

## LOCAL NEWS.

### OFFICIAL HANDBOOK AND GUIDE TO VICTORIA.—

We have received from Mr. F. F. Bailliere, of Melbourne a copy of his official handbook and guide to Melbourne, and to the cities, principal towns, mining and other districts of Victoria. Mr. R. P. Whitworth is the compiler, and has collected a great mass of information in a handy volume, that will go readily into the coat pocket. We should say after glancing over the book, that the stranger in Victoria, having this guide, will be more fully informed of all a stranger wants to know, than many a resident of the colony. There seems to be nothing forgotten, and Mr. Whitworth has provided a useful and valuable work.

**ACCIDENT AT HINTON.**—On Monday forenoon, Mr. William Gear, of Hinton, had his collar-bone broken through a fall from a horse. Dr. Pierce attended and set the broken limb, and Mr. Gear is progressing favorably.

**LAND SALE AT EAST MAITLAND.**—A sale of Crown Lands was conducted at the East Maitland Courthouse, yesterday, at noon, by Mr. C. Delohery, Lands Agent. Nine town lots, situate at East Maitland, were disposed of at the upset price. Lot No. 19, one rood thirty perches, was sold to Mr. Austin Fitzpatrick; lots from 23 to 29, each containing one rood thirty-five perches, were purchased by Mr. D. J. Ellis; lot 30, containing one rood 35 perches was sold to Mr. Henry Stokes.

**THE AURORA BOREALIS.**—Although we think the beautiful appearance in the sky called Aurora Borealis, or "Northern Lights," is not seen so often in Australia as in England, yet it is seen here at times. Many odd theories have been broached to account for the appearance, among others that it is the reflected light arising from great volcanic displays in the Arctic regions beyond the reach of ships. One cause now broached, is that the lights are produced by the combustion of an enormous number of bits, pieces, and blocks of iron substance, the solid accretions from the vapours in the atmosphere, or rather in the ethereal space beyond our atmosphere. That millions of millions of these solid pieces are constantly being formed, and then have to obey the law of attraction (gravitation), and begin a rapid journey through space. That a

a rapid journey through space. That a portion of these solid bodies enter into, or find themselves brought within, the atmosphere surrounding the earth. The earth itself travels every year in its journey round the sun, 555 millions of miles, which is a speed of 68,000 miles in every hour. As the earth is also eternally rolling over in each 24 hours, its atmosphere, travelling eternally with it in both respects, must be always moving at even a more swift rate. Now when an iron substance, formed out of the vapours in ether, and journeying rapidly in obedience to the law of attraction, gets into the earth's atmosphere, its own motion is suddenly arrested. A sudden stoppage of any solid matter previously moving fast—say a stone dropped off a high cliff, and reaching the rocks below—makes that solid substance very hot. The travelling iron substance up aloft, therefore, on suddenly being checked in its rapid motion by entering our rapidly moving atmosphere becomes very hot at once, so much so as to burn. And these theories result in the final theory that the vast mass of burning aerolites, at special times, give rise to the light in the sky we call the aurora borealis.

**FORFEITED CONDITIONAL PURCHASES.**—A supplement to the *Gazette* dated Friday Nov. 5, contains a list of conditional purchases which have been forfeited.

**SELECTIONS REFERRED.**—A supplement to the *Gazette* dated Monday, Nov 8, contains particulars of selections declarations respecting which have been referred to commissioners for report.

**PASTURES & STOCK PROTECTION ACT.**—The *Gazette* of Friday contains a list of the owners of large stock of whom in conjunction with the sheep directors specified, the appointment to act as directors under the above Act has been approved by the Governor to Council: Glen Innes—James G. Dickson, Barney Downs; W. M. Somerville, Newstead; Hugh H. Gordon, Strathbogie. Merriwa—Henry Charles White, Glenalvon; Arthur Blaxland, Callingral; Alex. Busby, Cassilis. Maitland—Edward Charles Close, Morpeth; John Christian, Hinton; John Mackay, Dungog. Narrabri—J. C. Wilson, Bunna Bunna. Pilliga—T. G. Dangar, Bullerawa; J. B. Rundle, Keelendi; C. A. Long, Drilldool. Moree—A. Hill, Mungyer; A. Benson, Nudkin; John E. Corry, Terry-hie-hie. Port Stephens—E. C. Close, Morpeth; Joseph Cooper,

Stephens—E. C. Close, Morpeth; Joseph Cooper, Trevallyn, Gresford; John Christian, Morpeth. Singleton—Henry Rourke; Reginald Blaxland, Broke; William Pearce, Jerry's Plains.

**THE LAUGHING JACKASS AND THE SNAKES.**—It has long been a matter of popular belief (says the *Albury Banner*) that the great kingfisher was an enemy to the snake, perpetually warring upon the tribe in general, and never happier than when dining upon serpent *au naturel*. It is not often, however, that even persons habitually residing in the bush have so good an opportunity as that afforded a few days since to Mr. Christian Westendorff, of Jindera, for observing the laughing jackass bagging the game referred to. Mr. Westendorff was engaged with another man in clearing some land, and in the course of the day's operations it became necessary to shift a large log. For this purpose levers were applied to each end, and after some straining the log was rolled from its resting place. The very moment it commenced to move a laughing jackass, which had been taking a deep but unobtrusive interest in the proceedings, made a swoop down from a limb of a tree, and seized a large snake which had been lying under the log. The snake was gripped by the back of the neck (if snakes can be said to have necks) and borne away to the bird's previous perch, where the unfortunate reptile was banged against the bough until the body separated from the head and fell to the ground. The jackass then dropped the head, and seizing the body sailed away in triumph with his prize. Whether the bird had seen the snake go under the log and was watching for it to come forth again, or whether it knew by instinct that the reptile was there, is a question that may be left for naturalists to determine; but we are credibly informed that as soon as the log was shifted, and before Mr. Westendorff or his companion had any idea of a snake being in their neighbourhood, the jackass was down and had made good his seizure.

**THE WEATHER AT TAMWORTH.**—After several hot days, (says the *Tamworth News* of Tuesday), Monday broke with a sultry and oppressive atmosphere, which, with the threatening cloud masses on the southern and western horizon, foretold a storm during the day. At a quarter past 1 p.m. a smart thunderstorm came up, accompanied by a heavy squall from the westward, which lasted for a quarter of an hour, during which time the rain fell in dense

of an hour, during which time the rain fell in dense sheets. More than an inch must have fallen in the time. About 3 o'clock another brisk shower came down, when the sun again appeared. There are still, however, indications of a further visitation of rain. The squall did some little damage. Some sheets of iron were torn off the railway goods-shed, and the bark and iron roofs of sundry dwellings and sheds were removed holus-bolus. The iron roof over Messrs. Cohen and Levy's agricultural implement shed was lifted up in a mass, and deposited amongst the implements, fortunately breaking nothing of consequence, and the only loss the firm named will be the expense of re-erecting the roof, for which the greater part of the old material can be used again.

**EXCELSIOR LAND, INVESTMENT, AND BUILDING CO. AND BANK.**—A meeting of the shareholders of the Excelsior Land, Investment, and Building Company and Bank was held on Monday afternoon, Mr. G. Renwick in the chair. On the motion of Mr W. Carey, seconded by Mr. Roseby, M.L.A., a progress report was adopted which stated that the company had been placed under the Companies Act.

**THE IRREPRESSIBLE BOY.**—We (*Albury Banner*) had occasion some time ago to draw the attention of parents to the dangers connected with an ambition that had taken firm root amongst the youngsters of the town to rival Blondin, the ropewalker. The taste for acrobatic performances on the tops of fences appears lately to have declined, but there is some reason to fear that it may be succeeded by something even more objectionable. During the past few weeks, in the construction of the roadway in several streets leading to the railway station, pipe culverts have been formed at the crossings. The earthenware pipes employed are just large enough to admit the head and shoulders of a small boy, and the temptation to turn this opportunity to account for a subterranean "wriggle" from one side of the street to another seems to be irresistible. A few days ago we noticed a number of youngsters awaiting with the greatest interest the arrival of a member of their party who had made the attempt, and who had some difficulty in getting through, the "fit" in his case being apparently a tight one. At length he got through, and his success was the means of inducing several of his comrades to follow up this truly valuable discovery for the destruction of wearing apparel. If, however, a youngster should happen to

apparel. If, however, a youngster should get stuck in the course of his journey, we might have something more serious to chronicle than damage to clothing.

**THE KELLY EXCITEMENT.**—A telegram in the *S. M. Herald* of yesterday says: About 2000 persons assembled on the gaol reserve on Tuesday night, headed by W. Gaunson, in reference to the Kelly reprieve. The police would not allow them to hold meeting there, and they went to a piece of waste ground in Madeline-street, where a good deal was said against the Press, and a resolution passed, asking for the reconsideration of Kelly's case. The mob then went up to the Treasury to see Mr. Berry. After waiting some time, the same statements were repeated; and Mr. Berry promised to lay the matter before the Executive to-morrow; but, for his part, he held out no hope of any alteration of the decision already come to. The Press generally condemn the Kelly agitation, and the part taken by the Gaunsons. Kelly has addressed another document to the Colonial Secretary.

**EXPORT OF COAL.**—Following is a return of the coal exported from Newcastle for the week ended Nov. 5: Total 23,346 tons, of which 5523 went to Sydney, 6613 to Melbourne, 1084 to Adelaide, 104 to Wallaroo, 556 to Hobart Town, 268 to Rockhampton, 960 to Wellington, 800 to Lyttelton, 418 to other New Zealand ports, 169 to other colonial ports, 1995 to San Francisco, 1160 to Shanghai 1650 to Hong Kong, 943 to Batavia, etc., 300 to Noumea, 275 to steamers, and 737 to home consumption. The A.A.Co. sent 4174 tons, Wallsend 3646 tons, Co-operative Co. 2288 tons, Lambton 2980 tons, J. and A. Brown's collieries 5289 tons, New Lambton 2417 tons, Newcastle Coal Co. 2162 tons, Alnwick, 390 tons.

**EYE, EAR, AND THROAT SPECIALIST.**—Dr. Spark may be consulted at 26 College-street, Hyde Park, Sydney. \$176

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**LIVER IS KING.**—The Liver is the imperial organ of the whole human system, as it controls the life, health and happiness of man. Green's August Flower is unequalled in curing persons afflicted with Dyspepsia or Liver Complaint, and all the numerous symptoms that result from an unhealthy condition of the Liver and Stomach. GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER now has the largest sale of any preparation in the world. It corrects all impurities of the stomach, acts gently on the bowels, cures indigestion, stirs up the liver, and is just what our citizens need for dizziness of the head, palpitation of the heart, and the result of indigestion and dyspepsia. Three doses will relieve you. Try it. Sample bottles to try 6d, Large size 3s 6d. Sold by all chemists and dealers in medicines. Wholesale by ELLIOTT BROTHERS, Sydney 7670

"Poeta nascitur, orator fit" means, liberally translated, that the men who have signalized their lives by certain achievements, have been specially endowed and fitted by nature for the particular purpose. The minds of all the centuries might have plodded fruitlessly at certain enterprises, and the grand principles from which the great discoveries of the ages were developed might have unfolded themselves to many, and yet no inventions resulted therefrom. It remained to the proprietor, and him alone, to have originated UDOLPHO WOLFE'S SCHIEDAM AROMATIC SCHNAPPS. 1997