

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1884.

Within the sombre and historic walls of Darlinghurst jail on Wednesday morning, April 23rd, 1884, there hanged by his neck until he was dead, for the murder of one of his fellow creatures, William Rice, a young man just entering the bloom of manhood. The circumstances surrounding the case from the hour the murderous and ghastly deed was committed until the lifeless body was buried in the earth are no less terrible in their realisation than the reflection of years of Rice's ill-spent life preceding the ushering of his spirit into another world. The particulars of the tragical and melancholy termination of this young man's career are so well known to most newspaper readers that it is unnecessary for us to refer to them again in this article. His whole life from his boyhood upwards was one broad page of crime shadowed by crime; and the prison records show that he had served no less than thirteen distinct sentences in Darlinghurst jail, some of six months' duration, for a multiplicity of offences. This is a thing to be shuddered at; and again suggests the query, Is prison life a deterrent to further crime? In the case of Rice it would appear that his numerous incarcerations were of an adverse tendency, and that on each of the thirteen occasions he obtained his release, and with that his liberty, from Darlinghurst, it was only to harden him for blacker crime, and prepare his hand for the committing of that bloody deed for which he has justly and lawfully forfeited his own life.

The confession made by the unfortunate man in a letter written to his father the night preceding his execution should be a lesson of inestimable value to hundreds of other young men who belong to exactly the same class as Rice did during many years of his lifetime. It is the same old story; the same terribly painful confession made by scores of criminals from the fatal drop-board on the gallows. Parental advice disregarded, evil associates, drink, prison, the gallows: this is the story told in a few words. This is the story told by Rice, and bitter enough it is to break a fond parent's aching heart, and send a tear-drop to the eye of friends and relations. We fear the lesson intended to be taught by such examples as an execution is too quickly forgotten by those to whom it is most directly intended as a warning. Excepting that Rice committed murder we have failed to see in him anything more outrageous to human morals or violatory of the laws of the land than is noticeable in scores of young men whose presence in their fustian larkin state is a curse to the country in which they live. All these facts are indicative of the pressing need for extended social and moral reform, and the necessity to solve the world-wide difficulty of how the larkin element is to be suppressed. These are matters of too serious import to be lightly scanned over; we fear also of too colossal and deep-rooted a character to be dealt with except by slow degrees—too slow to overtake them for centuries to come.

Among the list of prizes offered in connection with the recent exhibition of the Burrawang Farmers' Club was a special prize of three guineas, subscribed by Messrs. A. D. Daniell, W. E. Lovegrove, and W. Moore, for the best essay on the advantages of the show to the district of Burrawang. Competitors were allowed till the 1st instant for the completion of their task, by which date the essays were to be in the hands of the honorary secretary. We have not yet heard the result of this inducement and incentive to so useful a literary task; nor would we be surprised if we never did hear anything about it. It would, nevertheless, be gratifying to learn that there are some in the district with both the willingness and ability to undertake the production of an essay on the subject named. We hope therefore that the prize has not been offered in vain, and that the secretary has received a pile of contributions, replete with useful information, and of special interest to readers in general. The essays, if any, were announced to become the property of the club; and we presume the intention of the society would be to publish the prize contribution, should the judges deem it worthy of publicity.

In passing, we might also mention that in connection with the late Berrima District show Mr. Hamman, of Moss Vale, offered a special prize of five guineas for the best essay on "the discovery and settlement of the Berrima district, its progress, resources, and future prospects." For this prize there were, we are sorry to say, no competitors, a fact we announce with no less astonishment than regret.

We have heard it said, on occasions of alluding to the subject under notice, that the offering of prizes for essays at exhibitions such as those that have just taken place, was not appropriate or expressive of good taste, and that the money might have been

devoted to a more suitable end. We are at a loss to see any force or validity in the objection thus set forth. Presumably the main object of the society is to promote knowledge and diffuse useful intelligence on everything appertaining to human progress to the masses of the people. And whether that knowledge is spread by the exhibition of an agricultural implement, a work of art, or a treatise on a useful subject—in short, so long as they are supported by an educational tendency, we fail to see what material difference there is between a practical literary production and a pen and ink sketch. The one has been written with a view that from the collocation of valuable ideas, facts, data, &c., and the intermingling and distribution of important suggestions, every reader might be benefited; whilst the drawing is not so much to act as an instructor as a means by which the artist hopes to merit universal recognition. Surely more information might be compressed into a few pages of foolscap in the discussion of the advantages of the recent show at Burrawang, than there is obtainable from the exhibition of a lot of groceries or a collection of tinware, regarding which the public are but little concerned beyond the quality of the former and the soundness of the latter.

We are far from believing that there is no one in the district capable of dealing in an efficient and able manner with the subjects on which essays have been specially invited through the Burrawang Farmers' Club and the Berrima District Agricultural Society. The fear is there are none willing. Lack of confidence in their abilities is a deterrent to activity on the part of many individuals. All that is wanted is a little of the indomitable energy and determination so essential to success, to raise from an obscure level to a pinnacle of honor and usefulness, some of the latent literary talent with which we are surrounded. And there are those whom we hope to see ready to pick up the implements of labour, and show what can be done when similar opportunities again present themselves.

Local Intelligence.

IMPORTANT LAND SALE AT MITTAGONG.

On Saturday last one of the most important land sales that has ever taken place in the district was held at Mittagong, when town and suburban sites that had been locked up for nearly a quarter of a century were submitted to auction. The event had been looked forward to with much interest on the part of the residents, it being considered that the cutting-up of this large estate would be the means of developing the town, and give it the facilities to expand which have of late years been possessed by the neighbouring towns. The Mittagong Land Company, comprised of several wealthy capitalists, formed some months ago, and having purchased from the old Fitzroy Company about 1500 acres of land in and around Mittagong, lost no time in having about 140 acres surveyed and placed in the market for sale. This subdivision, offered for sale last Saturday, comprised mainly town and suburban allotments. A special train, in two divisions, was run from Sydney, and brought between five hundred and six hundred persons to Mittagong. It being three o'clock before arriving, intending purchasers had no time to inspect the land. Mr. E. Wrench, of Richardson and Wrench, was the auctioneer. About 120 lots were disposed of, town lots realising from £19 10s. to £1 15s. per foot; and suburban lots from £1 6s. to 8s. per foot. With a few exceptions the purchasers were principally local men, the largest being Messrs. Draper, Dawson, McCourt, Wright, Nicholson, Wallis, and Westbury. Mr. M. H. Hoffman purchased an allotment for which he paid at the rate of about £9000 an acre, being one of the largest sums ever paid for land in the district. The total amount realised by the sale was £18,809 2s. 7d.

MOSS VALE POLICE COURT.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30.

Before Messrs. F. R. Wilshire, P. M., and W. McCourt, J. P.

Richard Power v. John Stagg, senior. To recover £2 10s. wages.

Mr. Nichols for plaintiff; Mr. Gale for defendant.

From the evidence of Power, Stagg, senior, and Stagg, junior, it appeared that Power entered the service of the Messrs. Stagg at Burrawang, at 15s. per week wages; and worked for about six or seven months; shortly after entering upon work Power induced Mr. Stagg to advance £14 to send home to his wife and family in Ireland. In part repayment of this £14 Power gave Mr. Stagg £5 cheque from Mr. Daniell, the employer of Power's son, leaving £9 due; when settling up the wages account with Power, Stagg deducted the £9 due on the advance. Power's son is under age, and Stagg issued a summons against him to recover £9, but said he only did so at his father's request and in order to get the money for his father. Power now sought to show that his son, and not himself should pay Stagg the £9.

The bench gave a verdict for defendant and ordered plaintiff to pay 21s. professional costs to Mr. Gale, and £1 witnesses' expenses to Mr. Stagg and his son.

James Fleeton was charged with fraudulently taking a billiard ball, valued at 30s. the property of D. Cunningham, lessee of the billiard room of Tattersall's Hotel, Moss Vale.

It appeared Fleeton was in the billiard room. Tuesday evening the worse for liquor, and in consequence Cunningham would not allow him to play. He then took away one of the balls and would not give it up; some time afterwards the ball was found planted on the premises.

Defendant pleaded guilty to taking the ball, but with no fraudulent intention. Fined £1, with 15s. witnesses' expenses. A charge against Alfred Clarke, an orphan apprentice to George Haddin, of Robertson, was adjourned.

SCHOOL OF ARTS MOVEMENT AT MITTAGONG.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to say that a meeting was held at Mr. Hilder's Hotel, Mittagong, a few evenings ago for the purpose of discussing the advisability of establishing a school of arts at that town. In consequence of the unpropitious state of the weather, and the brief notice given of the meeting, the attendance was small, only eight persons being present. Mr. John Mealing was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. R. Hudspeith was elected secretary pro tem. Conversationally the question was discussed at some length, and the meeting was ultimately adjourned till Wednesday evening next, 7th inst., when all who have any interest in the welfare of their fellow creatures are invited to attend at the Church of England schoolroom, and lend their hearty co-operation in the establishment of a school of arts at Mittagong.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND, BOWRAL.

The first meeting of the Church Wardens of St. Simon and St. Jude's, Bowral, viz. Messrs. C. Bennett, J. Bowen, and V. B. Hiley, elected for the current year, was held at the parsonage on Monday last. The minutes of the last meeting, held before Easter, having been read and confirmed, several accounts were discussed and passed. It was agreed to advertise for tenders for the erection of a small shed for the shelter of the bell-ringer during wet weather. The incumbent reported to the meeting the result of his interview with the Bishop of Sydney, relating to the proposed visit of the Bishop for the purpose of holding confirmation of the candidates from Bowral and Mittagong; referring to the proposed new church for Bowral; and referring to the lease of the globe for a term of years.

Leave was granted to Mr. Bennett to have a small hut erected in the globe as a temporary home for James Reid, to be attached to a nominal rent.

Mr. Bennett then addressed the Incumbent, and on behalf of the parishioners, presented him with a purse of thirty-two sovereigns. The Incumbent in a few well chosen words asked Mr. Bennett to convey his heart-felt thanks to the parishioners for the substantial token of their esteem for their minister.

A new saddler's shop is to be opened in Bowral next week.

There appears to be a demand for good general servant girls in Bowral just now.

The Mittagong land sale on Saturday last realised £18,809 2s. 7d. 120 lots were disposed of.

Mr. John Lacey, M.L.A., and Sir Patrick Jennings have been elected vice-presidents of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales.

Under this issue the Bowral Free Press will be published in the proprietors' new premises, near Mr. Shaw's general store, Doug Doug-street south.

Mr. J. G. Morris will hold an important sale of Mr. A. Neich's household furniture, &c., on the premises at eleven o'clock this day (Saturday).

A specially good programme has been arranged for the public meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society next Tuesday evening as it is the half-yearly meeting.

In the Moss Vale police court last Saturday, before Captain Bridges, J. P., W. H. Turner, for indecent exposure, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment in Berrima Jail.

Since our last issue the weather has been showery and a very considerable quantity of rain has fallen, quite sufficient for a couple of months at least. Warm weather is now wanted to give the grass a start.

Our negotiations about the room for the proposed Young Men's Society in Bowral are not yet completed. In the event of the plan being carried out the subscription for membership will probably be sixpence a week.

Mr. Scrutiner says that the members of the Union Masonic Lodge, Berrima, (E.C.) intend to erect a Lodge room in Moss Vale. The W.M. of the Lodge, Mr. H. Taylor, has generously made a gift of an allotment near the public school for that purpose.

On Saturday last a new butchering establishment was opened in Bowral, by Mr. W. Comer, in premises immediately opposite Mr. C. Waters' general store. Formerly there appeared to exist room for three butchers in Bowral, and Mr. Comer expressed his belief that there is also room for three now—hence his advent in commencing business.

Serious attention is directed to the advertisement in another column addressed to employers of labour issued from the immigration office, Sydney. Full instructions are given as to the mode of engaging immigrants, and it is obvious the adoption of this system possesses special advantages both to the employers of labor, and the immigrants themselves.

Attention is directed to an advertisement elsewhere announcing a series of concerts to be given by the Bowral Primitive Methodist choir, commencing at West Kangaroo on Monday, 6th instant. The vocal abilities of the members of this choir are now well known; and the announcement of their appearing in public carries with it sufficient recommendation to attract large audiences.

"RETRIBUTION" is the title of an interesting little book just published by Mr. A. J. Dost, of the Times office, Camden, the authorship being attributed to J.B.M. It is a history of the Camden district almost from the beginning of the present century, and contains much that cannot fail to be of interest to old residents of this district as well as of Camden. A more detailed notice of the book will appear in a future issue.

In the Legislative Assembly last Wednesday Mr. Cameron for Mr. Fletcher, moved,—1. That the Victorian Coal-mining Company's Bill be referred to a select committee for consideration and report, with power to send for persons and papers. 2. That such committee consist of Mr. Lacey, Mr. Young, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Targat, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Teese, Mr. Haumond, and the mover. The motion was agreed to.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1884.

In the legislative council yesterday evening Mr. A. Campbell presented a petition from the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company against the Mittagong Coal-mining Company's Railway Bill.

INCORPORATION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.—"We will not entertain any motion for incorporation; it will be time when parliament passes a Local Self-Government Bill." And although the inhabitants of Bowral and Moss Vale are determined to adhere to this declaration, they have, by a large majority, decided to employ Mr. A. Bitter, of Argyle-street, Moss Vale, to do their painting and decorating. Mr. Bitter's ability to give unanimous satisfaction is well known throughout the district. Adv.

In the legislative assembly yesterday week Mr. Fletcher brought up the report of the select committee on the Victorian Coal-mining Company's Bill (Mittagong) which was read by the clerk, from which it appeared that there was some doubt as to whether sufficient notice had been given of the bill, and that in the opinion of the committee the petitioners for the measure should withdraw, and proceed *de novo*. The bill was then withdrawn, and a fresh petition for the introduction of a bill on the same matter was presented.

A MEETING of the committee of the New South Wales Coursing Club was held last Monday evening at Tattersall's Hotel Sydney, when the prizes won at the recent coursing meeting at Eridge Park were paid over, and several new members elected. The following are the amounts and the names of the winning greyhounds and their owners:—Mr. E. Bladen: Bowral Stakes, Bega, £25; The Oaks Reelers, £36—261. Mr. E. Leo, Eridge Park Cup, Mornington, £50. Mr. W. Cooper, Derby, Cairngorm, £37. Mr. H. Lord, Derby, Lyon, £37. Mr. E. Lamb, Derby, Lord £10; Eridge Park Cup, La Belle, £36—236. Messrs. Hill and Weir—Derby, Havoc, £10; Bowral Stakes, Hygeia £8; Eridge Park Cup, Maid of Osborne, £13—235. Mr. H. M. Quade: Beaten Stakes, My Lady £13; Bowral Stakes, Gladys, £3—221. Messrs. Skarratt and Co.: The Oaks, Prudent Jane, £18; Beaten Stakes, Patience, £3—221. Mr. R. L. Tooth: Bowral Stakes, Tevishole, £10. Mr. Chalker: Beaten Stakes, Country Lad, £9. Mr. A. Town: Bowral Stakes, Talwang, £2. Total amount of stakes, £313.

On Monday evening last Lieutenant Manfred Rose gave one of his popular, amusing, and mischievous entertainments in the school of arts, Bowral. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather there was a large attendance, the building being nearly filled. The entertainment was comprised of numerous conjuring feats, the exposition of spiritualistic humbugs, and ventriloquism. In the first-named department the lieutenant is one of the cleverest illusionists we have ever seen. His tricks, though not all new, were, to an ordinary eye, of the most mysterious and marvellous character; and so rapid and skilful was the deception practiced that the audience gave vent to the strongest feelings of surprise and wonderment. The exposition of spiritualism was perhaps the most profoundly deceptive and amusing part of the entertainment. Indeed, we are inclined to think that Mr. Rose would have had less difficulty in making his audience believe that he was aided by some one from the spirit land in the performance of feats that appeared impossible to be done by himself, than he had in convincing them of the humbug and delusion of so-called spiritualism. As a ventriloquist we cannot say Mr. Rose is a perfect success. We have frequently heard latter. All round the entertainment is about the best of the kind that has ever been presented in Bowral; and is well worth the money charged for admission. The entertainment was given at Mittagong last Saturday evening, and at Burrawang on Thursday coming to good houses. It will be repeated at Moss Vale this (Saturday) evening.

District Intelligence.

BERRIMA.

At the meeting of the Mutual Improvement Society on Monday 28th April, Mr. Matthews moved that Local Option should be extended to the renewal of licenses for public-houses. He was supported by Mr. Taylor and opposed by Messrs. Galbraith, Makin and O'Hara. The motion was lost.

The weather lately has been very wet, and plenty of rain has now fallen to keep us going for some time. The grass looks quite green again, and we cannot help feeling delighted when he looks on the grass now after thinking of what it was a few months ago.

Our local school of arts is still, I believe, doing good work. The attendance is slightly improving with the advent of long evenings.

May 1.

Colonial & Intercolonial.

GEORGE DREX, of Camden, is insolvent. Liabilities £38 7s. 7d.; assets £8 14s. 6d.

JACOB GARRARD EWE, M.P., has been appointed a member of the board of technical education.

The number of public houses in Sydney has decreased by twenty-six since the adoption of local option.

Mr. E. Wrench has been elected a director of the City Bank in the room of the Hon. S. A. Joseph, M.L.C., resigned.

DURHAM March last there were 992 births in Sydney and suburbs; and during the same period there were 504 deaths registered.

The committee of the Mudgee Agricultural Society have decided to proceed with the erection of a new pavilion to cost £1000.

The Hawkesbury Agricultural Society's show has been postponed till the 8th, 9th, and 10th instant in consequence of the wet weather.

The railway to Mudgee will probably be opened on the 1st of July. Arrangements are being made for a demonstration on the occasion.

The Durham Downs Station in the south district of Queensland has been sold for £71,532; Messrs. Dunnean Mc Gregor and Co. purchasers.

The total capital expended on all the railway line in New South Wales open for traffic at the end of 1883 was £16,957,946; the total expenditure for working the line during the year 1883 was £1,187,452.

St. Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, was opened on Tuesday last, by the Lord Bishop of Sydney (Dr. Barry). The opening ceremony is described as being one of great magnificence and splendour. The cost of the building has been about £25,000. The cornerstone was laid on the 15th January 1874. About thirteen hundred persons were present at the opening ceremony.

One of the most disastrous fires that ever took place at Dubbo occurred last Sunday morning. The conflagration raged for hours. The damage is estimated at between £30,000 and £40,000.

The minister of works has had the engine examined which caused the fatal accident at Reifern terminus yesterday week, the result being that the fireman and driver have been suspended and the crown solicitor has been instructed to prosecute them for manslaughter.

Our Sydney contemporaries, remarks the Age, have on several recent occasions, when sales of property were held in that city, endeavoured to show that the prices realised were the highest ever obtained in any of the colonial capitals. At a sale recently held in Melbourne by Messrs. Gemmell, Tuckett, and Co., a higher price was given for a piece of city land than at any previous sale in any of the colonies. On the occasion referred to 23 feet frontage by 33 feet in depth in Elizabeth-street, near the London Tavern, was sold for £9000, or at the rate of £400 per foot. The superficial area of the lot would be 726 feet, and a calculation made shows that the price was equal to £540,000 per acre. This plainly indicates that the value of Melbourne property has been steadily increasing for many years past, and that the increase is also continuous.

The thirty-second annual commemoration of the Sydney University took place last Saturday afternoon. The report of the examiners was read. The matriculants were presented and admitted. Degrees were conferred upon those who had been fortunate enough to earn them. The models and other prizes were to those to whom they had been awarded, and the first class men and scholars were duly presented to the Chancellor; but, by some unaccountable omission, the honours men at examination for degrees, who ought to have received the same honour, were not called up. The list of beneficiaries was read, and a letter of apology for his absence had been read from his Excellency the Governor, who was absent from the colony, the Chancellor, Sir William Manning, delivered an address. As usual on these occasions the hall was crowded to excess, and the greatest interest was manifested in the proceedings.

A shocking accident occurred at the Sydney railway station yesterday week inflicting wounds more or less severe on several boys coming in from Newington College, and causing the death of one of them. The accident was caused by the failure of a Weston house brake as a train was coming into the station, the train consequently running into the brickwork at the end of the dock. Several of the boys were jammed between the carriage platforms on which they were standing. Those most injured were Albert Charles Fletcher and Frederick William Fletcher, sons of Mr. Richard Fletcher, of Windermere, Moore Park; Thomas Vivers, a boarder at Newington College; George Frederick Brown, son of the Rev. George Brown, and Harold Kelynoch, son of the Rev. Dr. Kelynoch, of North Shore. The two Master Fletchers were the most seriously injured, each having a leg broken. The younger one, Frederick, was mortally wounded, and died at the hospital some night, about six hours after the accident occurred. Albert Fletcher is still in the hospital, and some hope of his recovery is entertained. The other boys are not much hurt. The collected crowd was not dissipated by any accident, but the force of the collision moved the whole of the flagging of the platform at that spot a distance of about a foot. The railway authorities are instituting inquiries into the cause of the failure of the brake.—S. M. Herald.

Essays, Sketches, &c.

We propose inserting occasionally under this head contributions from persons not connected with this paper. Personal matters must not be discussed, and contributors must deal only with general questions. The essays will become our property, and will be subject to revision or rejection. At the same time it must be understood that it does not follow we endorse the opinions of our contributors.

THE TEACHING OF MORALITY.

It is to be hoped that the preliminary notice which appeared in the Bowral Free Press a few weeks ago concerning the Rev. Charles Olden's pamphlet, entitled Immorality, will have induced every young man in Bowral and its neighbourhood to invest some penny in the purchase of the book. And though it is primarily intended for unmarried men, it would not be a bad thing if married men were to read it. It is the best synopsis that has fallen under our notice of the arguments against immorality, and of the things to be done and the things to be avoided in order to preserve purity in thought and act.

There are plenty of books which take up the religious side of the argument, although there are few which speak so plainly and forcibly as Mr. Olden's does. There are medical books which show that physiology preaches continence and purity. But the religious books are frequently unopened by young men, or else "skipped" freely. And the medical books of the right sort—that is to say of men like Mr. Acton, of the very highest reputation and greatest experience—are very expensive, while every young man has his useless, probably lying, book, "which will be sent so as to avoid observation," and advertised in many papers as being a "book that every man should read." Of inexpensive books which treat the subject both from the moral and physical points of view, and which prescribe help to purity as well as give prohibitions of immorality we only know of two:—Todd's "Students Manual," which concisely in Latin its advice on the most common outward acts of impurity, and Hime's "Morality" which is most suited for men of a high class of education. But advice is wanted for all, not only for the highly educated: the temptation to immorality comes to all, and the rules for its avoidance are simple and plain. The want is to a large extent supplied by Mr. Olden's cheap little book. Every man should read it, indeed, for it contains the teachings of both religion and science upon the matter, and any man who follows the rules given will be able to pass accurately the quick advertisements which profess to cure that "nervous debility" for which purity, exercise and cold water are the best and the only permanent cure.

The time is coming when steps must be taken to stem the tide of immorality. The advocates of purity have hitherto been to a great extent silent, preferring to oppose the evil by the general advocacy of the principles of Christianity. But when a vice assumes large proportions it needs special condemnation couched in plain terms. The evil side is taught so extensively in low newspapers, in opera-bouffes, in scandalous illustrations and abominable pamphlets, and above all in conversation, that it is becoming false delicacy to shrink from speaking plainly on the side of moral truth. It needs to be shown, as can easily be done, that history and philosophy join with science and religion, and that sociology combines with individual experience, to prove that a single life of perfect purity, terminated by a mar-

riage of love, the natural, the healthiest, and the best life for man or woman.

"Who is the happy husband? He Who, scanning his unweeded life, Thanks Heaven, with a conscience free, Was faithful to his future wife."

Mr. Olden has attacked the vice in its most obvious form, as practised by men in great cities, but his words appeal to every man in town or country. There is more work to be done in shewing the duty of parents in this matter, and in forming general public opinion on the subject.

This it is proposed to touch upon in another article.

Miscellaneous News.

ENSLAUGE.

Two February files of English journals contain many accounts of trials which have taken place in the principal shires of England with pitted fodder, and it is noteworthy that in almost every instance good results were obtained. One of the most interesting of the experiments was made at Lord Londesborough's Park Farm, near Market Weighton, with the object of testing the effect of ensilage on the production of milk. Four cows were selected, and from the 1st of January to the 10th had 18 lb. hay, 3 lb. chaff, 10 lb. ground oats, 14 lb. roots (mangles), 3 lb. cake (cotton),—48 lb. each cow—with a total result from the four cows of 1055 lb. of milk for 10 days. From the 11th of January to the 21st of January to the 24th of January the same cows had 28 lb. ensilage, 11 lb. roots (mangles), 3 lb. cake (cotton), 10 lb. ground oats—52 lb. each cow—and the total weight of milk at the end of ten days was 1116 lb., showing an increase of 21 lb. in favour of the ensilage. It was thought better to do away with the roots altogether, as one of the cows was slightly purged, consequently from the 21st to the 25th the following food was given:—10 lb. ground oats, 3 lb. cake (cotton), 3 lb. maize and 32 lb. ensilage—50 lb. each cow—with very satisfactory results. In five days 573 lb. of milk, which if continued for the 10 days would give an increase of 61 lb. over the first 10 days, and, of course, in favour of ensilage. These results corroborate recent reports from America, and afford a satisfactory reply to the question, "How will ensilage suit when mixed with other food?" In fact, English agriculturists are almost convinced that the new system of preserving is one which will soon be adopted in nearly all parts of Britain. The Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture is encouraging the construction of silos. Recently under its auspices Lieutenant-Colonel Brookhurst read a paper before farmers of Cheshire on the results of experiments in ensilage. In the course of his remarks the colonel described silos of many kinds, but said:—

"The silo at the Hollis, Wilmshurst—that of Mr. Smith—was the most interesting he had visited. It was a circular hole dug in a level field. The hole was 7 ft. deep and the soil which was removed out of it was banked up to a height of 5 ft. round the top of the hole, the silo being thus made 12 ft. in depth. It was lined with 3 inch wooden planks. Between the 20th and 27th October it was filled with rough grass, put into the silo quite wet, with frost upon it and muddled. The silo, which cost £18 10s., contained 11 tons, on which eight cows had been entirely fed for a month. No difference had been noticed in the quality of the milk or butter, and the quantity had been increased." This is a very simple form of pit. Such a silo could be easily constructed on any farm in this colony.—Sydney Mail.

AN AMUSING INCIDENT.

The London correspondent of the S. M. Herald, under date March 21, says:—All London has been laughing during the past week at the successful perpetration of a practical joke of the real Theodore Hook style. A few days ago some wag sent round to above sixty or seventy battered old rousers a letter written on the finest notepaper and stamped with elaborate armorial bearing purporting to come from a lady inviting them to meet her at the Haymarket Theatre on a particular night, and as a sign of recognition, to wear a bunch of violets in their coats. As the letter delicately hinted that the fair writer had fallen a victim to the personal charms of its recipient the vanity of these elderly dandies was intensely tickled. Accordingly, on the appointed night, nearly everyone of them turned up at the theatre attired in their spicest garments, and each wearing a bunch of violets in his button-hole. Somehow or other the joke had leaked out, and was in full possession of the audience, and as one after another these exagoriarian swells scanned into the stalls or the boxes, displaying the familiar sign upon his coat, his appearance called forth shrieks of laughter from all parts of the house. It would, of course, not do to mention names, but at least one peer, well known in society, was seen among the number, and retired army officers and worn-out men-about-town to any extent. The singular thing is that so many gentlemen, who were certainly old enough to know better, should have fallen into such a very open trap.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

It will be in the recollection of many of our readers that among the more interesting of the exhibits in the unfortunate Garden Palace was a fine collection of weapons and implements of aboriginal manufacture and similar articles from the islands, displayed by the trustees of the Australian Museum. This was allowed to remain in the building after the close of the exhibition, with the intention of again exhibiting it in connection with the technological museum, but the disastrous fire which destroyed that beautiful edifice, on the 22nd September, 1893, swept away, with its contents, this entire ethnological collection.

Many specimens have been lost which cannot be replaced, but the trustees of the museum have been endeavouring to form a new collection; and have succeeded with the expenditure of over £1,000, and the assistance of many persons interested