TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Attention to the following rules will prevent disappointment:—We do not insert anonymous letters.—We cannot undertake to return rejected communications; nor to give publicity to letters which are unaccompanied by an assurance that copies have not been sent to other papers.—Letters should be addressed to "The Editor" and sent by post or dropped in our letter-box, not given to members of our staff; nor should a decision with respect to their admissibility be expected otherwise than through the paper.—As a rule communications received later than noon on the day preceding publication are not inserted in the next issue.—It will be well to bear in mind that the insertion of letters cannot be claimed as a right; and that except in special cases, replies to letters or articles which have appeared in other papers are inadmissible.

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Days of the Week.	Day of Month	Sun rises.	Sun sets.	Moon's age.
SATURDAY	Dec. 25	4 49	7 11	N.
SUNDAY	„ 26	4 50	7 11	1
MONDAY	„ 27	4 50	7 12	2
TUESDAY	„ 28	4 51	7 12	3
WEDNESDAY	„ 29	4 53	7 13	4
THURSDAY	„ 30	4 53	7 13	5
FRIDAY	„ 31	4 53	7 13	6

The Goulburn Herald.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1886.

NINETEEN centuries ago, within probably a single decade, a village maiden of Galilee had the quiet tenor of her life strangely and suddenly interrupted. According to the writers of our sacred books, the angel Gabriel appeared to her with the salutation, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." In the midst of her troubled surmisings as to what the salutation might mean, this strange visitor from other worlds announced to her that she was to become the mother of the Christ, an honour coveted by all the women of her nation. Up to that period of time little or nothing is known concerning the life of the virgin mother, the stories of her maidenhood being wholly legendary; but from that period her name is enshrined in Christian history, and she became one of the great historic characters of the world. In due time the promise was fulfilled, and in a rude lime-stone grotto attached as a stable to a caravanserai in the Judean village of Bethlehem, the Christ was born. Such is the genesis of Christmastide, the great festival of the Nativity, which with hearty rejoicings is celebrated through all Christendom at this period of the year.

The festival of Christmastide is the celebration of the birth of the great Founder of the Christian religion, and the inauguration of the Christian era. The idea popularly entertained is that our Lord was born on the 25th December, and that day we distinguish from all others by calling it Christmas Day. In point of fact, however, we have no certain knowledge of the period of the nativity. Neither the day, the month, nor the year in which Christ was born is known with absolute certainty. On this subject a variety of opinions are still entertained by learned men. The sacred writers—especially St. Luke—give us various minute particulars concerning the birth of Christ. They tell us that He was born in Bethlehem, that the virgin-mother was crowded out of the caravanserai, that her child first saw the light in a stable, among the hay and straw spread for the food and rest of cattle; that the infant babe was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Yet with all these particulars the date of the nativity is left in dark uncertainty. The Christian era commencing with the Julian year January 1, 751, A.U.C. (from the foundation of Rome), is acknowledged to be incorrect, if referred to the nativity of Christ, but it will ever be retained as a long-established era, commencing from a known fixed epoch, and thus furnishing a convenient standard for the comparison of time. So far from our Lord being born in the year 754 of the Roman era, it is most probable that he was born in the year 749 of that era. This period is accepted by students as the probable year of Christ's birth, because it most harmonises with the chronological statements of the evangelists. As to the day of the nativity, that again is lost in uncertainty. Tradition has fixed the 25th December, but this date is simply arbitrary. As much may be said in favour of December, as of any other month in the year, but that is all, whilst the 25th of this month is open to the inference that it was selected on other than historic grounds. The fact that the tradition which placed our Lord's birth on the 25th December, also placed the birth of John the Baptist on the 24th June preceding, the annunciation to the Virgin on the 25th March, and the day of Elizabeth's conception on the 24th September, or on the four cardinal points of the year, leads to the inference that these periods were selected with reference to their astronomical importance, rather than as the real dates of the events themselves. The early churches had no festival of the nativity, and it is a matter of history that the observance of the 25th December was first instituted by Julius the Bishop of Rome in the fourth century; but from that day to the present the festival of Christmastide has been one of the greatest festivals of the Christian year. At the same time, it should never be forgotten that whilst the sacred writers leave the exact period of the nativity in doubt, they never leave in doubt the fact that Christ was born as the Saviour of men, and that the angel of the annunciation brought good tidings of great joy to all people.

There are two aspects which Christmas wears to us all. It is both a religious and a social festival. As the church's festival of the nativity, it is a festival of joy, and hence it has become associated with the amenities of social life. Christmas is always welcome. In many hearts it seems to touch and open a spring of hidden pleasure. Expressions of gladness are sure to prepondorate everywhere, and in many homes the tears and sorrows of the year will be forgotten, amid the rippling of youthful laughter, and the pleasure of many friendly greetings. Of all seasons of the year, Christmas is a season for the utterance of kind words, for happy meetings, family re-unions, and pleasant gatherings of friends and kindred. As a social festival it is the one festival of the year which appeals to Britons and their descendants the wide world over. It brings memories of home, and of the old-country to many of our fellow-colonists. Indeed, wherever Britons are found, whether shivering amid the snows of an Arctic winter where the absence of the sun is feebly compensated by the pale streamers of tremulous auroras, or sweltering beneath a tropical sun on the banks of the Congo, or amid the broad-leaved palms of New Guinea, the very name of Christmas will awaken memories of the old home and fill the mind with the imagery of its associations. As by common consent, Christmas has come to be associated with family gatherings, with social re-unions, and with the joyful aspects of domestic life. In the old country friends will travel from afar, to gather in the old home, and amid the frosts and snows of winter will celebrate the festivites of Christmas-tide. There, the holly and the mistletoe will grace many a festive board, and youth and age will meet together, with the smiles and laughter of a common joy. In these colonies, amid far different scenes, with blue skies and the streaming sunshine of summer tempting to picnics and out-door enjoyments, old associations will not be forgotten, and family gatherings will be the order of the day.

To all these things, we say—let the tide of happy life flow on. The world's hard pathways are trodden by the feet of millions of weary toilers, and the cares, the worries, and the frictions of daily life press more or less upon us all. And if the better and kindlier sentiments of our nature unfold themselves amid the festivities of Chrismastide like flowers in the sunshine, we shall be gainers and not losers by its scenes of joy. The bow that is always strung soon loses its elasticity, and the pleasure of life soon fades out when the mind has no relaxation from the hard exactions of modern life. One of the benefactions that Father Christmas should bring to us all, is the smoothing of rugged pathways, and the development of the better and brighter side of our nature. To all our readers we wish in the best sense of the salutation, A Merry Christmas. And so it will be, if it comes to soften the asperities of life, to broaden our human sympathies, and to kindle the fires of love and unity on the domestic hearth. And to this salutation we add another—a Happy New Year to all.

GOULBURN POLICE COURT.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23.

BEFORE the Police Magistrate.

Drunkenness.—One defendant was fined 5/- or twenty-four hours' in the lockup.

Drunk at the Railway Station.—John Miller, a young man, was charged with being drunk on the platform of the railway station on the 23rd instant. He pleaded guilty, and was fined £5 and in default of payment was sent to jail for one month.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Before the Police Magistrate.

Possession of Stolen Property.—Ellen DAWSON, better known as the Queen of the South, was charged with having in her possession a bracelet belonging to Ellen Connors and supposed to be stolen.

Defendant said that the bracelet was her property but Ellen Connors deposed that it belonged to her and that she had lost it.

Defendant was sent to prison for two months with hard labour.

Breach of Municipal By-Laws.—Henry White was fined 5/- with 2/6 costs for driving round a corner at a pace faster than a walk.

Obstruction of Divine Service.—At a subsequent period of the day before the Police Magistrate and Messrs. Meyer and Clifford, Francis Robert Lewis Rossi, captain, was charged with preventing a clergyman from officiating in a place of divine worship. Particulars of this case will be found elsewhere.

SECOND-CLASS ACCOMMODATION BY EXPRESS TRAIN.—We are requested to publish the following letter received by Mr. P. Mc Shane from Mr. Teece M.P., in reference to second-class accommodation by express train:—

Sydney, 18th December 1886.

Dear Sir,—The question of providing second-class accommodation for passengers by the express train, has been for some time under the consideration of the authorities, and I am informed that arrangements are being made by which a limited number of second-class passengers will be permitted to travel by this train, preference being given to those persons who purchase tickets for the longer distances. Truly yours, William Teece.

THE VIVIANS.—Miss Helen Vivian, an accomplished actress of the emotional order, supported by the favourite comedian Arthur Vivian and a competent dramatic company, will appear for the first time in the hall of the mechanics' institute on Monday evening. The combination is complete of its kind and should prove a strong attraction during the holiday season. The first production will be the sensational and humorous drama "Neck for Neck" of which a Sydney contemporary remarks:—"On Saturday night a piece new to Sydney, entitled 'Neck for Neck,' was produced to an overflowing house. There is plenty of action in the drama, and heaps of comedy, so that it 'goes' as well as the author himself could desire. Indeed, he must have had a Sydney audience in his mind's eye when he wrote it. It is too, by no means without considerable interest, and judging from the applause which again greeted the various incidents, from a crowded house last night, on the occasion of its repetition, it is a great success. The drama was very well put upon the stage, and will doubtless draw crowded houses for the rest of the week." On Tuesday evening one of the latest successes of Drury Lane "The Wide World" will be produced and the programme changed each evening during the remainder of the week.

GOOD TEMPLARY.—A most successful and enjoyable evening was spent on last Saturday at the temperance hall, Pitt street, Sydney, the occasion being the welcoming of Brother N. T. Collins of Gunning, grand worthy vice templar of New South Wales, on his return from a trip to England and America. Brother Collins had gone to England immediately after the annual session of the grand lodge of New South Wales last Easter, at which he had been selected as the representative from this colony to the international temperance congress, which was held in London last June, and at which he read a paper which has since been very highly spoken of by both the English and American press. The Yass Courier states that Brother Collins arrived home at Gunning on last Tuesday, and was met at the railway station by over a hundred members of the order, as well as by many other friends who gave him a right hearty welcome. It is the intention of the good templars of the district to invite Brother Collins to a banquet in commemoration of his return during the early part of next month.

GOULBURN HOSPITAL.—Several members of the committee have canvassed for subscriptions to the funds of the hospital this week, and about £75 has been collected. We are requested to state that persons willing to subscribe will oblige by forwarding their subscriptions to the secretary (Mr. A. W. Bullen) or the hon. treasurer (Mr. T. Marsden) before the close of the present month so as to secure for the year the proportional government subsidy of £1 for £1.

GOULBURN LAND OFFICE.—On Thursday last Alexander Cameron applied for a conditional purchase of 40 acres, Turallo; and William O'Mara for conditional purchase of 50 acres and conditional lease of 150 acres, Quialigo. The office closed at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, and will re-open on Wednesday next at ten a.m., Tuesday having been declared a public holiday. The office will close again on Friday next at three p.m., and re-open on the following Monday, January 3, at ten a.m.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY.—Tuesday the 25th January next has been proclamed a public holiday in the district of Berrima in connection with the cricket match English Eleven v. Bowral.

IMPOUNDED AT GUNDAROO, on 18th December, from Back Creek; sum due 9/6:—Black horse, like I over I near shoulder, shod all round, sore back, white spot off ribs, pulled tail, aged 15 hands. To be sold 6th January.

Mr. William Joachim, stock inspector of Moama, was thrown from his buggy on Wednesday afternoon and died the same night from the injuries received.

A telegram from Jervis Bay states that the steamer Corangamite went to pieces on Wednesday afternoon.

John Lewis and Robert Lewis, the two young men who robbed the National Bank at Albert Park, Melbourne, have been sentenced, the former to ten and the latter to seven years' hard labour.

THE EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS AT ST. SAVIOUR'S CATHEDRAL.

THE principal topic of conversation in town during the past few days has been the extraordinary proceedings at St. Saviour's Cathedral, the commencement of which was reported in Thursday's issue. Captain Rossi as senior trustee of the church and glebe lands of St. Saviour's parish, had taken possession of the cathedral, and on Tuesday morning refused to the cathedral authorities admission to the building. Forcible entrance was obtained and divine service was held by the Bishop of Goulburn, assisted by Dr. Ellis, and no further steps were taken at that time. Captain Rossi remained in possession, having taken up his quarters in the bishop's vestry. During the afternoon and in the course of Wednesday and Thursday, he was visited by a number of persons, to whom he explained his reasons for the course he was taking, maintaining that he was under the direction of God and doing His work in vindicating the rights of the parishioners.

On Thursday evening Dr. Ellis, precentor, and the members of the cathedral choir went to the cathedral for the purpose of choir practice. Captain Rossi admitted Dr. Ellis under protest, but raised no objection to the choir, and practice was held, a large number of persons being present.

It is customary to hold a Litany service every Friday morning. Accordingly about a quarter to eleven yesterday morning a number of ladies and gentlemen assembled outside the cathedral, amongst whom were the Revs. Dr. Ellis, Canon D'Arcy-Irvine, and J. Stadds, and Messrs. J. S. Hayes, A. G. Finlay, E. Twynam, J. Davidson, S. H. Belcher, and W. H. Maybury. The Bishop of Goulburn, accompanied by the Hon. James Chisholm and Mr. Andrew Gibson, two of the trustees (Mr. Betts, a third trustee, being away from Goulburn on a trip to Tasmania), shortly after arrived and went to the tower door. The bishop tried the door and found that it was fastened upon the inside. Mr. Chisholm then knocked at the door, on which Captain Rossi asked who was there. Mr. Chisholm replied, two of the trustees and they required the building opened for divine worship. Captain Rossi asked if the bishop were there. The reply was given that he was, and the bishop knocked and said that they wanted the building open for divine service. Captain Rossi began a reply when the bishop said "no speeches; open the building for divine service." No reply came and the door was not opened. Dr. Ellis tried the door, but it was fastened. When the post-office clock struck eleven the bishop again tried the door but found it still fastened. He then informed the people assembled that there would be no divine service that morning, as they were hindered from from holding it.

The police were sent for and Sergeant Emerton and Constable Mc Hardy shortly arrived. Mr. Davidson asked them to stop a little as their services might be required. A number of persons then went round to the window that was broken on Tuesday last and Mr. Spooner, one of the vergers of the cathedral, and Mr. Twynam went in through the window and opened the outer western door. It was found that the door leading from the porch into the cathedral was bolted on the inside. Messrs. Finlay and Hayes succeeded in pushing in one of the sides of the door sufficiently to unbolt the other, and an entrance into the cathedral was thus gained.

A considerable number of persons, amongst whom were many friends and sympathisers of Captain Rossi, entered the cathedral. The tower door was then opened and the police brought in. Mr. Chisholm as one of the trustees, Mr. Gibson being also with him, then gave Captain Rossi into the custody of Sergeant Emerton on the charge of obstructing divine service in St Saviour's cathedral. Captain Rossi said in reply to the charge that he would like to know upon what authority he was given in charge, seeing that he was also a trustee. The sergeant asked Mr. Chisholm if he understood him to mean that he gave the person into custody or was he only to remove him from the building. Mr. Chisholm replied that he was to take him to the lockup. The sergeant then asked Mr. Chisholm if he would come and sign the charge-book. Mr. Chisholm said he would. Captain Rossi then requested the police to allow him to collect his private property that was in the bishop's vestry. Permission was given, and after he had collected his effects he came out of the vestry in charge of the police, wished all present a Merry Christmas, and passed out of the building.

As Captain Rossi went away from the gates of the cathedral enclosure three loud cheers were given for him by a number of his sympathisers. In response, he raised his hat and said:—Gentlemen,—In the name of God our Saviour, I thank you; I have come here to help to right those who suffer wrong; and the wrong will be righted, for God Almighty has said it shall be. I am going to prison as Peter did for our Lord, and I hope you will pray for me.

Captain Rossi was accompanied to the lockup by a large number of persons. Upon arrival at the lockup the usual particulars as to persons given in charge were entered upon the charge-book by the lockup-keeper. Upon the latter asking the nature of the charge Sergeant Emerton replied, "obstructing divine service in St. Saviour's Cathedral," but Mr. Davidson, who was engaged to conduct the case for the trustees, said "that is not the charge, but preventing by force a clergyman from officiating in a place of divine worship." Captain Rossi objected to the change in the charge. When Messrs. Chisholm and Gibson were called in for the first-named to sign the charge-book the crowd assembled outside gave three groans. Upon the charge in the book being read to him Captain Rossi again objected that this was not the charge upon which he was given into custody, and said that he would not have come upon the charge mentioned. He had only prevented the bishop, and they ought to put the charge in proper form. He then addressed Sergeant Emerton, saying that he had no intention to commit any violence, but as he had not been given into custody on the charge entered he intended to take his departure. He went towards the door and Sergeant Emerton put his hand upon his shoulder and said he could not allow that. Captain Rossi replied that was all he wanted, and asked some of those present to witness his rearrest.

Captain Rossi was then brought into the courthouse and asked the sergeant if it were necessary for him to go into the dock. The sergeant replied that this was as he pleased, and the captain took his place in the dock. Shortly afterwards the sergeant told him that he need not remain there, but have a seat on the floor of the court. The captain said that he had no wish to be there at all, and then came out of the dock and took a seat in front of the dock.

The presiding magistrates were the police magistrate and Messrs. Meyer and Clifford.

Mr. Davidson appeared for the prosecution.

Sergeant Emerton deposed that between eleven and twelve o'clock that morning defendant was given into his custody by Mr. James Chisholm at St. Saviour's Cathedral for obstructing divine service therein; witness thought defendant replied that he was not obstructing divine service; witness then asked Mr. Chisholm whether he understood him that he gave defendant into custody or only wished him to be removed from the building; Mr. Chisholm replied that he gave him into custody; at the lockup the charge was altered to "preventing by force a clergyman from officiating in a place of divine worship;" in reply to the charge defendant said he did not prevent a clergyman, he only prevented the bishop.

To Mr. Davidson: Would not swear that the words "by force" were not used when defendant was given into custody.

To defendant: The door was opened and a female (Mrs. Wilson) was admitted; witness saw the bishop make an effort to get in when the door was opened.

Mr. Davidson said he was prepared to go on with the case, but in justice to the defendant he would consent to an adjournment.

Defendant said that he would like half-an-hour to study the clause of the Criminal Law Amendment Act under which the charge was laid.

It was decided to postpone the case till a quarter-past two.

Defendant applied for bail and the bench said they would grant it, himself in £50 and one surety of £50.

Mr. Davidson said that he must oppose the application for bail unless the keys of the cathedral, which defendant had in his possession, were given up.

The Police Magistrate said that if the keys had been on defendant's person they ought to be now in the possession of the police. However that was not a matter with which the bench could now deal, and they must grant bail as the offence was only a misdemeanour.

Mr. E. B. Barber was accepted as surety.

Upon the court re-assembling at a quarter-past two defendant objected to the police magistrate adjudicating as he was an interested party.

The Police Magistrate replied that he was not interested and would see that justice was done.

Defendant then asked for a further postponement till Tuesday.

Mr. Davidson said he would oppose the application if the keys of the building were not returned by defendant and a promise given that he would not interfere with the building.

Defendant consented to return the keys under protest, and afterwards gave them up accordingly.

It was determined to postpone the case till Friday next, defendant being admitted to the same bail as before.

Defendant conducted his own case, but had the advice of Mr. H. O'Brien in the afternoon.

The charge against defendant is laid under the 50th section of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, under which a person convicted of the offence charged can be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two years.

The case created great interest and the court was crowded with spectators.

When leaving the court-yard Captain Rossi said that even if he were imprisoned, he would when released still contest the matter in dispute. Joseph was put into prison by Pharaoh, but when released he was exalted.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN GOULBURN.

ACCORDING to custom at this festive period, the business part of the city underwent a complete transformation yesterday. Christmas bushes were displayed along the footpaths in great profusion and gave quite a rural aspect to the place. Many of the business people appeared to vie with each other in decorations on an extensive scale, and an attractive display was the result.

At the New Goulburn Cash Exchange (Messrs. Tutty and Co.'s), the premises were artistically decorated with bushes and Chinese lanterns. The windows were tastefully dressed with goods of soft tints and beautiful specimens of the milliner's art, together with flowers, feathers, fancy goods, and drapery and clothing of every description. Some excitement was occasioned at this establishment by drawing for prizes in a Christmas lottery.

At Mr. W. Lane's was another very attractive display of high-class and fashionable millinery, dress goods, laces, and fancy goods, the whole surmounted by a stand of beautiful ostrich feathers. Inside the shop was a brilliant display of Japanese and fancy goods, brackets, toys, &c.

Messrs. Gardner and Wheatley had bestowed especial attention on the decorating of their premises, and succeeded in making one of the most attractive displays in the city. The north window showed a well depicted scene of an English Christmas, in which everything is clad in snow. The back and sides of the same window were dressed with beautiful goods and the whole was very attractive. The south window was dressed in a manner symbolical of the Australian Christmas time, with its flowers and fruits, and everything bearing a bright aspect. There was also in this window a well-depicted view of the Sydney exhibition-building with lawn and lake; also a figure representing an Australian aboriginal, with his nulla-nulla, boomerang, and beilaman. In addition to the above there was an excellent display of furnishing goods, such as rugs, carpets, table covers, curtains, &c., together with a choice collection of chinaware and other fancy goods. The other portions of the establishment and the interior were on a corresponding scale.

At the Palace Emporium (J. W. Anderson's) some nice work had been done in the way of decorations and improvements. Inside, the shop was artistically dressed with lace curtains, relieved with flowers and silk handkerchiefs. The familiar and friendly greeting "A Merry Xmas" was executed in a novel manner by means of silk handkerchiefs of varied hues. The showroom was also tastefully dressed.

The establishments of Messrs. Kirby, Wombey, Bond, Jones, Bray and Son, Furner Brothers, and Doherty were also tastefully decorated, especially the windows, all showing beautiful collections of millinery, fancy goods, and dress stuffs of light and attractive colours. The Australian Stores, though not outwardly decorated, had a large display of goods within.

Mr. Haymore had two very attractive windows, one showing a fairy in her bower, surrounded by fancy goods, the other being a sea-scene with vessels and boats afloat. He had also an excellent display of musical instruments.

Messrs. Meyer and Son had devoted much care to the dressing of their grocery window, the goods in which presented an inviting appearance, wines, spirits, and Christmas delicacies being in profusion, and well displayed. Messrs. Line and Crundwell's grocery window was also very noticeable, as also was Messrs. Hunt and Co.'s.

Mr. D. Clifford's Red Boot warehouse was very tastefully and extensively decorated with Burrawang ferns, flowers, Chinese lanterns, &c.

The various fruit shops were a particularly inviting appearance. Mr. J. Eyles had an excellent and well-arranged collection of all kinds of fruits, of fine quality, as well a choice display of confectionery. Messrs. Hammer and Oxenbury had also a fine display of excellent fruits and confectionery. Miss Noble had also a very nice display of fruits and confectionery, the windows being decorated with ferns, bushes, and flowers. Mrs. Jenkins, Messrs. Stevens and Hammer, Mr. J. Pain, Mr. P. Arcens and others all had good displays of fruits. Messrs. C. Rogers and Co. and Anderson and Nesbitt had exhibitions of general household furnishings of beautiful description.

The usual display of Christmas beef, and mutton, and other goods of this line, was made by the various butchers.

Business throughout the town was not so lively as in some former years, but still a good all-round trade was done. Large numbers of persons were in the streets until a late hour of the evening, the scene by gaslight being very attractive.

WALSHE DE-BRUEN OPERA COMPANY.—This combination of artists appeared at the academy of music last evening to open a season of seven nights. The attendance, owing to counter-attractions, was moderate, but the performance was well received. The initial production was Wallace's ever-green opera Maritana. The company comprise artists of good standing in their profession. They were well conversant with the parts they assumed, and played throughout with spirit. To-night a sacred concert will be given by the same company in the same hall, and on Monday and Tuesday nights the operas of the Grand Duchess and Bohemian Girl respectively will be produced.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday night last about ten o'clock, Joseph Stephenson, a railway employé, met with a distressing accident in the station yard at Hardan. Stephenson was fireman on a goods train, driven by S. Rawcliffe, and was engaged in oiling some portion of the locomotive when the engine was set in motion. Definite particulars of how the accident occurred cannot be obtained at present, as no one but the unfortunate man himself appears to know, but it is surmised that Stephenson was either engaged under the engine, or was thrown off when it started. The result was that his left foot was wasterribly smashed, and he narrowly escaped similar injury to the right foot, which as it is was greatly bruised, and the small toe broken. Stephenson, who is a married man and resides at the corner of Mundy and Auburn streets in the city, was brought to Goulburn by the express train at eight o'clock on Thursday morning, and was met at the station by his wife and Dr. Morton. He was conveyed to his residence and Dr. Morton found it necessary to amputate the left foot at the ankle, which operation was at once performed by Drs. Morton and McKillop. Stephenson's life was in danger until yesterday, when he took a change for the better, and confident hopes are now entertained that his life will be spared. Many of the railway men have been very attentive to their unfortunate fellow-workman, and have given all the assistance possible to his wife.

STREET WATERING.—The stand-pipe, hydrant, and 100 feet of hose ordered by the borough council some few weeks back from Messrs. Bown and Co. of Sydney, for the purpose of street-watering, were received on Thursday. The hydrant is provided with a rose for sprinkling the water, also with an apparatus for preventing the water from rushing out of the hose while being turned off at the stand-pipe. The apparatus was brought into use for the first time yesterday morning, when Auburn-street from its junction with Clinton-street to its junction with Bradley-street was watered. The appliances appeared to answer their purpose very well. It is not intended at present to water any portion of the streets except that above mentioned.

GOULBURN POST OFFICE.—To-day, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, this office will be open from 9 to 10 a.m. only. To-day and Tuesday the morning delivery only will be made by the letter-carriers. On Sunday and Monday there will be no delivery by the carriers, it being intended to give them a complete holiday on Monday. The letter-receivers will be cleared at 9 p.m. each day.

A violent windstorm passed over the Inverell district on Tuesday. Many trees were blown down, and a man named James Boyle, who was camped under a clump of trees, was crushed to death.

SYDNEY.

THE government propose to reintroduce the Factories and Workshops Bill, with a few modifications, next session. A deputation from the chamber of manufacturers laid before the minister of public instruction on Tuesday a few amendments which they desired to see embodied in the bill. They recommended that a workshop should be defined as a place where not fewer than six are employed, and that the working week be increased from forty-eight hours to not more than sixty hours. Objections were raised to one or two other provisions of the bill. Dr. Renwick promised to give full consideration to the suggestions of the deputation.

Steps are now being taken to effect a considerable saving in the department under the control of the postmaster-general. By a careful revision of the mail contracts it is expected that £5000 will be saved next year, and a board, consisting of the principal officers of the department, is now inquiring into the working of the various branches, and hope to be able to recommend changes which will result in a substantial reduction of the expenditure.

The trades and labour representatives have decided to hold an anti-immigration meeting in the Domain on January 15. Resolutions are to be proposed affirming that state-assisted immigration, being detrimental to the best interests of the working classes of the colony, should cease, and that all officers in connection with the present system should be abolished; also approving of the utterances of Mr. Norton in England, and thanking him for his exertions.

A tender has been accepted by the city council for the erection of new fruit markets in Sussex-street. The cost will be about £8000.

An important discovery was made on Wednesday. The diamond-drill which has been used for boring for coal on the Holt-Sutherland estate, fifteen miles from Sydney and three-quarters of a mile from the Illawarra railway line, struck a coal seam at a depth of 2227 ft. This, together with the results of the bores put down for several years past, proves the continuity of the main coal seam from the Wollongong district to Newcastle right under Sydney and suburbs. The discovery is regarded as of the highest value.

The government intend to nominate a number of gentlemen to seats in the Legislative Council, and also to increase the roll of honorary magistrates.

The government have appointed executive commissioners to arrange for the representation of the colony at the Adelaide jubilee exhibition. The names have not yet transpired.

In view of the great risk of life in the case of a fire breaking out in the temporary building in connection with the Sydney hospital, the colonial secretary intends to order the immediate removal of the patients from the temporary structure. Probably the Randwick asylum will be used for hospital purposes until a permanent hospital can be erected in the city or elsewhere as may be determined.

Leave of absence for six months has been granted to Mr. H. C. Russell, the government astronomer, to enable him to attend the conference of astronomers, to be held in Paris in April next, to which he has been invited by the French academy of sciences.

The retiring mayor (Alderman J. Young) was entertained at a picnic down the harbour on Wednesday, there being a large and representative gathering of citizens. Mr. Young is to be presented with a handsome gold chain, worth about £150, as a souvenir of his term of office. Mr. Young was on Thursday married at Annandale to Mrs. Ovenden.

The government have declared Tuesday next a public holiday throughout the colony, so that the Christmas holidays will commence on Saturday and end on Wednesday morning.

The stock department has commenced a series of experiments with a view of testing the various plants which are known or suspected to possess poisonous qualities.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford, Lord Dudley, and suite, on Tuesday visited Mr. Andrew Town's stud farm at Hobartville, Richmond.

Another vacancy has occurred in the senate of the university of Sydney, through the retirement of Canon Allwood.

At a meeting of the chamber of manufacturers on Wednesday night, it was resolved that it was not desirable to celebrate the centenary of the colony by holding an exhibition in Sydney.

On Wednesday a lady named Mrs. Jones of the Oaks, Picton, was robbed of £30 while standing outside the Polytechnic in George-street. The supposed thief was apprehended.

The Daily Telegraph understands that the minister for lands (Mr. Copeland) is personally in favour of according to Messrs. Chaffey Brothers, the well-known irrigationists, an opportunity of introducing in New South Wales their scheme for irrigation somewhat on the lines laid down in the proposals before the Victorian parliament. No interview, however, has yet taken place between the Chaffey Brothers and Mr. Copeland. Of course, any proposal of the kind would have to receive the sanction of parliament.

The colonial secretary will shortly submit to his colleagues a minute dealing with the Lachlan Reserve, the object being to convert it into a park. Mr. Dibbs is now busily engaged in the matter, and if his proposals should meet with the approbation of his colleagues, a number of men now employed at the National Park will, when the work there is finished, be given further employment.

It is understood that the minister for works has reinstated Mr. H. C. Hoyle, president of the Railway Employés' Association, who was recently suspended and called upon for an explanation for allowing Mr. Mc Evoy to make an offensive speech against the minister for works at the recent meeting of railway employés. Mr. Hoyle, we believe, when called upon for an explanation, readily expressed his entire want of sympathy with the remarks made by Mr. Mc Evoy, which he regarded as altogether uncalled for, but did not admit that it was his duty to stop the speaker, as he was not out of order.

Dr. Machellar, the representative of the government in the upper house, has accepted the vacant portfolio of minister of mines, and will enter upon his duties immediately.

The Manly aquarium was opened on Thursday by the Right Hon. W. B. Dalley, and the event was celebrated by a luncheon given by the proprietors.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT MOSS VALE.—On Wednesday night, at 11·45 p.m., a fire broke out in the detached kitchen of the residence of Mr. Lovell, near the railway bridge, Moss Vale, by which the house familiarly known as "Throsby Villa," was totally destroyed. Little is known of the origin of the fire, further than that it was observed in the first instance to have caught hold in the kitchen, and rapidly spread along a covered passage and hall leading to the house, and appears to have obtained a good hold on the whole of the back premises before the inmates of the house, who were taking supper in the front part of the building, became aware of the terrible scene enacting outside. In a couple of minutes, the flames were blazing wild and high. At this time the company of the Light Horse Cavalry, who had just risen from a banquet held at Elm-Court, and given by Captain Walters to his officers and men to celebrate his appointment to the command, came up, and just as they were, in full uniform, they vigorously set to work as firemen. They soon cleared all the furniture out of the house. A loud cry rose about the children—three little ones were in bed fast asleep, and in the most dangerous part of the building. Sergeant Crotty rushed through and seized one, and Mr. J. Riley of Bowral seized the other two, brought them out safely and carried them to Mr. Ridout's hotel, where they were well cared for. There was neither water nor buckets wherewith to attempt saving the house, which, in one hour, was completely in flames. In about another hour nothing but the six tall white chimney-stacks were left of what was considered the first large house that was erected in Moss Vale. The destruction was complete. Throsby Villa is now a thing of the past. Originally built as an hotel, it was afterwards used as a private residence by one of the members of the Throsby family, who named it Throsby Villa; then the E. S. and A. C. Bank established its business there; Mr. James Cullen then rented it as a family residence, and subsequently it was sold to Mr. Lovell, the present owner, who had, up to the time of the fire, used it as a private boarding establishment. The old house deserved a better doom, after serving so many and useful purposes to the general public. It is said the building is insured for £500.—Scrutineer.

THE BOURKE ELECTION.—Louth, Thursday.—Mr. Thomas Waddell addressed a very large and influential meeting here last night, Mr. T. Matthews in the chair. Mr. Waddell dealt with all subjects likely to engage the attention of the next parliament. He was frequently applauded. Mr. Pearson proposed, and Mr. Turner seconded, that Mr. Waddell was a fit and proper person to represent the Bourke electorate in the parliament of New South Wales. Carried unanimously. Mr. Waddell's return is now considered certain. The candidates now are Messrs. Waddell, Hodnett, and Willis.

TELEGRAMS.

SYDNEY, Friday, 7.36 p.m.

A MEETING of the executive council was held to-day, but only ordinary business was dealt with. Certain petitions referring to the Mount Rennie condemned criminals will be dealt with at the meeting on Wednesday next.

Dr. Tarrant M.P. for Kiama, has resigned his seat in the Assembly.

Mr. Justice Windeyer and Mrs. Windeyer sailed for England to-day.

Mr. Dibbs visits England shortly.

It is rumoured that there is another split in the cabinet, through Sir Patrick Jennings offering the position of minister of mines to Dr. Mackellar without consulting his colleagues.

A funeral train ran into a passenger train at Burwood this morning. One person had his leg broken and others were slightly injured.

Four more passengers by the German steamer Preussen, which is in quarantine at Melbourne, have developed symptoms of small-pox.

Messrs. Pitt, Son, and Badgery report:—1800 cattle were yarded for the week. A large proportion were prime, and buyers were numerous. Prices improved somewhat all round. We quote best beef, light weights, 19/- to 20/- per 100 lbs. Our sales were 800, including Ryrie's bullocks at £9 2/. 36,000 sheep penned for the week. Prime were eagerly demanded. We quote 54 lb. wethers worth 9/6. Our sales were 8000, including Dangar's wethers at 9/2; Gordon's at 10/5; Wallhallow ewes at 9/2 to 15/; Lamb's ewes at 7/11, &c.

Messrs. Harrison, Jones, and Devlin report:—Hides in short supply, and demand brisk. Shipping lines of tallow are lower, owing to a decline in the English market, but trade lines sold fairly.

Market Rates: Oaten hay, 8/6 to 5/- per cwt.; lucerne, £3 10/- to £4 per ton; maize, 4/- per bushel; oats, 2/3 per bushel; potatoes, £4 per ton; onions, £7 10/- per ton; butter, 7d. per lb.; cheese, 7d. to 8d. per lb.; bacon, 7d. to 8d. per lb.; eggs, 1/8 to 1/9 per dozen.

LONDON, December 23.

GREAT BRITAIN has warned the Porte that if Turkish intrigue with Russia continue, the permanent occupation of Egypt will be the result.

England will not defend Turkey against Russia except in alliance with Austria.

All German students and military officers on furlough have been ordered to join their corps at once.

Gold continues to be shipped to Australia.

SPORTING.

[SECRETARIES and other known residents of the different localities in which sports occur will oblige by sending us particulars as early as possible after the several events.]

SPORTING FIXTURES.

THE TURF.

Berrion District Races, December 27.
Binda Boxing Day Races, December 27.
Caulfield, December 27.
A. J. C. Summer, December 27.

CRICKET.

Matches by the English cricketers during their Australian tour:—
December 27, 28, 29, v. Ballarat.
January 1, 3, 4, 5, v. Australian Eleven, at Sydney.
January 14, 15, v. Bathurst.
January 21, 22, v. Yass.
January 24, 25, v. Bowral.
January 29, February 2, 3, 4, Combined Australian, at Sydney.

AQUATICS.

Lake Bathurst Regatta, January 14.

CRICKET.

ENGLISH ELEVEN v. BERRIMA.—The following twenty-two players have been chosen to represent Berrima district against the English Eleven in the match on the 24th and 25th January, and to that end practice will be held twice a week at Bowral:—Messrs. M. Aitken, W. Brennan, H. C. Bateman, F. Cope, H. G. Frazer, W. Ford, James Griffiths, F. Galbraith, Thomas Graham, Samuel Hayter, Patrick Hegarty, J. Hilder, J. Kirkland, T. Lewry, W. Menzies, M. Mc Cullough, G. Parker, H. Richardson, H. Rotton, R. Whatman, F. Wright, G. Waller. Emergencies: A. Ellsmore, S. Baker, F. E. Nicholson, J. Parmenter.

ENGLISH ELEVEN v. ELEVEN OF AUSTRALIA.—This match was concluded at Melbourne on Wednesday. With 172 to make to win, the Australians commenced their second innings, but were all disposed of for 114 runs, leaving the Englishmen winners by 57. The match extended over five days, being interrupted at one time by wet weather; and at the conclusion of the first innings of the Englishmen the game appeared all in favour of the Australians, but fortune changed as the match proceeded, with the result stated. The scores were:—Australians, 294 and 114; Englishmen, 201 and 264.

ATHLETICS.

AMATEUR ATHLETIC SPORTS.—A meeting for the purpose of holding sports in the Olympic Ground on Anniversary Day was held on Thursday evening last at the Commercial Hotel. There were about twenty persons present, Mr. A. E. Davies being in the chair. It was resolved that in the