but not dangerously. Mr. Cook called at an inn, and a quack doctor was called in, who bled the unfortunate gentleman with an

unclean lancet. After a day or two Dr. **MALLON** was called in, but he at once pronounced it a hopeless case. Mr. Cook lingered on in the greatest pain until last night, when death at nine o'clock put an end to his sufferings. Mr. Cook was an amiable young man in the prime of life, being about 24 years age, and beloved by all who knew him. I need hardly say that his parents are distracted with grief at his untimely loss. May 24, 1852

SYDNEY NEWS.

**RICHARD MINARD**, on his way from Maitland to Rylston, under committal on a charge of being accessory to murder, has arrived in Sydney, and is in the custody of the police, to be forwarded.

**SELF-DESTRUCTION BY POISON.** - An inquest was held last week at Dirty Swamp, Campbell's River, upon the body of a female named **PIKE**, who had committed suicide by drinking a solution of corrosive sublimate, about a fortnight previously. From the evidence adduced at the inquest it appeared that the deceased, her husband, and a man named **THOMPSON**, occupied a sheep station of Mr. Lawson's at the above mentioned place, the men acting as shepherds, and she as hutkeeper, and that although married to Pike, she and Thompson cohabited together as man and wife, and had lived on these terms for four or five years. About a fortnight previous to her death, she had accompanied her paramour Thompson into Bathurst, where they disposed of a quantity of potatoes, and expended a portion of the proceeds on a keg of rum. As usual under such circumstances, a debauch succeeded upon their return home, in which they all indulged, and whilst in a state of intoxication, deceased walked into a side room where a quantity of sheep medicine, consisting of corrosive sublimate, &c., was deposited, and returned whilst in the act of mixing up something in a pint pot. Having stirred the ingredients very deliberately for some length of time, she drank the solution off, and at once turned to Thompson, and informed him that she had taken poison. Alarmed by the information he immediately rendered some fat, and administered it. Vomiting succeeded, and continued at intervals during the whole of the night, and a portion of the following day. Medicine was procured at Bathurst, and for a time she appeared better. But the poison, a portion of which remained on her stomach, slowly performed its work, and after lingering for the period specified, she died in great agony. A post mortem examination was conducted by Dr. **BUSBY**, who detected a small quantity of the poison in the stomach. After considering the whole of the evidence, the jury returned the verdict, "Died from the effects of poison administered by herself whilst in a state of intoxication." The deceased appeared to have been afflicted with a species of suicidal mania, having on two different occasions, once in Sydney, and the second time whilst at the station, attempted to drown herself. Her purpose in her second attempt was defeated by her husband leaping after her into Campbell's River, into which she had thrown herself during a period of flood, and dragging her to land after she had disappeared. She had also threatened to life of a little boy whom she had adopted, but fortunately never attempted to carry her threat into execution. *Bathurst Free Press, May 22*

**THE GOLD FIELDS.** - On Friday last a digger, lately in the service of Mr. **RANKIN**, of Killoshiel, was found by a little boy lying upon his face in a water-hole, and quite dead. His mate had left him only a short time previously employed at the cradle. As the water was not more than a foot to eighteen inches deep where he was lying, it is supposed that he must have been seized with a fit of apoplexy.

**DEATHS BY DROWNING.** On Saturday an inquest was held before the coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS CALDWELL**, then lying dead in the Infirmary. It appears from the evidence, that

the deceased, a young sea-faring man, about 25 years of age, had obtained his discharge from the coasting ketch *Sea Bird* on Thursday last, and had been drinking until Friday evening, when his body was found in the harbour, off Orl's Wharf. His cries for assistance were heard from the wharf, and assistance was promptly rendered; but when picked up by the boat's crew who pushed off, the unfortunate man was dead. Verdict – accidental drowning. - A second inquest was held before the coroner at the same inn, on view of the body of **JAMES WHITE**, also lying dead at the Sydney Infirmary. It appears from the evidence, that deceased, who was upwards of 60 years of age, and a seaman on board the ketch *Traveller*, was drinking in a public-house in Liverpool-street, and was much intoxicated, about nine o'clock on Friday evening. On the following morning his body was found in the harbour, off Mr. Dunn's saw-mills. Verdict, found drowned. *Herald, May 24*

FATAL ACCIDENTS. - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Boomerang Inn, Riley-street, on view of the body of **EDMOND WILSON**, an infant two months old. It appeared from the evidence that the infant was put to bed between his father and mother on the previous night, and he was then in good health. When the parents awoke early in the morning, the infant was quite dead. Doctor **HOUSTON** testified that death was the result of suffocation, caused by the infant being overlaid. He also stated that the deceased infant's parents are sober decent people. Verdict – “accidental death from suffocation.” - An inquest was held at Mr. West's inn, at Canterbury, on view of the body of **JAMES FORD**, then lying dead. It appeared from the evidence that a cart and horse containing the deceased, a person named **HOLLINGSWORTH**, and two children, were proceeding on the road to Canterbury with a load of charcoal. The horse was going at a moderate pace, until the deceased, who was intoxicated, kicked the animal, which caused it to take fright and run away. The cart came in contact with a stump and was upset. The deceased and Hollingsworth were under the cart when it upset. The two little girls were thrown off the cart, but were not hurt. In two or three minutes afterwards several men came up and raised the cart off the men. The deceased was lying on his face in the mud, and some charcoal bags and rations over him. A verdict was returned of death from suffocation. - Another inquest was held, at the same place, on view of the body of **SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH**, the father of the two little girls who were so providentially saved at the time of the accident which deprived them of their parent. Verdict – “Died from injuries accidentally received.” The deceased, Samuel Hollingsworth, has left a widow and five young children to deplore his melancholy fate. *Empire, May 26*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/826, 02/06/1852

#### DEATHS.

At Auchentorlie, the residence of his father, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo, Mr. **THOMAS COOK**, jun., aged 24 years.

#### WIDE BAY

*To the Editors of the Sydney Morning Herald*

... May I add, that, since I wrote, intelligence of five more murders has been added to the melancholy record of aboriginal outrages – that several robberies have been committed on my neighbours, and my own shepherds thrice attacked by the same or some of the same tribes, who still number among them the unpunished murderers of Mr. **BLAXLAND**. **WILLIAM FORSTER**. Degilbo, Wide Bay, May 3

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/827, 05/06/1852

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - Yesterday the inquest which on Friday last was opened by the Coroner, and then adjourned until Monday, on view of the body of **HUGH CAMERON**, lying dead in the Scotch burial ground, was resumed at the Sydney Police Office. The case being now concluded, we give the following report of the proceedings from their initiation. In opening the case, the Coroner stated that on Easter Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup> April ultimo, the deceased hired horse from Mr. **DRISCOLL**, the horse-dealer in Pitt-street; and that he had proceeded but a short way down the street when the horse buck-jumped and threw him; kicking him on the temple. He was attended almost immediately by Dr. **DOUGLASS**, who washed the wound, and put some sticking plaster to it, and directed deceased to be taken home. As Dr. D. did not follow so soon as the relatives of the deceased desired, they sent for Dr. **M'KELLAR**, who, assisted by Dr. **AARON**, remained in attendance upon him until the 17th May; when Dr. **WEST**, and afterwards Dr. **FULLERTON**, were called in, the former gentlemen then discontinuing their visits. On the 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo the operation of trepanning was performed by Dr. West in the presence of Drs. Fullerton and **A'BECKETT**; but on the following night deceased died. Some few days ago Dr. M'Kellar was told by a brother of the deceased that the surgeons who had succeeded him in attending the case, had accused him of gross neglect and incompetency; and thereupon Dr. M'Kellar immediately waited upon himself (the coroner) and demanded that the body should be exhumed, and examined, and that an inquest should be held upon it. [The report then proceeds to detail at very great length the evidence taken on the inquest, mainly with reference to the medical treatment of the sick man.] The jury found that death had been accidentally caused by a fall from a horse; and they desired to add their opinion that not the slightest blame was attributable to any one of the medical gentlemen engaged, each of whom appears to have done everything that could be done in a case which, from the first, was seemingly a hopeless one. *Abridged from the Herald, June 2*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/828, 09/06/1852**

**CHARGE OF MURDER.** - Yesterday a man who gave his name as **BERNARD KAIN** was brought before the bench, under the following circumstances. In the latter part of the year 1849 a man named **PATRICK MANNING** was stabbed in a public-house, near Summerhill, Liverpool Plains, and **JAMES KAIN** was it appeared charged with having stabbed him; Manning subsequently died, but Kain escaped apprehension from that time to this, although a warrant was then issued for him. Mr. **DAY**, Inspector of Police, now deposed that from information furnished to him he believed that the present prisoner was the James Kain described in the warrant produced, and he prayed that he might be detained in custody, and be remanded to the Tamworth bench on the charge. The bench complied with the application, and remanded the prisoner to be dealt with by the Tamworth bench.

**MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT.**

Mr. **WILLIAM HOW KENYON** was accidentally killed on Friday last. He had been during that day engaged with another in clearing out a well on his property, and while ascending at the close of the day, from what cause is unknown, the rope slipped from his hands and he was precipitated to the bottom of the well, in which there was at the time five or six feet of water. The well is upwards of 70 feet deep, and as the day had just closed as the accident happened, some time elapsed before any one ventured down, until Mr. **FISHBOURNE**, bootmaker, of this town, arrived on the ground, when he was immediately lowered down and found the unfortunate man quite dead, with his head under the surface of the water, and his feet sticking out. He

succeeded in placing the feet of the deceased in the bucket, and then lashed the body to the rope. Mr. F. had a narrow escape from a similar fate, as while in the act of performing this charitable deed, a bucket fell into the well, passing within an inch of his head. The deceased left considerable property, and a few weeks before his death made his will, whereby he bequeathed £100 to All Saints Church, Bathurst. *Herald's Bathurst Correspondent*.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - We regret to record a fatal accident which occurred in consequence of the recent floods, on last Thursday week. A man named **CHARLES ALLEN**, lately employed in the service of Messrs. Haly, of the Burnett district, was attempting to swim across the Brisbane river at Wivenhoe, riding one horse and leading another, when the horse he rode commenced plunging, and he dismounted, taking hold of the bridle. This is believed to have broken, and he was seen from Mr. North's station to drift away rapidly with the torrent, when, as he caught at the branch of a tree, he disappeared beneath the surface. The body was not found till two days afterwards, when it was interred. No assistance could be rendered, as the flood was higher than it had been known in Brisbane for the last nine years, and running with great velocity. The unfortunate deceased had been in Messrs. Haly's service since 1842; he had left with the intention of going to the gold field, but was believed to have changed his mind, and had been about to return to the station to re-engage. He has left a wife and one child. The horses he had with him escaped. *Moreton Bay Courier, May 8*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Thursday last a married woman, named **HORN BROOK**, left her home for some purpose or other, and did not return until midnight, when she was driven to her husband's door in a cab, accompanied by a woman named **MAY**. The latter was very much intoxicated, and was conveyed into a room by Hornbrook and his wife, where she was laid on a sofa. She appeared to be in a very depressed state, and they gave her some brandy and ginger beer mixed together. She then lay on her face and mouth, and being unusually quiet, Hornbrook became alarmed, and on proceeding to turn her round, he discovered that she was dead. Dr. **CUTHILL** was immediately sent for, but his assistance was of no avail. *Empire, June 5*

**ACCIDENT.** - On Friday night last, as a person named **BULLOCK**, and his wife, were proceeding homewards with a bullock team, along the new line of road, the latter, whilst in a state of physical excitement from physical causes, fell forward among the bullocks, one of which kicked her in the head, inflicting a very serious injury. Though not dangerously wounded, it is probable that her sufferings will be severe before she is restored to a condition of perfect health. *Bathurst Free Press, June 2*

**ACCIDENT TO THE MAILMAN.** - Information has been received that **OWEN M'GRATH**, the mailman, met with an accident in travelling towards Brisbane on Saturday. His horse fell with him somewhere near "Little Liverpool," and his leg was so much injured that he had to be left at Mr. Douyere's Inn. The mail was brought on by Mr. **TURNER**, of Helidon. *Moreton Bay Courier, May 19*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/829, 10/06/1852

**NEWING, THE MURDERER.** - It will be remembered that when **NEWING**, the Chinaman, now lying in Bathurst gaol, awaiting his trial for the murder of his countryman **ING**, was first confined, he refused to take any food for a long period, and nearly starved himself to death. Subsequently he relaxed from his sulky mood, and ate freely, becoming in the course of a few weeks as sleek as a mole. A few days ago a sudden change came over him, and he relapsed into the sulks. When his

morning's meal was offered to him, he dashed it to the floor of his cell, and with the fury of a wild beast, broke the vessel containing it. Having no other object upon which he could expend his fury, he commenced breaking up a bucket, and could only be restrained by being placed in irons. When spoken to he barely lifts up his head towards the person addressing him, and shakes it in a style nearly approaching the ferocious. As the time of his trial is now fast approaching, it is a question for serious consideration, whether any steps have been taken towards obtaining an interpreter, and if an interpreter is not procurable, how the miserable being is to be disposed of. *Bathurst Free Press, June 5*

THE GOLD FIELDS. - TURON. - I omitted in my last communication to you, to notice a melancholy fact, showing the uncertainty of human life, which came under my observation, in a short space of twenty four hours, whilst I was staying at the Golden Gully, namely three cases of sudden death, and all within a short distance of each other. One man dropped dead, while working in the hole. Another had recently arrived in charge of a bullock-team. And the third was standing before the bar of a public house. The former, I believe, leaving a wife and young family.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An unfortunate accident occurred on board the brigantine *Waterlily* yesterday morning. It appears that the vessel was being smoked; the fires having been lighted at six o'clock the previous evening, and all the hatches and skylights put on and secured, and a watch kept. About six o'clock in the morning, the watchman observing one of the skylights open, looked down, and perceived one of the seaman, in a sitting position in the cabin, apparently asleep; on going down he found the man to be dead. Dr. **M'KELLAR** was immediately sent for, who pronounced life to be extinct. An inquest will be held on the body to-day. *Herald, June 7*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/830, 12/06/1852

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9. - (Before Mt. Justice Dickinson)

MURDER.

**JOHN SIMS** was indicted for having, at the Shoalhaven River, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April last, wilfully murdered one **RICHARD HAMPTON**, by casting him into the water, and then striking him on the head and shoulders so as to disable him, and to cause him to sink.

The two men left a settler's house, on the Shoalhaven, on that evening, in a small boat, Hampton pulling, and Sims, who was quite drunk, laying down in the bottom of the boat, Hampton was also intoxicated; **CHARLES COMERFORD**, also a settler on the river, heard a cry at a later hour as of some person drowning, and on going into his boat, accompanied by ----- **SHERLOCK**, to render assistance, the drowning man sunk before he could reach him; searching about they found Sims alone, pushing his boat over a small sand-bank near, and on questioning he denied that he had had any companion; Comerford and Sherlock however found articles in his boat at variance with this, and detained him. Search was subsequently made for Hampton's body, with the assistance of the blacks, and got up by dragging, three days afterwards; there was found to be a contusion on the neck and another over the right eye, which eye discharged blood after the body was raised. Some other incidental evidence was given, but nothing to prove how Hampton met with these injuries, or got drowned.

Dr. **DARVALL**, who conducted the defence at the request of his Honor, contended that there was nothing proved to being home the charge of murder, or to prove that Hampton had not received the injuries by falling in the boat, and had then fallen over.

Not guilty; discharged.

Thursday, June 9. - (Before Mr. Justice Therry)

MANSLAUGHTER. - **ROBERT ANDREW NEWMAN and WILLIAM GILLY MARTIN**, were indicted for killing and slaying a Chinese on board the ship *Ganges*, on the high seas, upon the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1852.

Martin was chief mate, and Newman second mate, of the *Ganges* on her late voyage to Sydney, a large number of Chinese immigrants being on board; the Chinaman now in question was it appeared caught by Martin that night pilfering, and he had his hands tied, after taking the things away from him; Newman came up while his hands were being tied, and witnesses proved that Newman then struck the Chinaman once on the back and twice on the head with a serving mallet; while one witness (who however was at that time under confinement, and confessed to ill-will against the captain for it) deposed that through a Venetian blind he saw Martin strike the Chinaman repeatedly with a small rope, as he lay tied on the deck, and that subsequently, during Newman's watch, he heard the man bawling out on being again flogged, and Newman's voice imitating his bawling. A cabin boy named **WOOD**, deposed that about two o'clock that night he came on deck, and having to assist in tacking the ship, witness pulled some ropes from under the Chinaman, who was then sitting on them, on the poop; the Chinaman rose hastily, made for the break of the poop, and fell over on to the deck, a height of seven feet, and Wood believed he fell on a bucket; Wood afterwards saw that the Chinaman's head was bleeding, but the Chinaman was helped up again to the poop, moaning heavily, and was there kept, with his hands tied, till morning, when he was found to be dead. A post-mortem examination by the surgeon of the ship showed that death was caused by two contused wounds on the head, which had caused extravasation of blood on the brain; blows with a serving hammer would not cause such wounds, but a fall from the poop on to a bucket would be likely to do so.

Mr. **DARVALL**, for the defence, contended that clearly death arose from the accidental fall from the poop, and not in any way from the beatings; the charge of manslaughter therefore fell to the ground, and even the lesser charge of assault, as the assaults proved had nothing to do with the death.

His Honor having summed up at considerable length, the jury retired for about an hour. At the end of that period they found both prisoners guilty of a common assault; recommending Martin, however, to mercy, as being less mixed up in this offence than the other.

His Honor sentenced Newman to three months' imprisonment in Sydney gaol, and Martin to a similar imprisonment for the space of one week.

#### A BARBAROUS MURDER.

One of the most barbarous cases of wilful murder which ever disgraced the annals of a civilized community, was perpetrated at King's Plains, near the residence of Mr. **TIMOTHY SULLIVAN**, farmer and grazier, on the night of Friday last. The unfortunate sufferer, who has been thus summarily sent to his long account, is an aged man, named **DANIEL HARRINGTON**, whose years had exceeded the term allotted to mortality of three score and ten. He had for a long period been employed in the capacity of shepherd by Mr. Sullivan, and was thus engaged up to the time of his decease. Information of the occurrence was received by **SAMUEL NORTH**, P.M., of Carcoar, on Saturday, who immediately proceeded to the spot to institute an investigation, which is now pending, and the particulars of which, until it is closed, it would be highly imprudent to publish. Suffice it for the present to say, that upon his arrival Mr. North found the body lying in Mr. Sullivan's house mangled and mutilated in a most horrible manner, and that the only light thrown upon the subject by Mr.

Sullivan himself is, that he was awoke by the approach of three men about 11 o'clock of Friday night, who bawled aloud most obstreperously, and that he saw them at a distance of some 80 to 100 yards from his house. Shortly afterwards he discovered the remains of the deceased near the place, and carried him inside. What appears singular is that neither of the two men who resided convenient to the premises was aroused by the noise, or professed to know anything of the visit of the three strangers until informed of it. Another remarkable circumstance is, that if the said three men were the murderers, their purpose appears to have been pure blood-shed, as no attempt of robbing Mr. Sullivan's dwelling or the neighbouring huts was made by them. Dr. **M'HATTIE**, the medical witness, described numerous wounds and contusions that he found on the dead body, from the effect of all which death ensued; some of them were caused by a blunt instrument, and others by a pointed one. What appears to be a very remarkable circumstance in the description of the injuries given, is the absence of any wound upon the body, and the number about the limbs, head, and face. The advanced age and ostensible poverty of the murdered man, removing him, it might reasonably be imagined, equally beyond the reach of cupidity and revenge, are also remarkable features in the case. How far the investigation may unravel the horrible mystery in which it is at present involved, and the super-inhuman guilt of the monster who was its agent or instrument, a few days will decide. Few localities on our side of the Blue Mountains possess so unenviable a notoriety as King's Plains. Within a year no less than five brutal murders have been committed in its vicinity, the perpetrators in every case, up to the present period, having eluded the hands of justice. Well may its neighbourhood be regarded as the *ultima Thule* of civilization. *Abridged from the Bathurst Free Press, June 9*

**THE RYLSTON MURDER.** - **ARMSTRONG**, against whom a verdict for the wilful murder of **RICHMOND**, alias **Stoney**, at Rylston, was recorded, gave himself up to the Mudjee bench last week, by whom, on Thursday, he was committed to take his trial at the coming assizes. **RICHARD HILLYARD**, who was captured at the Manning River on suspicion of being Armstrong, still remains in custody. It is stated that he has confessed to being present when Armstrong stabbed Richmond, and taking the knife out of his hand. *Bathurst Free Press, June 9*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - Yesterday, an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the house of Mrs. **KELK**, on view of the body of **EDWARD HAYLOCK**, her grandson, an infant aged two and a-half years. It appeared from the evidence, that on Wednesday afternoon, the deceased was playing in the road in Pitt-street, when he was knocked down by a timber dray, which passed over his body. The occurrence was purely accidental. Drs. **BLAND** and **O'BRIEN** were immediately in attendance, but the poor child died yesterday morning. The jury found that death had been caused by injuries accidentally inflicted. *Herald, June 11*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/831, 19/06/1852**  
**SYDNEY NEWS.**

**WILFUL MURDER.** - **THOMAS FRANCIS GREEN**, alias **JOHN BROWN**, who has been under examination before the police magistrate since the 18<sup>th</sup> May, charged with the wilful murder of **JOHN JONES**, at Buckley's Creek, in March last, was this day committed to take his trial for the offence at the next sitting of the Central Criminal Court. It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner and deceased were partners in trade, which there is reason to believe consisted mainly of illicit sale of spirituous liquors in the several digging localities. On Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> March, the prisoner and deceased left Bathurst together, professedly for the purpose of inspecting

a new digging place; they were to return next day; Jones never returned; on Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> March, Green returned to Bathurst alone and said he had parted from Jones, who had gone overland to Port Phillip; to other persons he said Jones had been fined at Dirthole Creek for grog selling, and drew from a publican named **HORAN** £15, which had been left with him by Jones, producing Jones's order, which he said was required in part payment of the fine; and that he had to ride back to Dirthole that night. He however started for Sydney, and from thence to Braidwood. On the 12<sup>th</sup> March a body, since sworn to as that of Jones, was found in Buckley's Creek, about three miles from the Turon; on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> an inquiry was held; the prisoner had been seen leaving the gully in which the body was found, about the time, judging from the appearance of the body, Jones must have died, about sundown of the 10<sup>th</sup> March. A warrant was issued for his apprehension, which was about two months in existence before the prisoner's apprehension, which was effected by one of the Sydney detective police force.

YESTERDAY morning the body of a seaman was found floating in the harbour, off Dawes' Point. It appeared to have been in the water some time, and the head and face much bruised. An inquest will be held this evening on the body.

THE GOLD FIELDS. - TURON.

Oakey Creek, June 9<sup>th</sup>. ... A fatal result from drunkenness occurred to a man last week, at Golden Point; he was last seen alive on Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, and discovered in one of the holes on Sunday last, much mutilated from the fall; he was supposed to be a baker, from Bathurst.

MURDER AT OPHIR. - JUNE 11. - I forward some particulars of the murder which occurred at one p.m. on Monday last, at Coomber's public house, Ophir. It seems that a number of the diggers had been drinking there for some days, and all were more or less intoxicated; some words ensued between a few of them, relative to a woman known as **Fred the Frenchman's wife**, when a man named **MAURICE CONNOLLY** called this Fred a "----- wretch." At this **WORTHY CARLISLE**, the unfortunate deceased, got up, and said he would not have his mate called a wretch, and if Connolly said it again he would strike him. Connolly repeated the expression, and Carlisle struck him two or three times, when Mr. Coomber interfered, and order was somewhat restored. Connolly, who had an open knife in his hand, with which he had been cutting tobacco, went out from the bar-room, but returned in a few minutes, and said if Carlisle struck him again he would stab him. Deceased then got up, and made some blows at Connolly, when a struggle ensued outside the house on the steps leading to the creek, and Connolly stabbed Carlisle on the left side of the chest, the knife entering between the sixth and seventh ribs, and wounding the heart. Deceased scarcely uttered a word, and was immediately carried into Coomber's, placed on a sofa, and died in about two minutes. Connolly was immediately arrested by Sergeant **CHILDS**, of the gold police, who happened to be on the creek at the time, and properly secured. Information of the circumstance was immediately forwarded to **JOHN T. LANE**, Esq., J.P., of Orange, the nearest magistrate, who instituted an enquiry the next morning at Ophir, at nine o'clock, and evidence of the foregoing nature was elicited. Dr. **BELL**, who accompanied Mr. Lane, from Orange, made a *post mortem* examination on the body, and certified that death ensued from the stab in the chest. After this his worship adjourned proceedings to the court house, and at 2 p.m. opened a court of petty sessions, at which Connolly was brought up in custody, and after the evidence was read over to him, committed to take his trial for the murder of the unfortunate deceased, at the next Bathurst Circuit Court, on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. The prisoner asked but few questions of the witnesses, five in number, and the

likelihood is, he was too drunk at the time of the commission of the deed to recollect any circumstances connected with it. *Herald Correspondent*

THE MURDER AT KING'S PLAINS. - We have been kindly furnished by a gentleman at Carcoar with verbatim notes of the investigation recommenced at Carcoar, relative to the King's Plains murder, from which we cull the following particulars for publication. We are sorry that their late arrival prevented our giving a full [account] which we shall be obliged to defer till [????]day next. As many of our town residents [are] already aware, Mr. **TIMOTHY SULLIVAN** was [ar]rested on Wednesday last, at the [????????????] Major Wentworth, in consequence of [certain in]formation received by him in the early [???] of the day, on suspicion of having murdered **DANIEL HARRINGTON**, on Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> [June]. Mr. Sullivan had been in town during the [???] of Tuesday, and had transacted business [at the] Bank and several other places. He had [???] made a voluntary statement to the Inspector of Police, the inconsistencies of which had [tended] to increase the suspicion which already attached to him. On Wednesday morning he [left] Bathurst rather early, and was followed [to his] residence by the police, whence he was con[veyed] to the Carcoar watch-house, to await the result of the following day's investigation. The investigation was re-opened on Thursday, be[fore] **SAMUEL NORTH**, Esq., P.M., Major **WENTWORTH**, Inspector of Police for the Western Division, and **W.M. ROTHERY**, Esq., J.P. During [the] evidence, the prisoner demeaned himself [in a] very extraordinary manner, moving about [from] side to side, and occasionally turning [round] from the bench with a broad grin. From [the] evidence it appeared, that the murder took place in front of the prisoner's front door. A person named **HEALY**, hearing a noise at the prisoner's ran to the spot, when he found Harrington lying on the ground, and the prisoner standing near him. Healy said - "In the name of God who are you?" to the prostrate figure. Sufficient life remained to breathe forth "Harrington" when he expired. Healy then, at the prisoner's request, assisted the prisoner to carry the body into his (prisoner's) kitchen, and put him upon a berth, but being afraid to remain, he left for his own house. On the following morning Healy, his wife, and a person named **RYAN**, went to the prisoner's house, and at his request removed the body to the residence of a person named **O'NEIL**, who lives hard by. The noise which attracted Healy's attention was the cry of "Robbers, robbers, robbers," uttered by the prisoner, *and whilst these words were in course of utterance, he heard two blows struck.* The evidence being concluded, the prisoner, Timothy Sullivan, was committed to take his trial for the wilful murder of Daniel Harrington, intimation being given to the witnesses that their attendance on Thursday next would be necessary, when the prisoner would again be brought up to hear Dr. **M'HATTIE'S** evidence, which would complete the case. To those of our readers who are unacquainted with the prisoner's worldly position, we may state that he is possessed of considerable property on sheep, cattle, and land, as is, by those best acquainted with his affairs, accounted very rich. *Bathurst Free Press, June 12*

#### DEATH FROM SKINNING A SHEEP.

A married woman named **ELMS**, whose husband is employed at Mr. Kite's station, Mary's Lane, as a shepherd, died a few days ago from disease brought about by skinning a sheep. It appears that the flock followed by her husband is afflicted with the rot, and the poor woman, whilst in the act of stripping the skin of one which had died from this disease, wounded her hand. Swelling, accompanied with inflammation, immediately took place, which extended to the arm, and thence to the breast. Unfortunately, she happened to be *enceinte* at the time of the occurrence, and was confined a few days afterwards. Dr. **READ**, R.N., was called in about a week after

the accident, who discovered that gangrene had set in, and accordingly pronounced the case a hopeless one. Considerable ulceration ensued, and the unfortunate sufferer died in about 48 hours afterwards. An inquest was held upon the body by Captain **SUTHERLAND**, yesterday week, when a post mortem examination was conducted by Dr. **M'HATTIE**, from whom we learn the additional circumstance that the melt of the sheep was very much swollen, and that when cut with a knife a quantity of blood and purulent matter gushed forth, betraying the high state of the disease from which it had died. Verdict, "died from the consequences of skinning a dead sheep." *Bathurst Free Press, June 11*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/832, 23/06/1852

INQUEST. - Yesterday an inquest was held at the Victoria Inn, East Maitland, before Mr. **PARKER**, Coroner, on the body of **MARY ANNE RYAN**. Some reports to the prejudice of her husband having been spread in connection with her death, and an external examination of the body by Dr. **SCOTT** showing marks about the neck as if some blows or injury had been there inflicted before death, the enquiry was gone into very carefully. Ryan and his wife lived together near Four Mile Creek, and it was deposed by the witnesses that when she was sober he always treated her well, and one witness, **PATRICK MADDEN**, who had been in Ryan's employ five months, deposed that during the whole of that time Ryan and his wife had always lived on the most friendly terms. On the other hand, **MICHAEL POWER** and his wife both deposed to having seen Ryan, some weeks since, beat his wife (Mrs. Power said kick her in the side), as they were returning together from Maitland, Mrs. Ryan being in liquor at the time. It came out, however, in cross-examination, that Power and his wife were on bad terms with Ryan and his wife, and that when Madden, on Sunday night, went out at Ryan's request to try and bring some neighbours in, as his wife was dying, Power positively refused to come, saying he did not care if they were all dying. Madden proved that Mrs. Ryan was taken ill while in Maitland on Thursday last, was brought home in a cart, remaining ailing from that time, and on Sunday evening told her husband he would have to take her into Maitland in a cart to see a doctor, but that she got rapidly worse, and died before midnight that night, while Madden was away to fetch a neighbour from some distance, at Ryan's pressing entreaty, after Power's unfeeling refusal. Dr. Scott having performed a post mortem examination, found that a deep seated abscess in the liver had led to extensive inflammation of the intestines and bowels, and had thus caused death; the injuries of the neck proving so slight as to have had no possible effect on the death. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

TWO CHILDREN FOUND DEAD. - On Wednesday last, about eleven o'clock forenoon, a little boy passing along by the beach, when nearly opposite Palmer-street, found a box close by the water's edge, containing a new born female infant dead, and near to it was lying another infant, with one of its arms torn off. Intelligence was forwarded immediately to the police, who removed the remains to await a coroner's inquest. From inquiries since made both the father and mother have been discovered, but owing to certain circumstances which will transpire in the course of the investigation no inquest has yet been held. *People's Advocate, June 19*

*Page 3 not done several burnings*

THE GOLD FIELDS. - **BRAIDWOOD**. - I regret to have to report three deaths, which occurred last week at Bell's Creek, in each case rather sudden and unexpected. We would strongly advise those who purpose remaining for the winter to take all necessary precautions against wind and weather. The strongest constitution will be

sooner or later injured by continued exposure. Health is too valuable a thing to be sacrificed even for ingots of gold.

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** - Another of those sad accidents of frequent occurrence in this harbour happened yesterday. Mr. **SPAIN**, junior, found the corpse of a sailor-dressed man floating in the water at Dawes' Point. His head and face were cut and bruised. Mr. Spain got the body out of the water, and gave information to the police, who conveyed it to the Infirmary. *Empire, June 17.* [An inquest was held next day, and a verdict of found drowned returned, the body not being identified.]

**AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH.**

Mr. **JOSEPH MORTLEY** was on Tuesday returning from the circus, now held at Mr. Fisher's, when he suddenly fell down, and being alone, was taken no notice of, persons passing him (and it being dark not recognising him) believing him to be some drunken person. Mr. **GEORGE CONLEY**, however, some time after had him brought into Mr. Fisher's, and ascertained that he was in a fit. Mr. Surgeon **DAY** was promptly in attendance, and ordered him to be carried home, where every attention was afforded him, but he unhappily expired about four o'clock the next morning. An inquest was held on the body on Tuesday, before **J. DOWE**, Esq., M.D., J.P., the coroner of the district, and a highly respectable jury, when, in accordance with medical and other testimony, a verdict was returned that Joseph Mortley died of apoplexy, induced by natural causes, *Windsor Correspondent of Herald.*

**ACCIDENT.** - We regret to learn that Mr. **JAMES BROWN**, one of the officers of the *Salacia*, now in our port, yesterday met with an accident which may terminate most seriously, by falling down the main hatch of the vessel, thereby fracturing his skull and his arm. *Herald, 17<sup>th</sup> June*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/833, 26/06/1852

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. - THE INQUEST ON HUGH CAMERON.**

Dr. Douglass moved for returns of the proceedings taken before the Sydney Coroner on the body of **HUGH CAMERON**.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL had no objection to the production of the papers, but thought it was not a case with which the records of the Council should be encumbered, and because in his opinion it was a proper case for the investigation of the Coroner.

Question put and negatived.

A division was demanded by the mover, when there appeared – ayes, 17, noes 7. The motion was therefore carried.

**MAN DROWNED.** - We have but this moment received intelligence that a man was this morning drowned in the Hunter, opposite Neotsfield, by the upsetting of a boat. There appeared to be no chance of his body being recovered. June 25, 1852

**THE KING'S PLAINS MURDER.**

Since our last, direct testimony as to the guilt of **SULLIVAN** has transpired, but how far it may be credited by a jury is not for us to say. When the oath was administered to the principal witness, **DANIEL HEALY**, at Carcoar, he was detected by a gentleman present making a secret sign to Sullivan. When taxed with the circumstance after the case had been concluded, he first hesitated, and afterwards confessed to the fact, remarking at the same time – he could not hang a man without seeing the priest. On Monday last Healy called upon the Rev. Mr. **KEATING**, and the result of the interview was, of course, a strict injunction to tell all he knew of the matter. Having communicated with the Inspector of Police, he was immediately despatched to Carcoar in company with constable **FINNERTY**, and on Tuesday made

his deposition before the Police Magistrate and the prisoner. In all material points, with one most important exception, it was similar to his original statement. He deposed that when he heard the cry of "robbers, robbers, robbers," he desired his wife to watch at the door whilst he proceeded to the spot whence the sound came. Upon his approaching Sullivan he saw him strike the prostrate body of **HARRINGTON** two blows with some instrument apparently about three feet long, when, perceiving that life was extinct, he desired him to desist, at the same time remarking – "don't you see he's dead." Having completed his work, Sullivan threw the weapon upon the roof of the hut, which is of bark, and from its sound it appeared to be iron. *Bathurst Free Press, June 19*

**MAILMAN DROWNED.** - Extract from a letter, dated "Grungle, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1852. We had no mail here for this last fortnight; the mail-man, whose name is **ELLIS BROOKS**, got drowned in a lagoon of water eight miles from this place; how it happened no one knows. He went off the road about half-a-mile; we tracked his horse to the lagoon; we found the mail-bags floating in the water, but no sign of the mail-man. We have been grappling for him for the last nine days, but to no purpose. We got the blacks, but they would not dive, it was too cold. *Empire.*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - About seven o'clock yesterday morning, a man named **HURLEY**, who had no fixed place of abode, and had been for some time in a delicate state of health, died suddenly in a water closet belonging to premises situated in York-street. *Herald, June 23*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/834, 30/06/1852**

**DROWNING OF A LITTLE GIRL.** - On Sunday an inquest was held, by Mr. **PARKER**, at the house of **COOK JACKSON**, a settler, residing in the county of Durham, on the body of **MARGARET JACKSON**, his daughter, fourteen months old. It appeared that about noon on Saturday the little girl and her brother, of five years old, were playing about in front of the hut; their grandmother, Mrs. **PURCELL**, went away with the little boy to turn the bullocks out of the wheat crop, leaving the little girl, who could just totter about, by the hut. About twenty or thirty feet from the hut was a shallow pool, about four feet broad, and six or seven inches deep, its surface even with the ground, being kept for the fowls to drink. Some short time afterwards Mrs. Jackson went out to feed the pigs, and was shocked to see the little girl floating on her back in the pool, lifeless; she instantly got her out, and every means which she and Mrs. Purcell could devise to restore animation was tried, but in vain. The jury returned a verdict of death by drowning, recommending the hole to be covered over or filled in.

**SINGLETON.** - **AWFUL CASE OF SUDDEN DEATH.** - Yesterday a coroner's inquest was held at Mr. Neal's, the Plough Inn, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of twelve, touching the death of **JOHN PICKWELL**, who had suddenly expired in his own house on the previous day (Sunday) at about twelve o'clock. The only evidence brought forward was that of his wife, **MARGARET PICKWELL**, and that of a neighbour named **MARY M'CAMATE**, from which it appears that the deceased was sitting upon a stool reading a book near the sofa, his wife's attention being taken up by a dog at the door, when she suddenly heard a noise, and upon looking round discovered her husband upon one knee, and his hand upon the sofa; she then found that he was expiring, and he never spoke afterwards. She called in M'Camate, who upon putting her hand upon his chest, felt the last breath leaving him. He had previously eaten a hearty meal of bread and salt beef, with tea, and had not complained of illness since about three months ago, when he stated that he had a

pain in his left side. He was a strong hearty looking man, but on the morning of his decease looked rather pale. Dr. **STOLWORTHY** was sent for, but on his arrival Pickwell was of course dead. The coroner stated his opinion that the deceased had most probably died from disease of the heart. The foreman requested on behalf of the jury that a *post mortem* examination of the body should be held, as it seemed in their opinion probable that deceased had died from apoplexy. The request was however overruled by the coroner, as he thought that it mattered not whether the deceased had died from disease of the heart, or congestion, as they were both natural causes, and there appeared to be no evidence of foul play. The jury then, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of died from natural causes. Since the above inquest certain rumours have been spread that the deceased had received a blow from some one some time back, and a requisition was this morning sent to the coroner signed by the foreman and two of the jury requesting a *post mortem* examination of the body, and further enquiries to be made. We have not yet heard whether the request has been complied with, but the coroner has ordered the funeral to be postponed.

**BURNETT DISTRICT.** - Each post brings news of fresh outrages on the Dawson, or in other districts adjoining. About ten days ago a Chinaman on Messrs. Millerr and Turnbull's station was reported missing. Three sheep only being short, it was supposed that he had lost himself in the bush, and an active search was instituted, when at last his remains were discovered buried in a blind gully, by the Native Police under Lieutenant **MURRAY**, he having been murdered by the aborigines. Since then they have bailed up Messrs. Hay's men, in the Wide Bay district, and taken from them forcibly their pipes, knives, and tobacco, with 270 sheep. As the winter advances these outrages will increase. You may rest assured that whatever occurs you shall be furnished with the earliest authentic particulars. *Correspondent of Moreton Bay Courier.*

**INQUEST ON A NEWLY BORN INFANT.** - An inquest, held in Parramatta, on the body of a newly born infant, on the 24<sup>th</sup>, is reported by the correspondent of the *Herald*. A girl of sixteen years old, named **KEZIAH PARKER**, was living there in the service of Mr. **WILLIS**; some two years ago it is stated that this girl had a miscarriage, and recently Mrs. Willis, suspecting she was pregnant, taxed her with it, and was confirmed in her belief by the hesitating denial of the girl. On Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Parker went about her work as usual, but at four o'clock in the afternoon Mrs. Willis heard her crying, and on going to her Parker said she was ill; Mr. Willis was told of this, and sent for a midwife, who said Parker had recently been delivered of a child; Parker confessed that she was taken ill and went to the water closet, where the child was born, and that it was not alive. On examination the body of the infant was found immersed in the water closet, and a post mortem examination showed that it had come to maturity, that there were no marks of violence on the body, and that it died from suffocation. The jury returned a verdict that the child died from suffocation from falling into a water closet, and that the mother, Keziah Parker, had no determinate intention of destroying her child.

**DEATHS FROM INTEMPERANCE.** - The *Sydney Morning Herald* of Friday last reports four inquests held there the previous day, the deaths in three of the cases having been caused by intemperance. One was on a man named **CHRISTOPHER EARLY**, aged 45 years, a shoemaker, who, after hanging about public-houses for the last three months, and drinking away all his money and effects, was unable to pay for even a bed for himself and his wife on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>, and they took refuge in a water-closet; there Early, after lying stupidly insensible for some time, with his head

on his wife's knee, complained of feeling his mouth blistered, and asked for a drink; his wife went to get him some water, but on her return found he was dead.

- A second inquest was on the body of a woman named **ELIZABETH WRIGHT**, who, becoming ill from the effects of intemperance and exposure, took refuge on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with an old mistress, Mrs. **M'DONNELL**, of the Devonshire Arms Inn, who treated her kindly, and next day got her a ticket for the Sydney Infirmary, but Wright was refused admission there; the constable who took her there then took her to the watch-house in a cab, but before she reached the house she was dead.

- The third inquest was on the body of **MARY BEATTON**, a married woman, who had been drinking to excess for the last six or seven weeks, and died quite suddenly on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, from apoplexy, brought on by her habits. In each case the jury returned a verdict of death from intemperance.

- In Saturday's *Herald* a similar case is reported to have occurred at Parramatta. An inquest was held there on the body of **MARGARET PARKER**, a woman of notoriously drunken habits, who on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> slept in the lodge of the Parramatta Hospital, by permission of the keeper, but died in the course of the night. Her death was presumed to have arisen from disease of the heart, aggravated by intemperance, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

**SUDDEN DEATH OF DOCTOR BEAZLEY.** - This gentleman, who was one of the medical superintendents at the quarantine station, expired very suddenly on Thursday morning, and yesterday an inquest was held as to the cause of his death. Doctor **PARR**, the other officer attendant, stated that the deceased, on the morning referred to, appeared in his usual health, and partook of a hearty breakfast. Just as they were about to come up to town, witness, who had sent for the deceased, received notice that he had fallen down, and, on hastening to the spot, found him dead. He tried to bleed by opening the jugular vein, but was unsuccessful, and from the evidence of Dr. **NATHAN**, who had made a post mortem examination, the jury returned a verdict of death from (sic) apoplexy. *People's Advocate, June 26*

**ACCIDENT.** - Between nine and ten o'clock on Thursday night a Mrs. **FEENY**, residing in Clarence-street, while cooking at her fire, threw a small quantity of fat into the fire, it not burning sufficiently briskly for her purpose, whereupon a large body of flame burst out, fastened upon her dress, and before it could be extinguished burnt her about the body most frightfully. She was conveyed to the Infirmary, but we are informed that the hopes of her recovery are very faint. *Herald, June 26*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/835, 03/07/1852

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.

**SINGLETON.** - **THE LATE INQUEST.** - Agreeable to the request of the jury who sat upon the body of the late **JOHN PICKWELL**, the coroner ordered a post mortem examination of the body to be made, which was accordingly done on Tuesday by Dr. **STOLWORTHY**, when it appeared that the pericardium was gorged with blood, and the aorta was ruptured and ossified. These combinations of disease being sufficient to cause death, the jury, who were again empanelled on Wednesday, recorded their former verdict of "died from natural causes." As several reports were about the town as to the cause of this man's death, the jury were we think perfectly justified in requesting a post mortem examination to be made.

**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.** - **WRECK OF THE "VENUS."**

The schooner *Venus* left Shoalhaven on Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and was driven ashore on Cooranulla beach, between Botany and Port Hacking, during the gale on that night, and all on board perished. [Wreck looted.] Although the wreck was discovered on

Wednesday last, no information was given to the police until Saturday, when all the cargo had been taken away, and two bodies which were washed ashore were allowed to lie on the beach for three days before they were interred; during this time they had been partly devoured by wild dogs. An inquest will be held this day, at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany, where the bodies have been carried. The body of the man has been identified as that of a person named **COOK**, who left Shoalhaven as a passenger on board the *Venus*. *Herald*, 30<sup>th</sup> June

**DEATHS BY INTEMPERANCE.** - The *Herald* of Tuesday reports two inquests held in Sydney on the previous day, the verdict in each case being death from disease caused by intemperate habits. The first was on the body of **ELLEN DOGHERTY**, a woman of the town, who was found dead in bed on the previous Saturday, in a brothel in Kent-street, after spending several days in drinking. The second was on a man named **JOHN AUSTIN**, aged 42 years, a painter by trade, who went to his mother's house on Friday, after a drinking bout, in a miserable state of debility, and died next day.

**TWO MEN DROWNED.** - A report has reached town that two men were drowned on Wednesday last in attempting to cross the Shepherd's Creek, whilst in a flooded state, but as we have no authentic information on the subject, we do not vouch for its correctness. *Bathurst Free Press*, June 26

**ANOTHER CASE OF DROWNING.** - On Wednesday last a man named **KNIGHT**, employed at the Summerhill Mine, was drowned in the Creek. It is supposed he was in liquor, although generally a steady sober man, and had walked into the water whilst under its stupefying influence. *Bathurst Free Press*, June 26

**AWFUL FLOOD. - LOSS OF LIFE.** - About midnight of Wednesday last this township (Goulburn) and its neighbourhood were visited by a flood, more destructive to property than any that has occurred for the last 15 years.

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Another person was rescued by a neighbour after he had managed to escape from his hut, but he died from fright and exposure shortly afterwards.

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Yesterday a constable belonging to the Braidwood police was drowned in attempting to cross the Mulwarree Creek, at Thorn's crossing place. The horse on which he rode swam ashore a quarter of a mile below where he went in. The body has not been found. We learn that three men were drowned in attempting to cross Paddy's River. Several other fatal accidents have been communicated to us, but as they need authentication, we abstain from alluding to them further. Four or five persons are missing from their homes in our immediate neighbourhood, and it is much feared they have met with a watery grave. *Abridged from the Goulburn Herald*, June 26

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**

An inquest was held yesterday, at the Three Tuns, on view of the body of **RICHARD SCOTT**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, who was only eighteen years of age, was a seaman on board the *Templar*. On Monday afternoon he was at work painting under the maintop, when he accidentally fell on the deck, a height of forty-two feet, fracturing his arm, breaking three ribs, and rupturing the liver and kidney. He only lived about an hour after he fell to the deck. Verdict, "Died from injuries accidentally received." *Empire*, 30<sup>th</sup> June

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - The *Herald* of Monday reports an inquest held during two previous days on the body of **NICHOLAS CARR**, the poor boy who was found drowned in the water contained in a cellar excavation made in a new building,

erecting in George-street. The cellar, which contained several feet of water, had been left totally unprotected, the first step over the threshold precipitating a visitor into the pool below, the perpendicular sides of which rendered all attempts at escape unavailing. It appeared that previously a serjeant of police had rescued a drunken man who had fallen into it, and that several other persons had narrowly escaped. The buildings were being put up under the superintendence of Mr. **HILLY**, an architect, and there being no contractor, the actual works were left to the charge of the overseer of the men employed, **WILLIAM BAKER**. The excavation had been open for three weeks, and no attempt had ever been made to protect passengers from falling in. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Baker, blaming the police for not seeing that the place was secured properly against accidents.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/836, 07/07/1852

INQUEST. - Yesterday an inquest was commenced at the Rose Inn, West Maitland, on the body of a man [**JOHN FISH**] who died from wounds said to have been inflicted in the eye by a pair of snuffers. The inquest would have been held on Monday, the coroner being up here waiting for some time to hold it, but he informs us that he was unable to procure the attendance, without summons, of a jury. [see next issue]

DEATH OF A CHINAMAN BY HANGING. - An inquest was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, by the Coroner of the district, at the Court-house, Muswell Brook, on the body of **TEW POO**, a Chinaman. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was employed as a shepherd on the Edinglassie Estate, near Muswell Brook, and that on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> he eat a hearty breakfast with another Chinaman and a European, and took his flock of sheep out as usual. In the evening part of the flock came home to the station, which caused the superintendent to go in search of Tew Poo, whom he could not find that evening; the next morning he found the other part of the flock, and when passing an uninhabited hut, about a mile from the station, he saw Tew Poo hanging from the ridge-pole of the gunyah, and found he was dead. The superintendent then went and reported the circumstance to the police at Muswell Brook, who went to the gunyah and found the Chinaman suspended as described. His head was in a loop made with a cotton cravat or turban, which did not go round his neck, but merely under his chin, pressing on the throat, which was black, but the features were not at all distorted; he was in a kneeling position, with his knees on a log of wood about six inches in diameter, and his feet were on the ground; there was not the least sign (on the floor of the hut) of any struggle. The poor fellow was very comfortably dressed, had been on the estate since the beginning of April last, and was considered a useful servant, but for the last fortnight seemed gloomy. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from strangulation by hanging himself during a fit of temporary insanity – and added (as a rider) “that deceased, Tew Poo, appears to have received every attention and kindness from his employers up to the period of his death.”

SYDNEY NEWS. - Last night a woman named **JONES**, residing in Pitt-street, was found dead in her house, under circumstances which leave no doubt but that she had committed suicide, by strangling herself with a shawl. Her husband was tried for felony at the last Quarter Sessions, and received sentence of five years' hard labour on Cockatoo Island.

DESTRUCTION OF GUNDAGAI. - SIXTY-THREE PERSONS DROWNED!!!

*(From the Second Edition of Saturday's Empire)*

The terrible particulars contained in the following letter, received this morning from our agent at Yass, may be relied upon. We publish the painful intelligence without one word of comment, though we have reason to fear that this is only the first page of the dismal story of destruction which has to be told. Our correspondent adds that the waters of the Murrumbidgee had risen forty feet. We may add, that another report from Gundagai estimates the loss of life at seventy-four persons:-

"Tuesday evening. ½ past 10 o'clock.

"The Gundagai mailman has just arrived, bringing the sad intelligence that Gundagai is destroyed, and *sixty-three of the inhabitants drowned* – all swept away by the flood on the night of Wednesday last. Some generous fellows saved, by means of a boat, several families, among which are the families of Messrs. **TURNBULL, DAVIES, HILL, RILEY**, and some others, but all the rest are lost. It is stated that Mr. **SPENCER** is saved, but his family are gone. Sixty-three are known to be missing; and it is feared that Wagga Wagga has suffered the same fate, as also many settlers on the banks of the river. The heart sickens at the thought of the desolation caused by this dreadful visitation."

**MAN DROWNED.** - We stated in our last communication that it was reported that a man was drowned near the old crossing place, at Bradley's fence, about a mile from this; the report, although the body has not been found, turns out to be too true; his name is **WILLIAM FITZPATRICK**, formerly chief constable at Moreton Bay, where his family at present resides. He came up to join the mounted police stationed at Braidwood, about two months ago, and had come to Goulburn with prisoners for the present Quarter Sessions, and yesterday (Friday) morning left the barracks, at the old township, and passed through Goulburn on his way to Braidwood: he being a man somewhat up in years, no one supposed he would ever attempt to cross the creek in its swollen state; but he seems to have done so and perished in the attempt. His horse (with all his accoutrements, pistols, sword, and carbine) came out on the opposite side of the river, and made for Mr. Phillips', at Lansdowne; it is considered useless to make any effort to recover the body till the creek falls. *Goulburn Correspondent of the Herald*

**CALIFORNIA.**

**LYNCHING.** - The *Times* and *Transcript* publishes the following account of a lynching affair at Granite Creek, near Coloma:- Our informant writes that a Sydney man, named **THOMAS GEORGE**, was accused of robbing **MICHAEL M'KEVITE** of 150 ounces of gold. He was tried and found guilty by twelve jurors, appointed at a public meeting of one hundred miners, and sentenced to be hung, unless he should produce the stolen property in half an hour. The time having expired, a lariat was put round his neck, and a party proceeded to execute the sentence pronounced against him. They ran him up, and kept him suspended as long as it was safe, when he was left down and restored by the application of water and other restoratives. He still refused to confess, but when they were about to repeat the operation, with a promise of its being final and fatal, he changed his mind, and led them to a place where the purse was concealed under a stone.

**MURRUMBIDGEE.** - A correspondent, dating from Yass, June 25<sup>th</sup>, writes, in reference to the recent flood:- "A gentleman from the Murrumbidgee has just informed me that *two* of Captain M'Callan's *men*, are missing; they are supposed to be drowned, but all is uncertainty at present." *Empire*, July 3

INQUEST. - The inquest mentioned in our last, as having been commenced on Tuesday on the body of a man [**JOHN FISH**] who died from injuries received in a house of ill famer, in West Maitland, was adjourned for a week, at the termination of the evidence taken on that day.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/837, 10/07/1852

SYDNEY NEWS.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Friday last a young man named **CURRAN** was drowned in attempting to swim his horse across the Crudine Creek, whilst highly flooded. He stuck to the animal for a considerable distance down the stream, but at length was rolled off, and lost his hold. His body had not been discovered on Wednesday last. *Bathurst Free Press, July 3*

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - On Wednesday last as a man named **WILLIAMS**, in the employment of Dr. **DORSEY**, was attempting to cross a creek near Ipswich, on horseback, the strength of the flood carried the horse away, and caused him to struggle so that he dismounted his rider, who received a blow from one of the horse's feet, and was drowned. *Moreton Bay Courier, June 26*

SYDNEY NEWS

GUNDAGAI. - DREADFUL FLOOD. - SIXTY-FOUR LIVES LOST.

...

A boat came from the other side of the river about 9 a.m., to relieve Mr. **THATCHER**, whose family had taken to the loft. In recrossing the river the boat was swamped, and five children and one of the boatmen were drowned.

...

I myself was on a tree from 11 in Friday night, until about 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Many were so placed for two nights; some of these were saved, though no doubt some perished from exhaustion. One melancholy instance is the fate of Miss **HEMPHILL**, who on Saturday night was alive in the tree, in which on Sunday she was found dead.

...

At every step you see some one lamenting the dead. Here and there the sorrowing remains, of what three days before was a large and thriving family. Mr. **THATCHER** saved himself, but lost eight of his family. Mr. **LINDLEY** returned to-day from Yass, and found the whole of his family swept away.

...

The generous hospitality of Mr. **NORTON**, Chief Constable, will ever be remembered by those to whom his house became a home, when they were without shelter, and many almost penniless.

...

The following is the list of those who were drowned, amounting to sixty-four. The number of houses swept away about thirty-six.

Mr. and Mrs. **KENNA**, of the National School, and five children

Mrs. **LINDLEY**, of the "Rose Inn," and four children, old mna, servant man, and woman, little girl, woman, and child.

Mr. **LUFF**, of the Murrumbidgee, staying at the "Rose Inn."

Mrs. **THATCHER**, sen., Miss **THATCHER**, Mrs. **THATCHER**, jun., and five children.

Mr. **GORMLY**, Mrs. **GORMLY**, daughter, and two sons, and two girls (lodgers).

Mr. **SCOTT**, butcher, wife, and son, and boy (**CASTLETON**).

Mr. **GERARD HEMPILL**, innkeeper, wife, and four children.

Mr. **EGERTON**, tailor, and wife.

Mr. **MORRIS**, and two children.

Four strangers, staying at Spencer's Inn, from the "Lachlan;" **WILLIAMS**, servant to Mr. Spencer.

Dr. **WAUGH'S** servant.

...

**DEATH FROM GRIEF.** - An inquest was held on Saturday, at Mr. M'Cabe's public-house, Pitt-street, on view of the body of **MARY JONES**. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was a married woman, and had lately been fretting grievously on account of her husband, who was convicted at the last Quarter Sessions of violently assaulting a labourer in the employ of the City Corporation by stabbing him with a chisel. She complained of a pain in her chest, and was constantly moaning and crying about her husband. She was about forty years of age, and lived lonely. She had no relatives in the colony. She complained on Friday evening of a difficulty of breathing, and was put to bed by a female named **REBECCA MUKSTELLO**, who showed some little kindness to her. This female went to see her in a short time afterwards, and found her dead. Dr. **FULLERTON** was sent for, but deceased was then beyond human skill. He stated his opinion that deceased died from some inward affection. - Verdict, "Died from natural causes." *Empire, July 6*

**DEATH FROM A KICK BY A HORSE.** - Yesterday, an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Sportsman's Arms, Pitt-street, on view of the body of **GEORGE FALKNER**, then lying dead in Goulburn-street. From the evidence of Mr. **ROBERT FRENCH**, residing in Goulburn-street, it appeared that deceased, who was his brother-in-law, and about 31 years of age, had care of witness's horses. On Saturday morning deceased was in the stable-yard, and was passing a horse which witness had just purchased, when the animal kicked him in the lower part of the abdomen. Dr. **FULLERTON** was immediately sent for, who prescribed for deceased, but the latter lingered until about eight o'clock on Sunday morning, when he expired. The horse was stated to be a very quiet one. Verdict, died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, July 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/838, 14/07/1852

MAITLAND QUARTER SESSIONS.

This Court opens on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> July instant, ... The following are already set down for trial:-

**JAMES BROWN**, two charges of stealing; Maitland bench (this man died in gaol, as previously reported).

**THOMAS MARSHALL**, assault with intent, Murrumbidgee bench.

**TOMMY (aboriginal)**, assault with intent; Dungog bench.

**INQUEST.** - The inquest on the body of **JOHN FISH** was resumed at the Rose Inn, West Maitland, yesterday, and continued during the day; at about five o'clock it was adjourned till this morning. Two parties, a young man and a woman, are in custody.

**THE SOUTHERN FLOODS.**

(From the Herald, July 80)

The floods at the Murrumbidgee appear to have been even more disastrous than was reported, fearful as was that report. Instead of seventy, there have been upwards of a hundred lives lost. A letter received from Gundagai yesterday says: "There were seventy-eight bodies interred yesterday (Thursday), and twelve are still missing. ..."

...

We have been favoured by Mr. **JENKINS** with the following extract from a letter received by him yesterday, ... "Bangus, June 29. – I am sorry to inform you of the great destruction that has been done to your house and premises by a great flood that was here on Friday night last.

...

... all is swept away and eighty to ninety lives lost. There have been seventeen lives lost at Mr. **HILLAS'S**, Yauratree, so that you may judge, there is nothing here but loss of life and property.

**DESTRUCTION OF WAGGA WAGGA BY FLOOD. – ONLY FIVE PERSONS SAVED.**

Sunday night. - Intelligence has just reached me of the total destruction of the township of Wagga Wagga by flood; only five persons have been saved! Every thing is in such a state of confusion that it is utterly impossible to give particulars by this post. It is believed that the loss of life in the Murrumbidgee is even greater than has been reported. **PETER STUCKEY**, Esq., late of Long Reach, and family, are missing, and it is feared they have met with a watery grave. The name of their station is Toblong. *From our Goulburn Correspondent.*

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**

An inquest was held at the Three Tuns, on Wednesday, on view of the body of **JOHN HYNDES**, then lying dead in the Infirmary. It appeared from the evidence of **CHARLES DALTON** and **EDWARD DUNN**, that between three and four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon the deceased was leading two horses down Kent-street; a cab was passing at the time, which frightened the horses and caused them to prance. Deceased held them as long as he could, but they eventually overpowered him, and broke away from him. One of the horses kicked him in the breast. He made two or three steps backwards until he reached the curb-stone, where he fell down, and instantly expired. The witnesses exonerated the cabman from any blame, stating that he pulled up as soon as the horses began to rear, and they denied that the cabman struck the deceased's horses with his whip prior to the accident. Dr. **SMITH** gave his opinion that death was caused by internal haemorrhage, produced by the injury received from the kick of a horse. Verdict accordingly. *Empire, July 8*

**A DEAD BODY FOUND IN THE BUSH.** - An inquisition was held at Cabramatta, at the house of Mr. **JAMES RICHEY**, before Mr. **C.B. LYONS**, Coroner for the District, on view of a body which had been found in the bush. The first evidence taken was that of **JAMES RITCHEY**, the occupier of the house, a farmer and who deposed that on the morning of Thursday, about eight o'clock, as he was riding in the bush in search of cattle his attention was attracted to the smell of some putrid substance; he looked about him and saw the dead body of a man, very much decomposed. It was dressed in a shirt and trowsers. He thought it was the body of a man who used to call himself **WILLIAM WILSON**. There was no mark of any scuffle or fight near the spot. There was also a cabbage-tree hat near the head of the deceased. Witness gave information to the police. **THOMAS WHALEY** a farmer, who resided in Liverpool, next deposed to his knowledge of the body found, which he believed to be that of William Wilson, whom he had known for five years. He was very strange in his habits, he would take a fit in his head and go into the bush for a week; he was fifty-two years old; free by servitude; not married; and came from Stockport in Cheshire, and was a Protestant. He never had any money. Witness saw him in Liverpool three weeks ago. Another witness named **HUGHES** confirmed the above statement, and the jury returned a verdict of natural death. *Herald's Parramatta Correspondent.*

**MURDER BY THE BLACKS.** - When the *Harp* was on the point of sailing, intelligence reached Brisbane of as most barbarous murder by the blacks, at a station about 17 miles distant. A shepherd belonging to Mr. **M'GRATH**, on Taylor's Range, was visited at his hut by a number of natives, who asked for tobacco and pipes. The man, it is reported, made some rather uncivil reply to their demands. The shepherd went out and was followed by some of the blacks; a short time afterwards a party returned and bailed up the hutkeeper, who, however, eventually made his escape and went to the head station, and reported his fears for the safety of the shepherd to Mr. M'Grath. On the following morning search was made, and the shepherd was found dead, with his skull fractured, and his forehead cut open, as if by a boomerang. A warrant was issued for the apprehension of a blackfellow named **BILLY BALLOW**, whose spear, bearing some peculiar marks, was found near the spot where the murder had been committed. *Empire, July 8*

**GOULBURN, JULY 7. - MOST MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT – HUSBAND AND WIFE DROWNED.**

About one o'clock today (Wednesday) **HENRY DORT and his wife**, who reside at the Veteran Flats, about four miles from Goulburn, went to fetch water from the hole on which their farm is situated; the banks are very steep and slippery, and by some unfortunate step both fell into the water; it is supposed (for no one saw the event) that the man had fallen in first, and that his wife fell in trying to save him; and some think it was the reverse. The first that was known of the accident was their little girl seeing both in the water, her father trying to save her mother – he had her on his back, and was endeavouring to bring her to the bank; she rolled off, and both went down, and came up again separately; and the last that was seen of them was that they went down near the centre of the river, which is still considerable swollen. *Herald Correspondent.*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/839, 17/07/1852**

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - On Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant an inquest was commenced before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Rose Inn, West Maitland, on the body of **JAMES FISH**; it was then adjourned for a week to allow time for apprehending certain parties accused, and was concluded on Wednesday last. The evidence taken was voluminous, the coroner and jury taking great pains to sift the matter thoroughly. Fish was in the employment of Mr. **HEUGH**, of West Maitland, in the candle manufactory, and on Saturday night, the 19<sup>th</sup> June, about half past eleven o'clock, he left Mr. Heugh's with several of his fellow workmen, they being the night party, and having just received their week's wages, Fish taking £1 5s.; Fish and three others went to Mr. Collins's inn, and had some liquor; the time when Fish left Mr. Collins's was not positively fixed, but Mr. Collins said it was certainly before twelve o'clock. At present there is no direct evidence as to what became of Fish between that hour and the next morning (Sunday) when he reached his own house, and had a wash, and lay down for two hours. His fellow lodger and workman, **LLOYD**, when he rose again, observed that his face looked bruised, and his left eye swollen, and on enquiring what was the matter, Fish told him that he had been robbed and injured the night before. Fish told Lloyd that in coming home from Collins's on Sunday morning he saw a light in the house of **ELIZABETH JOHNSON**, a woman of the town, and went there to ask her if she was going to rent his house as she had said; a strange man, a sawyer, who was in her house, asked him to have some rum, from a bottle which he had there, which he (Fish) did; the sawyer then commenced abusing him, and struck him a blow in the face; he (Fish) returned the blow, knocking the sawyer down; the sawyer rose, and they were

about to fight again, when a young man named **THOMAS TAAFE**, who was also in the house, caught him (Fish) by the legs, and threw him on his back; Taafe and the man then fell on him and beat him, Elizabeth Johnson also joining in beating him, and among them he was robbed of a £1 note, and stabbed in several places by a pair of snuffers, one of the stabs piercing his eye; that however he remained in the house, hoping to get his money returned, till day light, when he came home. Fish it appears was ashamed of having been in such a house and made light of the injuries he had received, but although he worked at his trade the two next days, he was then obliged to lay up; but still, thinking the matter was not serious, he neither consulted a surgeon, nor told the police. During that week Fish remained sensible, although getting worse, and he told several witnesses nearly the same story that he had told Lloyd, telling one or two however that Elizabeth Johnson was the party who stabbed him. On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> June, Fish had become delirious, and lay in a dangerous state, and Lloyd called in Dr. **SCOTT**, who tried all the usual remedies, but saw at once that the case was then a hopeless one, the brain being obviously injured. Dr. Scott immediately informed Major **CRUMMER**, P.M., and that gentleman went to Fish to take down his deposition, but Fish was not sensible enough to allow this to be done, and although he afterwards partially recovered the use of his limbs, he never recovered his senses, answering unintelligibly to any questions put to him as to the occurrence. Fish died on Monday morning, the 5<sup>th</sup>, and a post mortem examination by Drs. Scott and **EDYE** showed that death was caused by an abscess which had formed inside the skull pressing the brain, the abscess being immediately opposite a fracture of the skull at the left eye, caused by a wound by some small pointed instrument; the snuffers produced (which Fish took away with him to his own house on the Sunday morning) being likely to produce such an injury. Elizabeth Johnson was apprehended early in the enquiry, and Taafe was apprehended as soon as he returned to Maitland, after being at Mudgee, but the sawyer is still at large. Mr. **TURNER** was retained for the accused. The only other person who appears to have been in the house was another woman of the town, **MATILDA LUCY HOWSON**, but she denied positively that either Fish, Taafe, or the sawyer, were there that night, and deposed as positively that Fish came to the house first on the Sunday afternoon, with his face then injured and bloody. This was directly contrary to Lloyd's evidence. The jury returned a verdict that Fish died of injuries received in the house of Elizabeth Johnson, and that she, Taafe, and the sawyer (name unknown), were guilty of manslaughter; while Howson was guilty of perjury. The Coroner then committed Johnson, Taafe, and Howson, for trial on those charges.

#### GRAFTON.

A man was recently found dead on Mr. Atkins's run, near Grafton. It appeared that seven days had elapsed from the time the man left his sheep station for Grafton until his dead body was found, within a very short distance of the hut he had lived in. He was found on a Saturday, and on the following Monday an inquest was held, and strange to say there was no offensive smell, nor was the body in the least decomposed. Dr. **SKINNER** said that death was caused by inflammation of the bowels, brought on by want of food. July 1, 1852.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. - The *Waratah* left Melbourne on the 9<sup>th</sup>, ... On the 19<sup>th</sup> instant a steerage passenger named **JOSEPH HYLAND** died suddenly from apoplexy; Captain **FREYER** and Dr. **COWARD**, who were on board, immediately on being informed of the circumstance, went forward, but were unable to render any assistance. The body is now waiting an inquest.

#### THE SOUTHERN FLOODS.

... Accounts received during the last two days fully confirm all that has been stated respecting Gundagai. Mr. **SPENCER** is saved, but not a brick remains to mark the site of his hotel – all are swept away.

...

Mr. **PETER STUCKEY** and Mr. **HENRY STUCKEY** are both saved.

#### DEATHS.

At Gundagai, by the late floods of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1852, Mr. **RICHARD HUNT**, formerly of Parramatta, saddler and harness maker, together with his **Wife and Four Children**. Mr. Richard Hunt was born at Winchester, England, March 29, 1797; aged 55 years. He was a very old and much beloved colonist; his untimely fate is much regretted by a large circle of friends, and by the writer of these lines, **JOSEPH WAGDEN**, saddler, of West Maitland.

#### RICHMOND RIVER.

*To the Editor of the Maitland Mercury*

SIR, - In drawing the attention of the authorities, through the medium of your valuable periodical, of the murderous depredations of the aborigines located upon the Richmond River, I beg to state that a man in the service of Mr. **JOHN EATON**, of Roseberry, upper part of the Richmond River, named **DAVID GALE**, was upon Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> ult., most barbarously treated by the blacks, by beating him with what I supposed a boomerang upon the head and face, leaving him for dead, and the hut wherein the man resided pillaged of every moveable thing it contained, amongst which was a very good fowling piece, new blankets, wearing apparel, and various edible stores.

The unfortunate individual was found quite in an insensible state, with nine bruised cuts through the scalp, two upon the face, and the right eye much bruised. He lingered until the 23<sup>rd</sup>, when about six o'clock a.m. he expired. A post mortem examination proved the cranium fractured in several places about the occipital region, &c. ...

#### **WM. STEPHENSON.**

Richmond River, July 1, 1852.

MAN DROWNED. - About the middle of last week, a stockman of Mr. Lawson's, whose name did not transpire, was drowned in attempting to ford the Coola river about fifty miles beyond Mudgee. It appears that he was assisting a person to drive a herd of cattle, and that when they arrived at a fall crossing the river, the man dismounted and walked into the stream to ascertain its depth. He had not proceeded many steps, however, before the force of the current carried him off his legs and washed him under a log, by means of which his head was kept under the water until he was drowned. Unfortunately for the poor man, the cattle broke away about the same moment, and the individual whom he was obliging with his assistance, more careful of animal than human life, started in pursuit, leaving him to struggle his way out if he was able, although as the accident occurred near the bank, the least assistance might have saved his life. *Bathurst Free Press, July 10*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/840, 21/07/1852

THE INQUEST ON THE BODY OF HESKETH EVERETT, AT MUSWELL BROOK. - In the *Mercury* of the 8<sup>th</sup> May was published a communication from one of our usual Muswell Brook correspondents, reporting briefly the particulars made known at an inquest then commenced, but not finished, on the body of **HESKETH EVERETT**. The communication stated that the inquest was adjourned till the 17<sup>th</sup>

May – but since that time we have heard nothing further of the matter, nor has the result of the inquiry been made public. We have just received a copy of the depositions, furnished by a party present at the inquest. Hesketh Everett was in April last travelling from Muswell Brook to Maitland with two men, **GEORGE CLARK** and **SAMUEL BAKER**, they having with them a horse team; on the 13<sup>th</sup>, a wet day, the encamped about a mile from Mr. Ramsay's, the New Freugh Inn, and Baker and Everett went to Ramsay's; there they appear to have remained till evening; Baker got so drunk that he could afterwards remember nothing of what occurred, but woke up next morning in bed in the inn. Meanwhile Everett had returned to the dray late in the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>, with his face covered with blood and bruises, and said to Clark "Oh Lord, Clark, I am mated all over;" Clark said, "who by?" Everett replied, "Ramsay and Thompson, the pound keeper." When Baker returned the next morning Everett gave him the same account. The party, finding Everett badly injured, appear then to have returned to Muswell Brook, where Everett lingered, giving different persons the same account of how he got the injuries, and finally died on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. At the inquest the only direct evidence obtainable as to what really passed at the inn was that of ----- **DOYLE**, a servant girl of Mr. Ramsay's (Baker's drunken state at the inn preventing him from remembering what passed); but the coroner, Dr. **WEST**, appears to have examined as witnesses Ramsay and Thompson themselves. With one slight exception, the girl's evidence exactly corroborated theirs. She stated that both Baker and Everett got very drunk, that Baker got uncivil in his talk, and finally put his hand on Mrs. Ramsay's shoulder and whispered something to her; that Ramsay said he would not have his wife insulted, and collared Baker, but was stopped by Thompson, who forced him (Everett) back on a box, in a sitting position; that Ramsay and Thompson then jointly collared Baker, and put him forcible out of the house through the front door, and then returning jointly collared Everett, and dragged and pushed him out of the house the same way, leaving Baker and Everett outside on the road, the night being very dark and wet; that they saw no more of Everett, but that after a considerable time, above one hour, Baker returned, and asked to be allowed a bed, which Mr. Ramsay granted, and Ramsay and Thompson put him to bed. Dr. **FOWLER** deposed that Everett died from a violent blow on the temple, and other injuries received. The jury returned a verdict that Everett came by his death by a blow over the right temple, and bruises on the face, but by whom the evidence was not sufficient to show; attaching the following order: "The jury are of opinion that a most gross assault was committed on the body of Hesketh Everett, at the New Freugh Arms, on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> April, by William Ramsay and ----- Thompson."

**ACCIDENTS.** - On Monday a very serious accident happened on the Morpeth road; a three horse team of Mr. Christian's from some cause took fright, and started off, and shortly after the dray was upset, the unfortunate driver being caught under one wheel, which broke his leg above the knee, while before he could be released the shaft horse kicked him badly in the jaw. We heard yesterday that he had died from the effect of the injury, but cannot say whether this is correct.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Monday evening a man named **ROBERT MORRISON**, known as **Bob the Painter**, died suddenly, in East Maitland. The deceased had resided there for many years, and lived alone in a small house nearly opposite the Black Horse; he was a strong healthy man to appearance; but subject to become greatly excited, almost insane at times, when suffering from the effects of drink. He was found by the neighbours lying dead on his floor, having apparently fallen off a stool by the fireside, as he was sitting there. - An inquest was held on the body yesterday, by Mr. **PARKER**, when evidence to the above effect was given. Dr.

**SCOTT** having deposed, from an external examination, and his knowledge of the deceased's habits, that death was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel on the brain, caused by intemperance, the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

**THE GOLD FIELDS. - THE MEROO.**

A person named **JOSEPH STEPHENSON** was killed at Nuggety Gully, by the bank falling in on him while in the act of undermining.

Oakey Creek, July 10, 1852

At Munday Point on Monday night a serious row took place, nearly attended by loss of life. One party had his head lacerated in a fearful way.

The body of a young man was brought in from the Crudine River, on Tuesday last, name unknown, supposed to have been drowned the last flood, and about twenty-four years of age.

**BERRIMA. - MURDER. -** An inquisition took place at the Surveyor General Inn, Berrima, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., before **J.J. HIGGINS**, Esq., Coroner of the district, on view of the body of **ANN FOX**, lying dead at Stoney Creek, two miles distant from the township. The Coroner, after swearing in the jury, requested they would all accompany him to where the body lay; and on arriving there a scene of an awful nature was presented to their view, inasmuch as the body of the deceased, Ann Fox, was literally covered with wounds and bruises, leaving no doubt in their minds that a most brutal murder had been committed. From the nature of the evidence adduced on the inquiry, it appears **THOMAS FOX**, the husband of the deceased, had gone to the diggings some months past, leaving his wife, an aged woman, and an old man eighty years of age, named **THOMAS WARD**, in charge of his hut until his return. Fox returned from the diggings a few days past, and sent Ward into Berrima for half a gallon of rum, which it appears had been drunk by the parties. A couple of days afterwards more rum was procured by Fox from Berrima, and the parties had been drinking on the Sunday evening, and that the old man Ward retired to rest about nine o'clock; and some time after Fox went to his bed side, and pulling him out, ordered him to be off, or he would murder him, at the same time accusing him of improper intimacy with his wife. The old man eventually left the place, and when leaving heard the deceased cry out, "O Lord don't hurt me." The next morning Thomas Fox came into Berrima, and at the entrance into town was met by a Mrs. **ANNE MALOWERY** who observed blood on his face; she conversed with him for a few minutes, when Fox bid her good bye, and remarked "yhou will hear all the news bye and bye." Fox then went to the chief constable of Berrima, and gave himself up, stating that he had killed the "old woman" (meaning his wife). The old man, Thomas Ward, swore positively that he had never taken the smallest liberty or freedom with the deceased Anne Fox. Surgeon **ALLEN**, who carefully examined the body, stated that he found the deceased greatly bruised all over, and that under the left ear he found a very serious wound, and on removing the skull found a fracture, which having caused a depression of the brain was quite sufficient to cause the death of the deceased. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a unanimous verdict of wilful murder. The above caused some sensation in the district, in consequence of the prisoner being for a number of years resident in it, and generally looked upon as an industrious man, and one who regularly attended his place of worship. *Correspondent.*

**CAMDEN.**

We have not often to record serious accidents, but cannot pass over silently one which happened a few days ago to the second son of our respected chief constable, Mr. **GIBSON**, formerly of the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The poor little fellow, about twelve years of age, had been riding a horse to water, when, on his return, the horse ran away, and

threw him; the head of the unfortunate child struck the ground, and although medical relief was administered on the instant, from that blow he never recovered. The poor boy died next day, to the grief of his disconsolate parents. *Herald Correspondent*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/841, 24/07/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - We are informed that last Sunday three weeks (27<sup>th</sup> June) a carrier named **JOHN ROSS** was accidentally killed on the road to the Meroo diggings. He was travelling in company with another carrier named **ROBINSON**, and having come to a pinch, the horses, eleven in number, had all been hooked on to Ross's dray; seeing that the horses were drawing the dray towards a tree, Ross tried to push the shaft and shaft horse away from the tree as the dray got close, when he was caught up against the tree, dying almost instantaneously. Ross's wife was with him at the time.

THA MANSLAUGHTER OF JAMES FISH. - It will be remembered that the jury at the recent inquest on the body of **JAMES FISH**, in Maitland, returned a verdict of manslaughter against **ELIZABETH JOHNSON**, **THOMAS TAAFE**, and a sawyer whose name was unknown. It appears that immediately on the fact becoming known that the man said to be a sawyer was implicated, the police circulated information in every quarter, accompanied with a description of his person and of the party he was supposed to be travelling with to the diggings. Yesterday a man named **THOMAS OWEN**, said to be the man spoken of as "the sawyer," was brought before the bench, having been apprehended at Scone by chief constable **BODDILY**, from the information forwarded by the Maitland police; Owen, it appears, told Mr. Boddily that a young man named Taafe was in it, and that he heard Taafe wanted to put it all on him (Owen), but that he had friends in Maitland as well as Taafe, and had money to fee a lawyer. Some evidence having yesterday been taken by the bench, Owen was remanded.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Fisbery Creek, near West Maitland, on the body of **JAMES FALLEN**, a small farmer, residing there. It appeared that Fallen, an old man, and who was in comfortable circumstances from his saving habits, had latterly been complaining of a pain in his inside, and of feeling generally unwell; on Sunday evening his next neighbour, **ISAAC BOTHWELL**, saw him in his usual health, although complaining; on Thursday morning Bothwell, who had observed that Fallon's house was shut up, went to open the door in the presence of another person, and they found Fallen lying dead in his bed, having apparently been dead some time. A post mortem examination was not thought necessary, but Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, having examined the body, found no marks of violence on it, and gave his opinion that death had occurred from natural causes. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

GRAFTON. - There have been two inquests since last communication, held by Mr. **PHILLIPS**; one on **EDWARD W. HAYNES**, better known as "**Cranky Ned**," who got lost in the bush near one of Mr. Aitken's stations; and the second on a seaman of the *Albion* schooner. The only evidence in the latter case was **PETER ULMARRA**, a native, who states that he was on the hill over Woolie, and saw the white men in the ship coming too close to the shore; that he called to them, and called them stupid heads; that the ship grounded, and that some white men started in a boat to carry out an anchor and rope; that in throwing the anchor over from the boat, the stock struck the white man, and knocked him overboard; that he (Peter) had watched the beach till dark, but only found the white man's hat; he continued the search till late next day, when he found the body, dug a grave, and buried it; he then went to the men in charge

of the wreck of the *Phoenix*, and told them what he had done. This man deserves some reward. The body, when the grave was opened, was found with all the clothes on; even the leather belt; and poor Peter did not ask for any pay; he only replied, when asked why he had taken so much trouble, "Oh, poor fellow – white fellow; if I did not bury him, the eagle hawks and native dogs would eat him up." A week before I saw a man dead in the bush; his hut-mates objected to bury him unless promised a bottle of rum. July 12, 1852.

THE FLOODS AT GUNDAGAI. (From the Herald, July 10)

...

The published accounts, I regret to say, have hitherto failed in enumerating all the persons who have fallen victim to this awful visitation. Mrs. **DOYLE'S** three children, Mrs. **ROSS'S** three children (she having swam two miles with an infant at her breast and then found it was dead); Mrs. **COURLEY** and her two grandchildren, and several others whom I cannot at this moment recollect – in all eighty souls, hurried into eternity.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/841, 24/07/1852

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - Information was received in Brisbane on Wednesday, that the dead body of a man named **JAMES TOLMAN**, in the employment of Mr. **JOHN COLLINS**, of the Logan, had been found in that river, the unfortunate man having been drowned in attempting to cross the stream on horseback, when it was flooded by the late rains. The horse was found on an island further down the stream wedged in between the trunks of two trees where the stream had drifted it, and almost dead from exhaustion, having, it is presumed, been several days in that position. The deceased, Tolman, arrived in the ship *Emigrant*. *Moreton Bay Courier*, July 3

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Three Tuns, on view of the body of **WILLIAM DADE**, the man lying dead at the Sydney Infirmary. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was a married man, with one child. He was about fifty years of age, and was greatly addicted to drinking. On Sunday morning he was brought home in a state of intoxication, and while attempting to go up stairs he fell down to the bottom on his head. He was sent to the Infirmary, where he died on Tuesday night. Verdict – died from injuries received by falling down stairs while in a state of intoxication. *Empire*, July 15

SHOCKING OCCURRENCE. - We have received intelligence of a shocking event that occurred at Darling Downs about three weeks ago. A man named **THOMAS SUMMERS**, employed on one of Mr. Gore's stations, went on horseback to Warwick, about sixty miles from there, to procure some flour for his family; but instead of doing so he spent the money in drink, and subsequently left Warwick on foot, being at the time in a state of partial delirium, from intoxication. It is supposed that he intended to return home, but a few days afterwards his dead body was found by a Chinaman on the Toolburra run, about fifteen miles from Warwick. One of his arms had been eaten off by the native dogs. The unfortunate man has left a wife and six children totally unprovided for. *Moreton Bay Courier*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/842, 28/07/1852

DEATH FROM DROWNING. - A correspondent writing from Mudgee, July 18<sup>th</sup>, says:- "A man named **JOHN ENGLISH** was drowned yesterday in the river at Mudgee, while driving over some sheep. I believe he came from Merriwa."

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of the Maitland Mercury.*

SIR - A paragraph having appeared in your issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> instant headed "The inquest on the body of Hesketh Everett at Muswell Brook," in which certain statements appear which are entirely contrary to facts, I would esteem it a favour if you would allow me, through the columns of the *Mercury*, to make the following remarks. According to your paragraph it appears that "the party, finding Everett badly injured, appear then to have returned to *Muswell Brook*, where Everett lingered," &c. Now there is nothing said about their going with Everett on to Maitland, where they remained some time previous to their return to Muswell Brook. Again, it says that "a struggle ensued between them (Ramsay and Baker), on which Everett, *who had been quiet*, rose to assist Baker," &c. Now this, if the original depositions were examined, could be proved to be entirely untrue, by the evidence of a highly respectable witness, who was present at the commencement of the squabble, and saw the quarrelsome disposition of Everett. It is also disproved about myself and Thompson dragging Baker and Everett outside *on the road*. They were only placed under the verandah; and it was about *three* hours when Baker returned, and was put to bed by *me* and a lodger, and not by Thompson, who had left two hours previously. Aggain, after the jury delivering their verdict, "that Everett came to his death by a blow," &c., "*but by whom* the evidence was not sufficient to show;" then adding an 'order' (or a *rider*, I presume) "that the jury are of opinion that a most gross assault was committed on the body of Hesketh Everett, at the New Freugh Arms, on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> April, by William Ramsay and ----- Thompson." How this *rider* can accord either with the evidence or with their verdict is a mystery, or why not commit the accused parties who were *subpoenaed* and gave their evidence as witnesses.

WILLIAM RAMSEY.

New Freugh, July 23, 1852.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/843, 31/07/1852

THE GOLD FIELDS. - SOFALA, July 19

Much painful excitement has prevailed on the flat, from the supposition that two murders have been committed in the neighbourhood. One of the supposed victim is a young man from Patterson's Point, who, having had some dispute about his claim, came to the township to get a license, and was last seen at the crossing place, near his own tent. He not having made his appearance during the day inquiries and d=search were made, and a pool of blood was found in the vicinity of some deep shafts, by which he had to pass. He was known to have had between sixty and seventy pounds about him. At present everything is a mystery; his body not having been found. Two of his mates have been apprehended on suspicion; on the shirt and trowsers of one of whom are some stains of blood, of which he is unable to give a satisfactory account. The other unfortunate is a man who was working and residing on Lucky Point. He was seen in a public house about half-past eleven on Friday night; he was rather excited, but not drunk. He had a quarrel with a man named **Dutch Peter**, who then threatened ti stab him. They were separated, and Dutch Peter was afterwards seen dodging this man with a knife in his hand. About twelve o'clock a struggle and a cry of murder were heard, and in the morning the man being missing, search was made, and traces were found of some heavy body having been thrown down a precipice at the west end of the flat, at the bottom of which a quantity of blood, hair, and the missing man's hat were found. The river was dragged during Saturday, and about twelve o'clock yesterday the body was found. A *post-mortem* examination took place today, but the inquest is adjourned until to-morrow. I have just received information

of a man named **WILLIAM HARDING** having been drowned last night in the Crudine, while in a state of *delirium tremens*.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Saturday, an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, on view of the body of **SARAH GOULD**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. From the evidence it appears that the deceased, a child two years and a-half old, was left by her mother who resides at Paddington, for a few minutes, while she went to borrow a pair of scissors from a neighbour. The child was then playing in the yard, but on its mother's return she was enveloped in flames, having, as it would appear, taken advantage of her mother's temporary absence and gone into the house to play with the fire. Every assistance was given by the neighbours, and the little sufferer was at once taken to the Sydney Infirmary. She was severely burned about the legs, body, neck, and face, and was suffering from the shock to the constitution. The usual means were employed, but without success, and the child died about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning. Verdict, died from accidental burning. *Herald, July 27*

#### THE LATE FLOODS.

... A person who has just arrived from the locality (Wagga Wagga) informs us that he counted fourteen dead horses in a lagoon; and on one day the bodies of a man and woman floated down the river within his sight.

#### THE LATE FLOOD AT JUGIONG.

... Happily but one life was lost here – thanks to the humane exertions of Mr. **SHEAHAN** and his household – that of an unfortunate man, who was employed thrashing for Mr. Flynn, upon an island opposite the house. The fate of this individual was unknown to those saved in Mr. Sheahan's boat, until it was too late to render assistance. Another man was drowned at Mr. Osborne's station higher up the river.

#### WOMAN FOUND DEAD.

About eight o'clock on Thursday night a female, named **MARY MAHON**, was found lying dead near the slaughter-house in Sussex-street by some of the neighbours residing in that quarter. It appeared she had been perceived the same day in a state of intoxication. On her person was found a pawn ticket with the name of Mary Mahon written on it. Information having been communicated to the police the body was removed to the receiving house of the Infirmary to await the coroner's inquest, which was held yesterday, when it appeared the woman was not drunk, and a verdict was returned – Died by the visitation of God. *People's Advocate, July 24.*

#### MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/844, 04/08/1852

**DEATH OF WILLIAM RIGBY.** - Yesterday morning **WILLIAM RIGBY** died in the Maitland Hospital. This was the carrier from whose dray most of the property belonging to Messrs. Cohen and others was recently stolen, in the outskirts of West Maitland. Rigby was a material witness in the case against the three other carriers, who were committed on the charge, and it was on a medical certificate of the illness of Rigby and another that their case, and the case of **COLLINS**, was postponed, at the recent Quarter Sessions. Rigby's illness in the first place was understood to have arisen from injuries received in a quarrel or fight with other men, but we presume the inquest will show whether those injuries caused his death, and by whom they were inflicted.

**SYDNEY NEWS.** - A man named Peirce died suddenly this morning, under extraordinary circumstances. He was eating breakfast, when suddenly he fell from his seat, and, before medical assistance could arrive, he breathed his last. On a post mortem examination a portion of meat, not sufficiently masticated, was found in his

throat, so firmly fixed that even after death it was found necessary to make an incision in the neck. An inquest was held, and a verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned. Deceased was a passenger to this colony by the *Mary Bannatyne*.

THE GOLD FIELDS. - THE TURON.

SOFALA, JULY 26.

... The inquest on the body of the man that was found drowned on Sunday week was resumed last Tuesday, and a verdict of found drowned returned; there being no evidence to prove how he came by his death. **Dutch Peter**, the man in custody on suspicion, was discharged.

The man that is missing from Paterson Point has not been heard of yet. **HENRY HARDING**, whose clothes were found on the banks of the Crudine, and who was supposed to have committed suicide while in a state of *delirium tremens*, was found in the bush on Saturday quite mad; his feet and face lacerated in a most dreadful manner. He has been brought to the watch house here, and is under the care of Dr. **GRAY**.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Yesterday, an inquest was held before the Coroner at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **JAMES SEDDON**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Dr. **M'EWAN** stated, that deceased was received into the Infirmary on the 5<sup>th</sup> June last. He was in a state of intoxication; and suffering from compound fracture of the femur, and of the knee-joint, with extensive laceration of the soft parts in the neighbourhood. When the period came, the necessity of amputation was pointed out to him, and insisted upon. He, however, refused to submit to it, declaring that a man with only one hand and one leg would be of no use in the world. He lingered for some time, and at length sank from exhaustion on Tuesday night. The deceased when received admitted that he was tipsy when the injuries were inflicted; and stated that he had accidentally fallen off his loaded dray, the wheel of which passed over his leg. The jury found a verdict of died from injuries accidentally received. *Herald, July 29*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held at Mr. Driver's, Three Tuns Inn, Elizabeth-street, on the body of **WILLIAM FAGAN**, who died in the Infirmary from injuries received by being thrown from a cart. The deceased informed Dr. **M'EWAN** that the accident occurred through one of the wheels of the milk-cart on which he was sitting getting into a hole or deep rut, throwing him off; when he became conscious, he found that he had lost the power of moving his limbs. He was removed to his own house and bled, and afterwards removed to the Infirmary. Dr. M'Ewan stated that he found deceased labouring under total paralysis of the extremities, as well as the muscles of respiration, except the diaphragm; he was perfectly collected and gave a tolerably clear account of the accident. He believed the cause of death was injury of the spinal column in its cervical portion. Verdict – accidental death. *Empire, July 31*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/845, 07/08/1852

INQUEST. - An inquest was commenced on Wednesday, before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Northumberland Hotel, on the body of **WILLIAM RIGBY**, who died on Tuesday morning in the Hospital, as we stated. The inquest was adjourned till yesterday, and last evening was adjourned again till Wednesday next, for further evidence, the evidence already taken being lengthy.

FINDING A HUMAN SKELETON. - The skeleton of a human body, still bearing the clothes of deceased, was found a few days ago in a hollow log at Mogang, near the Lachlan, having either crept in or been placed in feet foremost. Decomposition had completed its work, and in the attempt to take off one of the boots the bones of his

legs separated. How the body came there or whether death had resulted from violence, it was of course impossible to say, owing to the complete decay of the frame. *Bathurst Free Press, July 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/846, 11/08/1852

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. - A young man, of the name of **TRAIL REED**, unfortunately lost his life last night between the hours of six and seven o'clock, under the following circumstances. It would appear that Reed (who was second mate of the *Brisk* barque, lately arrived in this port) had been spending the afternoon with a person named **ALEXANDER CULLEN**, one of the hands on board the *Samuel Enderby*, lying off the patent slip. Reed accompanied Cullen to the wharf, and while crossing thence to the old *Seahorse* hulk, to get on board the *Samuel Enderby*, the plank unfortunately canted, and both were precipitated into the water. Cullen was picked up and placed on board, but the other was unfortunately drowned. Reed was a native of Scotland, and up to a late hour last night the body had not been recovered. *Herald, Aug. 9*

THE GOLD FIELDS. - TURON.

(From Bell's Life, Aug 7)

The man **Wm. HARDING**, who I mentioned in my last as having been found in the bush, in a state of insanity, died yesterday of lockjaw.

EFFECTS OF INTEMPERANCE. - An inquest was held yesterday at the Victoria Inn, Camperdown, on the body of Dr. **BULLOCK**. From the evidence of a person named **JAMES JOHNSON LESLIE**, it appears that the deceased came to this colony in the *Gipsey Queen*, and, according to his own account, had been resident surgeon at the London Hospital. Witness had known him about five months, and had frequently seen him intoxicated; on last Tuesday week saw him standing at the end of Parramatta-street; he appeared to be quite destitute and homeless, and in bad health. Witness asked him to come and live with him for a fortnight, until his health was recruited (sic), which he did. He was labouring under dysentery and was very weak, eating scarcely anything except a little chicken broth. On Thursday witness heard him call from the rear of the premises, and on going to him found him upon one knee, supporting himself by holding on a shrub, to prevent his falling from weakness. Witness called one of the neighbours, and they carried him into the house and laid him on the floor. He was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes accelerated by intemperance. *People's Advocate, Aug. 7*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1852. (Before Mr. Justice Therry)

#### MURDER

**FRANCIS THOMAS GREEN** was indicted for the wilful murder of **JOHN JONES**, at Buckley's Creek, on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1852, by shooting him with a pistol, and inflicting a wound in the neck, whereof he instantly died.

The case was one of entirely circumstantial evidence, and the evidence was very lengthy, not being completed on the first day. Jones and Green had been trading together about the Turon gold diggings, apparently as partners, their trade being mostly sly grog selling. In February last they went down to Sydney with a dray and team of three horses, and obtaining a supply of spirits and wine, in kegs, they went back together to Bathurst, where they left a quantity of the liquors, and went on together to the diggings. A man named **DANIEL WHEELER**, who had driven their dray to Bathurst, went on with them to the diggings at Tambaroura, as did Mrs. Wheeler. Up to this time Jones and Green always appeared to be on friendly terms,

but in leaving Bathurst for Tambaroura, Green, who was in liquor, told Mrs. Wheeler that Jones was a d---d rascal, and that he would settle him; that he (Green) thought no more of shooting a man than of eating his breakfast, and that he had shot many, and drank blood afterwards. When this was said Jones was riding on horseback behind the dray. No quarrelling between them, however, occurred at Tambaroura, and after a short time Jones left Tambaroura for Bathurst, with the dray, for some of the spirits left there, leaving Green, Wheeler, and Mrs. Wheeler, at Tambaroura. This was on a Tuesday, and a day or two afterwards, a fine for sly-grog-selling was inflicted by the Commissioners on Jones and Green. On the Friday following Green also left Tambaroura, on horseback, saying he would go and meet Jones to prevent the dray coming up; Green it appeared, from the evidence of a boy named **JEFFERIES**, who was with Jones, did meet Jones, and told him of the fine, and that Wheeler was caught with wine. Jones, Green, and Jefferies, then returned to Bathurst with the dray, and appear to have reached it on Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> March. During all these transactions Jones appeared to the witnesses to be the cash-keeper, and Mrs. Wheeler believed that Green owed Jones about £20, and both of them told her that Jones was to give Green £10 in Bathurst to send down to his wife, Green being married; Jones did not give him the £10, and mentioning this was what led to Green uttering to Mrs. Wheeler the threats he did against Jones. On the 7<sup>th</sup> March Jones had lodged £19 with a publican named **HORAN**, in Bathurst, Green not being with him, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jones and Green went together to Horan's, and stopped there that day and night; Jones drew £1 one day, and next day £3, in Green's presence, and on the last occasion reminded Horan that he had still £15 in his possession. They left together before dinner, saying they were going to some new diggings at Campbell's River, which is in the direction of the Abercrombie, and not the Turon, and would return the next day [which would be Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> March]. Some part of the liquors had been left at the house of **MICHAEL KETT**, a tailor, living in Bathurst, with whom Green, as tailor by trade, had formerly worked; the dray and horses were also left at Kett's place, with various things which they had with them. They were at Kett's together some time on Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup>, and again on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup>; they were then about to leave, as they said, for some new diggings, and Green said to Kett, while Jones was in the yard, "Kett, he's a damned rascal – don't be surprised if I come back without him;" shortly after this, between eleven and twelve o'clock, Jones and Green left Kett's, on horseback, for the new diggings they had spoken of, between one and two o'clock in the morning. No trace of the two men being seen together after leaving Bathurst was produced in evidence, but about an hour and a half before sundown on Wednesday afternoon, **WILLIAM THOMAS**, a gold digger, and who was then walking in company with another digger, saw Green, whom he knew, riding on horseback, and leading another saddled horse, some three miles from Turon, and in the neighbourhood of Buckley's Creek; Green was off the road, when first seen, some thirty rods, and was about a hundred yards from the spot where Jones's dead body was next day found, and was coming from that direction; Thomas and Green exchanged words as they passed as to the distance they were from Turon, but neither stopped. About seven o'clock that same evening Green called at the house of **THOMAS JENDON**, between Tambaroura and Buckley's Creek; he had left there a few days previously some property as his, and some as Jones's, and he now asked for and obtained from Mrs. Jendon his own property, leaving Jones's still there; he was riding one horse, and leading another, saddled, and after remaining a short time left again, telling Mrs. Jendon if Jones called to give him his things. Jones never called at Mrs. Jendon's, nor had any of the witnesses seen him alive since Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Green was not traced from that evening till he arrived at Kett's, in Bathurst, in the middle of the following night. An unfrequented path or track leads along Buckley's Creek, and in a gully near this track was found on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> May, by a blackfellow, the dead body of a man, at first identified to be the body of **HAYES**, a trooper, and buried as such; but Hayes is still living, and when it became currently known that Jones was missing, two months later, the body was exhumed, and witnesses identified it by the hair, stature, and clothing as that of Jones; death had been caused by a pistol bullet which entered at the back of the neck, passed between the first and second bones of the spine, and lodged in the jaw, and which must have caused instantaneous death. When Green returned to Kett's he told Kett, after arousing him, that Jones and he had had a quarrel, and that Jones had gone to Port Phillip, and that he (Green) should get away as soon as possible; he desired to be called early next morning; he got up at 7 o'clock, and left about eleven o'clock that day with the dray, horses, and other property Jones and he had left there, the boy Jefferies accompanying him; Green told Kett not to say he had gone to Sydney. Before leaving Bathurst, however, that day, (Friday) Green went to Horan's and drew the £15 Jones had left there, presenting a written order, dated march 10<sup>th</sup>, authorising Horan to pay the money to Green "my partner"; Green wrote Horan a receipt on the back of the order, and told Horan the money was wanted to pay a fine for sly grog selling. Green also told **M'GOWAN**, a man he met at Horan's, the same thing. Green and the boy Jefferies left Bathurst with the dray that morning, taking the Sydney road, Green telling Jefferies that Jones was to meet them on the way, or in Sydney. On reaching Sydney Green told different persons different tales about Jones, telling one that he was at the diggings, whither he (green) was about to return to join him; another that he had gone to Port Phillip; and a third that he had seen him in Sydney. Green sold the dray and horses in Sydney, and then went to Braidwood, sending the boy Jefferies to Penrith to wait till Jones joined him, and gave him a parcel, with which he was to come to Sydney to meet him (Green) at an appointed place. Jefferies was apprehended on his return from Sydney to Penrith; and Green was subsequently apprehended at Braidwood. Other circumstances of more or less importance were also adduced in evidence.

Mr. **HOLROYD**, for the defence, contended that the proof of identification of the dead body was insufficient, and that the identification of Green as the man met by Thomas was very unsatisfactory. He contended further that the whole circumstances raised a strong doubt of Green's guilt.

The jury retired for an hour and a quarter, and returned with a verdict of guilty.

Green protested that he was an innocent man, and should, if executed, be one more innocent victim to circumstantial evidence.

He was sentenced to death, without hope of mercy.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/847, 14/08/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Wednesday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at Mr. Cridland's, the Settler's Arms, West Maitland, on the body of **JAMES CLANCEY**. This was the unfortunate old man who was, as we reported, knocked down by a horse on Sunday afternoon last, on the race-course. It appears that among the persons gathered there to see the racehorses exercise, several of the spectators could not resist racing themselves; among them four persons were thus racing, of whom **PATRICK A'HERNE** and **JOHN HANLEY** were two; Hanley was the last of the four, and they were going at full speed round the course, when Clancey, who was crossing the course on foot, came in contact with Hanley's horse, and was

knocked down, the horse and rider coming down also. Hanley, who was himself a little hurt, instantly ran and picked up Clancey, who was very much injured, some of his ribs being broken. A number of persons gathered round to render assistance, and brought some water, &c., while Hanley galloped off to Dr. **M'CARTNEY'S**, for medical assistance; Dr. M'Cartney went down, and under his instructions Clancey was moved carefully up to Mr. Cridland's, where he lingered until Tuesday evening, and then died. Clancey told Dr. M'Cartney, in answer to his questions, that no one was to blame for the accident, and Clancey also on Monday morning told the Rev. Dean **LYNCH** this, in the presence of other persons. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by accident, and that the jury beg to recommend to the coroner that the practice of public racing on a Sunday should be by every endeavour put a stop to, and the same is highly reprehensible. – [We hope the authorities will endeavour to enforce this recommendation of the jury – ED. M.M.]

**THE INQUEST ON WILLIAM RIGBY.** - The adjourned inquest on the body of **WILLIAM RIGBY** was resumed on Wednesday, at the Northumberland Hotel, before Mr. **PARKER**, and concluded. Rigby's death, it was proved by the post mortem examination, as deposed to by Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, was caused by the rupture of an artery; when Dr. M'Cartney first saw him, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, in the hospital, his right shoulder was dislocated, there was a large tumour in the axilla and under the pectoral muscle, accompanied with effusion of blood, causing discoloration; there were no external wounds or abrasions, and Dr. M'C's impression was that the swelling was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel. Mr. **MULLINS**, the resident apothecary, who had some hours previously seen and examined Rigby, noticed bruises under his right arm, and his impression was that Rigby had been injured by heavy kicks. Dr. **BEARDMORE**, the first medical man who saw Rigby, and who was called on to attend him, late on the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> July, found his right shoulder dislocated, and a swelling of the pectoral muscle, with slight echymosis, caused, as he thought, by a rupture of a blood vessel, caused by the efforts that had been made to reduce the dislocated shoulder. The evidence which was taken to elucidate how Rigby received his injuries was very lengthy, the inquest being adjourned three times to obtain further evidence; but nothing certain could be ascertained from direct evidence. Rigby was stopping with other carriers at M'Cann's paddock, Campbell's Hill, West Maitland, on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, and Rigby was drinking at Mr. Turner's public house; Rigby and a man named **Big Ned** went from Mr. Turner's to Mr. Eckford's public house (nearly opposite) that afternoon, and had a glass each, and when they left, Rigby, who was drunk, wanted to go to Mr. Turner's, but Big Ned wanted him to go to the drays; Big Ned, who appeared very friendly with him, took Rigby's arm and tried to lead him up the road towards the paddock, but Rigby pulled the other way, and eventually fell, but got up again at once, and walked across to Mr. Turner's, followed by Big Ned. Mr. Eckford saw no more of them, but an hour later he saw Big Ned and another man, not Rigby, fighting on the road. At a later hour, or next morning, he heard that Rigby was badly injured, and was told by a man, as he thought **BERNARD RILEY**, but whose name is it appears **HUGH GORMAN**, that Big Ned had beaten Rigby in Mr. Turner's. On the other hand, Mr. Turner deposed that no such fight took place in his house, and that when Rigby returned to his house he lay down on a form, seeming to be in pain, that he still lay there when Big Ned and the other man fought on the road, and until at his (Rigby's) request Mr. **T. COLLINS** was sent for, as his shoulder was out, Rigby thought. Hugh Gorman also denied that he was in Mr. Turner's house that evening, that he saw Rigby injured, or that he told Mr. Eckford he did next morning. But Mr. Eckford's evidence as to what Gorman

told him was exactly corroborated by a man named **RICHARD DUNSMORE**, who was present when Gorman told the story on Mr. Eckford's pressing him to tell the truth, and giving him a glass of grog to do so. The other portion of Mr. Eckford's evidence was similarly corroborated by a witness. Rigby himself, from first to last, always persisted in the same statement, that he did not know how he was injured, and that he was too drunk to know. When Rigby desired Mr. Collins to be sent for, it was done, and Mr. Collins came, and at Rigby's request (as he had performed the same friendly office for Rigby on a previous occasion) he tried to put Rigby's shoulder in again, but not succeeding, and doubting whether the shoulder was out, he sent for Dr. Beardmore, who came, and, with the assistance of two or three men, tried to reduce the dislocation by extension of the arm; this also failed, and observing that Rigby was very drunk, and complained of great pain, Dr. B. desisted, and ordered him to bed. At a later hour, after midnight, Mr. Collins and Mr. Turner went to the hospital, next door, and aroused Mr. Mullins, who came, and who had Rigby removed into the hospital, and bled him, and attended on him till the visiting medical men came in the morning. Rigby, under their care, although believed to be fatally injured, recovered partially, but again got worse, and died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The jury returned a verdict that Rigby died from injuries, but how received they had no direct evidence to show; they added a rider that the considered the conduct of Hugh Gorman, a ticket-of-leave holder, very disgraceful. Gorman was sent to the lockup, by order of the coroner, who purposed laying the matter before the bench.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.

WOLLOMBI.

DEATH'S DOINGS. - On Wednesday an inquest was held by **B. SULLIVAN**, Esq., coroner, and a jury of twelve inhabitants, at the Harp of Erin, public house, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the death of **JAMES WOOKEY**, then and there lying dead. From the evidence of the landlord, Mr. **J. KENNY**, it appeared, that on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant he was aroused from his bed by loud cries from the tap room, where the deceased and another person had retired to sleep on the previous evening. On entering the room in question, the landlord found the unfortunate man Wookey running about enveloped in flames, which, being extinguished as hastily as possible, he accounted for by having some little time before put his pipe, immediately after smoking, into his pocket, when he fell asleep, from which his burning clothes and pain awakened him. His left side, extending from hip to shoulder, presented one large and severe burn, from the effects of which, notwithstanding the medical care of Dr. **DUMOULIN**, and the kind attention of Mr. Kenny, he suffered the most terrible pain until the morning of the inquest, when death released the poor fellow from his torments. After a searching enquiry into the case, the jury found that the deceased came by his death in consequence of injuries accidentally received on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant.

On yesterday another inquest was held by the said coroner and same number of juryman, at the Fitz Roy Inn, on the body of **JOSEPH TAYLOR**, who was found lying dead in bed at an early hour in the morning, at the public house in question, by the landlord, who immediately reported the case to the police. From evidence it was shown that deceased had been left there a few days previously by his employer, Mr. **A. DOYLE**, of Wyallah, for the purpose of obtaining the medical attendance of Dr. **DUMOULIN**; that the landlord, on entering his room yesterday morning, found the deceased lying apparently asleep, but to his surprise on examination found that life was extinct, and that seemingly he had departed without a struggle. A post mortem examination was held by Dr. **KIRKPATRICK**, who deposed that death was caused

by extensive disease of the lungs and heart. Dr. Dumoulin subsequently examined the body, and deposed nearly the same in substance as Dr. Kirkpatrick. In accordance with the evidence the jury recorded their opinion that the deceased died from natural causes.

**BOAT ACCIDENT AT MORETON BAY.** - We are informed by Captain **WYHORN**, of the *Lavina*, of a melancholy accident which occurred at Moreton Bay, on Friday, July 30. On the afternoon of that day, a boat belonging to the immigrant ship *Argyle*, containing Dr. Allen, surgeon superintendent, the chief officer, and four hands, left that vessel for the purpose of visiting the immigrants, at the quarantine station; but, unfortunately, being overtaken by a squall, the boat upset, and only two out of the six were saved, viz., an apprentice and one immigrant. Even their escape was most providential, for the boat to which they were clinging, was fast drifting towards the south passage, when they were rescued from their perilous situation by the assistance of some of the Amity Point blacks. *Empire*

**MURDER.** - Intelligence has reached town of another barbarous murder having been committed about a fortnight ago, by the blacks in the Burnett district. A young lad named **DAWSON**, employed as a hut keeper on an out station belonging to Mr. **M'KAY**, was found by the shepherd lying dead beside the creek, where he had apparently been washing when attacked. The tomahawk used in the slaughter was found lying near him, the murderers having left it in their hurry to plunder the hut. The Native Police chanced to arrive at the station next day, but we have no report of their proceedings. *Moreton Bay Courier, Aug. 3*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Tuesday an inquest was held before the coroner, at the Turon Inn, Parramatta-street, on view of the body of a female infant, unnamed, then lying dead in the Roman Catholic burial ground. From the evidence of the sexton, it appears that yesterday morning he observed the mound newly raised in a certain part of the burial ground, and on searching he found the body of the deceased infant, enclosed in a small box. Dr. **TIERNEY** stated that he had examined the body, and that it bore no marks of violence; he thought that it had come to its full time. Having made a post mortem examination, he was of opinion that the infant had been still-born. The umbilical cord was tied, but not in the way that a medical man or a competent midwife would have tied it. There were no bandages, except the outside dress. The jury found that the infant had been still-born. *Herald, Aug 2*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/848, 18/08/1852

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

This court opens on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> August instant. ... The cases for trial are:-

**ELIZABETH JOHNSON and THOMAS TAAFE**, manslaughter, Maitland coroner.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday evening, about seven o'clock, Mr. **WILLIAM GIBB** was walking up High-street, near Mr. Collins's, the Cricketer's Arms, when he heard a sound behind him as if a horse, going very fast, had stumbled; turning round he saw a riderless horse galloping past, which he succeeded in catching; he then returned down the street a few yards, when he found a man named **JOHN BARRY**, a small settler, lying insensible on his face, a little blood issuing from his mouth. Mr. **PENFOLD**, living close by, had heard the sound of a heavy body falling on the ground as the horse stumbled, but no one saw the actual fall. Barry was removed into Mr. Collins's, and Dr. **M'CARTNEY** sent for, but Barry died in less than an hour afterwards. An inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER** on the body on Monday, when it appeared that Barry had been drinking in town on Sunday afternoon, in two or three

public-houses, and just before he was thrown had called at Mr. Gorrick's, the Fitzroy Hotel, for drink, but Mr. Gorrick refused to let him have any; Barry was then so drunk that the persons standing round begged him not to get on the horse again, but Barry mounted, rode off at a gallop, and a short distance off was thrown as above stated. The jury returned a verdict that Barry was killed by being thrown from his horse in a state of intoxication.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - Yesterday afternoon an elderly man named **TOOZE**, a [ACTUALLY **CHARLES WITTON**, see next issue] shoemaker, was drowned in the Hunter, near the Catholic church, West Maitland. The old man was intoxicated, we are informed, and was seen to pull off his boots and coat on the bank, and go into the river; he swam about a little time, and then sank, suddenly. A number of persons were soon on the spot (one almost in time to grasp the sinking man), but in spite of every exertion with a boat and other means, his body had not been found up to a late hour.

SYDNEY NEWS. - On Friday last a man named [**GEORGE**] **CHAMPION**, accompanied by a lad named **PRINGLE**, were engaged in towing a boat laden with oysters from the North Shore to the Australian Steam Company's Wharf, the man being under the influence of liquor; the dingy in which they were, owing to the tempestuous weather, and the incapacity of Champion to act his part, filled soon after leaving the North Shore; Champion was drowned, while the lad managed to swim to the larger vessel, which of course drifted down the harbour, and, but that he managed to make his cries for assistance heard on board the *Cambodia*, a watery grave would ere long have been his fate. The body of Champion has not yet been found.

GOULBURN CIRCUIT COURT. - TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1852

MURDER.

**THOMAS FOX** was indicted for the murder of his wife, **ANNE FOX**, at Berrima, on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, by inflicting wounds and bruises by beating and kicking her.

Fox, a man of good character, was away at the diggings some months, and returned on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, when he was received by his wife with much affection. An infirm old man, named **THOMAS WARD**, was in Fox's employ, as general labourer, and had resided on the farm during his absence. Fox's manner, when he returned, was cordial and friendly to both his wife and Ward, and Ward twice went for rum at Fox's request, which they all partook of together; on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, however, Fox came into Ward's room, dragged him out of bed, calling him an old scoundrel, and accusing him of improper familiarity with his wife while he was away, and telling him he'd murder him if he did not leave the house. Ward left at once, but before he got out of hearing heard Mrs. Fox call out "Oh Lord, don't hurt me." No other person appears to have been in or near the house that night. The next morning Fox went into Berrima, and gave himself up to the chief constable, saying that he had "killed the old woman." Fox told the chief constable that his wife had confessed to him that she had lived on improper terms with Ward during his absence, and that he (Fox) then struck her one blow; that she then rose and left the house, but he fearing she was going to drown herself, went out and brought her into the house again, and next morning when he woke found her lying dead by his side in bed. The chief constable and others who went to Fox's house, on hearing this, found Mrs. Fox lying in bed, dead, and her body completely covered with bruises and wounds, most of them apparently inflicted with heavy kicks; one heavy blow had fractured the skull, driving it in on the brain.

Mr. **PUREFOY** having addressed the jury in defence,

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy on account of the prisoner's previous good character.

The prisoner was sentenced to death, and was informed by the judge that he would forward the recommendation of the jury to the Executive.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - Mr. **WOODS**, second officer of the brig, *Emma*, just arrived from Hobart Town, was unfortunately drowned alongside the vessel about eleven o'clock on the evening of Saturday last. Mr. Woods had left the shore with one hand in the ship's boat, with the intention of going on board; as soon as they reached the brig the man got up the side and threw a rope to Mr. Woods to make the boat fast. Unfortunately that gentleman in endeavouring to lay hold of the rope overbalanced himself and fell head foremost into the water; being unable to swim he soon sank to rise no more. It was blowing very fresh at the time, and the boat soon drifted to leeward. The hands on board the *Emma* immediately got the long-boat out, but it was then too late. Mr. **THOMAS WOODS** had been five years in the vessel, and from steady good conduct had obtained his late position as second officer. He was a native of Belfast, about twenty-two years of age, and respectably connected. His loss is severely felt by all his shipmates, and by none more than his late employer, Mr. **J. MACNAMARA**. Drags were procured yesterday, and under the direction of the chief officer every attempt was made to recover the body, but without success.

*Herald, Aug. 16*

SAD ACCIDENT. - About 1 p.m. yesterday a woman, named **PARKINSON**, sent her daughter **ANN**, aged about five years, to a public-house for a bottle of ale. The child fell down and broke the bottle, a fragment of which cut her severely, laying open the flesh between her ribs so as to render the heart visible. Dr. **BURGON** was sent for, and he applied the requisite remedies, but the child lies at her mother's house in Phillip-street in a very precarious condition. *Empire, Aug. 14*

A MAN DROWNED. - From information received by the police, Sergeant **SHEARMAN** proceeded on Thursday afternoon to Rose Bay, where he found the body of a man lying on the beach, who had been drowned that morning. It appeared from the evidence of a young man named **PETER M'NAB**, that about ten o'clock on Thursday, he saw a boat, in which were two men, drifting towards the shore, and presently observed one of them jump overboard. In about half an hour the body was washed on shore, and the facts communicated by M'Nab to the police. The other man in the boat was taken into custody; but it is understood that he is insane, and he denies all knowledge of the circumstance. At the coroner's inquest, held yesterday, a verdict in accordance with the foregoing facts, was returned, and the man in custody discharged. *People's Advocate, August 14*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/849, 21/08/1852

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Thursday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, at the Plough Inn, on the body of the unfortunate man who was drowned in the river on Tuesday afternoon; his name was **CHARLES WITTON** and not **TOOZE**, as reported by us in mistake. Witton had been for some months in the service of Mrs. Turner, carrier, and was paid off on Monday; he had then been drinking for some days, and was in low spirits, and appears to have continued drinking till Tuesday afternoon, when he was seen to enter the river deliberately, and swim across nearly to the other side, when he suddenly sunk. His hat and boots were found on the bank where he entered the river. The body was not recovered till Wednesday afternoon. The jury returned a verdict that Witton died by drowning, but that there was no evidence to show why he entered the river.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, on the Upper Paterson, on the body of a little girl whose clothes had accidentally caught fire,

and who was so dreadfully burned that she lived but a short time afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. – SINGLETON

HUNTING APPOINTMENT. - On Tuesday we had a grand field day at Singleton

...

FATAL ACCIDENT. - It now becomes our painful duty to report the accidental death of one of the riders, who was killed instantaneously, at the commencement of the above hunt. It appeared that the deceased, whose name is **ROBERT ENGLAND**, by trade a sawyer, and well known here as a sober, quiet, industrious man, was on horseback with the others, and had unwisely a stiff martingale on his pony; he had proceeded as far as the second fence, where there was a slip panel, but instead of going through. He put his horse to the fence to clear it, at about three panels from the opening. The horse in jumping struck its fore-legs against the top rail, throwing poor England on his back; the horse then fell like a somerset upon him, in a few seconds the poor fellow breathed his last. Dr. **STOLWORTHY** was present, but medical aid was of course unavailing. Every sympathy was shown him by the hunting party, who returned upon hearing of the accident. This melancholy affair threw a damp upon the day's hunting. - An inquest was held upon the body yesterday, at the Rose Inn, when a verdict of "accidentally killed by a fall from a horse," was recorded. He had been advised not to jump the fence, as he was not a good rider.

ANOTHER INQUEST. - Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at the Long Point, near Singleton, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., Coroner, and a jury of five, touching the death of **MICHAEL CONNOR**, who had dropped down dead on the previous day. It appeared that the deceased, who had lately left the Maitland Hospital, and was proceeding on horseback up the country, called at the hut of **JOHN SMITH** on Tuesday, and asked for a drink of milk, which he readily obtained; after drinking it greedily it appeared to cause a stoppage in his throat, but recovering that, he took another draught; he then went to a little distance and dismounted, where he was shortly afterwards found dead. The Coroner expressed his opinion that the deceased died from disease of the heart, and the jury returned a verdict of "died from natural causes."

DEATH FROM LOCKJAW. - On last Wednesday fortnight, a boy named **JOHN PEARSON**, residing with his parents at Cornwallis, while cutting fire-wood, accidentally let the axe slip, and nearly severed the great toe and the one adjoining from his left foot. He gave the alarm to his mother who was near at hand, at the same time saying, "Oh, mother, I have cut my toe, and I know I shall be jaw locked." His mother brought him into Windsor, and left him with Mrs. **JAMES DORSET**, in order that he might be near medical aid. The wound was promptly attended to by Dr. **DAY**, who has since, until the boy's death, attended deceased. The patient was progressing favourably until yesterday week, when he complained of great stiffness of the jaws, and incapacity to swallow; these symptoms increased until Wednesday, when decided tetanus set in; and the deceased lingered until yesterday (Sunday), at two o'clock, when he expired. *Herald Windsor Correspondent.*

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT.

The sittings of this court will commence on Thursday next, before Mr. Justice Therry, the Solicitor General prosecuting. There are ten cases for trial, viz., three of murder (one of the men for trial being a Chinese), one of manslaughter, ...

A MAN FOUND DROWNED IN THE HAWKESBURY. - On Thursday last an inquest was held by the Coroner, on view of the body of a man named **JOHN BOURNE**, which had been found floating in the Hawkesbury, near Lower Portland

Head, on the morning of that day. The deceased had been missed since last Saturday three weeks, on which day he started off in a boat to return from the M'Donald River to his home on the Hawkesbury. At the time of his starting he was rather intoxicated, and had in the boat a keg of rum, which he must have broached on the way, as the following morning the boat was picked up below Wiseman's Ferry, and the keg of rum found opened; only one paddle was in the boat at the time he was discovered. The jury, upon hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of "Found drowned, and that the deceased had been accidentally drowned whilst in a state of intoxication." *Herald's Windsor Correspondent*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/850, 25/08/1852

MAITLAND HOSPITAL. - On Saturday a special meeting of the Acting Committee and subscribers was held at the hospital, to inquire into the circumstances under which **WILLIAM RIGBY**, a deceased patient, had, a short time previous to his death, made a will in favour of Mr. **MULLINS**, the resident apothecary of the hospital. The Rev. Dean **LYN CH** was moved in to the chair. The meeting having examined as witnesses Drs. **M'CARTNEY** and **SLOAN**, who were attending the hospital at the time - Mr. Mullins, in defence, called as witnesses Mr. **JOSEPH ECKFORD** a member of the committee, and who at Mr. Mullins's request had come to the hospital to witness the will, and three of the patients then in the ward, **JAMES RUSSELL**, **PATRICK QUINN**, and **THOMAS ROOKE**. Mr. Mullins had also in attendance nine other witnesses, patients in the ward, but the meeting, having fully examined the above, as to the circumstances under which the will was made, decided that it was unnecessary to call more, and recorded their judgement that Mr. Mullins was completely exonerated from any charge of using unfair or improper means of inducing Rigby to make the will. The chairman told Mr. Mullins that he left the room without any stain on his character. The meeting then discussed the general question of the propriety or otherwise of such an occurrence, and passed and recorded a resolution as follows: "It is the opinion of this meeting that in future *no* officer connected with this institution shall accept, by will or any other way, property from a patient dying in the hospital, and continue in office."

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On the 10<sup>th</sup> instant an old man named **TIMOTHY CURTIN**, A watchman, in the employ of Mr. **HAYDON**, of Haydonton, Murrurundi, and then stopping at Mr. Clift's inn, Black Creek, with sheep, was riding in a dray laden with hay, when a child called out to him that he was about sitting down on the hay knife; Curtin made a sudden movement to escape the supposed danger, and fell in the dray, his right leg projecting out over the side between the side irons; at the same instant the bullocks moved forward, when the wheel caught his leg, and nearly cut it off at the ankle. Curtin was as soon as possible despatched off to the hospital, by the direction of Dr. **BLICK**, and a woman named **ROSE FAGAN**, a servant of Mr. Clift's and who witnessed the accident, came in to Maitland in the dray with Curtin, to support his head. Singularly enough Mrs. Fagan had not left the hospital above an hour or two, on her way back, when her leg was also broken, and she was brought back, and admitted as a patient. The visiting medical men, Drs. **SLOAN** and **M'CARTNEY**, saw Curtin soon after his admission, and found him suffering much from exhaustion; the fracture was a compound one of the ankle joint; they decided that the only chance of saving his life was to amputate the leg, and the operation was accordingly performed, below the knee. Curtin rallied for some days, but an unfavourable change then took place, and he died, from exhaustion, on Monday afternoon last. Yesterday

an inquest was held on the body, by Mr. **PARKER**, when the above circumstances were deposed in evidence, and a verdict was returned of accidental death.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.** - On Monday afternoon, in Durham-street, a woman whose name we are informed is Mrs. [**MARGARET**] **COLEMAN**, was stooping down to the fire to light her pipe, being at the time intoxicated, when her clothes took fire; she ran into the yard, screaming, with her clothes in a blaze, and some of the neighbours quickly ran to her assistance, and extinguished the fire, but not until she was seriously burned. She was removed to the hospital, and yesterday we were told that there were some hopes of her recovery.

**HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.** - **ARMIDALE.**

**MURDER BY THE BLACKS.** - On July 29<sup>th</sup>, **ELLEN SULLIVAN**, the wife of one of Mr. Walker's shepherds, of Aberfoil, left her station to proceed to the head station, a distance of about 5 miles, for obtaining some stores. She left the store to return about an hour before sundown, and was not afterwards heard of until the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month, although the most diligent search was made towards her recovery. Information was given on the 10<sup>th</sup>, to the police authorities of this place, that the lifeless body had been found, within about 60 or 70 yards from the road, and a mile from her hurt. Upon receiving the information Dr. **MARKHAM**, and our very active chief constable, Mr. **BRADSHAW**, accompanied by a black boy, proceeded to the scene of this dreadful tragedy, for the purpose of investigating the matter. They found that the body had been removed to the head station, and on examination Dr. Markham pronounced the cause of death to be a wound inflicted by a spear, entering the throat, dividing the jugular vein, and terminating in the palate; the head was also fearfully mangled by cuts, apparently those of a tomahawk. This poor creature, whose chief offence was a general antipathy toward the blacks, has now suffered a violent and cruel death at their hands, through a spirit of revenge, leaving a husband and six children to lament their untimely bereavement. The domesticated blacks assert that the murder was committed by two of the Clarence tribe, known by the names of **JEMMY** and **CHARLEY**, but there is no certainty of that being the case. The chief constable, with a mounted policeman, and the black boy already mentioned, pursued the suspected blacks as far as practicable, but were compelled to return, in consequence of the weather being so boisterous as to render further search impossible.

**THE GOLD FIELDS.** - **OPHIR.**

The body of an aboriginal was found in the Summerhill Creek, which had evidently laid there for several weeks. He generally resided with one of the settlers in the neighbourhood, who could not account for his long absence. It is probable that he was drowned whilst in a state of intoxication.

**MAN DROWNED.** - On Wednesday week, a young man named **FRANCIS CLEMENTS**, a native of Antwerp, was drowned in crossing the Long Swamp about 30 miles from Bathurst during the prevalence of a flood. It appeared that he had been digging at the Lime-stone Flat, near the Abercrombie, in company with a son of Mr. **TOOLE'S** with whom he was proceeding to Bathurst at the time of the accident. After a fruitless search for the body, young Toole prosecuted his journey to town for the purpose of reporting the circumstance to the authorities, after which he returned and proved more successful in his search. When referred to on the subject, our worthy coroner ordered the body to be interred, stating that another engagement prevented his holding an inquest upon it. The deceased, who was 26 years of age, arrived in the colony by the ship *Oceana*, from which he absconded to the interior.

*Bathurst Free Press, August 21*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/851, 28/08/1852

DEATH BY BURNING. - On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER** on the body of a child named **EMILY JONES**, about four years old, and daughter of **T. EUSTACE JONES**. It appeared from the evidence that on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> June last, while Jones was away at work, and Mrs. Jones was away looking for washing, the child was left in the house, Bulwer-street, West Maitland, with an elder sister, and was standing in its night dress before the fire, and reaching up to take some beads off a nail, when her dress caught fire; the child screamed out loudly, and ran out of the house in the direction of the tobacco factory, where her father was employed; a neighbour, Mrs. **KEEFE**, heard the screams, and running out saw the child with its dress on fire, and she immediately ran to her, and tore the burning dress from her; another neighbour then hastened off for Jones, who came, and took the child to Dr. **M'CARTNEY**. Dr. M'Cartney found the child so burnt on the left side as to place it in great danger, but under his care the child progressed well to the 15<sup>th</sup> July, when Jones declined his further services, saying he had other medical aid. No evidence was produced as to how the poor child got on afterwards, or when it died. Evidence at some length was taken to ascertain whether Jones and his wife neglected their children, as it was proved that both were drunk at times; but nothing conclusive was deposed. The jury returned a verdict of death by burning, and added a rider: "We regret to record our abhorrence of the father of the deceased child appearing to-day before us in so disgraceful a state of intoxication."

INQUEST. - Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at the Hospital, on the body of **MARGARET COLEMAN**, whose clothes caught fire in her own house, Durham-street, as was reported in Wednesday's *Mercury*. The unfortunate woman lingered till Thursday, and then died. The jury returned a verdict that she died from burns received by her clothes taking fire, while she was labouring under the effects of drink.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - DEATH OF AN OPIUM EATER. - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Blue Lion, Market-street, on view of the body of **HENRY PARKER**, then lying dead there. Mr. **EDWARD PORTER**, of George-street, chemist and druggist, stated that deceased had been in the habit of calling at his shop for the last two years for opium pills. At the commencement of that period, he was in the habit of taking daily twenty-four pills, containing five grams each. Mr. Porter persuaded him to break off taking opium by degrees. He did so until he reduced the number to nine a day, when he declared that he could not do with less than a dozen, and he had since taken that quantity. The last time he had called at Mr. Porter's was on Monday last, when he did not appear to be in as good health as formerly. He had a dozen of pills, but since then Mr. P. had not seen him alive. He had been told that on one occasion deceased took an ounce of magnesia for one dose. Deceased told Mr. P. that he took opium pills for the good of his eye-sight, and he also said that he was in the habit of taking twelve pills at a time. Dr. **TIERNEY** stated that he had viewed the body, upon which there were no marks of violence, but which was much emaciated, and presented those external marks of violence peculiar to opium eaters. The jury found a verdict of "died from the excessive use of opium." *Herald, Aug. 20*

SYDNEY NEWS.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.

Yesterday, an inquest was held before the coroner, at the Cockatoo Inn Surry Hills, on view of the body of **JOHANNA MURPHY**, then lying dead. From the evidence of **JOHN MURPHY**, the son of the deceased, it appears that his father left her and

his family some few months ago. The cause of the disagreement he did not know. Deceased took out a warrant against her husband for deserting her, and the case was heard at the Sydney Police Office on Friday week last, but adjourned by the Bench for a fortnight, in the humane hope that a reconciliation would be effected. The husband promised deceased that he would return home on the following day, but it would seem that he got drunk, and was sent to gaol for 24 hours. Deceased upon this became melancholy, and was seized with a fit, to which kind of attack she had latterly been subject. She fretted greatly at her husband's absence, and at his withholding the means of maintaining her children. On Saturday evening last, about nine o'clock, the witness was in a neighbour's house, when his sister came in and said that their mother had gone into the back room in a strange manner and that she was afraid to follow her. He immediately ran home, and on opening the door, he saw his mother as if standing on the floor with her feet close to it. He saw that she was suspended by the neck from a beam and by a handkerchief. With the assistance of another boy she was cut down, but she was dead. The witness, who was in the deepest distress imaginable, added that his unhappy mother had repeatedly said that she would prefer death to the misery of seeing her husband bring disgrace upon himself and her children. The Coroner having made some feeling comments upon this truly melancholy case, the jury found "that she had put an end to her existence by hanging herself whilst in a state of temporary insanity." *Herald*, 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/852, 01/09/1852

#### FLOOD ON THE PEEL.

... One unfortunate man, **CHARLES BERENGER**, a brickmaker, lost his life, being carried away by the current, and drowned, in the attempt to swim one of the gullies.

ATTEMPTS AT SELF DESTRUCTION. - On Sunday the unfortunate woman **ELIZABETH JOHNSON**, committed for trial, on the verdict of the coroner's jury, on the charge of the manslaughter of **JAMES FISH**, attempted twice to destroy herself. She first threw herself into the river, but was saved by the humane efforts of the spectators; as she still threatened to make away with herself, constables were directed to be on the look-out, but she managed to elude their vigilance, and got round by the paddocks to a house at the other end of West Maitland, where she took a strong dose of oxalic acid. An alarm was soon given, and medical aid sent for, when the liberal use of the stomach pump and other measures saved her life. She was apprehended for protection (being out on bail), and lodged in the lockup, and on Monday appeared little the worse.

A MAN FOUND DROWNED. - On Monday a gentleman was walking along the river bank, between East View and Mr. Doyle's, Midlorn, when he observed the body of a man floating in the river among the weeds. He immediately gave information of the matter, and the police went to the spot, and got the body out. It proved to be the body of a carpenter named **HENDERSON**, who had been missing from Friday week, and who had been previously in the employ of Mr. **Wm. NICHOLSON**, at his mill. On the evening of the Friday on which deceased was missed he had been drinking, and was tipsy. There was reason to believe that he fell into the river in going to a privy near the mill, and which is on the bank of the river. An inquest was held on the body yesterday, when a verdict was returned that deceased was found drowned, but how he got into the river there was no evidence to show, but there was evidence to show that deceased was much intoxicated on the Friday night he was last seen alive.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest was held on Saturday, at the Three Tuns Tavern, on view of the body of **GEORGE CHAMPION**, then lying dead at the Sydney Infirmary. It appeared from the evidence that about a fortnight ago deceased arrived at the North Shore, and told a person named **DIND** that he had two boats heavily laden with oysters, which he was taking to the *Shamrock*, steamer, then bound to Port Phillip. It was blowing very hard at the time from the westward, and Dind tried to persuade him to proceed no further until the wind had abated. He left the North Shore about five o'clock in the evening, and Dind saw him no more. A young lad was with him at the time, but escaped by swimming. The deceased was unable to swim. Verdict, "Accidental drowning." *Empire, August 30*

THE GOLD FIELDS.

SOFALA, AUGUST 24. - On Thursday last a bank fell in at Thomson's Point, when, to use the technical jargon of the Acting Colonial Surgeon, Mr. **REVEL JOHNSON**, one unfortunate received a "comminuted fracture of the leg – a compound dislocation of the ankle joint – a compound fracture of the upper arm, with great injury to the soft parts – fracture of the spinous process of the second lumbar vertebra – and dislocation of the right hip joint." Need I add that an early death terminated the sufferings of **JOHN CARSON**.

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT. - SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1852.  
MURDER.

**JOHN NEWING**, a Chinaman, was indicted for murdering **HING**, another Chinaman, on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1851, at Mr. Brown's station on the Castlereagh.

This was a remarkable case. Both of the Chinamen were in Mr. Brown's service, Hing as a shepherd; on the 17<sup>th</sup> October Hing was in a shearer's hut, about dusk, with other persons, and was engaged in boiling a pot of tea, when the door of an adjoining hut was heard to slam violently, and in rushed Newing, armed with a shear blade fastened on the end of a pole about five feet long, with which he ran at Hing, and stabbed him in the groin, holding the weapon like a bayonet. The persons present immediately wrested the weapon from Newing, when he rushed back into the adjoining hut, and returned armed with two knives, one in each hand, but these were wrested from him before he could use them. Hing died in less than a quarter of an hour. No proof was given of any previous ill feeling between the two men, but it was presumed there must have been a previous quarrel. The evidence was interpreted to the prisoner by another Chinaman.

Mr. **BROADHURST**, who at the request of the Judge watched the proceedings for the prisoner, urged that there was no proof of intention to kill, the prisoner himself having stated that he aimed at the knees.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Newing was sentenced to death, without hope of mercy.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23. - SENTENCES.

**MAURICE CONNOLLY**, convicted of manslaughter, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

BODY FOUND. - Yesterday afternoon, the body of a man was found floating in the harbour, near Bradley's Head; it had evidently been several days in the water. It was brought up to Sydney, and conveyed to the Infirmary, where it awaits an inquest. It is supposed to be the body of **GEORGE CHAMPION**, whose death by drowning was reported in the *Herald* a few days since. *Herald, Aug. 28*

REMISSION OF SENTENCE. - **THOMAS FOX**, who received sentence of death on the 10<sup>th</sup> July last, at the Goulburn Assizes, for the murder of his wife, **ANNE FOX**,

has had his sentence remitted on condition that he be worked on the roads or a public work for fifteen years, the first three years to be worked in irons. *Empire, Aug. 28*

FATAL ACCIDENT. - About eight o'clock on Thursday morning an old man named **JOHN MAHER**, while crossing the street opposite to the Haymarket, was suddenly knocked down by a horse and cart which approached him from another direction at full gallop, there being no one in charge of the animal, which had evidently broken from the control of his driver and run off. One of the shafts struck Maher on the right side with such force that it penetrated his body to the depth of about nine inches, and caused instant death, for although he was lifted up in about a moment after the collision, life was quite extinct. An inquest was held upon the body the same day, when the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the circumstances. *People's Advocate, Aug. 28*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/853, 04/09/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Friday evening last, at about half-past five o'clock P.M., Mr. **SAMUEL CALLAWAY** of this town, auctioneer, was passing up the Punt-hill on horseback, when the animal he was riding shied and caused him to drop his rein, and in endeavouring to keep his seat, to stick his spurs into her sides: this caused her to buck-jump, and in doing so throw the unfortunate gentleman heavily on his head. He was picked up insensible, and conveyed to Mr. T. Fisher's, Royal Oak Inn, where he expired at about ten the same evening. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, and a verdict returned that deceased met his death by a fall from his horse. *Herald Windsor Correspondent.*

DEATH.

At Sofala, suddenly, on Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, **TOMMY COMBOO**, an aboriginal. He was attached to the Mounted Police at Jerry's Plains, and served about eighteen years in that establishment.

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1852

MANSLAUGHTER

**ELIZABETH JOHNSON** and **THOMAS OWEN** were indicted for the murder of **JAMES FISH**, at Maitland, by assaulting him on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1852, with their hands and feet, and throwing him to the ground, and by striking and wounding him with an instrument called snuffers on his left arm, left temple, left eye, ribs, and chest, thereby inflicting divers mortal wounds, bruises, and contusions, whereof he languished until the 5<sup>th</sup> July, and then died. In a second count they were indicted for killing and slaying Fish, without stating the mode.

On the application of Owen the trial was postponed till Thursday morning.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1852

MANSLAUGHTER

**ELIZABETH JOHNSON** and **THOMAS OWEN** were put to the bar, on their trial for the manslaughter of **JAMES FISH**, for which they were indicted on Wednesday.

Owen applied to the Court to postpone his trial till the next Circuit Court, on the ground of the absence of a material witness for him,

After some discussion, the Attorney General saying that he could not consent to put the female prisoner on her trial separately from the male prisoner, and Mr. Purefoy contending, on behalf of the female prisoner, that it would be a hardship to postpone her trial, inasmuch as she was now prepared –

Affidavits were made as to the absence of the witness spoken of, and

His Honor said he had, it appeared, no power to order the immediate trial of the female prisoner, or he would do so; the trials of both prisoners musty therefore be postponed till the next Circuit Court.

The female prisoner was then ordered to be discharged, on her bail re-entering into their recognizances. Owen applied for, and was allowed, bail, himself in £100, and two sureties in £50 each, if he could procure it. **TAAFE**, who had also been committed on the charge, and was to be admitted as a witness, was discharged on his own recognizances to appear.

SYDNEY NEWS

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT. - TUESDAY, AUG, 24, AND WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25. - (Before Mr. Justice Therry)

MURDER

**TIMOTHY SULLIVAN** was indicted for the wilful murder of **DANIEL HARRINGTON**, at King's Plains, on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1852.

The prisoner was defended by Mr. **FOSTER** and Mr. **BROADHURST**.

The evidence adduced in this case was lengthy, and thios, with the addresses of the Solicitor General in opening the case and in reply, and of Mr. Foster in defencve, made the trial occupy two days.

Sullivan is a man of considerable means, residing at King's Plains, having sheep and cattle stations in that neighbourhood; he does not appear to be a married man, but his superintendent, **HENRY HEYLIN**, lived either in the same house with him, or on the premises, as did several other persons employed by him, **JOHN GYNAN**, **MICHAEL O'NEAL**, and **HARRINGTON**, the deceased, a shepherd, aged 72 years. A man named **DANIEL HEALY** was also in Sullivan's employment, and his hut was 179 yards from Sullivan's, and the other side of the creek; **PATRICK REGAN**, a tenant of Sullivan's, lived 367 yards from him. Of these various parties, only Healy and Regan appear to be married men.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June Gynan was away at a lambing station, and did not return till the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup>; and Heylin was also away from the house. On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> **ROBERT GIBSON** was at Sullivan's house, as were Healy and his wife, and all who were there, including Harrington, had some liquor together, but not much; Gibson left at eight o'clock, and Healy and his wife left not very long after. Sullivan and Harrington being then the only two persons who remained in the house, Harrington being in good health, and smoking his pipe when last seen.

According to the evidence of Healy and his wife they had not long been in bed, when between ten and eleven o'clock, they were aroused by the barking of dogs at Sullivan's house, and Healy's wife went and opened the door, when she heard the sound of blows, and heard Sullivan's voice calling our "robbers," and calling also her husband by name; Healy lay in bed for a few moments, and then got up, and shouted across to Sullivan (it was moonlight) to know what ailed him; Sullivan shouted out "robbers, robbers;" Healy said he would come over as soon as he could, and he then went over to Sullivan's house, as as he went heard hard blows being struck, and Sullivan still calling our "robbers, robbers;" on reaching the spot where Sullivan stood Healy saw that he was striking with some short weapon at the legs of a man who was lying on the ground, and he called out "Tim, don't strike that man any more, he's dead." Sullivan desisted, flinging the instrument, evidently a heavy one, on the roof of the house, and saying "See who it is"; Healy shook the prostrate man, saying "In the name of God who are you"; with very great difficulty the man muttered forth "Harrington." The head of the unfortunate man was covered with blood, but Sullivan appeared to be striking at his thighs, as Healy came up. Healy asked Sullivan what he

should do with him, and by Sullivan's directions Healy carried or dragged Harrington into the house, placed him by the fire, put a bed under his shoulder, and some blankets over him. Sullivan then pulled Healy down beside him, and told Healy that he should watch the body all night, but Healy being afraid to remain alone with Sullivan took an early opportunity of getting away and ran home and bolted his door, after which he went to bed again. No person remained in the house with Harrington but Sullivan, and next morning Harrington was found to be dead, Sullivan himself seeking out Healy and Regan to inform him.

If this direct evidence had been given by Healy in the first instance, at the magisterial enquiry on the body, it would have satisfactorily proved Sullivan's guilt, but Healy made two different statements on oath, in neither of which did he mention seeing Sullivan inflict any blows; and then, having made some statement that he could not tell all till he had "seen his clergy," he saw a clergyman, and subsequently made a third statement on oath, in the main agreeing with the above, but not exactly. Healy's evidence as now given, therefore, was a fourth statement, all four differing. A great deal of circumstantial evidence was therefore called.

On the night the murder occurred Regan was also awoke by the barking of dogs, and afterwards by hearing Sullivan crying out "Robbers, robbers." Regan got up, and on opening his door, saw Sullivan standing within a few yards of his (Regan's) place; he asked Sullivan what disturbed him at that late hour, it being then between ten and eleven o'clock; Sullivan said there were robbers about the place; Regan told him to go home, as he did not believe there were any robbers; Sullivan turned away, and told Regan to go to bed, and he went away towards his own house.

About sunrise on the following morning Sullivan went to Healy's, and told Healy and his wife, in Irish, that the man was dead. The three went together to Sullivan's house, where they found Harrington lying dead on a berth or bed-place beside the kitchen fire, and Sullivan told Healy to remove the body to the out-house where O'Neil lived; at Healy's suggestion Sullivan went first for Regan. When Sullivan got to Regan's (that morning), he asked Regan if he remembered what he (Sullivan) had said to him on the previous night; Regan said "You and your dogs alarmed me last night;" Sullivan said "Old Dan is dead, you had better dress yourself and come over;" Regan asked which old Dan; Sullivan answered "Old Dan Harrington;" Regan then went with Sullivan. All four persons then went to the kitchen, where the body lay, and Regan asked Sullivan how the murder happened; Sullivan answered that he found him dead outside after he (Sullivan) returned from Regan's place the previous night, and he took Regan to the spot where he said he found Harrington lying, and told Regan that old Dan (Healy) and wife assisted him to carry the body inside. [Mrs. Healy stated in her evidence, given in Irish, and interpreted partly by Regan, that she did not leave her house in the night when her husband did, but remained at home till he returned, but it did not appear whether or not she was present when Sullivan told Regan she helped to carry in the dead body that night.] Healy and Regan then, by Sullivan's directions, took the body into the out-house, and placed it on a form or table; O'Neal appears to have been asleep there at the time, but said he knew nothing of what had occurred till he awoke and found the dead body there.

A very brief note was then written by Sullivan to Mr. **NORTH**, the coroner for the Carcoar district, in which King's Plains is situated; and by his direction Healy took it to a neighbouring publican, **FLANAGAN**, who went one of his children with it. A magisterial inquiry was subsequently held by Mr. North.

Sullivan made various statements as to the manner of Harrington's death, and the circumstances attending it. To John Gynan he said on the 5<sup>th</sup>, that there had been

three men about the house who had murdered Harrington, and that when he saw them he made the best of his way to Regan's. To Regan he made the statement above mentioned. To chief constable **FOX**, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, that he was roused out of his sleep by a noise outside, and got up, and went out, and found Harrington lying on the ground outside, but not then dead. To Mr. North, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, he stated that the murder was done by robbers; that he went outside, as usual, to see the sheep, leaving Harrington in the hit, and when he returned saw three men approaching the hut, whom he believed to be robbers, as he heard there were robbers about; he immediately ran to Regan's for assistance and afterwards to Healy's, and after having called Healy he returned and found Harrington lying on the ground three or four yards from the house. To Major Wentworth, on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, he stated precisely the same, in rather fuller detail, the statement being reduced to writing, and signed by Sullivan.

After this Sullivan was apprehended.

No other person about the place saw or heard anything of strange men, nor was the place robbed.

The body of Harrington was found to have been moved in the night, after Healy left, from one bed-place by the fireside to the opposite one. The post mortem examination by Dr. **MACHATTIE** showed that death had been caused by a great number of wounds and bruises on the head, body, arms, and legs, the unfortunate man being one mass of bruises and wounds from head to foot. No bones were broken however, nor was there any special wound indicated as the cause of death. He had bled very profusely.

Mr. Foster addressed the jury in a long and powerful speech for the defence, dissecting the evidence to show how little ground there was to assume that Sullivan was guilty, after leaving out the evidence of Healy, which he considered unworthy of the slightest credit, and as probably induced by the offer of a reward for the discovery of the murderer. He contended that all the circumstances, and the fact that there were 27 or 28 wounds on the body, inflicted apparently by three different instruments, combined to show that Sullivan's statement as to the three men was correct, and that at their hands the unfortunate man met his death.#

The Judge having summed up,

The jury retired for an hour, and returned a verdict of guilty.

Sullivan was then sentenced to death, no hope of mercy being held out.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, TUESDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 1852.

REWARD for the murder of **ELLEN SULLIVAN** at Armidale by aborigines **JEMMIE and CHARLIE**. Descriptions.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/854, 08/09/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Saturday evening, between six and seven o'clock, a man named **WILLIAM O'DONNELL**, who was preparing to go to the diggings shortly, was bringing some hay home in his cart to Mr. Cleary's, the Harp of Erin Inn, West Maitland, where he was staying; the horse had been in harness before, but was a young one, and fresh from grass; when near Mr. Heugh's, High-street, the horse took fright at a wheelbarrow of oranges, and started off; O'Donnell was walking by him, and had hold of the reins at the time, and he held on, trying to check the horse, but was drawn off his feet two or three times, and at length fell, and the wheel passed over his back. The bystanders ran up, and lifted O'Donnell up, and by his wish took him to Mr. Cleary's; Dr. **M'CARTNEY** was called in, and attended him till his death, which occurred on Sunday afternoon, the injuries being so severe as to stop all the ordinary

functions of nature. An inquest was held on the body on Monday, by Mr. **PARKER**, and a verdict returned of accidental death.

**MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.** - An inquest was held yesterday before **J. O'NEAL BRENAN**, Esq., touching the death of **MARY O'BRIEN**, then lying dead in Delany's-lane, off York-street. It appeared from the evidence of **JANE JOHNSON** and **MARY BARRY**, that the deceased was habitually addicted to intemperance. She was in the habit of drinking colonial ale to excess; On Tuesday evening she was very drunk, and fell down several times on a heap of wool; she was delirious from drink, and was seen picking the plaster off the wall and eating it. Dr. **HARPUR** examined the body of the deceased; there were several bruises about the eye, and underneath a mass of clotted blood; there was also a laceration of the scalp, but from the appearances, and the statements made to him, he considered it possible that it was produced by her falling while drunk; from the history of the case, and the appearances which the corpse presented, he believed that death was not the result of violence, but the effects of intemperance. The witness Johnson stated that deceased was a married woman; she had known her several years, and never heard her husband quarrel with her. The jury returned a verdict of "died from the effects of long continued and excessive intemperance." *Empire, Sept. 4*

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - Yesterday an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, King-street, on view of the body of **WILLIAM ANDERSON**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Mr. **WILLIAM ORPER**, of Brisbane Water, stated that deceased was a splitter residing near him. He arrived last Friday week in his (Mr. O.'s) vessel, the *Sylph*. Either on Monday or Tuesday night last he saw the deceased rather drunk, and did not see him alive again. **ANDREW RAMSAY**, a seaman on board the *Manning Packet*, stated, that yesterday morning he was walking the deck of that vessel, which lies at Davis' Wharf, Darling Harbour, when he saw the body of a man standing upright in the water, with his arms extended. He procured assistance, and by the aid of a boat and a boat hook towed the body round to the slip. Dr. **NATHAN** stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body. There were several marks of decomposition on the body externally, but none the result of violence. The eyelids, and throat, and upper part, were much distended and blackened, but this was the result of decomposition and gas. There was no extravasated blood. The internal organs indicated that death was caused by drowning. Verdict found drowned.

A second inquest was held yesterday, before the Coroner, at the house of Mr. **MERRIMAN**, Miller's Point, on view of the body of a female child, **SARAH GREEN**. The mother of the deceased stated, that she was four years and two months old. On Tuesday fortnight, about 8 o'clock in the morning, she left deceased in the bedroom with the baby whilst she went into the yard to procure some water. Presently an alarm was given, and rushing back she found deceased in flames, and before they could be extinguished her head neck and face were dreadfully burned; she was attended by Dr. **a'BECKETT**, and lingered in great agony until Tuesday night, when she died. The burning was purely accidental, and was caused by the child drawing her [?????] close to the fire, which ignited her frock. Verdict, accidental burning. *Herald, Sept. 2*

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.** - We regret to have to record the death, by drowning, at Lake George, on Tuesday last, of a young man, named **JAMES BYRNES**, brother of our respected townsman, Mr. **JOHN BYRNES**, boot-maker, Auburn-street. It appears that on the above day, deceased went out pleasuring in a canoe, on the lake, and on his return, when within a few yards of the bank, he was seized, it is supposed,

with cramp, or some other sudden fit of illness, for he became unable to manage the canoe, and stood up with the intention, no doubt, of calling for assistance, when he fell into the lake, and was unfortunately drowned. *Goulburn Herald, May 28.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/855, 11/09/1852

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - ARMIDALE.

MORE MURDERS BY THE BLACKS. - On the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant information was given to the Armidale police that a most dreadful massacre had been committed the day before, at the Bald Hills station, "Mr. Allen's," in this district, near the Clarence line of road. The unfortunate sufferers were **MARY MASON**, and her two children, of the respective ages of 3 years and 18 months, and **JOHN MELDRUM**. Meldrum rented the station from Mr. Allen, and was in the habit of encouraging these blacks about and in his hut. It seems that the brutes (I can apply no other epithet to them) had been watching an opportunity of plundering the hut, and whilst, in the course of his duty, Meldrum was moving his hurdles, eleven or twelve natives and some gins rushed upon him, and took his life by means of sundry wounds, apparently inflicted with tomahawks. They then proceeded to the hut, and cruelly put to death the unfortunate woman and her two children; afterwards decamping with whatever stores they could lay their hands upon. On the information being received the chief constable proceeded to the scene, but could not succeed in capturing any of the scoundrels; in fact the police force in this district is so miserably deficient in numbers that life is not safe even in the vicinity of the town from these savages. We trust that the Inspector General of Police will see the necessity of immediately supplying the deficiency; otherwise it is likely that the people will either leave their various employments in the bush, or take the law into their own hands. August 30, 1852.

DEATHS.

At Bald Hill Creek, near Mudgee, on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, of inflammation of the lungs, **JOHN ROTTON**, Esq., of Hunter River, aged 45 years.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/856, 15/09/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - A man named **CONNOR**, a servant in the employ of Sir Charles Nicholson, whilst returning from Queanbeyan to the farming establishment of his employer, near Lake George, on Thursday evening, the 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo, was thrown from his horse, near the village of Bungendore, and was killed on the spot. *Goulburn Herald, Sept. 4*

YASS. - TWO MEN DROWNED. - Since my last communication, I have had a trip to unfortunate Gundagai. [8<sup>th</sup>] ... Arriving at the Yass River, ... there has been no lives lost, but we are sorry to state that two men were drowned this morning in the Yass River, near Mr. Watson's flour mill, which lies a quarter of a mile from the township. It appears that **SANDY REED**, the engineer, with a young man named **HILLIER**, took their master's boat to convey two men named **LYNCH** and **JAFFE**, who were at work for Mr. Watson at the other side of the river. After the two men got into the boat they commenced towing themselves by a line strung across the river for that purpose; in crossing the boat dipped, causing them to cling firmer to the rope, which broke, forcing them into the current. Hillier being able to swim made the bank; Reed sank at the moment, but was shortly afterwards seen scrambling in the weeds and was immediately extricated; Lynch and Jaffe sank to rise no more – their bodies have not yet been found. *Correspondent of People's Advocate.*

FRIGHTFUL SUICIDE. - On Tuesday afternoon, a man, named **EDWARD HAWKINS**, residing in Clyde-street, Miller's Point, put an end to his existence by

cutting his throat with a razor. Dr. **HARRISON** was at once sent for, but, prior to his arrival, Hawkins was dead. An inquest was held the same afternoon on the remains. From the evidence, it appeared the deceased was a person of very temperate habits, but had for some time past exhibited slight symptoms of insanity. He was thirty-five years of age, and married. About one o'clock on Thursday afternoon, his wife asked him if he was going out to work. He replied in the affirmative, adding that he should not come home any more. His wife did not anticipate any ill result by reason of his answer, and looked out of the window, when she suddenly heard something fall in the room. She turned round and beheld her husband on the floor weltering in blood, his head being almost severed from his body. With such determined violence had the wretched man guided the razor that he severed the windpipe and the large blood vessels. His wife screamed, and her shrieks soon brought in some neighbours. Dr. Harrison was sent for, but the deceased was beyond the reach of medical aid. Dr. Harrison said it was a most determined case of suicide, and he believed the deceased had inflicted the wounds himself; the razor with which he committed the fatal act was picked up near the bed. The jury returned a verdict, that deceased put a period to his existence while labouring under temporary insanity. *Empire, Sept. 9*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/857, 18/09/1852

**HORRIBLE MURDER.** - Intelligence has just been received at the Crown Lands Head Quarters, Tumut, through the Tumut blacks, by Mr. **M'KENZIE**, the Crown Lands Commissioner for the Murrumbidgee district, of the most diabolical murder of a half-caste girl named **SALLY M'LEOD**, by an aboriginal named **YARREE**, or **COONONG DENAMUNDINNA**, son of **BOBBY KING**, of Adelong country. The girl was about 16 years of age, and possessed considerable personal attractions, spoke English well, and was baptised in infancy. She roved about occasionally with the blacks, under protection of her uncle, one of the Tumut tribe, but more generally at the residence of the white settlers who were kind to her. It appears that Yarree decoyed her away to be his gin; but she, repenting of the act, or disgusted with him, made her escape, with a view to reach Darbandra, where she had always met a kind home, when the murderer overtook her below Tarabandra, on the Tumut, and satisfied his revenge by her murder. The blacks having described to Mr. M'Kenzie where Yarree had buried his unfortunate victim (under a tea tree in a tea tree scrub), about fifteen miles below head quarters, Mr. M'Kenzie at once started with his sable friends to exhume the body for identification, &c., notwithstanding the really dreadful state of the weather and the flooded state of the country, and has, besides, issued warrants for the apprehension of the murder in every possible direction, even as far as Yass, out of his own district, by which prompt and energetic measures there can remain but little doubt that Yarree will ere long be in safe keeping. The girl was the daughter of Mr. M'Leod, of the Tumut district, who is at present in Argyle, with Mr. Hindmarsh, buying bullocks for the Melbourne market. *Goulburn Herald, Sept. 11.*

**ACCIDENT.** - We have to express the regret of not only ourselves, but a number of the inhabitants of the town and district, at a serious accident which befell Mr. **FEARON**, J.P., of the Field of Mars. Mr. Fearon had been dining with Dr. **PARSONS**, and at about three o'clock Dr. Parsons was driving Mr. Fearon along the Kissing Point Road in the direction of his residence, when one of the wheels got into a rut in the miserably bad road, and Mr. Fearon was thrown out; the wheel passed over his temples, taking the hair off his head, and inflicting several contused wounds, at the same time fracturing his collar bone. The respected gentleman was carried into the Newlands Inn, where other medical aid was sent for, and the greatest attention

afforded by Mr. and Mrs. **MATTHEWS**, but Mr. Fearon remained insensible until next morning, when he was conveyed to his residence. The last intelligence which reached town was upon the whole favourable. *Herald's Parramatta Correspondent*  
**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Three Tuns tavern, on view of the body of **JOHN SMITH**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. It appeared, from the evidence, that the deceased arrived in the colony, from California, in the *Architect*, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the present month. On the same day he went to the Dolphin Hotel, in Bridge-street; he was at the time intoxicated; he fell down three stone steps leading from the door to the pavement; and, when picked up, was bleeding from the side of the head, and insensible. Medical attendance was at once procured, and deceased was conveyed to the infirmary, where he died on Saturday afternoon. Verdict - "Died from injuries accidentally received." *Empire, Sept. 14*

**THE CONVICT GREEN.** - This unhappy man does not now, we understand, deny having taken the life of his partner, **JONES**; but alleges that the latter was the first to attack, and that the shot which he (**GREEN**) fired was fired only in self defence. It is scarcely necessary to say that the whole of the evidence was completely adverse to this assertion. *Herald.*

#### **DEATHS**

At Bald Hill Creek, near Mudgee, on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, of inflammation of the lungs, **JOHN ROTTON**, Esq., of Hunter River, aged 54 years (not 45 as previously notified).

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.** - The sentence of death pronounced at the last Bathurst Assizes against **TIMOTHY SULLIVAN**, for the murder of **DANIEL HARRINGTON**, and against **NEWING**, for the murder of **ING**, also a Chinese, are to be carried into effect at Bathurst, on Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> instant. *Herald, Sept. 15*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/858, 22/09/1852**

**DEATH FROM SCALDING.** - Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Oakhampton, on the body of a little girl named **BRIDGET CONNORS**, fifteen months old. It appeared at on Sunday Mrs. Connors came into Maitland to chapel, leaving her five children in charge of a servant girl, **ANNE HOLDEN**, twelve years old; Mrs. Connors left a pot on the fire, to boil some beef; when the meat was done Anne Holden lifted the pot off, and set it on the floor near the fire, and it had not been there many minutes when the little girl, Bridget, who could just run about, in going from the sofa towards the door ran against the pot and upset it, the hot water scalding her dreadfully over the back and shoulders. Mrs. Connors was sent for instantly, and on her arrival sent for Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, but the poor child died on Monday evening. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.** - The *Merlin*, from Liverpool 5<sup>th</sup> June, has on board about four hundred passengers, all in good health and spirits. ... Unfortunately, on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, one of the passengers, named **GEORGE JOHNSON**, fell overboard and was drowned, which was the only mishap or death that occurred; ...

**TRAGIC OCCURRENCE.** - Captain **SULLIVAN** has informed us of the suicide of a young man of the name of **JAMES MOON**, at Kiama, on Tuesday last. It appears that jealousy was the incentive to self-destruction, the young man having been said to be in love with a young woman already betrothed. He told his friends three days before he killed himself that he had only three days to live, and on the third day after making that declaration, he was found hanging in a barn attached to his father's premises. *Empire, Sept. 16*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/859, 25/09/1852

MAITLAND QUARTER SESSIONS. - This court opens on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> October. The following are the cases yet known to be for trial, ...

**LIN SAM**, a Chinaman, two charges, assault with intent, and stealing; Maitland bench;

**MARY JOHNSTONE**, wounding with intent; Maitland bench.

SUICIDE. - About four o'clock yesterday morning a man, named **JAMES PATRICK SULLIVAN**, put an end to his existence by cutting his throat with a large table knife in Mrs. Brown's lodging house, in Market street. A man named **W. WHITEHEAD** and another person were sleeping in the same room with Sullivan, and Whitehead was awoke by Sullivan falling across his bed after committing the fatal act. An inquest was held on the body yesterday afternoon, at the Bluer \Lion public house. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased went to Mrs. Brown's lodging house on Saturday night in company with another man; deceased was habitually addicted to intemperance, and was in liquor when he called at Mrs. Brown's. He asked for a bed for the night, and was shown one in the room occupied by Whitehead and **JONES**; his bed was near the bed of Whitehead, and he must have inflicted the wound in his throat while sitting on his bed; he then doubtless fell forward into Whitehead's bed. Verdict, "died from injuries inflicted by himself, while labouring under temporary insanity." *Empire Sept. 21*

DEAD BODY FOUND. - On Tuesday last the dead body of Mrs. **MAUNDERS**, who disappeared mysteriously about the middle of June, was found upon the bank of the Macquarie, nearly opposite Mr. Joseph West's, by a shepherd in the service of Mr. **LAWSON**. Information of the circumstance was brought to Bathurst by Mr. West, but in consequence of indisposition the coroner was unable to visit the place for the purpose of holding an inquest. A magisterial investigation has been instituted into the circumstances, but as it has not yet been concluded, the result is of course unknown. It will be recollected that the husband of the deceased and a woman named **MARGARET HAYES** were apprehended and detailed in custody for several days upon suspicion of being concerned in compassing her death by foul play, but nothing transpiring to criminate them, they were discharged. *Bathurst Free Press, Sept. 18*

EXECUTION OF **FRANCIS THOMAS GREEN**. - This wretched culprit underwent the extreme penalty of the law yesterday morning, at nine o'clock, in front of Darlinghurst gaol. The criminal, who was attended by the Ven. Archdeacon **M'ENROE** and the Rev. **M. SHERIDAN**, exhibited the most remarkable firmness of demeanour from the moment of leaving the condemned cell until the close. On arriving upon the scaffold he knelt down for a few moments for prayer, in which the two ecclesiastics joined; and the Rev. M. Sheridan then, at the request of the criminal, addressed a few words to the spectators assembled outside the gaol, stating that Green fully acknowledged the justice of his doom, and was perfectly content to expiate his crime according to the laws of his country. The executioner then adjusted the fatal rope, and covered the face of the culprit with a whiter cap, and, at a signal given by the undersheriff, the bolt was drawn, the drop fell, and the wretched man in an instant ceased to live. A slight convulsive movement of the legs was apparent, and all was over. At ten o'clock the body was lowered into a coffin prepared for it, and shortly afterwards conveyed away in a hearse. The deceased was a man in the prime of his life, and had been recently married. *Herald, Sept. 22*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/860, 29/09/1852

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - On Saturday three inquests were held before the Coroner. The first was upon view of the body of **JAMES HEATHERSET HUNTINGDON**, lying dead at the Fermanagh Hotel, Pitt Street. It appears from the evidence, that on Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, the deceased was riding in company with some friends, and was thrown from his horse in Elizabeth-street South. He had been drinking a little, but was not intoxicated, according to the evidence of the witnesses. He was a very awkward horseman, and when he fell, his companions set for Dr. **a'BECKETT**, who was quickly in attendance. Dr. a'Beckett stated that he was called in to visit the deceased on the evening in question. He found him labouring under symptoms of compression of the brain. Deceased got gradually worse, and died on Thursday evening last. Verdict – died from injuries received by accidentally falling from a horse.

- A second inquest was held at the Patent Slip Inn, Sussex-street, on view of the body of **JAMES BROWN**. It appears, from the evidence, that deceased was a waterman. On Wednesday evening last, he was seen by Mr. **LONGFORD**, a resident at Pyrmont, coming across the harbour in his boat. It was then blowing very fresh. He was soon afterwards missed by his friends; and on Saturday morning his body was found close to the Patent Slip Wharf. The opinion of the witnesses was that deceased had fallen overboard whilst mooring his boat. He was 73 years of age, and a very sober man. Verdict, accidental drowning.

- A third inquest was held at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **MARGARET M'FARLANE**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Deceased was received into the Infirmary on Thursday last. She was suffering from a severe burning. She said she resided beyond Cook's River, and that in taking a pot of clothes off the fire, her gown accidentally ignited; that she screamed for assistance, but remembered nothing further. She died on Saturday morning. Dr. **M'EWAN** stated, that deceased was received in the Infirmary on Thursday night; she was labouring under nervous shock from severe and extensive burning. The usual remedies were made use of, but it was a hopeless case. Verdict, accidental burning.

*Herald, Sept. 27*

**DEATH FROM EXPOSURE.** - On Saturday night last a person named **GREEN**, who has lately been employed by one of the Messrs. West of Macquarie Plains as a thrasher, and his wife, lost their way in returning home from Bathurst. After wandering about for some time they came in contact with some fences, from which they were unable to extricate themselves, and at length lay down on the ground, wearied with fatigue, at a point not more than three quarters of a mile distant from their own home. When day broke on the following morning the woman was in a state of speechless torpor, and lived only a few hours after removal to her residence. An inquiry into the circumstances was instituted on Tuesday last, when Dr. **MACHATTIE** held a *post mortem* examination. A few scratches and slight bruises were observed about the face, which had been caused by falling into a creek during the darkness of the night. The result of the enquiry was that the unfortunate woman's death was caused by exposure to the atmosphere. *Bathurst Free Press, Sept. 25*

**A MAN FOUND DEAD.** - On Saturday, Mr. **JONES**, signal-master at the Sydney station, had information from South Head by the telegraph that a man had been found dead in the vicinity of the Lighthouse; he immediately communicated with the proper authorities, and in consequence means were immediately adopted to bring the remains of the unfortunate man to the city. An inquest will be held today. *Herald, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.*

**DEATHS.**

At her residence, on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, at Melbourne, Victoria, in child-birth with twin sons, the latter of whom was still-born, **ELIZABETH**, the beloved wife of Mr. **SAMUEL HAWKER BANKS**, aged 21 years, and third daughter of Mr. **WILLIAM GALWAY**, of Port Adelaide, all late of this town.

**ACCIDENT AT GUNDAGAI.** - By a private letter which reached Sydney yesterday, news has been received of the melancholy loss of life of three men at Gundagai. It appeared that Mr. **THOMAS NEWALL**, hay and corn dealer, and Mr. **TURNER**, baker, of Market-lane, in this city, together with a shepherd, were attempting to cross the river, which was much swollen, when the raft which they made use of capsized, and the unfortunate men were carried away by the current, in sight of a large number of persons, who were unable to render assistance. At the time the letter was written the bodies had not been found. *Empire, Sept. 25*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/861, 02/10/1852

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.

**DRAYTON.** - **A MAN ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DEAD.** - A man named **EDWARD GIBSON** was accidentally shot last week at Mr. Oglevie's station. They were out after blacks, and one of the party was in the act of shooting at a blackfellow, when Gibson by some chance rode in between, and received the contents of his mate's gun. He was killed instantly, and fell dead from his horse. [This case appears to us to call for enquiry from the authorities, as to the circumstances under which this party was out after the blacks. ED. M.M.] September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1852.

**DEATH OF THE REV. H.H. GILCHRIST.** - It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of the Rev. H.H., GILCHRIST, Presbyterian Minister at Campbelltown, in connection with the Synod of Australia. The reverend gentleman was seized with a fit of apoplexy, at his residence, yesterday morning, and in a short time expired. [continues.]

**FOUND DEAD.** - An inquest was held yesterday, at the Three Tuns Tavern, on view of the remains of a human being, whose name has not yet been ascertained. **JOHN THOW**, a constable in the Water Police, deposed: On Saturday he received information that the dead body of a man had been found between Watson's Bay and Vacluse; witness proceeded to the spot, and found the body lying on its face, with the knees doubled under it, and the head jammed right back against a rock; it was about half a mile from the salt water; it was lying at the foot of a perpendicular cliff of the depth of 25 feet, from which height witness supposed the deceased must have fallen; scarcely anything remained except the skeleton; he had on a dark plaid coat, a pair of white moleskin trousers, strong boots, and a white Californian hat; he had also two pocket handkerchiefs; witness removed the body to the Sydney Infirmary. From the absence of any pathway to the top of the cliff witness supposed that the deceased had lost his way. Witness had made every enquiry as to who the deceased might have been, or whether he had been seen while living by any person, but could obtain no satisfactory intelligence; witness did not think him a seafaring man; he had apparently been dead about two months; no papers were found in his pockets, not anything except a broken pipe. The jury returned a verdict of "found dead." *Empire, Sept. 28*

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the Three Tuns Tavern, on view of the body of **GEORGE QUIN**, a private soldier of the 11<sup>th</sup> regiment. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had been missing from the military barracks since the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, and was not seen again until his corpse was picked up by a waterman named **MARRINGTON**, floating in the water near the Queen's Wharf, on Monday afternoon. Verdict – found drowned.

- An inquest was held on the same day at the Water Police Court, on view of the body of a mariner belonging to H.M.S. *Fantome*, in Farm Cove. On the 19<sup>th</sup> instant about midnight the deceased came suddenly on deck and informed the officer of the watch that he desired to see the captain. The officer immediately afterwards heard a shriek and a splash in the water, and it was evident that the unfortunate man had jumped overboard. His body was not found until last Monday, when a waterman named **MORAN** picked it up about 200 yards from the vessel. The deceased had for sometime past evinced symptoms of insanity; he laboured under a delusion that he was doomed to receive some severe punishment. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased drowned himself whilst in a state of temporary insanity. *Empire, Sept. 30*

SUDDEN DEATH. - **JOHN BURDON**, residing in Exeter-place, informed the police authorities that his father returned home intoxicated, about half-past one o'clock yesterday morning; he was dead in his bed at six o'clock. A coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict returned of died from the effects of intemperance. *Empire, Sept. 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/862, 06/10/1852

SUICIDE. - Intelligence reached Sydney yesterday that a respectable young man, named **WILLIAM PEPERALL**, committed suicide, in the neighbourhood of Tamworth, by hanging himself from a tree. It is supposed that his mind had given way from disappointment, caused by want of success at the Bingera Diggings, where he had been with a party. *S.M. Herald, Oct. 1*

#### SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The *Ascendant*, from Liverpool, has had a protracted passage of 113 days, owing to a persistence of contrary winds. No deaths from sickness have occurred, but two unfortunate accidents had taken place; on June 25<sup>th</sup>, when off the African coast, one of the passengers, (a German) named **S. WOLLENBERG**, foolishly jumped overboard for the purpose of bathing, the ship going nine knots, but although the life boat was immediately lowered, and every exertion made to reach him, he was drowned; again, when off the Cape of Good Hope, one of the seamen, when taking in sail, fell overboard and was lost, it being impossible to get a boat to his assistance.

#### EXECUTION OF SULLIVAN AND NEWING.

The extreme penalty of the law for the crime of wilful murder was carried into execution upon **TIMOTHY SULLIVAN** and **NEWING the Chinaman**, at half-past nine o'clock of Tuesday morning last. At about a quarter past nine o'clock, Sullivan, attended by the Rev. Mr. **KEATING**, and followed by Newing, mounted the scaffold. A few moments were spent in prayer, in which Sullivan joined. Mr. Keating then advanced in front of the scaffold, and addressed the crowd in the following words:- "Timothy Sullivan requests me to address you in his regard. Conscious that he will in a few moments appear before his Maker and Judge, he solemnly declares that, previous to 1<sup>st</sup> June he never had hand, act, or part in taking human life. On the night of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Harrington and he were drinking together. They were on the most friendly terms. Sullivan finds himself alone – he is not aware of Harrington's absence – he hears or fancies he hears, the word "robber" – he rushes out with a fleshfork in his hand, (how he got possession of it he does not remember) – he sees a figure in the skillion, attacks it, and inflicts the wounds found on Harrington. He most solemnly declares that he did not know it was Harrington he was wounding. Next morning his first thought was – something has happened to old Dan, but what it was he could not remember. They had been drinking strong ardent spirits. To the intemperate he would say – beware, take warning from my fate. Timothy Sullivan is content to

expiate his crime on the scaffold, and he dies with feelings of Christian charity towards all men. He begs your fervent prayers that God through Jesus Christ may have mercy on him." The above, we learn, are as nearly as possible Sullivan's own words, and we further learn that the Rev. Mr. Keating omitted to say, what Sullivan often repeated to him, that when Harrington stood in the skillion he had not the "old hat and coat" on which he normally wore, or he would have immediately recognised him. Having taken leave of his clergyman, Sullivan was advanced upon the drop, and Newing was placed by his side. The ropes were adjusted, a stronger one than usual having been provided for Sullivan, and the fatal bolt was at length drawn. In making the attempt, however, with one hand, **GREEN** discovered that his strength was insufficient, and both of the culprits were observed to shrug their shoulders simultaneously. Another pull with both hands threw them dangling into the air, the bodies of both almost coming in contact whilst falling. A most awful scene succeeded. The sudden jerk of Sullivan's vast weight, aided by the length of the fall, caused the rope to separate the carotid artery. The blood gushed forth as if from a fountain, falling to the ground in streams, and splashing the Chinaman as he hung by his side. The gaol walls and door were also plentifully besmeared, and the lid of the coffin was almost covered with the crimson fluid. A ghastly sight now presented itself. The fleshy portion of the neck, together with the windpipe, was completely cut through, and the body, almost severed from the head, was suspended by the spine and back tendons. Sullivan died without a struggle, Newing moved only once, and almost imperceptibly. *Bathurst Free Press, Oct. 2*

#### MONDAY NIGHT'S STORM.

... At the Turon, we learn that the storm was still more violent. Tents were blown from their fastenings, and carried up towards the clouds, like pieces of paper, and a man who was asleep in bed, near Sofala, was literally smashed to pieces, by the falling of a tree which had been blown down by the wind.

#### CORONER'S INQUESTS.

On Saturday, an inquest was held at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **JACOB THOMPSON**, a seaman belonging to the ship *Castle Eden*. It appears from the evidence that the body of the deceased was found in the water off the Circular Quay, on Friday afternoon, not far from where the ship was lying. There were no marks of violence upon it; and the opinion of the witnesses was that deceased whilst crossing the stage from the wharf to the ship must have missed his footing in the dark, and fallen overboard. The jury found a verdict of death from accidental drowning, and added a rider expressive of their surprise that a large wharf like the Circular Quay, whereat so many large ships with the numerous crews, are constantly lying, should be left at night in so dangerous a condition; the lighting not deserving the name, and no grappling irons nor any other ready means of saving drowning persons, being procurable without much loss of time.

- A second inquest was held at the Glebe, on view of the body of **ANDREW HOLLY**, then lying dead there, who had died suddenly on Friday night. Verdict, death from natural causes, accelerated by intemperance. *Herald, Oct. 4*

CORONER'S INQUEST. - On Wednesday an inquest was opened before the Coroner, at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, upon view of the body of Mrs. **CATHERINE SMYTH**, then lying dead at Mrs. Dobson's boarding-house in Elizabeth-street. From the evidence of Mr. **W. DOUGLAS**, who resided in the same house with the deceased lady, it appears on Wednesday morning last she was called to her breakfast at the usual hour, but, not replying, the door of her bed-room was burst open. The deceased was lying partly on the bed, with one knee on the side of the bed,

and her face downwards. She was quite dead, and her limbs perfectly rigid. The left side of the face was on the bed, and the head turned sideways, sufficiently so, as Mr. Douglas thought, to permit breathing. Further evidence given by Mr. Douglas, Mrs. **DOBSON**, and **MARY HALE**, showed that the deceased was of retired and eccentric habits, and was understood to be given to the use of spirituous liquors. The post mortem examination showed that death had been caused by apoplexy, and that there were many appearances, due to the use of ardent spirits. The jury returned a verdict of death by apoplexy, the result of intemperate habits. *Abridged from the Herald, Oct. 2*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on Friday, at the Liverpool Road, on view of the body of a child three years of age, named **MARY ANN ULPH**. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased child was playing with some other children, in her father's garden, in which was a well of water. The child tumbled into the well, and was drowned. Verdict – Accidental drowning.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/863, 09/10/1852**

**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.** - The *Duke of Roxburgh* ... When off the Heads, yesterday a little boy belonging to one of the passengers, named **FENNIMORE**, accidentally fell overboard. Immediately on the alarm being given the boat was cleared away. Mr. **DUNBAR**, the second officer, who was in his cabin at the time, hastened on deck, and without waiting to strip immediately plunged in, and fortunately succeeded in reaching the child as he was sinking; they were both picked up by the boat, although Mr. Dunbar was nearly exhausted by the time he got on board. Too much praise cannot be awarded for the brave conduct of Mr. Dunbar.

- A melancholy accident occurred, by which one of the seaman belonging to the *Keera* steamer, named **JAMES ROGERS**, was lost overboard and drowned, on her passage from Sydney to Wollongong, off Coal Cliff. It appears about sunrise on Sunday morning the poor fellow was coming down with the night light from the masthead when the accident occurred. Not a moment was lost in bringing the vessel to, and lowering a boat. Captain **SAINTHILL** was on deck at the time, and there could not have been a lapse of more than from five to eight minutes until the time of his sinking; he swam strong, and they had but little doubt of saving him. It was imagined he was taken down by a shark from the sudden manner in which he disappeared, being only five or six yards from the boat and about twenty from the vessel.

**SHOCKING OCCURRENCE AT COCKATOO ISLAND.** - The following are the particulars of a sad catastrophe which happened yesterday at this penal establishment. In one of the wheat siloes, 4000 bushels of wheat had been deposited for some time, and from which, it having been purchased by a contractor, quantities amounting to about 1000 bushels had been withdrawn, from time to time, upon his order. The siloe was opened on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> ult/. and a quantity taken out and placed in bags, which were kept on the ground for some time awaiting the contractor's boat to remove them. It came on to rain heavily, and the overseer, fearing that the wheat, not being under cover, would be damaged if allowed to remain any longer in the wet, ordered it to be shot out of the bags into the siloe again. This order, given with the best intentions, led, it is to be feared, to the shocking occurrence we are about to relate. Yesterday, it was requisite to open the siloe again, and a gang of the prisoners who have been accustomed to the duty were directed to perform it. Upon opening the siloe, three men descended, but they were immediately struck senseless by the foul air, which it is supposed had been generated by the unfortunate process of throwing

back the wet wheat on the former day. Their situation being perceived, two of the overseers, and a gangman, without hesitation, descended to attempt their rescue, but they also immediately fell. The alarm was given, and every endeavour made to save the six men. In a short timer, the bodies were got out of the siloe, when it was found that the three generous fellows who had attempted to save the first three, were dead, and every effort to restore life was unavailing. Bleeding and other usual remedies were applied to the others, who may now be considered out of danger; although for some time very little hope of their recovery was entertained, their blood being nearly jet black when the lancet was used. An inquest will be held upon their bodies today. We may add, that one of the three men who had thus lost his life was within a few weeks of obtaining his liberty. *Herald, Oct. 5.* - An inquest was held yesterday at Cockatoo Island, upon the bodies of **JAMES HOLLOWAY, DANIEL TORPAY, and JOHN WILLIAMS**, who met their deaths on Monday morning, whilst engaged in removing wheat from one of the siloes on the Island. The jury returned the following verdict:- "We find that the deceased came to their deaths by the accidental inhalation of noxious gas, and we desire to express our sense of the praiseworthy conduct of the several prisoners who exerted themselves in endeavouring to save the unfortunate deceased."

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/864, 13/10/1852

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Monday an inquest was held at Morpeth, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **THOMAS REEVES**. It appeared from the evidence that Reeves, who was an aged man, had resided for a length of time with **GEORGE GOFFIN**; during the last eighteen months Reeves had been subject to fits, and on Sunday night he had five, but as he appeared to recover from them, with Goffin's attention, in the usual way, no medical man was sent for; Goffin left him asleep on the last occasion, but in the morning, when he got up, he found Reeves lying dead in bed, his face downwards, and buried in the pillow. The Coroner and jury having examined the body, and found no marks of violence, the jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

A LITTLE BOY DROWNED. - On Saturday afternoon last several children were bathing in the Hunter at Lidney Park, between Hinton and Raymond Terrace, when one of them, **JAMES SLANEY**, about seven years old, was tempted to go into deep water and into the strength of the tide; the poor boy could swim a little but finding he was in danger he tried to make for the shore again, calling out for help; two men who were near ran up on hearing the cries of the children, and were in time to see the poor boy sink, but neither could get to the spot in time to save him, and he was drowned. One of the men, **JOSEPH PEEK**, [or **SQUIRES?**] was in great danger also; having plunged in while heated with running, he was seized with cramp in deep water, and sunk, but fortunately managed to struggle on into shallow water, and was saved. Up to yesterday the body of poor Slaney had not been recovered, although boats had been out almost day and night dragging for it.

SYDNEY NEWS. - A man named **CLOUGH** was yesterday morning found dead in his own house. He and his wife had been drinking until a late hour on Saturday night, and both lay on the floor. On awaking in the morning she found her husband dead, and it is the opinion of a medical man that her husband must have died soon after laying down.

MURDER.

On Tuesday last a man named **SAMUEL WELHAM** was escorted into Bathurst by two of the Mudgee police, and given into the custody of Mr. **CHIPPENDALE**,

having been committed for wilful murder on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. So far as we have been able to collect them the following are the facts of the case. The deceased was a sawyer in the service of Mr. **BLACKMAN**, of Mudgee; and Welham was a brickmaker, living at Mr. Cox's Murrundullah station. On the day of the fatal event they had met together at Mudgee, without anything particular occurring, and in the evening the deceased, in company with a man named **JOHNSON**, arrived at Welham's brick-ground, with a dray and two bullocks on their way home, their object in taking that route being to make a short cut. Welham however objected to their proceeding in that direction, and insisted upon their turning back. A dispute followed, ending in angry words, in the course of which Welham threatened he would "shoot some one" in nearly the foregoing language, and had scarcely made use of the expression when he seized a double-barrelled fowling piece, which he levelled at the deceased and discharged the contents, consisting of No. 2 duck shot, the whole entering the belly below the navel. Upon receiving the discharge deceased sprang forward and seized the gun, and dashed it with his whole force across a log, remarking as he did so, that Welham had shot one, but he would take good care that he did not shoot another. Information of the above circumstance having been conveyed to the authorities at Mudgee, the chief constable and two policemen started to the spot and apprehended Welham and Johnson, and Dr. **M'DONALD** immediately attended upon **MELVILLE**, who appeared to be beyond the hope of recovery. The wound was inflicted between seven and eight o'clock, p.m., of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, from which hour to the time of his death, which took place about two o'clock of the following morning, he suffered the most excruciating agony. An inquest was held on the ensuing day at Mr. L'Estrange's Welcome Inn, Mudgee, when the above facts transpired in evidence. A written statement of the deceased, taken by Dr. M'Donald, in the presence of a person named **BAX**, was read to the jury, in which Welham was distinctly charged with the crime, the deceased persisting in the same statement up to the period of his death, and completely exonerating every-body else from blame. A female, whose name did not transpire, was also present when the piece was fired. She overheard the squabble and the firing of the gun, but in the darkness of the night could not see by whom it was fired. As already stated, the investigation closed by the committal of Welham for wilful murder. In defence Welham accused Johnson of having committed the crime, and to give his evidence an appearance of circumstantiality, stated that after committing the deed he stretched himself before the fire, but after hearing the evidence of Dr. M'Donald, and written statement of the dying man, Welham's defence was discredited, and Johnson was discharged. *Bathurst Free Press, Oct. 9*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/865, 16/10/1852

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Wednesday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER** on the body of the little boy, **JAMES SLANEY**, whose accidental death by drowning, while bathing on Saturday last with other boys, we mentioned in Wednesday's *Mercury*. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, expressing their admiration of the conduct of the young man **SQUIRES**, who so nearly met his death by plunging in to Slaney's assistance while heated with exertion, and sinking in deep water from an attack of the cramps.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - ARMIDALE.

A melancholy accident by drowning occurred on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant. A little girl, only daughter of Mr. **THOMAS RAE**, bailiff of the court of petty sessions, was seen floating in the creek near her father's residence by Mr. **M'DERMOTT**, R.C.

schoolmaster, who immediately plunged in, and brought her to the shore. Dr. **MARKHAM** was promptly in attendance, but all usual means of resuscitation proved unavailing, as the vital spark had fled before the body was taken out of the water, the doctor expressing his opinion that the child must have been dead at least half an hour before it was recovered. She had been seen playing on the banks about one hour before the discovery.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - An inquest was held on Saturday at the Ship Inn, Kent-street, on view of the body of **PATRICK BERNARD MORRIS**, an infant child, then lying dead at the residence of his parents in Kent-street. It appeared from the evidence, that on Friday evening the child was with its parents in a light cart, returning home from Homebush races; they were driving at a moderate pace, when unfortunately one of the wheels went into a stump-hole, and the child's mother narrowly escaped being thrown out; she was just re-seating herself when the wheel went into another hole, and she was thrown out; she had at the time the child in her arms, and in the fall his head struck against the wheel. A gentleman named **FOSTER**, residing in Castlereagh-street, was passing in his gig, and he at once jumped out and ran to the aid of the child and his mother, but the infant was killed upon the spot, and Mrs. Morris had her arm broken. The Coroner endeavoured to discover if any blame was attributable to the deceased child's father, who was driving at the time, but it was clearly proved that he was sober, and that the sad casualty was purely accidental. The jury returned a verdict:- "Died from injuries accidentally received." *Empire, Oct. 11*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/866, 20/10/1852**

**LUNACY.** - On Friday an unfortunate man named **WILLIAM SHAW** was brought before the bench, charged with attempting to commit suicide. It appeared that on the 7<sup>th</sup> his father accidentally entered a room in which he had just cut his throat, and found him bleeding on the sofa, the razor lying near him; medical assistance was instantly obtained, and his life was preserved. It appeared that this was the second attempt at self-destruction, and that he once attempted to stab his father. Drs. **WILTON** and **M'CARTNEY** certified that Shaw was a dangerous lunatic. He was ordered by the bench to be committed to gaol until relieved by the due course of law, in order that he might be sent to the Lunatic Asylum.

**MURDER OF MR. KERWAN.**

The following particulars of this diabolical murder are extracted from a private letter received by yesterday's post, dated Cooma, October 11<sup>th</sup>. "I cannot refrain - your kind friend, and mine, Mr. **KERWAN**, was interred yesterday, under most painfully awful circumstances. On Friday morning his ostler shot at two men down at the stable, and Mr. Kerwan went down, considering the man to be insane, and to get him quietly away, said to him (His named being **JOHN M'SPADDON**) 'John, what are you quarrelling with your friends for?' M'Spadden replied, 'I will serve you the same,' and let off a third pistol at Mr. Kerwan, and made up to his gut. Mr. Kerwan followed him, and pushed on to the hut, when M'Spadden shot him through the heart, and Mr. Kerwan died immediately. The murderer escaped, and has not yet been taken. A reward is offered for his apprehension. About half an hour after the circumstances took place, I immediately went to the hut, and found Mr. Kerwan lying on the floor, dead, and no one with him. I found him quite dead, and turning to the door I perceived his wife and daughter hastening to the spot. It was the most f=dreadful; affair I ever was present at. His funeral was attended by rich and poor - all felt that they had lost a kind and useful friend." *Empire, Oct. 19*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/867, 23/10/1852

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - On Thursday an inquest was held at Mr. Butler's, the Spread Eagle, Rutherford, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **JANE CANNON**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Cannon was the wife of **JOSEPH CANNON**, a carrier between Maitland and Tamworth; on Wednesday they left Maitland with two horse drays, Cannon driving the foremost team, and a black boy driving the second, under charge of Mrs. Cannon, who was sitting on the second dray on a tea-chest; they had got to Rutherford, when Cannon thought he heard his wife's voice suddenly, and looking round he saw that the second team had stopped, and the black boy was crying; he went back immediately to see what was the matter, and was shocked to find his wife lying apparently dead on the road, her head having been crushed by the wheel passing over it. The cause of the fatal occurrence appeared to be that the wheel had gone suddenly into a deep hole, and jerked Mrs. Cannon off. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and called the Coroner's attention to "the wretched state of the roads from Maitland to Black Creek."

SYDNEY NEWS. - Mr. **HYLAND**, the well known butcher, residing near the Queen's Wharf, was found dead in his bed this morning. He complained yesterday of a cold, but nothing serious was anticipated from any symptom that presented itself.

A woman named **M'CULLOCK** was also found dead this morning, and excessive drinking is said to be the cause. In neither case has an inquest been held yet.

On Friday last, **JOSEPH WARD**, groom at the Governor Gipps Hotel, Parramatta road, was thrown from a horse and fractured his skull. He lingered until Monday, when he expired. An inquest was held yesterday before Mr. **LYONS**, coroner for the district of Parramatta, and a verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury.

Sydney, Thursday evening.

A female named **M'DONELL**, of about 30 years of age, who some years since deserted her husband, and has been living an abandoned life, on the night before last went off into a series of fits. As soon as practicable an order was procured for her admission into the Benevolent Asylum; she was put into a cab and driven to the establishment. The carriage had scarcely passed the pouter gate when the woman breathed her last. It appears that M'Donell had given herself to hard drinking for some weeks past.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. - The *Irene*, from Liverpool, has made the passage in 97 days, having been detained eight days on the coast with northerly winds. ...**THOMAS HAWKESWORTH**, carpenter's mate, fell overboard during a gale of wind, and was drowned. *Herald*, Oct. 18

THE GOLD FIELDS. - SOFALA. - OCT. 13. - STABBING.

On Monday morning last, intelligence was received that a murder had been committed the previous evening, at Berrima Hill. Sergeant **GAINER** at once proceeded to the spot, and found that **JOHN BURNS**, a shoemaker, residing at that place, having quarrelled with his wife, a neighbour named **JOSHUA WELDON** interfered, when Buns snatched up a knife and stabbed him, inflicting a wound in the liver some six inches deep. Fortunately a Mr. **STEVENSON**, of the B.A. Gold Mining Company, who had some knowledge of surgery, was encamped near, and rendered his assistance to the wounded man, who is still alive, but not expected to recover. Sergeant Gainer, after a long search, found Burns hidden among some sheepskins in a hut about three miles from his own residence, and brought him in here to await his examination. Mr. Commissioner **M'LEAN** is to visit the place to-morrow with Sergeant Gainer, to take the depositions of the wounded man, and collect further evidence.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held at the North Shore, on view of the body of **MARCELLA SALLY**, an infant. It appeared from the evidence that her death was purely accidental, her clothes having taken fire, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

An inquest was held yesterday at the Plough Inn, on the Parramatta road, on view of the body of **PATRICK NUGENT**. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was about 40 years of age, and employed as a bullock-driver; on Sunday he was driving a team and dray on the road; he had taken a glass or two of liquor, but was capable of managing the team. He resorted to a very dangerous though common practice among draymen, riding upon the pole of the dray. In descending Petersham-hill, either the bullocks would not hold back, or something caused them to take flight, for they were seen descending the hill with extraordinary velocity, and the deceased, in endeavouring to stop them, was knocked down, and one of the dray wheels passed over his breast and shoulder. He died immediately. The jury returned a verdict of "died from injuries accidentally received." *Empire, Oct. 19*

**THE LATE AFFAIR AT COOMA.** - Some further intelligence has reached me concerning the death of **KERWAN**. It appears that when **M'SPADDEN**, the groom, rushed out of the inn, to fire at Mr. **CUNNINGHAM**, Kerwan ran forward and endeavoured to wrest the pistol from his hand. However he did not succeed in doing so, and a scuffle ensued; MacSpadden retreated into his hut, followed by Kerwan, who redoubled his efforts to extricate the pistol, and while doing so it went off; I believe the trigger was not pulled by either party. Kerwan was shot dead through the heart. The affair happened at half-past nine o'clock on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant. Information was immediately sent to the chief constable of Cooma, but before he arrived MacSpadden has escaped to the Murrumbidgee ranges. *Empire's Goulburn Correspondent.*

**A BODY FOUND.** - On Tuesday last, as some men in the employ of Mr. **WEATSON** were dragging the Yass River, for the purpose of discovering the body of a man who was lately drowned whilst crossing in the punt, the corpse of another man of the name of **TEENY** was found. The man had been in the employ of Mr. **O'BRIEN**, of Yass, and it appears had not been missed. No doubt the bodies of many who were drowned in the late floods have not yet come to light. *Goulburn Herald, Oct. 6*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/868, 27/10/1852

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - Last night, about nine o'clock, as Mr. **PERNON** [?], chief officer of the *Penyard Park*, was leaving the *Bank of England*, which vessel is alongside Campbell's Wharf, he unfortunately fell between the planking of the stage and the ship's side, and although every means was used by boats on the spot to save him, he was never seen to rise; grapples were immediately procured, and after two hours dragging a waterman, (from the New Stairs,) named **JOHN ALEXANDER**, succeeded in recovering the body; which was landed at the police station; but of course life was extinct. *Herald, Oct. 22*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/869, 30/10/1852

**INQUESTS.** - On Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, an inquest was held at Swan Reach, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **JAMES JUDD**. It appeared from the evidence that Judd, an old man, who would drink to excess whenever he could obtain liquor, had for the last few weeks been residing with JOHN SMITHSON, a small settler at Swan Reach, and during that time had been sober, but complained of cold and weakness

occasionally. On Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, Judd and Smithson were both employed on the adjoining farm of Mr. MANN, at the hay harvest, and Judd twice fell off loaded drays from the hay slipping, but did not appear hurt. He however, was unable next day to work, and having a bowel complaint medicine was first sent for, and eventually Mr. Mann sent for a medical man; Judd got worse, and died on Friday morning, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. M'CARTNEY having outwardly examined the body, and given his opinion that Judd died from natural causes, the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

On Tuesday an inquest was held before Mr. PARKER, at Narrowgut, on the body of FREDERICK GILES. Giles was a boy of eight years old, employed on the farm of WILLIAM LARKIN FOREMAN, of Narrowgut; on Monday Giles as usual fetched some water from the river in tin buckets, and returning a second time for some he did not come back to the house, and Mrs. Foreman, who knew her son wanted Giles, went to look for him; she saw the tin bucket by the edge of the river, but no sign of the boy anywhere; she immediately signalled her son up from the field, a boat and hooks were got without delay, and in a short time the body of the poor boy was found in the river in about four feet depth of water, and about fourteen feet from the bank. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - MUSWELL BROOK.

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> instant, on the mutilated remains of a fine promising boy of about 9 years old, who was thrown from his father's horse the previous day, while on the road from Singleton; and his feet catching in the stirrup leather, he was dragged a considerable distance; leg and arm broken, jaw smashes, and several fearful gashes in his head, &c. He was the eldest son of Mr. JAMES CROSSINGS, and with his father, mother, and family, was proceeding to the Turon. He was buried here, on Wednesday, followed by his afflicted parents, and other sorrowing relatives. Muswell Brook, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1852  
SHIPPING.

The *Francis Walker*, from London, beings out a party of Mrs. Chisholm's immigrants. ...There was one death, and four births, besides one young man who unfortunately fell overboard, and was drowned.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/870, 03/11/1852

MURDER OF MR. KIRWAN. - From private letters received in town yesterday from the afflicted widow of the late Mr. Kirwan, we learn that no trace of the murder has yet been discovered. In addition to the description of his person already published, the following particulars are supplied. M'Spadden hired with Mr. Terry Hughes, of Cobden, about seven years ago, afterwards in the service of captain Rossi, near Goulburn, Mr. Clifford, of Maneroo, Mr. Scott, of Camperdown, and a second time in the employ of Mr. Clifford. He is described as a remarkably athletic large-boned man, with a swinging swift motion when walking, and a gruff voice, but not particularly stout as first stated. M'Spadden's family are still living at Cooma, we believe, on the premises where he committed the barbarous murder. Mr. Kirwan was always kind and indulgent to them; their rations were not weighed out as in other cases, but orders were given for them to receive whatever they required for their use from the store. The wages paid to M'Spadden by Mr. Kirwan were also liberal. *Empire*, Oct. 30

CORONER'S INQUEST. - Yesterday, an inquest was held before the coroner, at the house of Mr. BARR, Balmain, upon the view of the bodies of two infants, name unknown. Mr. Surgeon ELLIOTT stated, that the name of the parents of the deceased is CALONE. On going up stairs his attention was directed to one child

which was lying on the bed alive, and two others lying dead close to the mother, all new born. One of the deceased children bore considerable marks of violence about the shoulder and arm. The mother having stated to him certain particulars (unnecessary to publish) said that her husband was her only attendant during her delivery. He (Mr. E.) could not say whether the two deceased were alive on delivery. A female neighbour stated that she was present shortly before and after Mrs. Calone's confinement. The husband on the latter occasion said that the child was quiet enough. They have seven or eight children. The jury found a verdict of still-born, adding as a rider that the conduct of the father was highly discreditable and disreputable. *Herald, Oct. 27*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/871, 06/11/1852

THE INQUEST ON FREDERICK GILES. - We are requested by the relatives of the deceased boy, **FREDERICK GILES**, to correct our brief report of the inquest on his body, which appeared in the *Mercury* of last Saturday. The poor lad, who was a son of Mr. **J.W. GILES**, of Port Stephens, was on a visit to his grandmother, Mrs. Foreman, of Narrowgut, and his visit to the river side with a tin bucket was contrary to the repeated injunctions of his grandmother and uncle, who never knowingly allowed him to venture there to fetch water. It is supposed the poor lad took the two buckets to the river and let one of them fall in, and that in the endeavour to recover it he himself fell in, and was unhappily drowned.

SYDNEY NEWS.

**HUGH FREDERICK O'DONNELL**, a well known Sydney publican, died suddenly at his house in Market-street, this morning. I believe an inquest will be held on the body.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. - An accident of rather a serious nature happened to Mr. **PATTERSON**, of Chatsbury. This gentleman had left Goulburn about 5 o'clock on his way home, and had got as far as the Gap, near Goulburn, when his horse shied at a stump and threw him with great force against a tree; he remained insensible for some time, until discovered by a person passing in that direction, who immediately posted to Dr. **WAUGH**. That gentleman, with the promptitude which always characterises him, forthwith repaired to the spot. Mr. Patterson was then removed to an adjoining house, where every attention was shown to him. Dr. Waugh remained with him until mid-night, and started off again at day-break this morning (Friday). He is at present delirious, and, we are sorry to add, great fears are entertained that he will not recover. *Goulburn Herald, Oct. 30*

ACCIDENT TO A CHILD. - On Monday last a fatal accident happened to a child named **MICHAEL LINNANE**, son of a mounted constable of this town. The boy it appears was playing outside of his father's hut, near which a horse was grazing; he unfortunately approached too near the animal, and received a kick in his left ribs. His cries brought assistance to the spot, and he was immediately conveyed inside; when there he stated that the grey horse had kicked him; the little sufferer lingered for about half an hour, and then died in great agony. **R. WAUGH**, Esq., M.D., held an inquest on the body last Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, when the following verdict was returned:—"Died from effects of injuries accidentally received." The deceased was only two years and three months old. *Goulburn Herald, Oct. 30*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/872, 10/11/1852

SYDNEY NEWS.

A man named **HALL**, residing at Newtown, was yesterday morning found in a lane leading from the high road in the direction of his residence, in a miserable plight, from the combined effects of violence and exposure. His body was in several places severely bruised, and near him was found a paling, on one end of which was blood and hair. The man was quite insensible at the time he was found by the police, who conveyed him home; he was sensible this morning, but not able to speak. It appears that he was drinking at a public house in the neighbourhood on Saturday evening, and was somewhat the worse for liquor when he left the house to go home. It has not yet been ascertained whether plunder or malice was the inducement to the maltreatment.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - WARWICK.

MELANCHOLY DEATH. - A fine intelligent little boy, a son of Mr. **REINE'S**, of this town, named **GEORGE**, aged about 8 years, met with a watery grave, in the Condamine River, on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant. From the indications at the water's edge it would appear that the little fellow had been gathering bulrushes, and that in the act of reaching for some of them he had overbalanced himself, and fallen from the bank into the river. The body was picked up on the following day, in a deep hole, by the father, whose feelings on the occasion as well as those of the mother may be imagined but not described. The funeral took place on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and was attended by a majority of the inhabitants of the township. Warwick, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1852

SHIPPING. - No deaths occurred on board the *James Carson*, with the exception of a man named **JOHN SCOTT**, of Scotland, who was killed by the falling of the fore topsail yard in a gale of wind. *Melbourne Herald*.

MELANCHOLY EVENT. - On Thursday last an inquest was held at the Australian Inn, Market-street, on the body of that old and much respected colonist, Mr. **HUGH FREDERICK O'DONNELL**, who met his death under the following distressing circumstances. The deceased had been a long sufferer from the excruciating agonies of rheumatic gout, and for several days he was unable to leave his bed. In order to procure temporary relief from the intense pain, he sent to a chemist's shop for some muriate of morphia, which is the strongest preparation of that powerful drug. The quantity sent for, six grains, was labelled and made up in that number of doses, and the deceased was cautioned to be careful in taking them. On Tuesday night he swallowed one grain, which had the effect of inducing somnolency. On the evening of Wednesday he took two grains of morphia, and during the night three more; the effects of which were so potent, that in the morning his frame was completely prostrated. Dr. **MACFARLANE** was immediately sent for and prescribed for him. He found the deceased in so alarming a state that he recommended additional medical advice, and Dr. **BENNETT** was called in. The application of every remedy which medical skill could suggest was vain, and the deceased expired about eight o'clock in the morning. The evidence of the professional gentlemen went to show that death had resulted from the quantity of muriate of morphia which the deceased had so incautiously taken. The jury thereupon returned a verdict to that effect. *Bell's Life*, Nov. 6

BERRIMA. - An inquest was held before **J.J. HIGGINS**, Esq., coroner of the district, at the house of Mr. **ROBERT FITZGERALD**, Royal Oak, Bong Bong, on view of the body of **EDWARD PERKINS**, lying dead about three miles distant from Bong Bong. It appeared by the evidence that the deceased had been to the settlement, and was returning home to his residence at Mittagong, accompanied by his wife and three children. On their way they called at the Royal Oak, and procured a bottle of rum and a bottle of wine, which they took away with them, and called at a hut two miles further bon, kept by a Mrs. **WOODS**, where they had some refreshment and

part of the wine, and after a short stay again proceeded homewards, with his wife and three children sitting in the cart, himself sitting in front, driving, and at a short distance from Woods' hut, going down a hill, he fell between the shafts, the horse kicking him in the stomach, causing asphyxia and immediate death. From the evidence adduced before the coroner, it appeared that he was perfectly sober. The deceased was thirty years of age, and was considered a respectable industrious man whose loss will be felt by his disconsolate family and friends. *S.M. Herald*.

**DEATH FROM A GUNSHOT WOUND.**

On Saturday, an inquest was held before the Coroner at the house of Mr. **JEREMIAH MURPHY**, Surry Hills, on view of the body of **JAMES MURPHY**, his son. Mrs. Murphy stated, that she and the deceased left Sydney three weeks ago on a visit to Brisbane water; he was fourteen years of age, and was very fond of shooting; on Tuesday last he went out after a bird he wanted to shoot; and in a few minutes she heard her other little boy shrieking; she and all in the house ran out, and found deceased lying down, saturated from the waist downwards with blood; he had evidently ran 100 yards after the accident; there were five wounds on the lower part of the body, some of which had passed out at the back; he expired at ten o'clock the following morning; there was no medical aid to be obtained, but she did all she could for her unfortunate child, yet without avail; he must have lost, in her opinion at least, half a gallon of blood; the deceased told her that he was leaning over the fence, with the gun beside him, when either his foot, or a twig, accidentally caught the trigger, when the contents, large shot, lodged in his body. The jury found a verdict of "died from the effect of a gunshot wound accidentally received." *Herald, Nov. 8*

**HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE.** - On Thursday last the dead body of a person named **WILLIAM BEHN**, farmer and carrier, who has for many years resided in the neighbourhood of Carcoar, was found lying by the roadside on the top of Fitzgerald's Mount with a horrible gash across the throat, which had been the cause of death. From what we learn of the case, the deceased had been down to Sydney and was loaded up with spirits, and being a person of intemperate habits, he had indulged so freely on the way that he was attacked by *delirium tremens*. Upon his arrival at Mr. Ingram's public house he became so unmanageable that it was found necessary to forward the team and property to Carcoar by another person and leave him behind. As he had threatened to terminate his existence a short time prior to his disease (sic) by stabbing himself with a knife, it is supposed that his death was the work of his own hands. The body was immediately removed to Mr. Flanagan's public house, King's Plains, where an inquest will be held. *Bathurst Free Press, Nov. 6*

**DEATH FROM INTEMPERANCE.** - A fighting man named **PERRY** was found in a dying state a few days ago on the bank of the Black Swamp Creek. He had been in Bathurst for several days, where over indulgence in his besetting sin induced delirium tremens, and in one of the paroxysms thus brought on he expired. An inquest was held upon the body and the following verdict returned - Died of fits produced by excessive intemperance. *Bathurst Free Press, Nov. 6*

**DEATH FROM INTEMPERANCE.** - Yesterday, an inquest was held before the Coroner, at the Whitehaven Castle, Sussex-street, on view of the body of **THOMAS M'CONNELL**. The deceased was a very old man, and addicted to habits of intemperance. On Thursday evening, his wife died, and he sent for a neighbour, who found him raving in bed, and he died shortly afterwards. Mr. **D. M'PHEE** stated, that he was called in to attend deceased on Wednesday evening, and found him labouring under *delirium tremens*; he prescribed for him, and continued in attendance until his death. He was of opinion that death was the effect of natural causes, accelerated by

habits of intemperance. The jury found a verdict in accordance with his opinion. *Herald*, Nov. 6

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/873, 13/11/1852

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Wednesday an inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, on the Oswald Estate, on the body of **MARY ANNE HARMAN**. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. Harman, who was forty years of age, and the mother of eleven children, had for years been subject to fits of epilepsy; about three weeks since she had some severe fits, but did not think it necessary to see a medical man, using Holloway's Pills; on Tuesday afternoon, about three o'clock, another severe fit seized Mrs. Harman, her children being the only persons in the house, but the oldest of them twenty years of age; she struggled in the fit for an hour and a half, and then expired; her husband, who was absent, returned home half an hour after her death. Dr. **BEARDMORE**, who had heard the evidence, and outwardly examined the body, gave his opinion that Mrs. Harman died from apoplexy, induced by repeated fits of epilepsy. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - CLARENCE RIVER.

We have unfortunately had two deaths by drowning here lately.

One was a girl named **ELIZABETH WILKIE**, about thirteen or fourteen years of age, whose father is now at the gold fields. On Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> October, she went to bathe near Mr. Hewitt's wharf, and was drowned, her body not being found till the next day.

The other death was that of **CHARLES HAZARD**, a trusty working man in the employ of **EDWARD RYAN**, Esq., J.P., of Water-view, Clarence River, who was returning to his master's station, after leaving a horse at Oliver Fry's, Esq., Red Rock, but when crossing the Clarence at the first falls got into deep water, and not knowing how to swim, was drowned. There was another man of Mr. Ryan's with him at the time, who took the ford first, and called to Hazard to follow him; **WILLIAM SOUTHYEN**, who was working in the garden close by, also called to Hazard to keep down, but in spite of the directions of both men he took the deep water, and sunk, to rise no more. He leaves a wife and three children to deplore his loss. (Editorial comment about the crossing place and its dangers.)

SYDNEY NEWS.

By this morning's *Herald* you will see that at an inquest yesterday on the body of an old man named **HALL**, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons un known. Last night **PETER DILLON**, **JOHN BARKER**, **GEORGE WOOD**, **ELLEN ROGERS**, **ELIZABETH BAKER**, and **MARY RALPH**, were apprehended by Inspector **M'COOK** and constable **HARRIS**, on suspicion of having had a part in the sad transaction. They were brought in custody into the magistrate's private room to-day and remanded.

MUDGE. - I regret to in form you that, probably by the next post, I shall have to give you particulars of a dreadful murder which has been committed at Belar, a station belonging to Messrs. **ROBERT and WILLIAM LOWE**, residing at Wilberforce. The station at which this fearful outrage has been committed is about sixty miles distant from Mudgee. Rumour says that the deceased was as hutkeeper, and that after the inhuman and brutal man who perpetrated the deed had killed his victim, he burned the body to avoid detection. *Empire Correspondent*.

MURDER. - The Sydney papers of Thursday report the proceedings on the inquest held at Newtown on the body of the unfortunate old man, **WILLIAM HALL**, the particulars of whose death by violence will be found in our fourth pager. The

evidence did not disclose any facts throwing suspicion on any particular person as being the murdered, except that to the first witness, **JOHN HUNT**, who found Hall lying near the road on the Sunday morning, Hall murmured out, as he touched his face, "Don't murder me quite, George." Hall never spoke again, except to say "God bless you," as soon as he recognised Hunt, although he lingered on until Monday evening. The post mortem examination by Dr. **DUIGAN**, who had been called in to attend Hall, and Dr. **CARTWRIGHT**, showed that death was caused by a fracture of the sternum, which, causing a rupture of the mammary artery, had occasioned a fatal effusion of blood into the cavity of the chest; but in addition to this fatal injury Hall was brutally injured; three of his ribs had been broken, and driven into the lungs; the left cheek showed a large wound, and was greatly swollen; the neck showed marks as if strangulation had been attempted; the scrotum had been wounded by a blunt knife, and various other bruises and wounds were observed. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.

**FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.** - An unfortunate girl, named **BRIGHTON**, got drunk on Tuesday, and while in a state of intoxication, her dress caught fire, and she was so severely injured that but slight hopes are entertained of her recovery. Dr. **HOUSTON** has attended to her, but she still lies in a very precarious state. *Empire, Nov. 11*

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - Yesterday morning a sailor, named **TIMOTHY FLANAGAN**, employed as cook on board the *Thomas and Henry*, brig, was found dead in his hammock. The vessel lies at the Flour Company Wharf. Flanagan was a member of the Odd Fellows Society. *Empire, Nov. 11*

**CORONER'S INQUESTS.** - An inquest was held at the Wellington Inn, George-street South, on view of the body of **ANN BACCERY**. The deceased was a poor creature who got her living by selling watercresses in the streets. She died from the rupture of a blood vessel in the head, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

Another inquest was held on view of the body of **SARAH HOCKINGER**, an old woman between 60 and 70 years of age. It was stated that she was addicted to intemperance, and the jury returned a verdict - Died from pre-existing disease, accelerated by previous habits of intemperance. *Empire, Nov. 11*

**MURDER.** - ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK ON SATURDAY NIGHT, **WILLIAM HALL**, a person of about 80 years of age, who resided at Newtown, left Mr. Blackstone's public house to return to his home. He had been drinking at the public house during the evening, and when he left he was rather the worse for liquor. On Sunday morning Hall was found by a person named **JOHN HUNT** lying in a dreadful state in a lane which runs from the Newtown road to his (hall's) residence. Several of the poor old man's ribs were broken, and he had been dreadfully beaten on the head and body, seemingly with a piling which was picked up near the spot, with a quantity of human hair and blood cleaving to it. He was also so shockingly injured in other parts of his body as to preclude the possibility of his recovery. No reason can be assigned for the cruel deed, as Hall had no money in his possession, the landlord of the inn where he had been drinking having taken charge of what trifle of silver he possessed when he quitted the inn. Hall was seen by some persons in the afternoon lying near the roadside helpless through drunkenness, but as such sights are unhappily too frequent, no person interfered with him, as their motives might be misconstrued. Hall was conveyed home and medical aid procured, but he continued a very long while in a state of insensibility. He recovered his consciousness yesterday morning about ten o'clock, and Inspector **M'COOK** at once went to hear his account of the affair if he were able to give any account thereof, but his statement, it would at present from obvious reasons be injudicious to make public. No hope of his recovery

exists. *Empire*, Nov. 9 - The unfortunate old man **WILLIAM HALL**, who was so cruelly treated on the Newtown road, the report of which appeared in yesterday's paper, expired yesterday, in consequence of the injuries which some person or persons had inflicted upon him. It is stated that Hall made some statement before he died, but if so, that statement has, for the furtherance of the ends of justice, been kept a secret. The coroner went out to Newtown yesterday to open an inquest upon the body. No clue to the perpetrator of the murder has yet been discovered. *Empire*, Nov. 10

REMARKABLE DEATH. - An inquest was held on Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup> November, at Woodward's Commercial Hotel, before **R. WAUGH**, Esq., the Coroner for the district, on view of the body of **CHARLES MORGAN**. It appeared that deceased, in company with two or three other boys, had been out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ultimo collecting bullocks at Tyrl Tyrl, and on returning home he fell into a waterhole, being moon-blind at the time. Assistance was immediately procured, and he was conveyed home in a state of insensibility, and after taking a cup of hot tea was put to bed apparently in good health, with the exception of a slight nervous irritability; he was found dead the next morning. The jury – according to the direction of the coroner, returned a verdict of "Died of congestion of the brain, occasioned by immersion in cold water." *Goulburn Herald*, Nov. 6

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/874, 17/11/1852

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A DEAF ADDER. - On Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, an inquest was held by **G. WEST**, Esq., at the Bush Inn, Hall's Creek, near Merton, on the body of **PETER GEORGE**, then lying dead. **CORNELIUS COAKLY** being duly sworn, deposed, the deceased, Peter George, whose body the jury had just viewed, is a neighbour of mine; he lived near Maitland, and was a carrier; we were travelling in company from Mudgee, where we had gone in company with a load; last evening we un yoked near this house, and took our dinner; after it, deceased and two boys (mine and his), went down to the creek to wash themselves; I followed them down, and we walked back to the drays; deceased looked on the tree close to us, and observed some magpies feeding their young; the boys began to throw sticks at the birds on the tree, and deceased was moving about under it, watching them, when he suddenly cried, "What the devil is this has got me by the foot," and he shook his foot, and I saw a deaf adder fall from it; I said did he bite you and he said yes, and cut me too, and held up his foot; I observed three punctures on his left heel, from which blood dropt; he said it is a deaf adder which has bit me; I replied it was; he took a knife out of his pocket and cut a piece of out his heel; I killed the adder on the spot on which he shook it off his foot; it did not move at all; it was about eighteen inches long and about three inches in circumference; in about half an hour he could not stand on his feet, and we laid him on a stretcher – and soon lost his speech; I think it was about two hours from the time he was bitten to his death. **HENRY M'DONNELL** being duly sworn, deposed I have been a servant of the deceased for the last two or three years; last night we were encamped on the creek bank, near this place; deceased pointed to a magpie's nest on the tree near us; I went over and began to throw sticks at the nest; deceased was walking about under the tree, when he called out suddenly, what the devil is this that has got me by the foot, and I looked and saw him shake off a deaf adder; I said Peter are you bit, he said yes; I dare say it was two hours from the time he was bitten to his death. Verdict – that the deceased died on the 6th instant, from a wound inflicted accidentally by a deaf adder. *Correspondent of the People's Advocate*.

THE MURDER AT NEWTON. - The prisoners apprehended on suspicion of having been concerned in the murder of **HALL**, at Newtown, on last Saturday night, were yesterday brought up pursuant to remand. **GEORGE WOOD** and **MARY RALPH** were discharged from custody; the four other prisoners were remanded until Wednesday next. *Herald*, Nov. 13

FATAL BOAT ACCIDENT. - An accident, which we regret to say terminated in loss of life, took place yesterday afternoon between the Heads. The deceased was Mr. **NOEL**, mate of H.M.S. *Acheron*. It appears that he was taking a pleasure trip down the harbour in Mr. King's yacht, in company with the *Acheron's* paddle-box boat, in which was Mr. **KING**. When between the Heads, the yacht was overtaken by a sudden squall and capsized. The only person in it besides Mr. Noel was a man named **BUSBRIDGE**. The *Thomas and Henry*, which was going out at the time, immediately sent a boat off to their assistance, and succeeded in picking up the man Busbridge, but unfortunately Mr. Noel was by this time beyond the reach of human aid. It is due to the crew of the *Thomas and Henry's* boat, and to Mr. King, who lost no time in reaching the scene of the disaster, that every effort was made to save the deceased, although it was found impossible to recover even the body. *Empire*. Nov. 13

MUDGE. - Up to this moment I have not been able to get any further particulars respecting the murder committed at Belar. Our chief constable, and other constables who went with him, have not, as yet, returned. A man, answering the description of the murderer, has been traced by the chief constable to Coolah.

A melancholy accident occurred in our township yesterday, the 7<sup>th</sup> instant; a young lad, aged 12 years, son of Mr. **WALL**, a respectable inhabitant, was accidentally drowned, whilst bathing in the Mudgee River. An inquest was held at Mr. M'Naughten's Inn before **H. BAYLY**, Esq., coroner, on the body of the deceased, when, after hearing the evidence of Mr. **MACDONALD** and others, it was decided by the jury that the deceased had met with his death by accident whilst bathing in the Mudgee River. *Correspondent of the Empire*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/875, 20/11/1852

SYDNEY NEWS. - **JONES** and **ELIZABETH BARKER**, who were yesterday discharged from the custody in which they had been confined on suspicion of having been concerned in the murder of old **HALL** at Newtown, were this forenoon brought up, charged with stealing a halter, of the value of about 2s. 6d., which was found on their premises, and identified by a person named **TUCKER** as his property, having missed it about the 5<sup>th</sup> of the present month. They were remanded for further evidence.

At an early hour this morning a man named **WATT** was found dead in the waterman's box on the Market Wharf. The inquest has not yet been held.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - COOLAH

MURDER. - A most dreadful murder occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo, at a sheep station of Mr. Lowe's, about four miles from that gentleman's head station of Balaro. **PATRICK M'CARTHY**, alias **JOHN GRADY**, the perpetrator of the horrid deed, it appears, had resolved upon absconding from his service, and was in the act of carrying away the rations from the hut, when **WILLIAMS**, the hutkeeper, an old man about 60 years of age, followed him a short distance and desired him to bring the rations back; M'Carthy refused to do so, upon which Williams made a blow at him with a shovel, and struck him, or rather the swag that was on his shoulder; M'Carthy then laid down the bundle, lifted an axe, and with one blow felled Williams to the

ground; and in order (as M'Carthy confessed himself to the writer of this) to put him out of pain, repeated the blows two or three times after; he then dragged him into the hut, and with the bedding and such other things as he could gather about the place, made a fire round the body, intending to consume it with the hut, and then, with the greatest possible coolness, put on his victim's boots, and walked away. Mr. **PATECEL**, the chief constable of Mudgee, received information of the circumstance about six days after the occurrence, and accompanied by constable **ASHTON**, repaired to the scene of the murder, and saw the body, which was almost burnt to a cinder, the head being however sufficiently preserved to show the wounds; the feet were shrivelled up to the size of those of a child. Mr. Patecel then started in pursuit of the murderer, and, with step as sure as the most acute of the Bow-street officers, followed on his track, passing Coolah where he (the murderer) stopped at Mr. Lawson's station and requested one of the men to ask the superintendent for the loan of an ink bottle (as it afterwards appeared to alter an order), and went on from that over to Mr. M'Cubbins's Inn, where Mr. Patecel happily got information of his route. Finally Mr. Patecel overtook him about four miles beyond Carroll, in company with two men who were looking for work. Too much praise cannot be given to this worthy officer for his indefatigable perseverance in capturing this wretch, with nothing to guide him save the knowledge that M'Carthy had a dog with him named "Larry" (which upon being called by his name, when overtaken at Carroll, answered to it); he scarcely all the way deviated a rod from the track of the murderer. This makes the fourth man that Mr. P. has apprehended for a similar crime since his appointment as chief constable at Mudgee. M'Carthy is an exile per ship *Havering*, 1849, about 35 years of age, a native of Limerick, 5 ft. 6in. high; held a ticket-of-leave for Maitland, and lived two years with Mr. **HAMILTON**, of Collyblue or Collaroy. He is not an ill-looking man, but on close inspection you can perceive something in his eyes and forehead that tells of the darkness that dwells within. I omitted to mention that he confessed all to the chief constable when handcuffed. Coolah. Nov. 15, 1852

**INQUEST.** - An inquest was held yesterday at the Crispin Arms, on view of the body of **ZACHARIAH WESTDROP**. **GEORGE WRIGHT**, residing in Clarence-street, deposed, that the deceased had been in his service as a domestic servant; he was a musician, and drank very hard. Witness saw him yesterday morning in the kitchen, where he had been cleaning candle-sticks; he suddenly took a fit of shivering like one in the ague, and appeared otherwise suddenly ill. Witness immediately got him a glass of hit brandy, but he fell down the steps, and witness at once sent for medical aid. The deceased, however, expired in about ten minutes. The opinion of the medical man who was called in having been obtained, the jury returned a verdict of died from apoplexy. *Abridged from the Empire, Nov. 6*

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - On Saturday, an inquest was held before the Coroner at the Three Tuns Tavern, on view of the body of **WILLIAM MARSHALL**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Dr. **NATHAN** stated that deceased was received into the Infirmary on the 29<sup>th</sup> September last; he had sustained injuries on various parts of the body, from a fall into a quarry, as had been stated when he was received; his scalp was severely lacerated, and the bone exposed, but not fractured. On Sunday fortnight it was found necessary to amputate the right arm; deceased was afterwards seized with vomiting and diarrhoea, and died on Friday night. Dr. N. was of opinion that death was caused by the fall. From the evidence of neighbours residing at Pyrmont, it appears that on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> September, shrieks were heard from the quarry on the Ultimo estate, opposite the Lyndhurst College. The quarry is forty-two feet deep, and is rented by the Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. **POLDING**. Search was made, and

deceased was found lying at the bottom of the quarry. Medical assistance was procured, and he was conveyed to the Infirmary as soon as practicable. It appears from the evidence that the quarry is only 12 or 15 yards from the thoroughfare alongside the water; and that it is not fenced in, or in any way secured against accidents of this kind. The jury found a verdict of "died from injuries accidentally received;" and added a rider, requesting the coroner to communicate with the proper parties as to the immediate and absolute necessity of fencing in the quarry in question. *Herald*, Nov. 15

SUICIDE. - A person named **BROWN**, who has for some length of time been in the employment of Mr. **CHARLES M'PHILLAMY**, as stone-mason, committed suicide on Friday last by hanging himself. It appears that he had been drinking at a neighbouring public-house, until entirely bereft of sense, and whilst suffering from *delirium tremens*, found his way to Charleton. As his malady took a violent form, care was taken to remove everything from his bed-room, by which it was imagined he could injure himself, but the cord used by him for straightening his work was by some means overlooked, and he was found on the following morning suspended by the neck and quite dead. An enquiry into the circumstances has been instituted by Captain **STEEL**, from which it appeared that excessive intemperance was the indirect cause of death. *Bathurst Free Press*, Nov. 13

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/876, 24/11 1852

INQUESTS. - Two inquests have been held by Mr. **PARKER** this week at the Maitland Hospital, one on Sunday, and the other yesterday. On Sunday an inquest was held on the body of **JAMES MAUNDERS**, an elderly man, who was admitted into the Hospital on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, being then suffering from inflammation of the liver, the result of excessive drinking; he was treated with every attention in the Hospital, and on the morning of Saturday last appeared a little better when Mr. **RILEY**, the resident apothecary, was making his early morning rounds, but about nine o'clock he fell against his bed as he was returning to it, and although lifted up immediately by the wardsman, who called up Mr. Riley at once, Maunders died almost immediately, being apparently seized with apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes.

The inquest held yesterday was on the body of **JAMES VICKERS**, a boy of ten years old. It appeared from the evidence that Vickers and another lad, **PATRICK MOYLAN**, seventeen years old, were in the employ of Mr. **REUBEN**, and had for some months past driven his ginger-beer cart; on the 25<sup>th</sup> September last they were driving the cart on the Morpeth road, when a dog ran barking in front of the horse, and frightened him so that he started off, but Moylan soon succeeded in pulling him up; the winkers however now slipped over his ears, and Moylan got down to re-adjust them, leaving Vickers holding the reins; the instant Moylan put his hand up to the horse's head the horse plunged round and round until Moylan, who was dashed against the fence, was compelled to let him go, when he galloped off at full speed, and soon upset the cart against and on the fence of one of the bridges, the poor boy Vickers being thrown off, part of the fence and the cart itself resting on his thigh. Moylan ran up immediately, and, with the assistance of some coal drivers passing, lifted the cart off poor Vickers, who was taken care of while Moylan galloped up to Maitland for Mr. Reuben. Mr. Reuben immediately took a cab down to the spot, and finding Vicker's thigh was broken he brought him at once to the Hospital. There Vickers remained, under the care of the medical attendants, until Monday, when he died from exhaustion produced jointly by the injury and a severe attack of influenza.

Moylan, in answer to a query, said the horse was quite free from vice, and that the dog running at him was the sole cause of the accident. The jury returned a verdict of death from the injuries, accelerated by influenza, and added a rider calling the Coroner's attention to "the nuisance occasioned by dogs prowling about the streets and public roads, one of the jury having himself met with a narrow escape.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - COOLAH

MURDER. - A most dreadful murder occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo, at a sheep station of Mr. Lowe's, about four miles from that gentleman's head station of Balaro. **PATRICK M'CARTHY**, alias **JOHN GRADY**, the perpetrator of the horrid deed, it appears, had resolved upon absconding from his service, and was in the act of carrying away the rations from the hut, when **WILLIAMS**, the hutkeeper, an old man about 60 years of age, followed him a short distance and desired him to bring the rations back; M'Carthy refused to do so, upon which Williams made a blow at him with a shovel, and struck him, or rather the swag that was on his shoulder; M'Carthy then laid down the bundle, lifted an axe, and with one blow felled Williams to the ground; and in order (as M'Carthy confessed himself to the writer of this) to put him out of pain, repeated the blows two or three times after; he then dragged him into the hut, and with the bedding and such other things as he could gather about the place, made a fire round the body, intending to consume it with the hut, and then, with the greatest possible coolness, put on his victim's boots, and walked away. Mr. **PATECEL**, the chief constable of Mudgee, received information of the circumstance about six days after the occurrence, and accompanied by constable **ASHTON**, repaired to the scene of the murder, and saw the body, which was almost burnt to a cinder, the head being however sufficiently preserved to show the wounds; the feet were shrivelled up to the size of those of a child. Mr. Patecel then started in pursuit of the murderer, and, with step as sure as the most acute of the Bow-street officers, followed on his track, passing Coolah where he (the murderer) stopped at Mr. Lawson's station and requested one of the men to ask the superintendent for the loan of an ink bottle (as it afterwards appeared to alter an order), and went on from that over to Mr. M'Cubbins's Inn, where Mr. Patecel happily got information of his route. Finally Mr. Patecel overtook him about four miles beyond Carroll, in company with two men who were looking for work. Too much praise cannot be given to this worthy officer for his indefatigable perseverance in capturing this wretch, with nothing to guide him save the knowledge that M'Carthy had a dog with him named "Larry" (which upon being called by his name, when overtaken at Carroll, answered to it); he scarcely all the way deviated a rod from the track of the murderer. This makes the fourth man that Mr. P. has apprehended for a similar crime since his appointment as chief constable at Mudgee. M'Carthy is an exile per ship *Havering*, 1849, about 35 years of age, a native of Limerick, 5 ft. 6in. high; held a ticket-of-leave for Maitland, and lived two years with Mr. **HAMILTON**, of Collyblue or Collaroy. He is not an ill-looking man, but on close inspection you can perceive something in his eyes and forehead that tells of the darkness that dwells within. I omitted to mention that he confessed all to the chief constable when handcuffed. Coolah. Nov. 15, 1852

THE GOLD FIELDS. - BRAIDWOOD.

NOV. 17. - One poor fellow, named **WALLING**, an old resident in the district, was drowned on returning home on the third day.

An accident also occurred at Major's Creek on Friday evening. A bank fell in, and covered a poor man who had gone in underneath picking out gold. Some 12 or 15 feet of earth were on him nearly 20 minutes. When extricated, he was of course quite dead. His name was **YATES**, an elderly man, but recently arrived from Bungonia.

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - This morning (Sunday), an old woman, about 65 years of age, named **STUCKEY**, who, for a number of years, has earned a livelihood by hawking cakes and sweetmeats about the streets, dropped dead. For some time past she had been afflicted with the prevailing epidemic [**INFLUENZA**], and yesterday was so ill that those who saw her feared she would not live long. Early this morning, while she was proceeding from her house to a neighbouring inn for the purpose of getting some milk, she fell down in the street and instantly expired. *Empire Goulburn Correspondent.*

**UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.** - Last night, about half-past eleven o'clock, as three seamen belonging to the *Vimeira*, which vessel is alongside Campbell's Wharf, were returning on board, they fell from the stage, but only two succeeded in regaining the shore; the other, named **EDWARDS**, was drowned. **W. RICHARDS** and **J. LEWIS**, the night watchmen at the new wharf, out off immediately, on the alarm being given, but were unable to recover the body, although they used every exertion with grapnels for some time. *Herald, Nov. 18*

**DREADFUL MURDER AT TAMBAROURA.** - On Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> November, at about ten o'clock, a woman named **HENAGHAN** came into the Commissioner's camp, and gave information that her husband had just been killed by another man of the name of **DUFFY**, who occupied a tent close to that of Henaghan's, about a mile from the camp. Immediately on receiving the information Mr. Commissioner **MILLER** despatched two of his troopers to the spot with the woman. There they found the body of a man apparently fifty years of age laying on his back, with a deep wound over the left eye, and another in the right groin, from which the blood had been flowing profusely. The man was quite dead. The police then proceeded to the hut occupied by Duffy, where they found a woman who was living with him, and whose name is supposed to be **SARAH GLIDE**. They took the woman into custody, and placed themselves behind some of the trees, waiting for the chance of the perpetrator of the deed returning to the tent. The night was quite dark. After waiting some time they saw a man, who proved to be Duffy, emerge from among some dead branches and foliage and cautiously approach the tent. Immediately they showed themselves, and summoned him to surrender, which he did without any resistance. He was covered with blood, one of his eyes dreadfully swollen, and on his right temple two severe gashes, apparently made by a stick. Mr. Miller and Mr. **BUCHANAN** shortly afterwards arrived on the spot, and after a careful search by the aid of a lantern, Mr. Buchanan found an old rusty bayonet covered with fresh blood, resting against a stump immediately behind Duffy's tent. Duffy and his paramour were immediately brought into camp, and the man placed in the lock-up for the night, two troopers being left to watch the body. Yesterday morning Dr. **CUTTING** proceeded to the spot for the purpose of examining the remains of the unhappy man, and shortly afterwards the Commissioners, Messrs. **MILLER, BUCHANAN,** and **BOWERMAN**, accompanied by one or two others, arrived on the ground, and having made the necessary enquiries, and received the Doctor's report, proceeded to give directions for the inhumation of the body. A grave was dug by the troopers assisted by another man, and about two o'clock the Commissioners returned, when Mr. Miller read the funeral service over the body, and the remains were deposited in their last resting place. The body presented a most ghastly spectacle, the orbit of the eye having been penetrated by the bayonet, or some instrument of the kind, puncturing the brain and causing immediate death, and the wound in the groin extending to several inches through the intestines. There were other appearances about the body indicative of the murdered man having been severely ill-used; and from the account given by

Mrs. Henaghan, it would appear that the two men had been fighting, when Duffy, who had the worst of it, went to his tent, and returning with the bayonet, accomplished his fell purpose. The woman stated that several persons went by, one man in particular having witnessed the infliction of the wounds. Mr. Miller despatched a trooper in the direction in which the man was supposed to have gone, but the messenger failed to obtain any clue to him. The prisoner Duffy will be brought up for examination this morning. He is in a very bad state; he denies at present having committed the deed, but admits that deceased and himself were fighting. - This morning the wretched man Duffy was brought up for examination, before **T.D. MILLER**, Esq., and Dr. Cutting, charged with the wilful murder of **THOMAS HENAGHAN**. After a protracted examination, Duffy was fully committed for trial, and his paramour Sarah Glide was also fully committed, the evidence of one of the witnesses showing that she was at least accessory after the fact. The foregoing account is correct in the main features, but some of the details of the deposition show the murder to be of a most atrocious description. *Herald's Tambaroura Correspondent*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/877, 27/11/1852

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/878, 01/12/1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Thursday last two horse teams belonging to Mr. **JAMES KEPPIE**, of the Meroo, were starting from Paterson on their way to the Meroo via Maitland; they took up some loading before leaving Paterson, and Mr. Keppie gave strict instructions to his four men to take special care to hold and lead the horses, as they were very fresh; the foremost dray had not got many yards from the town when the horses got restive in descending a little hill, and the middle horse kicking out, **WILLIAM BROWN**, who had hold of his head, let go, and called out to **SAMUEL KIRKLAND**, who was leaved the leader, to take care of himself; in another instant Kirkland was knocked down by the middle horse springing forward, and the horses starting off, the dray wheel passed over Kirkland's chest and head, injuring him fatally; he died in twenty minutes. An inquest was held on the body the following day, before Mr. **PARKER**, when the above evidence was given, and a verdict of accidental death recorded.

THE TAMBAROURA MURDER. - The Sheriff, on Thursday night, received an order to discharge the woman, **SARAH GLYDE**, in custody as an accessory before the murder of **HINEGAN**; the Attorney-General having declined to initiate a prosecution against her. *People's Advocate*, Nov. 27

TAMBAROURA. - A melancholy accident occurred on Wednesday evening last, at a reach on the Macquarie, a few miles below the junction of the Turon. A Mr. **SUTTON**, who is a local preacher and gold digger in that neighbourhood, attempted to swim his horse across the river; the horse sunk, and both were drowned. Dr. **CUTTING** went down to hold an enquiry on the body, which was found on Thursday morning near a ledge of rocks. Shortly after the inquest Mr. Sutton was interred upon the bank of the river, near the scene of his misfortune. He was a member of the Wesleyan society, and occasionally officiated as local preacher. A wife and two young children are left behind to mourn their loss. *Bathurst Free Press*, Nov. 27

SUSPICION OF MURDER.

Two seamen have been given into custody, on suspicion of murdering a waterman, named **SAMUEL SYKES**, who has been in the habit of plying between Dawes's Point and Balmain. The only thing we known for certain is, that on Wednesday last, Sykes accompanied the two men in his boat from the place where the *Great Britain* is lying, for the purpose, as it is understood, of conveying them to Balmain, since which

time Sykes has not been heard of. Finding that he did not return on Wednesday night, his wife became naturally uneasy, and knowing that he was in company with the two men in question, she called upon one of them, and on enquiring where her husband was, she was told that he had fallen overboard whilst coming from the *Great Britain*. In consequence of this statement, she immediately gave information to the police, and through the activity of Acting Inspector **COWELL**, both men have been apprehended. One was taken on board the *Elizabeth*, cutter, and the other on board the *Margaret*, bound for Melbourne. The man who was first apprehended (**THOMAS NELSON**), told Cowell, on being informed of the charge, that he “knew nothing about it,” that “Dan knew all,” that Sykes had been thrown out of the boat, and that he (Nelson) assisted to get him in again. It would also appear from the statement of the prisoner, that he and his companion were obliged to pull the boat on the occasion referred to, in consequence of Sykes being so drunk as to be unable to do so. The two men have been identified by the waterman’s wife, as those who were with him when he was last heard of. The boat, containing Sykes’s hat, was found on the water between Dawes’ Point and Captain Browne’s Bay. One of the prisoners was yesterday brought before the Water Police bench, but as the case has been remanded until Monday, for further evidence, we think it prudent to defer our report until the examination has been concluded. *Empire*, Nov. 27

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/879, 04/12/1852

SUPPOSED DEATH FROM VIOLENCE. - We are sorry to learn that a well known inhabitant of Maitland, Mr. **DAVID JENKINS**, who left Maitland early in November for the diggings, died at an inn near Warland’s Range, and was subsequently buried at Scone; but that afterwards it came to the knowledge of the Coroner there, Dr. **LITTLE**, that the circumstances attending his death rendered it necessary that an inquest should be held. Various wounds and bruises were observed on the body by Mfr. Jenkins’s niece, who did not arrive to attend on him till after he was dead. We have ascertained various circumstances mentioned in the deposition of his niece, but as the enquiry is not germinated we cannot now give them. One or two important witnesses appear to have left the district, as they cannot be found.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

CORONER’S INQUEST. - On Tuesday an inquest was held at the Rose Inn, before **HENRY GLENNIE**, Esq., and a jury of 12, touching the death of **JOHN SOUTHEND**, a middle aged man, who died in the lock-up on the previous day. From the evidence of **WILLIAM ANDERSON** and Mr. **SAMUEL HENRY HORNE**, it appeared that as Anderson was passing through Mr. **ANDREW M’DOUGALL’S** paddock, on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> November, on his way to the harvest field, he saw the deceased in one of the paddocks stark naked, his clothes lying beside him. Anderson tried to put on the deceased his shirt, but could not; he appeared to have been drinking, but talked quite sensible; was on his elbows and knees and appeared to be unable to stand on his feet; deceased said, “we can’t get a glass of grog here.” Anderson reported the case. Mr. Horne having heard a report that a man was mad in Mr. M’Dougall’s paddock, proceeded there about eight o’clock, and found him as described by the last witness; witness asked him several questions, but he appeared unable to answer them; witness with great difficulty got non him his shirt and trowsers, when he seemed as if he had lost the use of his limbs. Witness procured a horse and cart and had him conveyed to the lock-up – where upon his arrival he appeared to be much better, although he was decidedly insane. He intended to have brought him before the court as a lunatic, but this morning

(Tuesday), at eight o'clock, he died. He was seen in the town on Sunday last, when he appeared to be insane. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased's death was caused by exposure while in an unsound state of mind.

**ANOTHER INQUEST. - HORRIBLE DEATH OF A CHILD BY FIRE. -** Yesterday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. **P. M'KUSKER**, Scott's Flat, on the body of **MARY ANNE SIMPSON**, a little girl of ten years of age, there lying dead. The poor child's body appeared in a most dreadfully burnt state, the flesh in some places hanging in pieces, and most of the skin being burnt off the body. From the evidence of a little boy named **JOHN SMITH**, it appeared, that about dusk on Monday evening, he was looking through the window where deceased was, when he saw her apron catch fire from a puff of wind blowing it into the fire-place where she was standing; the whole of her clothes then caught fire, and she ran into the back kitchen, where the meat cask stood; she was still enveloped in flames, which caught to the rags that covered the meat cask. The little boy gave the alarm, when **THOMAS CHATSWORTH**, who was outside attending to a water slide, went in, and seeing the child in flames, rushed out for a bucket of water, which he threw over her and extinguished the flames. Dr. **GLENNIE** was then sent for, and the child was removed to the house of Mr. M'Kusker, a neighbour, where every care was taken of the poor sufferer that humanity could suggest, but the poor child lingered in great agony until noon on Tuesday, when death put an end to her suffering. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

**A MAN'S HEAD FOUND. -** The head of a human being was found yesterday evening, by Constable **THOMPSON**, on the beach at Lavender's Bay. From the appearance, it was evident that it had not long been severed from the body. Owing to the lateness of the hour, no stops were taken to establish the identity, but it is supposed to be the head of **SAMUEL SYKES**, who mysteriously disappeared on Wednesday last, and who has since not been heard of. He was a licensed waterman, and when last seen he was in his boat, in company with two seamen who are now in custody on suspicion of having murdered him. He is supposed to have been drowned in some part of the harbour between Dawes' Point and Balmain, but by what means is not known. *Empire, Dec. 1.* - [The two seamen were discharged by the Water Police Magistrate, after two or three days' enquiry. Their statement, which was borne out by all the evidence adduced, was that after they had been engaged by Mrs. Sykes to pull her drunken husband home, and had got part of the way across to Pyrmont with the boat, Sykes refused to go any further, and insisted on their putting back to Dawes' Point, which they eventually did, leaving Sykes lying in the boat, which they secured by the painter. They saw no more of Sykes or the boat afterwards.]

**CORONER'S INQUEST. -** An inquest was held yesterday, at Mr. Driver's public house, King-street, on the head of a human being found on the previous evening at Lavender Bay. The wife of **SAMUEKL SYKES**, the waterman who had been missing for the last few days, identified the head, as that of her husband, by the absence of two of his teeth. One of the men with whom deceased was last seen was in attendance, and stated that on landing from the boat he went to look for a constable to take charge of him, in consequence of his being intoxicated; and while he was gone Sykes put up his sail and he saw no more of him. There was no evidence to implicate any one as causing his death; and the jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned. *Empire, Dec. 2*

**SYDNEY NEWS. - THE GOLD FIELDS.**

**THE MEROO AND ITS TRIBUTARIES. -** A most melancholy accident occurred here a short time since, Mr. **DREWHURST**, well known in Sydney, and a late

resident at Pure Point, met with his death under the following circumstances. He was returning on horseback from Mr. Lunn's, when, by some unaccountable accident a projecting branch struck him on the forehead, unseated him, and he fell with violence on the back of his head, causing a concussion on the brain; he lingered for a day or two, and eventually expired, leaving a widow (who had only recently joined him) and two young children to mourn their loss. He was Secretary to the Long Creek Alluvial Miners' Protective Association, and was well and deservedly respected. The miners, to mark their approbation of his conduct, have liberally bestowed the unexpended balance of the Society's funds on the widow.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/880, 08/12/1852

INQUEST. - On Friday an inquest was held at Lemongrove, Paterson River, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **THOMAS M'DERMOTT**. It appeared that M'Dermott reached Mr. Swan's farm, Lemongrove, on Monday evening, the 29<sup>th</sup> November, in a very sickly state from influenza; he was kindly allowed to stop there the night, and next day at his own request; and on Wednesday he tried to reap a little, as he said as a return for Mr. Swan's kindness - but was obliged to leave and go into the house again; he told Mr. Swan he had paid his last money for medical advice, and Mr. Swan intended to send him in to the hospital the next day, but that evening, about half-past nine, he died, having got rapidly worse; in the course of Wednesday afternoon M'Dermott fell from a stool, while alone in the house, and cut his forehead against a camp oven. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

HUMAN REMAINS. - About five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Sergeant **THOMPSON**, of the Sydney Police, found a portion (from the hips downwards) of a human body, floating in Lavender's Bay, and had it conveyed to the dead house at the Infirmary. In the pockets of the moleskin trousers were three keys, which may be seen at the receiving watch-house, in Druitt-street. Supposed to be the remains of the man **SYKES**, whose head was found in the same vicinity a few days since. *Herald*, Dec. 6

SHOALHAVEN, DEC. 3. - A fatal accident occurred here a few days ago, from the effects of furious and thoughtless riding. A stockman of Mr. Berry's, while proceeding from the ferry to the homestead, took a blackfellow on behind him, and began racing, when unfortunately the mare which they were riding came against a tree, throwing both to the ground insensible; the blackfellow recovered, but the stockman, after living only a few hours, died from concussion of the brain, the effects of his fall. *Herald*

SHOCKING DEATH. - Yesterday morning the dead body of Mr. **E.W. SPICER** was discovered by a little boy on the bank of the river, nearly opposite the pound, and information of the circumstance having been given to the Chief Constable, he proceeded to the spot and found him completely lifeless, lying on the ground with his feet in the stirrup-irons of a saddle, under a perpendicular bank some 18 or 20 feet high. Judging by the marks and tracks about the spot, he had been precipitated from the top whilst on horse-back, the violence of the fall having burst the girths and set the animal at liberty. Upon examination, it was perceived that the back portion of the head was fractured, and the sum of £19 was found in one of his trowser pockets. An inquest was held upon his remains, at the Black Bull Inn, and a *post mortem* investigation held by Dr. **MACHATTIE**, who gave it as his opinion that death resulted from concussion of the brain. Verdict accordingly. *Bathurst Free Press*, Dec. 4

DEATHS.

... And also their brother, **JOHN ROOTLE HENDERSON**, who was lost at sea in the schooner *Harriette*, on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> August last, aged 31 years.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/881, 11/12/1852

THE GOLD FIELDS. - THE OVENS.

P.S. - Another sad instance of the absurd display of firearms which is made at all diggings occurred about six days before I left. A party at breakfast were parading their arms, when a revolver went off, shooting a Mr. **HILL**, of Melbourne, through the stomach, who lingered about 20 hours after the accident. Mr. Hill was formerly of the Royal Navy, and had served on an arctic expedition, and was I believe a near relative of Lord Hill. Sydney, December 1

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR. - About a fortnight since, Mr. **JOHN CROKER**, who resides near Kangaloola, went to the Tuena diggings with a lot of fat cattle for sale, and having disposed of them, went with a man, nicknamed **Linky**, to a tent for the purpose of getting drink; he produced in payment a £5 note, but the tent-keeper not being able to give him any change, his friend Linky took the £5 note up and endeavoured to substitute a £1 for it, but was detected; he however kept possession of the £5, as Croker was somewhat intoxicated. A man who was there, seeing this, seized Linky's horse and refused giving it up until the £5 note was restored. They then went away, and Croker was not seen afterwards, until about four days after some boys were fishing in the creek, when a fish-hook became entangled and so fast to something that it prevented them drawing it up, but having got assistance they drew up the body of Croker, the hook being fast to his clothing. The body when examined was found to have four or five teeth knocked out, severely bruised on the side, and a severe cut on the back of the head. No money was found on him, and in the absence of a coroner he was buried at Kangaloola yesterday week. We hear that it is the intention of the coroner, Mr. **NORTH**, to have the body exhumed and to hold an inquest thereon without delay. Linky, it appears, came to the tent the morning after his being there with Mr. Croker, and gave up the £5 note and took away his horse.

*Goulburn Herald, Dec. 4*

DEATHS.

Drowned at sea, in the schooner *Harriette*, on the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> August last, **NATHANIEL M'PHAIL**, second son of Mr. **THOMAS M'PHAIL**, of Newcastle, aged 20 years.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/882, 15/12/1852

MANSLAUGHTER. - On Saturday an inquest was held at Black Creek, before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of an infant nine months old, named **MARY HOW**. From the evidence of constable **JOSEPH DAVIS** and Dr. **BLICK** it appeared that the mother of the deceased child, **MARY FURLONG**, alias **WEST**, lives with a man named West, who is now at the diggings; for months past she has given way to drink, and her house has been kept as a disorderly house; from complaints made by the neighbours Davis has several times visited the house, and found the mother absent, and her four children dirty and neglected, and wanting food, and on searching for her on such occasions he almost invariably found her at public-houses, drunk, and he made a point of sending her home to her children, and cautioning her as to her conduct. Dr. Blick also spoke as to her habitual drunkenness and neglect of her child, from his own observation, but one of the neighbours, **MARY MAGGS**, who was called as a witness, said she knew nothing about Mrs. West's house or habits, or her treatment of her children. On Wednesday evening last Davis again went to the house,

and found the mother absent, and the children all dirty and neglected, the poor baby being apparently in a dying state from neglect and starvation; he went to look for the mother, and found her at Mr. Shepherd's public-house drunk, and sent her home, but the next day the infant died; Davis went to the house after the infant's death, and cautioned the mother, who was still drunk, not to bury it till the Coroner had been sent for, but she did bury it. Dr. Blick, it appears, was on Tuesday called on by Mrs. West about the infant, and he made up some medicine for it, but it was never sent for. A post mortem examination was made by Dr. **BEARDMORE**, who found the body emaciated, and the stomach and intestines nearly empty; the right lung, the stomach, and the peritoneal coat, were inflamed; the heart healthy but congested, and the liver enlarged and congealed; all these appearances of disease, after having heard the evidence, he should presume were caused by neglect and want of proper and sufficient nourishment, the child presenting every promise of growing up healthy and vigorous; to the best of his opinion the child died from neglect and want of proper nourishment. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the mother, Mary Furlong, alias West, who was committed for trial by the Coroner.

**INQUEST ON A CHINAMAN.** - On Friday last an inquest was held at Mr. Eales's, Berry Park, by Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of a Chinaman named **ONG YEAD**, who had been for twelve months in Mr. Eales's employ. It appeared that Ong, who was employed in minding sheep, had occasionally complained of pains in his stomach, and last week asked permission from Mr. Eales, jun., to go to his hut, as he was poorly, which was granted; Mr. Eales enquired for him next day, and two days afterwards was asked by another Chinaman to go and see him, which he did, and found Ong laying on the grass outside his hut, apparently suffering great pain; Mr. Eales had him removed in to his bed, and sent word to Mrs. Eales, who came and administered some restorative medicine to Ong, who did not appear seriously ill; but a few hours afterwards he died. The jury having carefully examined the body, returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/883, 18/12/1852**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** - On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. **PARKER**, at Mr. Borthwick's, the Victoria Inn, on the body of **GEORGE HARVEY**. It appeared from the evidence that Harvey, an aged man, got his living by selling pies about the streets; he was a habitual drunkard, and for the last ten weeks he had hardly ever been sober; on Wednesday, about one o'clock, he entered Mr. Borthwick's, called for a glass of rum, and asked for something to eat; some stewed beef and potatoes were given to him, but he had hardly tasted a mouthful when he was suddenly taken ill, and in a few minutes he died, before a medical man, who was instantly sent for, could reach the house. There were no marks of violence on the body. The jury, without requiring the evidence of a medical man, returned a verdict of death from natural causes, accelerated by frequent acts of intemperance.

**MUDGE.** - An inquest was held at the Court-house, on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, before **HENRY BAYLY**, Esq., coroner, on the body of a person named **JAMES MASTERS**. It appeared from the evidence of two men who were working with the deceased in a bed claim at the Long Creek, on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, that a large quantity of earth immediately in front of the deceased gave way, and struck him with such force as to dash his head against a piece of quartz rock, thereby breaking the poor fellow's skull, and scattering his brains about in all directions. His companions were not injured. The verdict of the jury was, that the deceased met with his death by the accidental falling in of a large quantity of earth.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/884, 22/12/1852

DEATHS BY DROWNING. - On Sunday afternoon last no less than three persons were drowned in the river Hunter, at West Maitland. About three o'clock a well-known inhabitant, **JOSEPH CRUMP**, with his young son, **WILLIAM JOHN CRUMP**, started in a boat from the bank at the rear of Crumps's premises, apparently intending to fish, Crump paddling along the boat by a piece of batten; the boat was a very small one, and very much out of repair, there being a large hole in the side, just above water; a neighbour, Mrs. **ROBINSON**, who saw them start, asked Crump if the boat was not unsafe, but he replied there was no danger; he had not however got very far up the river when he was seen by another neighbour, Mrs. **HORDEN**, to drop his batten, and stoop to pick it up out of the water, and then fall back in the boat; immediately he rose up he tried to turn the boat towards land, at the same time calling to his eldest son to come and help him; the boat was now evidently sinking fast, and in another moment went down, and Crump tried to make for the shore, only a few yards distant, holding his little boy above the water. Mrs. Horden ran to a neighbour, **DENIS CORCORAN**, and gave the alarm, and Corcoran, who was lying on his bed half dressed, ran instantly down to the water side, and swam to where he saw a head just visible, that of Crump, the poor little boy having sunk by this time; Corcoran reached and caught hold of Crump, but at the same instant his own trousers came down about his heels, and he had barely time to give Crump one push towards land, and make for the shore himself, just escaping with his life. Crump was never seen again, nor could Corcoran, who instantly plunged in again, and dived, find him; in about two hours the body was found, and the little boy's also, in deep water; as Crump's body was six yards nearer the shore, it is presumed he could have saved himself had he not tried to save his son.

About three o'clock also several children were bathing together at M'Dougall's Falls, a favorite spot, from the river being fordable there for some distance out, and right across at particular places at low tide - but at a spot that has been the scene of several fatal accidents to young bathers, there being a great quantity of weed there, and several places of varying depth, holes and channels. Among the lads was **FRANCIS COALFAX**, seven years old, who had been chidden by his mother only the previous day for going to the river, but who on this occasion ventured out further than usual, and a strong tide forcing him back by a different path, he sunk, after some struggling; another little boy gave the alarm, and **ALEXANDER WATT**, a lad of fourteen, who was standing some little way off, ran up, and being able to swim, rushed out at once to the spot indicated, and immediately found the body of the little boy, in water only up to Watt's chest. The body was quite cold when taken to the shore, and although every means was then used to recover life, and Dr. **M'CARTNEY**, who was sent for, was on the spot shortly after, and tried every means, life proved to be extinct, although the poor boy had not been a quarter of an hour under water. - On Monday inquests were held by Mr. **PARKER** on all three bodies, and verdicts returned in each case of accidental death.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT NEWCASTLE. - We believe that no less than three fatal accidents occurred at Newcastle during the week. - One man was drowned while endeavouring to save some of the wreck of the cutter *Young Queen*. - Another man, while driving a team through a coal tunnel, was struck on the back of the neck by a piece of earth or coal which fell from the roof of the tunnel, and was killed on the spot. - The particulars of the third case will be found under the head "Newcastle."

DEATH OF A CHILD BY BURNING. - On Monday an inquest was held, by Mr. **PARKER**, at the Four Mile Creek, on the body of **JOHN BROWN STEPHENS**, a

little boy of 4½ years old. It appeared that on Sunday afternoon the little boy, his sister of 8 years old, and **JAMES ASMAN**, a boy of 7 years, were playing together in the bush, when Asman lit a fire with some matches he had brought, and little Stephens busied himself in bringing branches to the fire; while doing so his clothes caught fire, and he was so dreadfully burned that he died in an hour after he was carried home by his step-father, whom Asman ran to fetch. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - NEWCASTLE.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - About twelve o'clock on Friday a melancholy and fatal accident occurred to a young man, 18 years of age, a miner in the employ of the Australian Company, named **CHARLES BROADGUT**. It appeared that Broadgut, in company with a young man named **WALTERS**, were proceeding along the beach in search of pig-faces (an indigenous fruit), the deceased having a loaded gun which he was trailing behind him, when, from some weeds catching hold of the trigger, the gun exploded, and lodged the contents in one of his forearms, tearing away a considerable portion of the muscle. Drs. **BOWKER** and **STACY** were sent for, and were speedily on the spot, but surgical assistance could be of no avail as deceased had bled to death. An inquest was held on Saturday before the Coroner, Dr. Stacy, when the above facts having been deposed, a verdict of accidental death was recorded. This is the second accident of this nature that has occurred in Newcastle within the last two months, a person of the name of **THOMAS BRIDGES** having met with a similar accident, which caused his arm to be amputated within two inches of the shoulder.. Dec. 19, 1852.

THREE MEN SAID TYO HAVE BEEN MURDERED AT THE OVENS. - On the authority of a private letter dated Goulburn, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1852, we give the following statement, which appears to have been brought to that place by **WILLIAM BRIGGS**, who belongs to Goulburn, but left it for the diggings at the Ovens about three months ago, and had returned, having travelled by the mail from the Ovens to Yass, and hired as conveyance from thence to Goulburn. Briggs left the Ovens eight days ago, arrived on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>, and states that one **MARCUS**, late keeper of the Steam Engine public-house, Parramatta-street, Sydney, was murdered under the following circumstances:- **MARCUS** had a mare taken from him by some bushrangers, and he went after them and demanded the mare; they laid hold of him and dragged him off his horse into the bush, and suspended him to a tree by the neck, and after tying his hands behind him; they shot him through the forehead. The Commissioner stationed at Spring Creek and his police were in pursuit of the bushrangers, and had stopped a short time with Brigg's party, and communicated the above. About two miles from this Briggs found the body of a man in a creek, who had his arms tied behind him, who had also been murdered, having been shot through the throat and in the breast; when he was found there was a saddle-bag across his body; he was supposed to be the son of an innkeeper on the road near Melbourne. Briggs also states that Mr. **JAMES SINCLAIR** of this town, had absented himself from his family since the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, and that Mr. Davis and his (Sinclair's) eldest son (**DANIEL**) had been out looking for him, but the only information they could get was from some police, who heard from a man whom they found in the bush, that he saw a man suspended from a tree, who is was supposed was Mr. Sinclair; when he wandered away he (Mr. S.) had a considerable sum of money on him; the place where he was seen lying was about four miles from Mr. Reid's Mill. The parties concerned in the above tragical affair are supposed to be a part of the Black

Forest mob from Melbourne. Briggs states that the Chief Constable of Albury knows the party, and is out after them. *Herald, Dec. 20*

**MANSLAUGHTER.** - A warrant has been issued by the magistrates of the Burnett district, for the apprehension of a man named **GEORGE MAY**, charged with the manslaughter of **JOHN COURTENAY**, at Couranga, on the 14<sup>th</sup> October last. He is described as follows:- 5 feet 5 inches high, black hair, limps slightly, fingers of right hand severely burnt; was at one time a jockey on the Homebush Race Course. When last heard of he was making his way towards Maitland on the Northern Road. *Empire*

**MAITLAND MERCURY, 10/885, 25/12/1852**

**THE MURDERS AT THE OVENS.** - In our last we copied, from the Sydney papers, the particulars of the murder by bushrangers, at the Ovens diggings, of three persons, Mr. **MARCUS**, of Sydney, Mr. **JAMES SINCLAIR**, late of Goulburn, and a third person. The *Herald* of Wednesday contains a letter dated Spring Creek, Dec. 12, narrating these outrages, and reporting the apprehension of several men nominally diggers as the supposed murderers. The following is an extract from this letter: "All these murders have been committed between Albury and the Ovens River. Such wholesale deeds could not be allowed to go on long, and the diggers began to open their eyes and watch the movements of certain n licensed diggers, who did not hurt themselves sinking many holes. On Saturday a Commissioner and few policemen went to the tent of some of the parties who were watched, and found two men pretending to be asleep outside – roused them up, and surveyed them; one of them answered the description of the murderers; at the same time a digger stepped forward and identified him as the man who had stopped and robbed him the day before. They were asked for their fire-arms, but denied that they had any. The tent was searched, indeed demolished in less than two minutes, and the men secured. In and about the tent were found such evidence of their guilt that created consternation far and wide; guns, revolvers, daggers, bags of bullets, slugs, and house-breaking implements, amongst other things the murdered man's (**STONE**) coat and a watch belonging to Marcus; on the production of these last two articles, the diggers, who were strong in numbers, wanted to seize the rascals and hang them at once, but another Commissioner and force coming up, surrounded the prisoners, and that prevented them from being Lynched. Shortly after a third man was taken. These three were escorted by a Commissioner and troopers to the camp and upper diggings, while the other Commissioner with the assistance of the diggers secured three others who were frequently seen in company with the former three, and one of these was sworn to as one of the mounted robbers and murderers. Report states that six men have been taken at Albury, and the police are on the track of others towards Sydney."

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - An inquest was held on Monday, at the Red Lion Inn, Camperdown, on view of the body of **ROGER GATEHOUSE**, who was found lying dead on the high road, at an early hour on Sunday morning. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had taken a glass of liquor on the previous evening, but had not drunk above a moderate quantity. His person displayed no marks of violence, and in accordance with the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of died from accidental suffocation.

An inquest was held the same day, at Mr. Collins's public-house, in Parramatta-street, on view of the body of **ELIZABETH FACEY**, aged three years and two months. The deceased had been sent, with her brothers and sisters, to buy themselves some sweetmeats on Sunday afternoon. The deceased did not return home with the other children, and after a diligent search had been made, he body was found in a

well, and quite dead. The well was represented as being about eight feet deep, and in the back yard of the deceased's parents premises at the Glebe; it was not covered; the water was not more than twenty-one inches deep. Verdict – died from suffocation by drowning. *Empire, Dec. 22*

**FATAL BOAT ACCIDENT.** - On Sunday last, **JOHN NEWMAN** and **MARIANNE** his wife, a person named **EDWARD GRAHAM**, **MARY ANN SODIN**, and a half-caste female named **BRADFELD**, who co-habited with Graham, hired a boat for a day in order to have a Sunday's pleasure excursion on the water. Towards the afternoon the weather became boisterous, and the party was at the time at Clark's Island. The men had gone ashore, leaving the women with two children in the boat. The boat accidentally got adrift, which being perceived by Graham, he hastily undressed and swam off to bring it back, but sad to relate, he got drowned, and one of the females states her belief that he was seized by a shark. The boat was eventually recovered, and the woman and children saved, but from the dangerous state of the water, rendered turbulent by the violence of the wind, it was deemed impracticable to go back with it to the waterman's stair, from whence it had been hired. Prior to the accident John Newman had been in the water, and had received a sharp cut in the forehead, which struck against the edge of a rock. Graham had staunched the blood with a shirt belonging to Newman, and which was very much imbrued in consequence. Soon after the alarm was raised that a man was drowned, one of the band of the 11<sup>th</sup> regiment chanced to pass that way, and noticing the blood-stained shirt, which had been thrown by Newman into the water, he raised it out with his walking stick, and placed it on a stone near the place. It got noised about that there had been some foul play, and a constable, named **MOORE**, took Newman, his wife, and the other two females into custody, on suspicion of murder. Constable **REGAN** came up, and perceiving that Moore was drunk, he took the prisoners from him, and conveyed them to the watch-house. Yesterday the four were placed at the bar of the Police Court, charged with the murder of Edward Graham. After a long and patient investigation of the case before the Police Magistrates, and Messrs. **FORBES** and **HILL**, the accused were acquitted of the charge, and released from custody. *Empire, Dec. 23*

**MAITLAND MERCURY**, 10/886, 29/12/1852

**HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS.** - **DUNGOG.**

About a week ago a fine little boy, a son of Mr. **JOSEPH ROSS**, of this town, was accidentally scalded, and died next day.

**CORONER'S IN QUESTS.** - Yesterday five inquests were held before the Coroner, in different parts of Sydney.

1. On the body of **REUBEN INNES**, lying dead in Sussex-street. His mother had been washing, and had left a boiler of soap-suds in the kitchen, where the deceased was crawling about. She missed him, and, upon going into the kitchen, found him lying with his head in the boiler. He was quite dead. Verdict – "Accidental suffocation."

2. An inquest was held at the Three Tuns Tavern, Elizabeth-street, on view of the body of **ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM HENNER**, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Mr. **EDWARD HENNER**, residing at Cockatoo Island, stated that he was the father of the deceased, who was nearly seven years old. On the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> instant he and the deceased were fishing off Cockatoo Island, but, being sent for on official business, he left deceased fishing close to the sentry. He returned in about 20 minutes, and, missing his son, asked the sentry where he had gone. The latter

replied, that he had not remained more than a minute after his father had gone. Mr. Henner resumed his fishing, thinking deceased had gone home. At tea the poor boy was missed, and search being made his hat was found floating on the water a few yards from where he had been fishing. Mr. **ORMSBY** immediately ordered the boat out, and the body to be dragged for, but without success. Mr. Henner added that he and deceased were in the habit of fishing off the island daily. The water is about 35 feet deep off the wharf, but is shallow for some feet at the edge, and he was of opinion that the deceased had dropped his line, and reaching for it, had accidentally fallen into the water. The body was found on Thursday evening. Verdict, accidental death.

3. An inquest at the same tavern, on view of the body of a man, name unknown, then lying dead in the Sydney Infirmary. Sergeant **THOMPSON**, of the Sydney Police, stated that on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, he received information that a portion of a dead body (the head) was seen at Sailors' Bay, Middle Harbour. He proceeded thither, and found a human skull, some of the ribs, the legs, and one arm of a man. From the remains of the clothes deceased appeared to have been a sea-faring man. About twenty yards from where the portions of the body were found, there is a precipice about 90 feet deep. The body was found at high water mark. A Manila man had been known to have been gathering shells in that locality for some months past, and it was thought that deceased was the man; but nothing certain had been ascertained in respect to his identity. Verdict, found dead; how or by what means the jury cannot say.

The two other inquests were on the bodies of **BRIDGET EDWARDS** and **ANNIE H. FORSBURY**, both married women, and each of whom died rather suddenly from diseases brought on by long continued intemperance. Verdicts were returned accordingly. *Abridged from the Herald, December 25*