

...a philosophical society and an associate of divers other societies for the study and practice of what she terms "Spiritual Science." Mrs Britten founded in San Francisco a select private party society for the study of occultism, in which, as she alleges, she is sustained by many of the leading judges, lawyers, and scientists of the city. On her departure for Australia some two months since her numerous friends and admirers presented her with a splendid jewel of emblematic significance, commemorative of the society she had founded, the exhibition of which in the shop of the manufacturer created much curious speculation and interest. To sum up, all that can be learned of Mrs Britten's past career is as strange and phenomenal as the doctrine she professes, but of her intellectual powers, and her singular control over her audiences, the public of Sydney will now have an ample opportunity of judging for themselves. It is asserted by those who have attended the addresses she has already delivered in this city that for eloquence and impressiveness they are unsurpassed by any utterances to which they have listened, and evince the highest tone of culture and oratory. Mrs Britten has come to these colonies under a special engagement to lecture in Melbourne, where subscriptions were some time since raised to bring her from America. She arrived with her husband, Dr Britten, by the last San Francisco mail steamer, *en route* direct for Melbourne, but being interviewed on the day of her arrival in Sydney by a few gentlemen to whom she was known by fame, she has been induced to remain for a fortnight, and after the conclusion of her engagement of several weeks in Sydney."

ACCIDENT.—We very much regret having to record, says the *Wangaratta Dispatch*, an accident which befel Mr John Moore, senr., of the Three Mile Creek, on Friday last. While working a chaff-cutting machine, Mr Moore unthinkingly put his hand where the cutters descend, the consequence being that the second finger of one of his hands came in contact

finger of one of his hands came in contact with the cutter, which nearly severed it from the second joint, leaving it hanging by the skin. Dr Hutchinson sewed it up, but it is very doubtful whether amputation will not yet have to be resorted to. Mr Moore is one of the oldest residents in this district, and is universally respected.

THE STORY OF A BRIGAND.—The correspondent of the "Daily News" in Rome writes:—Another band of brigands has been organised in the vicinity of Palermo. Its chief, one Oliva, was a brigadier of carabinieri, originally from the Romagna, who served in the district of Termini Imereze, and worked incessantly with inspector Lucchesi for the capture of the notorious Condottiere Leone. His activity and sagacity were such that Leone must inevitably have fallen into his hands; but unluckily for him and his claim to the prize-money which had been set on Leone's head, it happened that on the very day of Leone's being shot he was absent on other duty. His comrades affected much regret at his having missed his share of the glory and its reward, but churlishly demurred to his request for some recognition of his services, much greater as these were than other services which had been handsomely recompensed. The unkindest cut of all to him was, however, his seeing promoted to the rank of sergeant two comrades of his who had contributed infinitely less than he to the hemming in and the slaying of Leone. He repaired to Palermo, and demanded justice, but he received no satisfaction; on the contrary, he was treated with discourtesy, and even threatened with disciplinary punishment. Stung with resentment, he deserted his corps and took to the hills, with the resolution of becoming a brigand. He was not long in finding other deserters and outlaws like minded with himself, and these he formed into a band which has already given proof of its marauding efficiency under his leadership. His knowledge of the country acquired in the service which so badly requited him is even greater than that of