

ROMA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

I have but little news to communicate since my last. "The judge and jury" indignation meeting was duly held last week, at which the member for the Maranoa was present. The result was that Mr. Miles's advice was adopted—viz., the aggrieved jurymen are first to lay their case before the Attorney-General; and, if he does not give them satisfaction, then to instruct him (Mr. Miles), and he will bring the case in proper form before the Assembly. The gist of the matter seems to be that the Roma jury, having so long been accustomed to hear itself described as "the most intelligent and intellectual jury I ever had the pleasure of acting in concert with, &c., &c.," feels greatly aggrieved that his Honor, at the last sittings of the District Court, found, or thought he found, it necessary to snub the said jury inasmuch as they persisted in finding those prisoners guilty whom he had made up his mind should be acquitted, and acquitted those whom his Honor had determined should be found guilty; and by this obstinacy and pig-headedness all their former fair fame was buried in oblivion, so that now that which was wont to be as a bouquet of Juniper, stinks in the nostrils of the representative of the law—a melancholy but instructive example of the mutability of all human friendships.

Mr. Miles has announced to the electors his intention of retiring from the gay and festive scenes of the Legislative Assembly, as he is about to visit England. Can it be that "the common sense" member is finding himself gradually forsaken by his newly-found Liberal friends, who one by one are accepting billets (I was going to write bribes) from those whom they were sworn to annihilate, and that he is likely soon to find himself in the position of "the last rose of summer, left blooming alone?" I have no faith in "sudden conversions," religious or political; nor do I think that recent events in Queensland will strengthen any one's conviction in them.

The weather still continues intensely hot and muggy. Although the clouds daily threaten, no rain comes; great whirlwinds, carrying dust, gravel, and the *débris* of vegetable production, have been gyrating and waltzing to a great extent, sadly ominous, I fear, in this part of the country, of drought. There was, however, a heavy storm at Mitchell Downs last Friday; and on the east, at Condamine, the river has been so swollen that the bridge, as usual, was impassable. The said bridge is a marvellous specimen of scientific engineering, or of robbery and jollery. Fancy the Bremer bridge built within a foot or two of low water, with this proviso, that it should always be capable of being used when it was not required, and when required never able to be used. As for us poor

when required never able to be used. As for us poor Romans, we have been realising Count Bismark's elegant and truly German piece of phraseology, "Stewing in our own gravy"—a very disagreeable and unsavoury process to go through. No food will keep: the meat all gets putrid, the bread all goes sour.

Twenty thousand sheep are to leave Mount Hutton next week for the neighbourhood of Warwick or Ipswich; and next month 1000 head of prime fat cattle are to leave the same station for Deniliquin market. This station is now all fenced in. Paddock-making is rapidly progressing at Bungeworgorai, so that by the end of the year it is expected that 100,000 sheep will be paddocked instead of tended by shepherds. See what a number of men this will turn out of employment! Mr. Lalor, of Gubberamundi, is also about to commence similar work. The following is the scale of prices at Bungeworgorai:—£16 10s. per mile; posts to be $\frac{1}{2}$, 18in. in the ground— $\frac{3}{4}$, 20in. in ground; five wires, stuff drawn by station, and wire found by ditto. In some places £25 per mile is given, in which case there is to be a top railing, and men to find their own stuff and draw it. Gubberamundi prices are the same as the second Bungeworgorai, viz., £25 per mile, all posts 20in. in ground. In all cases men to find their own rations, and to buy them at the station stores, where they are 30 or 40 per cent. dearer than at other places. I am credibly informed that at Mitchell Downs, where the paddock system has been in full swing, they are 16,000 sheep short this shearing.

As for casualties, a German in the employ of Owen Mullavy, who had his leg broken a month or two since at Mount Beagle, while getting timber, by a tree falling on him, has again broken it by the fall of a horse which he was riding whilst tailing other horses. Sam Cavanagh, a shearer, had a very awkward "spill" the other day in town, but with the exception of being greatly shaken, I believe he is not much worse.

Last evening there was a bright light in the sky directly south; it was similar to the light produced upon a cloud by the moon's rays; it varied in intensity. Many people thought it was the reflection of a fire; it wanted, however, the lurid tint of the bush fire; besides, I have noticed it once or twice lately. After remaining about an hour it disappeared from the south, and in the course of about half-an-hour re-appeared in the west. I suppose it must be the *Aurora Australis*.

February 17, 1871.

A cricket match was played on the parade-ground, North Ipswich, on the afternoon of Tuesday last, between the lads of the North Ipswich Primary School and the members of the local Juvenile Cricket Club, which resulted in a victory for the former, with some

which resulted in a victory for the former, with some runs to spare.

In connection with the case of alleged horse-stealing lately tried at the Police Office, it appears to have entered the heads of certain parties that they could better protect their property than by entrusting its safe keeping to the hands of the law officers. Accordingly we are informed that on Monday night last, as a respectable townsman was passing a certain public-house, he was called upon to stand; but not thinking proper to obey such an unjustifiable challenge, he was fired upon three times in succession, and not only so, but was afterwards laid hands upon violently and brutally maltreated—so much so that he has been unable to attend to his usual business. It is to be hoped that the injured party will soon be sufficiently recovered to be able to lodge a complaint in the proper quarter.

The Rev. Mr. Buckle of Brisbane arrived in Maryborough on Tuesday last on his way to the aboriginal mission on Frazer's Island. Mr. Walsh has kindly caused instruction to be given for placing the pilot schooner at his service. He went down on Thursday by the Queensland, from which he was to tranship to the Ethel. He was accompanied by Mr. Bailey of this town, and took with him a quantity of articles for the use of the mission. It is Mr. Buckle's intention to take a survey of some portions of the island, with a view of reporting to the churches in Brisbane as to the advisability of continuing the mission there or removing it elsewhere. On his return he will be accompanied by Mr. Fuller, when it is proposed to form a committee to assist in the enterprise, and to raise funds in this locality.—*Wide Bay News*.