

(From the Courier.)

WARWICK.—Monday.—A violent hurricane from the south-west occurred this afternoon. Over one inch of rain fell in twenty minutes.

SYDNEY.—Monday.—The rape case against Macaulay, a Magistrate, has been dismissed on a technical objection, after his committal had been recorded, and he was fined £5 for assault.—The drought in the Western districts is becoming ruinous.—There were slight rains along the coast yesterday.—Arrived: The City of Brisbane.

MELBOURNE.—Monday.—Parliament meets on the 9th of February.—There was a collision on the Brighton Railway on Saturday, and several were injured.—A new clipper, named the Thermopylae, has made the passage in sixty-one days from the Start.

THE nomination of Aldermen takes place on Tuesday, the 2nd day of February next. There are three vacancies to be supplied, caused by the retirement of Messrs. Hooper, Wonderley, and Barry; and we would advise intending candidates to put their claims before the public at the earliest period, so that we may have an opportunity of selecting the best men.

We have been informed that Mr. Macalister has suggested Friday, the 5th of February, to his Excellency as the day for opening the Toowoomba Agricultural and Horticultural Show, and we presume that he intends to hurry his Excellency through the business of inspection, and take him off to Allora to complete the opening of the Warwick Railway in the afternoon. We have not yet arrived at a perfect comprehension of the exhaustive process suggested by Mr. Macalister, but we should imagine that the comfort of his Excellency and the interests of the society would be better consulted by the opening of the Show on the day previous to the formal opening of the Allora Railway.

As a proof that really good stock is still worth its money in the Toowoomba market, we may mention that several of the WA cows, sold by Mr. J. C. Dexter, on Tuesday, realised from six pounds to six pounds ten shillings per head.

THE appointment of Poundkeeper, which was to have taken place yesterday, was adjourned until Tuesday next, the 19th instant, in consequence of the small attendance of magistrates. We understand that there are some seven or eight applications, including that of the late keeper, Mr. Arthur Lloyd, but as no complaints have been laid against him during the past year, we presume that he will be reinstated at the next meeting.

We have received a monster apple, as a specimen of the crop produced by Mr. C. H. Hartmann, at his nurseries on the Range, and have been informed that the whole of the fruits will be ready for operations in about a fortnight, when, if the quality of the peaches and other similar products are equal in appearance and flavour to the specimen apple, we expect to hear of a very material consumption.

A MEETING of farmers will be held at Mr. G. Hooper's, Sovereign Hotel, on Monday evening next, for the purpose of memorialising the Government in reference to a notification calling upon the sixpenny leaseholders under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1860, who have signified their wish to be brought under the Act of 1868, to pay up the difference of rent due on each year from the date of selection. We can see no reason why the Government should adopt such an oppressive mea-

sure. We can see no reason why the Government should adopt such an oppressive measure, as the payment might easily be distributed over an equal number of years, while the sudden call upon a large number of the selectors to pay some sixty pounds must at least put many of them to considerable inconvenience.

SINCE Saturday last there has been only one case before the Police Magistrate, which was a charge preferred by Mr. Dodd against Henry Ross for obstructing the public footway. The defendant apologised to Mr. Dodd, and the case was dismissed on payment of costs of Court.

THE *Peak Downs* Telegram has received intelligence from Nebo, of the murder by the blacks, at North Creek, of Mr. James Collins, formerly overseer at Fort Cooper, but of late the owner of about 4000 sheep, which were lambing on the abandoned run of North Creek. No particulars are as yet to hand.

THE *Courier* has received intelligence of an accident of a serious nature which happened to Mr. Jewell, at Gympie. It appears that on Friday morning, he has found in a shaft, down which he fell on Thursday night. The chief injury received is in the spine. The news of the accident created a very regretful feeling in Brisbane, where Mr. Jewell was well known.

On Sunday evening, as the passengers by the Clarence were landing, the *Courier* says:—"A seizure of jewellery was made by Mr. Hughes, the Customs' Officer in charge of the A.S.N. Co.'s wharf. Mr. Selegman, a saloon passenger, was searched on suspicion, when fourteen cases, each containing either a brooch or a brooch and pair of earrings were found on him. These articles were at once impounded by the authorities, and after communicating with the Chief Landing Waiter, Mr. Selegman was given into the custody of the police by Mr. Hughes, on a charge of attempted smuggling. The goods are said to be worth about £30."

THE *Courier* gives the following caution to bathers in the Brisbane River:—"Two large sharks, each of which measured upwards of five feet from end to end, were caught in the river, near the old South Brisbane ferry on Saturday. The most singular thing in connection with their capture is that they were brought to land with a small fishing line, of the sort generally used here. One of the sharks was of the sort known as the shovell-nosed, and it had a particularly ugly look."

SPEAKING of the late show at Maryborough the local journal says:—"A large basket of gigantic capicums was a very conspicuous object on the centre table. It appears as though, in our genial climate, there were positively no limit to the size that these pungent productions may attain; yet we continue to import any amount of vermillion and armenian bole, under the name of cayenne pepper, from the old country."

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A FATAL accident is recorded by the *Courier*, which occurred to Mr. James Anderson, on Saturday night last. It appears that, about 10 o'clock, he was proceeding in the direction of Fortitude Valley, and, when opposite to Staffs House, in Petrie's Night, he was knocked down and run over by a Melbourne car. The vehicle passed over his chest, breaking a blood vessel, and the unfortunate man did not live for more than five minutes afterwards. It is stated by eye-witnesses that

It is stated by eye-witnesses of the occurrence that the deceased was nearly in the middle of the road, and that the car, which was coming in from the Valley, was proceeding at a quick trot, on its right side of the road. The driver of the car, James Thompson, gave notice of the accident to the police immediately, and he was arrested by Sergeant Manton on a charge of manslaughter. The deceased was at one time a printer, and worked in Ipswich, but, for the last few months, he had been working with a dray. He lived in the Valley, near the Union Hotel. He was about 45 years of age, and leaves three daughters.

MR. JOHN GRAHAM, of Grosvenor Downs, has reported to the District Registrar, Clermont, the death of a child by drowning in a well, on the station. It appears that the deceased, who was a little boy, aged six years, was the son of a shearer named John Montgomery. The lad's mother is said to have injudiciously sent the child to the well, a few yards from her hut, to fill a water-bag, and she allowed twenty or thirty minutes to elapse before thinking of her child's absence. On going to the well, which is only a few feet deep, and finding his cap floating on the water, she gave the alarm, and the station storekeeper, Mr. Gunning, went into the well and brought up the body of the child. Persevering efforts to restore animation were made in vain.

THE *Daily Herald* is sorry to learn that on Tuesday last the Rev. Mr. Grimm, Presbyterian minister, met with a somewhat serious accident. It appears that the rev. gentleman, who was just starting on a tour through the district, had arrived at Jimbour on the evening of the above day, when the horse he was riding shied and threw him against a fence. Mr. Grimm sustained the fracture of a small bone in the wrist. He remained at Jimbour that night, and returned to Dalby on Wednesday where he obtained medical aid. We understand that the rev. gentleman is now progressing very satisfactorily.

THE *Rockhampton Bulletin* says that a letter has been received from Tambo, the Barcoo township, and dated December 23, which states that some splendid rain had fallen there, and the river had been running for a week. All the sheep that were out on the travel were being brought back with all speed, so that shearing operations might be commenced. A carter, named Bell, with two horse teams laden with flour, arrived at Tambo in thirty-three days from the time he loaded at Rockhampton. The flour was purchased at the rate of £72 10s per ton. The writer states that they had seen some most absurd reports in a Rockhampton paper, about flour being sold at Tambo for £200 per ton, but he writes—"I can assure you it is an untruth, as the highest price it has been sold here for is £80 per ton."

THE *Gladstone Observer* of the 31st ultimo says:—"The blacks had not left the neighborhood of Dumgree on Monday, and were growing more insolent daily. The police were passed on the road on Tuesday, and would reach Dumgree yesterday. Not before they were wanted. Travellers alone or unarmed have been stuck-up and robbed, and human life is in peril. A few days ago a man arrived on the Prairie stripped of all he possessed. If a regular patrol is maintained, a complete stopper may be put on the thieving and murdering recreations of our interesting friends. Take the police away again, and before the smoke of their carbines has cleared off, the blacks will be at their old games."

THE *Daily Herald* reports a daring robbery which was perpetrated on Thursday night, at Mr. Cummings saddlery establishment, in Drayton-street, and property to the value of about £20 stolen therefrom. As most of our readers are aware, the night was intensely dark, and was exceedingly favorable

from. As most of our readers are aware, the night was intensely dark, and was exceedingly favorable for depredations of this description. On the night in mention, Mr. Cummings, after securely closing his establishment shortly after eight o'clock, took a stroll round the town, and on his return, about eleven, he found that the stable and pallock, with which one of the doors had been secured, had been removed, and the door forced open. On entering the shop and procuring a light, he found his goods strewn about in confusion, and that two stock saddles, three bridles, nine pair of spurs, two whips, and several other articles had been purloined. He at once gave information to the police, but although active search has been made, we regret to have to state that up to the present time no clue has been discovered that is likely to lead to the apprehension of the thief or thieves. Mr. Cummings desires us to state that, as one of the saddles was not quite complete, if the fellow who took it will call again at his place he will probably get the stirrups.

SATURDAY last, says the *Maryborough Chronicle*, was the hottest day that has ever been recorded in the experience of some of our oldest residents. From 10 a.m. a burning sirocco from the north-west continued to blow with great force until near sunset. We are not aware that anybody had sufficient energy left to note the exact temperature at the culminating agony of this outrageous day, but we are informed that about 4 p.m., when the heat had somewhat abated, the thermometer, under the shade of a wooden verandah showed 106° Fahrenheit. Towards evening the wind veered round to the south, bringing along with it dark masses of cloud; the weather has since been enjoyably cool.

THE *Maryborough Chronicle* has received information that two cottages on Captain Jeffrey's plantation on the Upper Mary were burnt down on New Year's Day, under circumstances which lead to the supposition that the fire was the work of an incendiary. The buildings in question were last seen safe and sound about ten in the morning, and by three p.m. were reduced to ashes. The damage done is estimated at between £250 and £300, and a reward of £10 has been offered by Captain Jeffrey for the conviction of the perpetrator of the malicious deed. We understand the property was insured in the Queensland Insurance Company for £250.

THE *Courier* gives the following particulars respecting the escape and recapture of two prisoners at St. Helena:—At noon, on Saturday, the Visiting Justice, Mr. T. H. Barron, Inspector Lewis, and a body of police, with a black tracker, proceeded to St. Helena Penal Establishment to assist in searching for two prisoners who had escaped from the working gangs engaged cutting down the mangrove scrub. On their arrival they found that the Water Police and Customs boats had been guarding the island all night, and had made diligent search during the morning. They had tracked the two runaways to the beach and back, and also found a rudely constructed raft, made of bits of small drift wood, about a quarter of a mile from the beach, to seaward, which led the searchers to believe that the prisoners had either been attacked by sharks or drowned, as the raft was only sufficient to hold on to by the hands, the body being immersed. Information reached town on Sunday that the two prisoners were recaptured on Saturday night. Had they succeeded in getting away from the island, there is little doubt that they must have been drowned, as the wind and tide would have taken them out to sea by the north passage. The prisoners are both young men, the eldest being William Read, who was convicted of horse-stealing at Roma on the 21st April last, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The other, named James English, was convicted at the same place for a less offence in July 1867, and sentenced to five

James English, was convicted at the same place for a less offence in July, 1867, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

MORINISH.—The dams belonging to the various Quartz Crushing Companies on the Morinish are all full, and the machines have started work, and it is to be hoped the various quartz owners and shareholders will before long reap the reward of their perseverance and spirit.
—*Northern Argus.*