

CABLE MESSAGES.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL TO PRESS AGENCY.)

SYDNEY, October 3. The steamer 'Bowen' arrived at Cooktown yesterday with 330 Chinese and other passengers. On the voyage between Penang and Malacca the passengers and officers of the ship saw a sea serpent about 250 feet long and 50 feet broad, with a square head and yellow stripes.

The 'Bowen' brings London dates to August 18th.

Sir Charles Dilke, addressing his constituents at Notting Hill, read an important letter from an official, which stated that the accounts of the Bulgarian outrages were not exaggerated.

MELBOURNE, September 27.

The Government are making good progress with the Electoral Bill; all their proposals have been carried, although several amendments have been moved. The Council passed the second reading of the Education Act Amendment Bill.

The late heavy rains will have a good effect on the crops.

The report on the areas in South Australia are not so unsatisfactory as at first represented.

An opera company of 16 artistes has been engaged in Italy for Mr Lazar, of Sydney, and are coming to the colonies. The company also includes four ballet dancers.

In the Divorce Court cases, Fisher v. Fisher and Winter v. Winter, the juries found against the respondent, who was guilty of adultery. In the last-named case the respondent stated she was residing in Wellington with the co-respondent Robert Winter.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

AUCKLAND, Tuesday. In the Supreme Court Hing to Liu was found not guilty of stealing a blanket and saddle, but was convicted of stealing a gelding, and sentenced to one year.

Arrived: H.M.S. 'Sapphire,' from Melbourne. She is the first man of war armed with torpedoes that has visited the colonies.

The schooner 'Strathnaver,' of Lyttelton, was totally wrecked at Kaipara while crossing the bar. Two seas struck her, washing away the mate, who was at the wheel, and the vessel, bracing to, was swallowed up in the surf. Captain McDonald and three hands got ashore in the dingy after a hairbreadth escape. She was insured for £700 in the New Zealand office.

William Pye, of the Red Lion Hotel, was fined 20s and costs for selling liquor on Sunday. William Pearce, of the Royal Mail Hotel, was summoned for selling liquor to an intoxicated seaman, but the case was dismissed.

The Prince of Wales Theatre is to be shut up, and Mr DeLias takes the leasehold of the new theatre.

Sailed: The s.s. 'Wellington,' for the South.

In the Supreme Court, Strongman was sentenced to three years and Blake to seven years imprisonment for burglary; and Waitururu to forty-eight months for rescuing a prisoner. James Brookfield, two years, for stabbing.

Sharemarket.—Sales: Waitekauri, 20s 6d; Union Beach, 60s. Buyers: Union Beach, 57s 6d. Sellers: City of London, 16s; Crown Princes, 5s 9d; Waitekauri, 20s 6d; Union Beach, 60s; Tokatea, 10s 6d.

TAURANGA, Tuesday.

A native named Emanuel, claiming to be Hori Tupaea's brother, has turned back two prospectors from Kaimai, alleging that Kaimai belongs to the natives at large, and not exclusively to Hori. He also stated that the Government must also to an understanding with the King before prospecting be allowed. If matters continue as now the prospectors will lose patience, and go out armed to stand their ground.

SOUTHERN TELEGRAMS.

(PER PRESS AGENCY.)

GREYHOUND, Tuesday.

The Kumara Times cautions miners against coming there unless possessed of means to stand three months, as it takes that time after striking gold before tunnels can go in. About two thousand miners are now supposed to be on gold, but the place is being overdone by business people and miners. The 'Kennedy' and 'Charles Edward' arrived last night loaded with miners for the Kumara.

HOKITIKA, Tuesday.

The 'Otago' arrived from Sydney yesterday, and was tendered last night. She left on the 27th September, and brings 49 diggers for Kumara. Hokitika boats were towed to the wharf for the first time yesterday for three months. Four were towed yesterday. The 'Lioness' is still towing in, and it is expected all the boats will be towed in to-day.

AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAMS.

PER S.S. 'OTAGO.'

(PER PRESS AGENCY.)

MELBOURNE, Sept. 26.

The Government have concluded negotiations for the Cape service, subject to ratification by Parliament.

Sentence of death, which was passed upon Ellen Francis for the Emerald Hill murder, has been commuted to twenty-one years.

During a gale the schooner 'Carlman' lost two men and the deckhouse. The inquiry into the loss of the 'Dandenong' was concluded on the 27th September. The Board reserved its decision.

The steamer 'St. Oystil' left London on the 29th.

BRISBANE, Sept. 23.

The 'Wentworth' shipped twelve thousand ounces of gold at Cooktown, and eleven thousand ounces at Townsville.

The Chinese at Cooktown petition the Governor to refuse his consent to the Goldfields Amendment Bill. They also petition the Emperor of China calling attention to the breach of treaty by England.

NEWCASTLE, Sept. 26.

Captain Harless, barque 'Kind Oskar,' reports passing the body of a female off Jervis Bay. It was dressed in dark clothes, and sea gulls had settled on it, and had eaten the face away. The weather was bad, and he did not pick up the wash.

PARLIAMENTARY.

(PER PRESS AGENCY.)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WELLINGTON, Tuesday.

THE COUNTRIES BILL IN COMMITTEE.

From the time the House resumed at 7.30 last evening till 1.30 this morning, it was in Committee upon the Countries Bill. After a great deal of discussion, clause 62 (which depends upon the Financial Arrangements Bill, a measure not yet passed) was postponed. The House then got as far as 119 (appointment of auditors by the Governor), which, meeting with a great deal of opposition in favour of an independent audit, it was passed by Clause 120, regarding accounts, led to a good deal of discussion, a few holding that the system laid down was too complicated, but the majority thought the plan simple enough, and the clause passed as printed. It was decided, after a division, that the accounts should be balanced in March and September each year. At clause 128 Sir George Grey declined to proceed further, saying he was worn out, but the House resolved to go by 28 to 10. After reaching clause 132 progress was reported.

PRESENTATION TO SERGEANT-MAJOR GRANT.

Last evening a general parade of all the Volunteer companies (except the Scotch Company) took place at the Naval drill-hall in order to lend eclat to a presentation of a purse of sovereigns and an address to Sergeant-major Grant. The Naval Brigade and the No. 2 H.R.V. (both having unusually large musters) met first in the drill-hall, after which the Naval band proceeded to Shortland to meet the Rifle Rangers, the No. 3 H.R.V., and the Cadets. Each of those companies also mustered well. The following were the musters:—Naval Brigade, 80 (including band), commanded by Lieut. Gavin; No. 2 H.R.V., Captain Paul, 50; No. 3 H.R.V., Lieut. Field, 40; Thames Rifle Rangers, Captain McRoberts, 30; Cadets, Captain Lawlor, 35; total, 235; which, under the circumstances, is a very creditable muster. Captains Brassey and Macdonald were unavoidably absent, having been called away to Auckland on business. Major Cooper assumed the command, and a hollow square was formed, with the officers, Sergeant Grant, and Mrs James Mackay in the centre.

Major COOPER said he had been requested by the officers to make this presentation to Sergeant-major Grant, whom he congratulated on this mark of esteem from the Volunteers of the Thames. He complimented him on being an indefatigable, painstaking, and efficient drill instructor.

Mrs MACKAY then handed the address, of which the following is a copy, and the purse of sovereigns, to Sergeant-major Grant, stating that she was much pleased at the honour conferred on her in asking her to make the presentation:—

THAMES VOLUNTEER DISTRICT. To Sergeant-major GRANT, District Drill Instructor.

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the several Volunteer companies on the Thames, beg to offer you this testimonial, together with a purse of sovereigns, as a slight acknowledgment of the esteem and appreciation in which you are held by the Thames Volunteers whom we have the honour to command. In all our intercourse with you we have always found you ready, willing, and indefatigable to assist the Volunteer movement by every means within your power. Your kindly disposition and untiring zeal, energy, and patience, together with your thorough knowledge of drill and military evolutions, have rendered you a general favourite among us, and have tended in no small degree to gain you the respect and regard of all those who have come in contact with you in the discharge of your duties. Trusting that you may long remain amongst us to render us your valuable services.—We are, &c.

J. McRoberts, Thames Rifle Rangers; F. W. PAUL, No. 2 H.R.V.; J. E. MACDONALD, No. 3 H.R.V.; G. J. LAWLOR, Thames Rifle Rangers; W. BRASSEY, Naval Brigade; W. H. TAIPARI, Native Volunteers.

The address was very handsomely illuminated by Mr James Patterson, and the purse of sovereigns was subscribed for as follows:—Naval Brigade, No. 3 H.R.V., No. 2 H.R.V., and Thames Rifle Rangers, and Captain Taipari (Native Volunteers), 25 each, and the Cadets £2 10s—£27 10s.

Sergeant-major GRANT thanked Mrs Mackay, Major Cooper, and the officers and members of the Volunteer companies for this very handsome and substantial purse, and the flattering address, and he begged to tender his sincere thanks for the honour they had that evening conferred upon him. In doing so he assured them that while he was proud to know that his services were appreciated and acknowledged, he felt that he had done nothing more than his duty. He had especially to thank the officers whose signatures were appended to the address for their united expressions of good feelings towards himself, and he assured them that what he had done in the past he would endeavour to perform in the future, and exert his best efforts for the advancement of every corps in the district, and to the best of his ability he would assist in maintaining the good reputation of the Thames Volunteers. (Cheers.)

Captain PAUL then called for three cheers for Mrs Mackay, which were loudly accorded, and cheers were also given for Major Cooper.

After the presentation the companies were formed and inspected, and subsequently marched to Shortland, headed by the Naval band.

A little boy, when picking the drumstick of a chicken, swallowed one of the tendons which are so numerous in the legs of a fowl, and was very nearly choked. The tendon was, however, extracted with great difficulty from the child's throat, which he exclaimed, 'Oh, mamma, it wasn't the chick's tendon; it was becausecock forgot to take off its garters!'

TO THE PUBLIC AT THE THAMES GOLDMINE.—A gentleman for many years in my employ is now in England selecting, on my account, goods specially adapted for this province. To make room for consignments shortly expected, I shall, for the present, offer my large stock (to which I invite your attention), at unusually low prices, with extra allowance for cash. My Book Stock comprises Standard Works in Theology, History, the Sciences, Tracts, Fiction, and Poetry; elegant bound Gift and Table-books; many thousand volumes adapted for children and young persons, libraries, and prizes; Educational Books (used in the schools under the Board of Education); Technical and Toy Books, Maps, &c. In Stationery I keep full stocks of every description required for the desk, counting-house, and private use. To teachers under the Board I set as agent—receiving and forwarding their salaries monthly. I shall be happy to supply Lists of Works in any department of literature. All orders with which I may be favoured will receive my prompt and careful attention.—EDWARD WATKES, 101, Queen-street, Auckland.—Sept. 30, 1876.

GRAHAMSTOWN WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

The services in connection with the Grahamstown Wesleyan Sunday School were held last evening. Tea was served in the school-room in an excellent style, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd which sat down. After tea a public meeting was held in the church, which was presided over by the Rev. H. S. Bunn. The proceedings were opened by singing and prayer.

The CHAIRMAN said that the large attendance showed unquestionably that they were taking a deep interest in the progress of the Sabbath school. Of all branches of the church this seemed to meet with the greatest favour. He alluded to the good influence exercised by the Sabbath schools. It was, he said, a reproductive power, and nothing paid so well. The nation was indebted to the Sabbath schools as a great preventative to crime and sin, and they exercised a beneficial influence on the nation generally. Sabbath teachers were those who most strenuously defended the truth, and declared for right, and the Sabbath school scholars followed the example of the teachers. The children too carried their teachings home into the families, and often effected much good in this way. He congratulated the Grahamstown Wesleyan Sunday School on their position and the sympathy which they had gained.

Mr G. MEACHAM, the secretary, read the seventh annual report, which was very lengthy and exhaustive. The number of teachers, male and female, was 14 and the scholars 4. The number of scholars in 1875 was 161, as compared with 180 last year, showing a decrease of 38. The average attendance was 152. The young men's Bible class numbered 18, and the young women's class (under the supervision of Mrs Richards) numbered 19. The library included 468 books. The receipts during the past year had been £94 17s 9d, and the expenditure £23 6s 4½d. The report concluded by earnestly requesting the sympathy and support of parents and friends.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter from the Rev Mr Hinton apologising for his non-attendance, as he was detained at a special meeting of his own people.

Mr TREWENOCK moved the adoption of the report, and spoke on the subject of the influence of ladies as mothers and teachers, and invited their assistance and co-operation.

The Rev R. LAISLEY, in seconding the adoption of the report, said that he felt as much at home on a Wesleyan platform as on his own. This was, no doubt, due to his early associations, for, whatever he might think of Wesleyanism, he was a great admirer of Wesleyans when they were consistent, and some of the most noble and distinguished men whom he had known were members of that denomination. He alluded to Dr Adam Clarke, Richard Watson, Billy Dawson, and other great and eloquent preachers whom he had heard. He was pleased with the spirit of the Chairman's address when he spoke of the Sabbath school as a part of the church organisation, and impressed upon the teachers and scholars that that should be always borne in mind. One great achievement of the Sabbath school was the creation of a public conscience. When the slave question was mooted in England it was the public conscience of England that caused it to be swept away, and other great and important reforms were carried in the same way, so that if nothing more than the creation of a public conscience was achieved by the Sabbath schools, they would prove a great national blessing. He concluded by congratulating the Grahamstown Wesleyan School on their prosperous condition as shown in the report.

The report was unanimously adopted. The Rev W. J. WILLIAMS said that it afforded him great pleasure to be amongst his old friends at the Thames. It was the scene of his first ministry, and the formation of his first friendships in New Zealand. He had now come back to visit them, and found that their circumstances were somewhat changed. Their streets were not so thronged as they used to be in the Caledonian days, and many faces were missing. He also observed a change in those who remained. The young people whom he had known as little children were budding into manhood and womanhood. These were all indications that he was growing older. On one subject, however, there was no change, and that was the great importance which they attached to Sunday school work. They might be inspired to greater exertion in this work if they considered the danger to which their young people were exposed. This age was spoken of as the age of enlightenment, the age of progress, but they should bear in mind that it was also the age of deadly peril. They were continually surrounded by intellectual dangers, and a young man might now develop into an infidel much more rapidly than in any former age. Secularism and philosophy were presented in such attractive forms that there was danger of their young people adopting this ultra-liberalism which was becoming so prevalent. They could not afford to be indifferent to the fact that they were surrounded by great intellectual perils. As another incentive he referred to the moral dangers which surrounded the young from the social customs which prevailed, and as a further reason for renewed vigour, he pointed out that the week-day education was purely secular, and there was therefore the greater reason for renewed diligence in instilling religious instruction into the minds of their young people at the Sabbath-schools. He said that in this colony their young people were more likely to be called on to take an active part in public matters than in the old country, and there was therefore the more necessity that their religious training should be perfect.

Mr NORDEN, as representative of the Shortland Sunday-school, also addressed the meeting briefly.

In the intervals between the addresses the choir rendered several anthems and hymns in excellent taste.

Mr HICKS, the superintendent of the Sunday-school, moved a vote of thanks to Miss Scott, who presided at the baritone, to the choir, to the ministers and friends who had addressed the meeting, and to those who had peculiarly assisted in providing the tea.

Mr JAMES seconded this motion, which was carried by acclamation, and the meeting terminated with prayer.

Butcher people with axes is becoming a favourite pastime with Maori. In addition to the case which occurred at the Hut a few days ago, a murderous attack on a Maori woman by a Maori occurred about the same time at New Plymouth. The 'Herald' says:—

On Monday night Hioropora incised a Maori woman's head, it is believed with an axe. Pears are entertained for the woman's life. He was brought up at the Police Court on the charge of wounding a native woman with intent to commit murder.

MINING MATTERS.

WAIOTAHU.—A cleaning up and re-topping for the Waiotahi Company took place yesterday after 24 tons had been put through the mill, and a total return of 23ozs 10dwt was the result obtained. The return this month is unusually small, the crushing being very limited. The reason for this is that there has been little or no work going on in the mine, operations having been stopped in the early part of the month to allow of the old winding engine and gear being removed in order that it might be replaced by the splendid hoisting plant, which was purchased by the company from the Nonpareil G.M.C. This plant is still in course of erection, and will not be in working order for some time, but when completed the Waiotahi Company will have one of the most complete and perfect hoisting works on the Thames. The quartz crushed this week was the result of operations carried on by a couple of men who are working from the No. 2 shaft.

TWENTY-FOURTH OF MAY.—The shareholders, Messrs Hayes and Robinson, had a crushing of 6 tons finished for them yesterday at the Prince Alfred battery, from which they only obtained a moderate yield of 6ozs 7dwt gold. As the leader from which the stuff was obtained is small and the expenses of carting, &c., are considerable, the return is not a very remunerative one, nor indeed is it so good as was anticipated.

RED QUEEN.—The crushing for the Red Queen Company at the Prince Alfred battery will be finished up to-day, and the return will, we have no doubt, fully meet expectations, for, although there have not been many specimens found in breaking down the lode (the continuation of the No. 6 reef of the Caledonian), gold has been frequently visible, and from amongst the stuff forwarded to the mill about 30lbs of good picked stuff came to hand yesterday and the day before. The crushing for Kiker and party, tributaries of a section of the company's mine at the Tramway battery, is completed so far as the stamping is concerned, but there being no herdsmen available at which to treat the blankets, &c., one being out of repair and the rest being engaged for the Queen of Beauty Company, the tributaries would have been put to considerable inconvenience had it not been for the kindness of Mr Darrow, manager of the Queen of Beauty battery, who has placed some of his herdsmen at their disposal. Another of the tribute parties will start crushing to-day at the Prince Alfred battery. This latter parcel is also likely to yield well, and we should not be at all surprised to find that by the time the crushings for the company and tributaries are completed there would be a total yield of upwards of 300ozs of gold from the mine.

ALBURNIA TRIBUTES.—Two other crushings from the Alburnia mine were finished yesterday at the Moanatairi battery for tributaries. Lapham and party completed a crushing of 15 tons for a return of 29ozs gold, and Luckie and party crushed 30 tons for a yield of 38ozs. Both returns are, of course, good payable ones.

POLICE COURT.—YESTERDAY.

(Before Captain GOLDSTEIN, J.P., and E. W. POWERS, Esq., J.P.)

LARCENY.—James Murphy, who on the previous day had pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny, was brought before the Court for sentence.—Mr Macdonald appeared for the accused.—Mr Bullen said that yesterday he had applied for a remand in order that he might communicate with the Police authorities in Auckland. He ascertained that there were no previous charges against the accused, and that the case might be summarily disposed of. He did not think the accused was any more guilty than his confederate, who, in Auckland, was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment.—Mr Macdonald addressed the Court to procure a mitigation of the punishment, and the Court inflicted a sentence of two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

NEW GUINEA EXPLORATION.—A NEW RACE OF MEN.

MANY of our readers will remember the Rev Geo. Brown, a Wesleyan missionary who visited Grahamstown about two years ago prior to leaving on his New Guinea missionary cruise. Mr Brown wrote on February 4th, as follows, after an absence of fully eighteen months:—

The 'Coeran' arrived here on Saturday last, 20th ultimo, and right glad we were to tow her into port. Captain Heruhsine told us that he had had a long and tedious passage of 40 days from Sydney. He has been very kind indeed in supplying us with a few stores, which were much needed, so now we shall be able to manage pretty well until Captain Forgyson arrives. He offered me a passage by way of China, but the journey would be so long, and the expense so great, that I am unwilling to entertain it. I can only give you now the following items. I have been seven times over to New Ireland since I wrote you three months ago by the 'Coeran'. On one trip I made the discovery that the island is only about a quarter of a mile wide at a place called Burumal, about fifty miles north of this place. That the natives need a missionary is very certain, for while I was sitting talking to the chief at one of the villages there, one of our lads went into a house, about ten yards distant, to light his pipe, and found the women engaged in roasting the leg and thigh of a man who had been killed the day before by the chief whom I was talking to. This place, Kural, is the farthest point north to which we have been. On another of my journeys we went round Cape St. George, and paid a visit to King Tom in his own village, about six miles up the opposite side of the island. I cannot give you the particulars of this long trip and our intercourse with Tom and his people. You know, of course, that it was in Port Rastin that the 'Lavinia' was taken, and nearly all her crew murdered, about two years ago, and that King Tom and his people are accused of the murder. Tom denied to me that he ordered the massacre, or that he had anything to do with it. He accuses the people of a village about two miles away. No one here, however, believes him. I succeeded in getting the captain's quadrant, the ship's articles, and a Savings Bank deposit book from the natives, which I now have in my possession. I was well received by them. Tom and his principal chief came on board, and I went on shore, spent several hours amongst them, took their photographs, and came away loaded with provisions. I'll tell you the whole tale another day.—On November 9, Captain Milne, of the firm of Capella and Milne, arrived here from the 'Susanne'. He has stationed two traders at Nodup or New Britain. The natives have tried to fire

their house, but did not succeed. On the 30th Timoti, one of our teachers, died. He had been ill since the day we landed here, and gradually sank under a complication of diseases. He was unmarried. He was fully prepared, and his death was a very peaceful one.—We have stationed teachers at Kaero, New Ireland, and one of them Cleptomata, has begun to preach.—The stations at Nodup and Matupi (New Britain) are both occupied. The teachers here had fever and ague several times, but it has yielded each time to proper treatment, and they have now faith in the virtues of quinine. I have explored a long line of coast on New Britain, from a point about 12 miles beyond Cape Palliser right down to Man Island. We have been twice round Cape Palliser; the other parts we have often visited. There is a large population on all that coast, and they seem quite friendly. By the way, the natives here are most positive in their assertions that there is a race of men with tails at a place called Kalili, quite close to where we were. They say that they are dwarfs, and that the tail, which they represent as being hard and stiff, is an extension of the spinal bone, and that if the people wish to sit down they must first dig a hole to receive this caudal appendage. They quote some of their assertions that they must be monkeys. They ask, "Do monkeys talk? or make taro plantations? or fight with spears, as these men do?" I tell the tale as it was told to me. I shall be most happy to be introduced to one of them, and have promised no end of good things to anyone who will secure me that honour. On Christmas Day, we gave a feast of two pigs, taro, &c., &c., to the people here, and I took the opportunity of asking them to build a church. They don't like work, and it has been a most difficult job to accomplish; but on the 23rd January I had the pleasure of opening the first church to the new mission. We have now another ready for opening at Nodup and another is being erected at Matupi. They are not very grand buildings, but it is a good beginning, and I feel very thankful. We have had several cases of fever and ague amongst the teachers, and at one time I was afraid that we were going to lose Mijeli, from a severe attack of fever. When I shall see you again is very doubtful, as I know of no opportunity unless Captain Forgyson calls. My mind, however, is quite easy, as I feel sure we are under Divine guidance and protection. I should, of course, like to go away now, but must wait and work.

WRECK OF THE STEAMSHIP 'DANDENONG.'

HARROWING DETAILS.

The 'Albert William,' barque, from Wallaroo (S.A.) arrived this morning at 9-30, bringing the intelligence that the 'Dandenong' (s), from Melbourne, had foundered off Jervis Bay.

'Dandenong' left Hobson's Bay at 3 p.m. on September 8th, on the 9th, at 5 p.m. wind suddenly shifted to east, and rapidly increased to a gale; at 2 a.m. on the 10th sighted land, supposed to be Cape Edward, the gale still increasing, and ship labouring heavily, and taking in a great deal of water on deck. At 1 a.m. the engineer reported that the engines had broken down, and the captain, on hearing this, immediately hauled up N, and by W. the wind shifting S, and E, and increasing in violence. The captain went below to ascertain the extent of the damage, and learned from the engineers that the screw shaft had broken in the stern pipe, and the ship commenced making water rapidly; bedding, blankets, and everything available were used to stop the leak, but to no purpose. The donkey pump was set to work at once, and the engineer, having partly stopped the leak, proceeded to disconnect the shaft in order to get the main engines to work on the bilges, but, owing to the water gaining so fast, they were unable to succeed. By this time the water had gained so fast that

THE FIRES WERE EXTINGUISHED.

The passengers and crew did their utmost to keep the water down by discharging cargo out of the after-hold, and pumps and buckets were all resorted to in order to keep the ship free, but without avail. Seeing that his vessel was in imminent danger of sinking, Captain Irwin ordered the boats to be got ready, and everything put in proper order for leaving the ship, which was now gradually settling down, the deck being level with the water at. At 2 30 p.m. a sail was discovered on the port bow, and having seen the 'Dandenong's' signal of distress, the vessel hove to. On hearing her it was found to be the barque 'Albert William,' Captain Walker, bound from Wallaroo, to Newcastle. The 'Dandenong' rounded to, and lowered the first lifeboat, the chief officer taking charge. The sea was terrific, but five adults and eight children succeeded in getting into the lifeboat, while they ran great risk of being dashed to pieces against the ship's side, owing to the heavy counter sea running. On nearing the barque a rope was thrown to the boat, but those in the boat were unable to catch it, or make it fast on the bow. On getting alongside, the barque rolled so heavily that she struck her, and split her in two, precipitating all on board into the water. One child, two men, and the chief officer were saved. The next boat that left the steamer made one successful trip, but was dashed in coming alongside the barque the second time, two passengers being drowned. The after-quarterboat was next lowered in charge of the second officer, and filled with male passengers, but

was dashed to fibres

alongside the barque, one passenger being lost. As it was now nearly dark, and the boats having been all disabled, no further communication could be carried on to the steamer on account of the terrific sea and gale which at this time blew almost a hurricane. The 'Dandenong' was then at most level with the water, and her lights were last seen from the barque at 8.30 p.m., when they were suddenly lost sight of in a squall. No such excitement has been known here since the wreck of the 'Cawarra' (s), and the Oriman war news. The local daily newspaper offices are besieged with people waiting slips of the disaster, and for some considerable time the slips were distributed as fast as printed. The crowd around the doors was something astonishing, and when the unfortunate passengers and crew were landed, some hundreds of people had assembled on the wharf awaiting their arrival. The scene was heartrending and pitiful: the poor creatures looked wretched and forlorn in the extreme. Many were melted to tears. The Sisters of Mercy were conveyed in a cab to the convent. The other passengers were accommodated at the Criterion Hotel.

One of the rescued passengers says:—The whole of the boats belonging to the steamer had been got ready, and upon the barque heaving to, the life boat was lowered in charge of the chief officer, Mr Lawson. She was manned by three sea-

men and a volunteer, named George Payne, a fine young fellow aged 23 years, who was on his way to Newcastle to join a ship as first mate. The chief officer behaved with much coolness, while some of the passengers were getting into the boat. When she started off there were fifteen persons in her altogether; the chief officer, three sailors, Mr Payne, Mr and Mrs Wakefield, and eight children. We very anxiously watched the boat's progress towards the barque. She was very strong, but she was tossed about like an eggshell by the tremendous seas running, the spray splashing into her and drenching her occupants. The next moment she was down in a trough of waves and out of sight. At last we saw her go up alongside the barque, but next minute she was dashed to pieces, and her fragments carried away, Payne being seen in one piece of the wreck. The chief officer and two of the men managed to scramble into the barque, but the father, mother, and seven children found water graves. We were still more anxious when the next boat, which Captain McDougall, a passenger, had volunteered to take charge of, prepared to put away. The boatswain and men were at the oars, Captain McDougall at the helm, and the passengers were one man and a number of women and children. The whole were landed safely, and the boat put back for the steamer. Capt. McDougall remained on board the barque, and the boatswain took the helm, two men only being at the oars, the third being engaged in bailing the boat. A

BOAT-LOAD OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Were taken from the steamer, and placed upon the barque, when the boat went adrift, and no more trips could be made. The second officer, McEwen, was placed in command of another boat, in which a number of men got. Other passengers could have got in, but preferred waiting for the captain's boat, which was considered to be the most safe. The boat was badly manned, one of the oars was broken, another could not be well worked on account of the rowlocks being broken, the third was pulled by an invalid passenger, but at the fourth was a sturdy lar. I was in this boat, and can vouch for the determination and pluck displayed by the second officer, McEwen, who, although a young man, was the means of preventing the boat being swamped and capsized. He was very cool and handled the helm splendidly. When we got alongside the barque our stem struck her heavily three times, but we could not ward her off. One of the men was washed out of the boat and landed on board the barque, and the others laid hold of ropes which were thrown down to us. We all, with the exception of one man, Ferguson, managed to scramble on board, but he, poor fellow, went to the bottom. There were now only two boats left, and these on board the steamer, so we could not put back to render assistance. The barque kept close to the steamer, until her lights disappeared, then we stood away for Newcastle.

There was only one female left on board the steamer, as far as Mr Ash is aware, and she, poor woman, was with an invalid husband and child. Notwithstanding the husband's entreaties to save herself and child, she would not leave him.

The scene on board the steamer, Mr Ash states, quite astonished him. The female passengers were wonderfully calm—no screams were heard, nor was there any demonstrative grief, except when the barque appeared to be passing away without sighting the steamer. When in the boats, the men and women crouched down and did not move. This added much to the success attending the trips made.

LOSS OF LIFE—PAINFUL INCIDENTS.

The number of crew and passengers left on board the 'Dandenong' was about forty. There was a fearful sight on board the 'Albert' and 'William' on the morning when it was discovered that the 'Dandenong' had disappeared. There were families divided, some being on board the barque, in comparative safety, while others were on board the sinking steamer. In one case a little girl, scarcely old enough to comprehend her position (probably one of the Wakefield family), has lost both parents, three sisters and two brothers, and is the only one remaining out of a family of eight. In another case a little boy has lost both parents.

A WOULD-BE WIT AND CANT.—BE GENTLEMAN.

In a recent number of the *Musical World*, a London publication, an individual named Goodban published a pretended reminiscence of Sir William Wilde, which, while affecting a sort of regard for the memory of that eminent Irishman, represented him as having conducted himself on a very ridiculous sort of way on an occasion referred to by the writer. Goodban says he met Dr. Wildcat Chamounix, on his way to make an ascent of Mount Blanc. When the guide asked the party if they would have mules to aid them in their ascent of the mountain. "Wilde replied in his strong Irish brogue, and a humorous twinkle in his eyes, 'I ye mane to insult a man that has walked to the top of the Pake o' Tenerife? Get out o' that, sir, and bring me an Alpine stick, an' if I eat poke myself along with that, may I never taste butter-milk and whiskey again.'" After the party had got some distance up the mountain, Goodban tells us: "Wilde began to puff and blow, and show signs of fatigue. He exclaimed, 'Dead, sir, I'm thinking my legs are not quite in the condition they were when I walked to the top of the Pake o' Tenerife.'" Goodban offered him a mount on his mule. This, he says, Wilde refused; but he took hold of the animal's tail, and so was pulled to the top of the mountain. This absurd and offensive story bears all the marks of its Cockney origin. Our distinguished countryman, Sir R. P. Stewart, administered a well-deserved reproof to the writer in a succeeding number of the publication above-named. After some remarks of a deprecatory of the introduction of the stage Irishman into the pages of the *Musical World*, Sir Robt. says: "In conclusion, I deliberately assert, with the full concurrence of my family and friends, that no one who knew the late Sir William Wilde, as I had the privilege to do, would recognise in your correspondent's description anything but a somewhat vulgar, pointless, and altogether misleading caricature—a caricature which would, unlike most caricatures, recall neither the memory nor the manner of an eminent and dignified professional gentleman, such as Sir William really was." "That is a slip for Goodban which he will be likely to recollect for some time.—*Nation*."

At an inquest on the late fire in Auckland the jury returned the following verdict:— "That the fire took place in Mr McJarrige's premises, on the morning of the 21st ultimo,