

selves in pretty good condition. It is after nightfall that these animals become formidable to passengers, who unless armed with a good stick or other defensive weapon, often stand a chance of being seriously injured. While the persons of the inhabitants are thus endangered by the savage propensities of these animals in the open street, the repose of those within doors is also greatly disturbed by the unearthly howling which they keep up throughout the greater part of the night, and their endless rows and quarrels among their own species. It would be a public advantage, in many respects, if the number of the canine race were abridged, and we think that, if the provisions of the Police Act were strictly enforced, this could be done at least to such an extent as to do away with much of the annoyance and insecurity which they at present occasion to the community.

**Immigrants.**—The families sent from Sydney by the Government, we are sorry to say, are quite unsuited to our wants; they consist (we believe, exclusively) of married people with large families of young children—of those, in short, who had been the longest time in the barracks, and could not be got quit of in Sydney. The principal object of sending labourers into those districts of the colony where their services are most required is completely defeated by this injudicious method of selecting them; these families ought to have been accompanied by a due proportion of unmarried people of each sex, who would have accelerated rather than retarded the engagement of those with large families.

**Dangerous Bridge.**—Immediately beyond East Maitland on the road to Wallace Creek, there is a small ruinous bridge, which presents a very dangerous aspect to strangers or to belated travellers. This edifice occupies only a very small proportion of the breadth of the road, and has no parapet walls or rails to point out its dangerous position. Altogether this part of the road requires great improvement, and in particular, an arch ought to be thrown across its entire breadth, and until this is done, rails should be so placed as at once to point out the danger to strangers, and guard them from it.

**Shipments of Wool.**—Notwithstanding the short period of the wool season that has yet transpired, there had been up to Christmas considerably above twelve hundred bales forwarded in the steamers to Sydney from this district, besides the quantity sent overland or shipped direct from Newcastle.

**Court of Requests.**—The quarterly sittings of this court commenced on Monday and finished on Thursday last. The number of cases disposed of was 510, being, we believe, equal to that usually tried when the court was held half-yearly.

**The Iron-Gang.**—An anonymous correspondent writes to us that, while free people are frequently fined for being found bathing within certain limits on the river, the prisoners composing the chain gang, are permitted and even compelled to do so. We know not indeed whether this be the case, but provided they select proper times and places, we think that all classes of people ought to be encouraged to bathe as frequently as possible.

**The Blacks.**—We have before had occasion to remark upon the disgraceful conduct of the aborigines who frequent this town, and, as it would appear, to very little purpose. While towards the white population a surveillance in some cases exceedingly strict is kept up, these artful savages are allowed to have it all their own way, and the disorders which they give way to, and the annoyance which they occasion to the respectable inhabitants living in the neighbourhood of the spot which they select for their nightly lair, has become no longer bearable. Where they procure the liquor we cannot positively say (although we may shrewdly guess) but they contrive to get gloriously intoxicated every night, which they pass throughout in quarrelling and fighting, becoming quiet only when the excitement consequent upon inebriation has subsided. One night lately their conduct was more than usually disgraceful. They had every one become exceedingly intoxicated, and after they had assembled for the night, at their camp adjoining the cattle yards, a most diabolical scene ensued. Every individual of the tribe commenced yelling, blaspheming and fighting, and the horrid uproar was uninterrupted kept up until daybreak, when exhaustion quieted them. People living in the neighbourhood complain of the annoyance which this rioting occasioned to their families as most distressing. If these blacks were the ignorant unsuspecting beings which some philanthropists believe them to be, we should be inclined to recommend a gentle correction; but their case is altogether different: they are well acquainted with the customs and manners of the white population, and are well aware that their conduct is improper; therefore no mercy should be shewn towards them. At all events, we repeat our former advice that they should be kept from the town. Go where they will, we are afraid they will meet with little but evil example—but the influence of that example will be far less felt in the bush than in the concentrated demoralization of the town.

**The Press.**—The *Temperance Advocate* has been unable to support itself on the total abstinence principle, and after lingering for some months in a hopeless condition, has at last expired. The *Sydney Monitor* is now published only once a week, instead of three times as formerly.

**The Memorial.**—We have been favoured by the perusal of a reply to the memorial of the inhabitants of West Maitland, praying that the road party hitherto employed in the repairs of the road through the town might not be withdrawn, and, as might be expected, His Excellency has consented to allow them to remain until the whole work is completed. In noticing this fact, due meed of praise should be awarded to Sir George Gipps for repeated acts of kindness in accordance with his pledge to the inhabitants on his visit to Maitland last year. Not only indeed, in this instance, but on the establishment of a Police Office, and the division of the two townships, by which act (solely introduced before the Council to meet their views,) they will be benefited by a market place so soon as the Municipal Corporation Act comes in force.

## POLICE.

EAST MAITLAND, FRIDAY, DEC. 31, 1841.

Before E. D. Day, Esq., P. M.

Thomas Threadgate, assigned to Mr. Kingsmill, was charged with drunkenness, and insolence towards his master, for which he was sentenced to fourteen days' confinement on bread and water.

Hercules O'Keefe, a diminutive specimen of humanity whose appearance was strangely at variance with the associations connected with his name, was brought up under a charge of being drunk, and absent from the premises of Mr. Prentice to whom he is assigned. Sentence—Fifty lashes.

A youth named Charles Ward, appeared to answer a charge of furious riding in the public streets, thereby endangering the lives of the pic-nic subect of her Majesty. It seems that Ward and a sporting friend had met to decide a bet regarding the speed of two horses, and not to lose time, immediately determined that it should take place in the public highway. It was sworn that the lives of some children were endangered through the reckless course of Ward. He was fined forty shillings and costs.

Patrick Russell, the holder of a ticket of leave, was accused of stealing a water bucket from the shop of Patrick Mackay, cooper. The evidence in this case was more respectable than direct, but it was sufficiently clear to bring the offence home to the prisoner. He was sentenced to twelve-months in iron.

Edmond Wright residing at Rutherford-road, appeared on information, charging him with having committed a breach of the licensing act by selling, on the 16th December last, one bottle of rum and two glasses of lemon syrup, he not being a licensed publican. Mr. Salmon appeared for Wright. The prosecution was supported by two constables, Bullen and McGinness, who swore that having called at Wright's house on their way to town, they were supplied with two glasses of lemon syrup, and subsequently obtained a bottle of rum, for which they paid four shillings and sixpence. For the defence a person named Charles Kelly was brought forward who in the most energetic manner contradicted the evidence of the constables in every point material to the successful issue of their case. Mr. Salmon then addressed the court in behalf of his client, ably pointing out the discrepancies in the testimony of the witnesses for the prosecution, and the difference of their statements in almost all the minor details of the case—circumstances which strengthened the inference that the whole was a concerted scheme between them. The bench, having taken the case into their consideration, dismissed the information, on the ground that the evidence of the constables was imperfect and contradictory on several essential points.

James Stilsby, the owner of a stage coach plying between Morpeth and West Maitland, appeared on summons charged with assaulting Miss Emma Brown, a passenger in the *Manurek* from Sydney, on Tuesday the 28th ultimo. There was another charge against the defendant of forcibly seizing a d unlawfully detaining a trunk the property of the complainant. From the evidence it appeared that the defendant, having obtained possession of the complainant's luggage, endeavoured by force and rudeness to compel her to go as a passenger in his coach after she had engaged a seat in a rival vehicle. Stilsby was found guilty of the assault and fined forty shillings. In passing sentence his Worship remarked that the assault was a very aggravated one, and that it was fully time to put a stop to the rudeness and ridiculous pretensions of the defendant, who it appeared scarcely allowed passengers a choice of the means of conveyance, but by illegally seizing on their luggage and by threats and abusive language endeavoured to compel their patronage. Stilsby was recommended immediately to deliver up the luggage which he had so unwarrantably obtained.

Frances Cook was accused by Sarah Crump of having robbed her, the said Sarah, of four pounds, by abstracting it from a box in which she had placed it. Cook denied all knowledge of the transaction, and was remanded in order to afford her an opportunity of accounting for the money which was seen in her possession. [She was again brought up on Monday, but failing to give a satisfactory account of the manner in which she became possessed of the money which she was known to have expended, she was fully committed.]

## RURAL INTELLIGENCE.

### VINE CULTURE.

As I doubt not it is your wish to promote the agricultural interests of this district, I conceive a few practical observations on the culture of the vine may be acceptable. There cannot be two opinions with regard to the leading question, whether the soil and climate of this our adopted country is congenial to this production, since many experiments have already given it certainty. I shall, therefore, confine myself to such observations only as my limited experience will justify. There are two modes of cultivation that may become equally productive to the grower. The first, that of producing wines of quality; the other, the creation of a vineyard which will serve at once as a fruit garden, a vineyard for raisins, the making wines of greater quantity than quality, and the produce of vinegar. The former is rather calculated for districts remote from towns; the

latter is unquestionably the most valuable of the two to the proprietor in a neighbourhood where a large consumption may be calculated on. However, as it is a matter of the first importance that we should produce a commodity for export, I will endeavour in the first instance to treat of the production of wine of good quality, at the same time trusting that your readers will receive my communication as from one whose experience is very limited, but at the same time as from a person who is anxious to promote the welfare of his fellow colonists, and who is open to the correction of error.

It appears to me that this country, although varying materially as to soil and climate from the vine districts of France, yet maintains so great a similarity as to warrant the same mode of cultivation. The best wines of France are produced on the high lands; it has been proved that the vine grows well in this country, notwithstanding its frequent droughts, on the high forest lands, which otherwise are only available to the settler as pasture. The best soils are sandy loam, decomposed limestone, or granite, and gravelly land; and the best exposure is to the southward of the east. I mention these only as facts of which I have had experience. There are many other soils and aspects which from adventitious circumstances may be equally favorable. For the growth of the vine on high lands, and where quality not quantity is expected, the plant should be circumscribed in its vegetative powers. Therefore ploughing the land to about the depth of ten inches where practicable, or else breaking up the surface with the spade, is all the labour that will be required. This should be done in the months of November, December, and January, so as to sweeten the surface soil for the reception of the plants. In many wine countries, it is the practice to form the plantation with cuttings, but in this dry climate I would recommend that the cuttings should be rooted in a nursery the season before planting. Since this system is opposed to the mode of proceeding adopted by many, I will state my reasons for following it. The first object one should have in view in making a plantation is, to ensure a healthy and uniform growth in all the individual plants, since age in the plant is necessary to the production of good wine. If the vineyard be formed from cuttings only, and the spring should prove dry, many will fail; the consequence is, that a fresh planting will be required in the ensuing year, and so on from year to year until all the vacancies are filled; the result will be, that the enclosure will contain plants of various ages; whilst on the other hand, by using rooted plants, although a more troublesome process, almost all the plants will succeed, and thus insure an uniform growth.

Should you consider this communication worthy of insertion, I shall in my next treat of the mode of making cuttings, planting, and pruning. At present, I shall limit my letters to a brief space, unless you should think the subject may acquire sufficient interest with the public to warrant the devotion of a larger portion of your columns to it.—Correspondent.

[We consider this subject of the greatest importance to the Colony, especially at the present conjuncture, when it is so desirable to increase her internal resources to the utmost limit. We will, therefore, feel gratified if our Correspondent will continue it.—Ed. H. R. G.]

**Fruit.**—Grapes have been sold in the market during the week at 1s 6d per pound, and pumpkins and melons are plentiful.

## SYDNEY.

The Session of the Legislative Council closed on Wednesday last. During this short but busy sitting several measures of indubitable public utility have been passed, and others introduced by His Excellency, the tendency of which was decidedly mischievous—the Permit Act for instance, have been happily defeated by the firmness of honourable members. The Council, it is understood, will not again re-assemble until March or April next, when it will meet to take into consideration the Municipal Corporation Bill and other important matters, which may be supposed by that period to demand urgent and close attention. The passing of a Municipal Bill has now become indispensable, and such a measure may be expected to be in operation within a very short period. The establishment of corporate rights, however, ought not, and indeed cannot be supposed to satisfy the desires of the inhabitants of New South Wales. This measure can only be considered the first step in their progress towards the enjoyment of those political privileges accorded to almost every other Colony of the Empire. A representative assembly must very speedily follow the passing of a Municipal Bill, and we hail the latter no less for the benefits which it is of itself calculated to confer than as ushering in a rich inheritance from our race, namely Representative Legislation.

The events of the last few months have shown more forcibly than was ever before exhibited, the injuries to which we are constantly exposed from the ignorance of the official people at home; an ignorance which is the more pernicious to our interests as our distance from the mother country is so great. The only proper remedy for this ruinous state of things is to give the people a right of interference in their own government, a consummation towards which the state of society and the progress of political events are rapidly approximating. A new era therefore in the political history of this country will soon commence, and with the impulse which a popular and representative government will bestow upon her young and aspiring energies, her destiny we doubt not will be as great and distinguished as her warmest friends can desire.

The Sydney Journal last received, contain nothing of any importance. There had been no arrivals during the week with the exception of the *Sea Horse*.

## NEWCASTLE.

### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Churchwardens of the Newcastle Church.

GENTLEMEN—The correspondent to the *Hunter River Gazette*, no doubt with good intention, drew your attention to the desapidated state of the Church, and called upon you to make the necessary repairs. His ideas appear however to be limited to the single fact of the delapidation without considering the good effect produced by your leaving it in its present state. It is a generally admitted fact that the nearer we draw to our latter end the more devout we become, and the sinner must be sincere, and ardent in his deathbed supplication. Upon this principle, Gentlemen, let me beseech you, as you desire to promote sincere devotion, to leave the Church as it is. No person who enters it, but must do so with the expectation that his end is near, and you may depend that, with such a feeling, their devotions will be sincere. I can answer for myself that I never cast my eyes to the cracked ceiling without an expectation that I may be gathered in the ruins before I leave the Church. I beg the cor-

respondent's pardon for differing with him in opinion, but I cannot but feel that the community are really indebted to you for a good deal of real devotion. I am, &c., Gentlemen, &c., EPISCOPALIAN.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.**—An inquest was held at Mr. McGraw's Inn on Monday last, on the body of George Kennell, who came by his death on the morning of the Sunday previous. Before the Coroner, T. S. Parker, Esq., and the following Jury—G. W. Jackson, Esq., foreman, Messrs. Steel, Reece, Grief, Young, Hannell, Flood, Brown, Hudson, Baston (carpenter, and Mosley. The deceased was a labourer and had formerly been a constable in the gaol at Newcastle. He had been much addicted to drinking, and, on the day previous to that in which his death took place, he had indulged more freely than ordinary. He had been drinking in Groves's public-house, and in the coach-house of that inn, he met a man named Hugh Bannan, who had formerly been a lodger in the house, but, who had, at this time, left it. Bannan had also been drinking through the day, and that evening, shortly before the murder, he had stated in the presence of the waiter and the chambermaid of the inn, "that he would act as an Irish man that day, and would emaciate some one." The deceased man happened to go into the coach-house of the inn, when Bannan had a few words together, they went out into the yard of the inn, and immediately thereupon cries were heard by various persons who were in the house drinking, and they accordingly ran out, found the deceased lying in the yard, but did not see any blows struck. The deceased was carried home, and on the following morning about ten o'clock he died. On the inquest, the waiter of the inn, (James Coughlan), the chambermaid, (Mary Boylan), the stable boy, (Francis Hughes), and two or three witnesses, were examined. They however prevaricated so greatly, that the inquest could not be closed the first day, and the Coroner being taken ill, occasioned by the confined state of the room, and the pressure of the inhabitants of the town who flocked to witness the examination, and who, by crowding up the windows prevented the air from ventilating the room. The inquest was adjourned until the following day. On Tuesday morning, the inquest was re-opened, and the whole of the former examinations were read over to the Jury in the presence of the prisoner, and some of the witnesses were re-examined. On this day, the prevarication was greater than it had been the day before, and it was the afternoon of the second day before the examination closed. The Jury then returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Hugh Bannan who was in custody, and the reason of their doing so was the evidence of the medical gentleman (Dr. Brooks), who deposed that he had carefully examined the body, and had found that the liver and the intestines were diseased by (as he supposed) inflammation induced by intemperance. He also found that a blow had been given to the deceased, which might, and probably had been given with a pail or some other piece of wood. That that blow accelerated the death of the deceased but was not the immediate cause of it. That he might have lived a few months longer, but that he could not have lived beyond that time on account of the diseased state of his body. In recording the verdict, the Jury took occasion to recommend to the Coroner that he should represent the interference of Mr. Groves with the witnesses, and the Coroner thereupon addressed a letter to the Police Magistrate, representing that it was the opinion of the Jury that Mr. Groves was an unfit person to hold a license, and requesting that his license should not be renewed. The Jury was composed of the most respectable inhabitants of the town, and the inquest occasioned a great sensation throughout the town.

THE "CAIRO," barque, is now lying at Mr. Scott's wharf, taking in wool for England. Captain Wardle has given several parties during his stay, which have kept the town alive. The *Cairo* is a beautiful and roomy vessel, and wool-shippers ought to seize the opportunity of her visit to the district to send their wool home. The agent is A. B. Spark, Esq., of Sydney.

## MUSWELL BROOK.

### From our Correspondent.

The two bushrangers who had escaped from the custody of the constables near Glennie's Creek, were captured again the following day by one of the mounted police at a sheep station belonging to Mr. Pringle. A policeman went to the hut for the purpose of lighting his pipe, when the door was opened by one of the bushrangers, who, recognising the quality of his visitor, instantly seized a carbine and levelled it at the soldier. Fortunately it missed fire twice. The policeman then took a brace of pistols from the holsters, and presenting them, one in each hand, at the bushrangers, they got frightened and surrendered. The two constables from whom they escaped have been committed to take their trial.

There is a woman here who is possessed of a very large guana, which she has so far succeeded in taming that it leaves her residence in the morning and returns in the evening with the greatest regularity. It is seven feet in length, and the largest I have ever seen.

We have had some showers during the last few days, but from the continued hot winds the grass is faded away again.

Our town has received a great addition to its appearance by an extensive range of buildings which Mr. Stanley has just completed, comprising a mansion house, and shops for a butcher, a chandler, and a barber. Mr. S. deserves great credit for his enterprise and spirit.

## SCONE.

### From our Correspondent.

I have not heard what success our worthy chief constable met with at Murrarundi, whether he had gone, it is said, to apprehend and bring to Scone a few of those who might become a little merry during the races, should their twenty-one shillings not be forthcoming. The inhabitants here are perpetually annoyed by this officer, for whose presumptuous and vexatious interference with them they can obtain no redress.

Christmas has passed over without any rioting; not a single person having been sent to the watchhouse for drunkenness.

This is a very rare occurrence, and must have been felt as a serious misfortune by the constables. By the by, it is the custom here to inflict a fine of twenty-one shillings on any person who is put in the lock-up for being a little merry. Can magistrates inflict such heavy fines for the first offence? I know it is not done at other benches.

Wilson, the bushranger, has not been heard of since his pal "Gipsy" was taken and committed. I hear he has gone down the country and made clear off.

I have not heard of any disturbances at Murrarundi.

There has been no rain, and the grass is completely parched up. Settlers are thinking seriously of removing their stock beyond the boundaries, which will become very expensive. It must be done, however, otherwise all will perish for want of water and grass. The prospects are very bad for the farmers, or those within the boundaries of location. It is more profitable to squat than either to rent or purchase land as many have done, and expended their capital without any chance of their ever being able to recover it, unless a very great improvement takes place.

We have a great complaint to make to His Excellency for allowing our Police Magistrate to reside sixteen miles from hence, and forty-two miles from Murrarundi; whereas he ought to be resident at the latter place, and visit here occasionally—and not at Muswell Brook. If a summons or warrant is required, we have to travel to Muswell Brook to see his worship. Mr. Allman is police magister at Muswell Brook, and Mr. Robertson is not wanted there. He ought to return to Scone or Murrarundi. We have been sadly played with by him and his chief, who seem to be on a par.

Our Court of Requests was held last Monday, the 3d instant. J. A. Robertson, Esq., Commissioner. Upwards of sixty cases were decided in a short time, which gave on the whole satisfaction; as in all sittings of that useful court, it would be difficult for the commissioner to please all. The above court sits here on the first Monday of the months of January, April, July, and October.

The quarterly muster for ticket-of-leave holders takes place on Friday next, for the last time. It being ordered by the new Ticket-of-Leave Regulations, that musters for the country districts shall take place once in each year. A registry is now kept by the Clerk of the Court, to whom ticket-of-leave holders report themselves fourteen days after the first of January in each year, or whenever they change their employ. Passes are granted every two months for fourteen days, by payment of two shillings and sixpence; and passports as usual, for men to travel out of the district with drays, &c., or beyond the boundaries, by applying through the bench who recommend same to Sydney, which when so done, is approved of, provided the applicants be of good characters. It is a great convenience to ticket-of-leave shepherds and others, who reside inside the boundary line, and they appear much pleased with the new regulations.

Races will take place here on Tuesday next, and good sport is anticipated. First prize, horse and cart; second ditto, saddle and bridle; third ditto, saddle and bridle; fourth ditto, a percussion gun. Entrance, weights, &c., as on other courses. Our worthy landlord of the White Swan, Mr. J. P. Wilkie, has commenced this innocent sport; and we hope in July or August to eclipse some of our neighbours on the Lower Hunter, it being our intention to get up annual subscription races for Scone. When Maitland first commenced its racing, there was not a great concourse of people or a large show of blood horses, you may therefore presume our first attempt will be something similar, leaving room for improvement, which we hope to accomplish in due time.

A great many canus have lately been caught in this district, which is a very rare occurrence here. They have, no doubt, been driven into this quarter by the continual drought, and have, probably, wandered from a great distance in quest of food.

There are no potatoes at present in this neighbourhood. A few loads would sell very well, and pay the small settlers who have teams of their own to bring them up. There is also a demand for them at Muswell Brook, Aberdeen, and Murrarundi. Nothing particular has occurred lately. Bushrangers are quiet. Money is scarce, and crops are bad. The cattle from want of feed are dying and rambling in all directions.

Two men named Miller and Adams, who were employed in sinking a well on Captain Dumaresq's property, tumbled into it, a depth of sixty or seventy feet, and very much injured themselves. I am happy to say, however, that they are in a fair way of recovery.

The Scone church is now opened for divine worship by the Rev. John Morse, who preaches in it every second Sunday, having to visit Muswell Brook and Merton once a fortnight. The building is neat and well finished, and is a credit to the inhabitants of the Scone district, not one shilling being owing to the contractor. Captain Dumaresq exerted himself zealously in the matter from its commencement. Subscriptions are now being collected for erecting a pulpit.



