

Local and General News.

A NEW SMITHY.—As will be seen from our advertising columns, Mr. Locket, who has been resident in this town for some time past, has opened in the above line, and as he is known to be a good workman, and of obliging business habits he will no doubt command a fair share of the "iron trade" of the town and district.

DEATH.—We regret to have to record the rather sudden death, on Saturday last, of a youth named James Maxwell, of sunstroke and heart disease, induced by the warm weather we have experienced of late. The deceased was 17 years old, and the large number present at the funeral on Sunday last, showed the sympathy felt for the parents in their sad affliction, this being the second son they have lost from sunstroke.

THE SMALL-POX.—Another member of the Holden family died on board the hospital ship Faraway at 5 p.m. on Saturday. It was reported to the Health-officer at about 11 o'clock on Saturday morning that an eruption was commencing on the patient, a girl six years of age, but only in a moderate form, and that the patient was doing well, and was not supposed to be in danger. Death, however, took place at the time stated. The undertakers who had buried the victim of the disease in the Holden family, who are still on the floating hospital, refused to have anything to do with the second one, and there was no inquiring any one who would bury the corpse. Eventually it was described to

very respectable men were found to undertake the duty, and the body was buried at the Quarantine Ground, Spring Cove, yesterday (Sunday) afternoon. The father of the family now lies very ill from the small-pox on board the Faraway. The sick men at the Quarantine Ground is, we are informed, doing well, and as no person suffering from the disease has been landed from the steamship Brisbane since the 18th of December there is a likelihood of the vessel being soon released from Quarantine, especially as the Health-officer does not think it outbreak of any fresh case. The rooms adjoining the store in which the Holdens lived have not yet been destroyed. They are being pulled down, and will in the course of a couple of days be dealt with in the manner most effectual for preventing the spread of the disease.—Herald, 15th.

THE SUPPLEMENT.—A late issue of the Mudgee Times contains a well printed supplement of fourteen columns. In the interests of journalism, we think it necessary (says the Mudgee Independent) to inform our readers that this supplement is not printed at the office of that paper, but imported from Melbourne. The same supplement, and precisely the same reading matter, appears simultaneously in the Mudgee Times, Gulgong Argus, Richmond River Express, and several others, all of whom import at a heavy price as aforesaid. No doubt the various extracts are good reading, but we may purchase enough to furnish similar broadsheets for 100 years, by buying a Bow Bell's Annual. We hardly think that people will admire newspapers that exclude

buying a Bow Bell's Annual. We hardly think that people will admire newspapers that exclude the consideration of local topics to the prominence of imported supplements. Most people will agree with us that the sooner the system of thus sailing under false colours is abolished, the better for journalism generally. [Our friend forgets that people will buy in the cheapest market, and like value for their money.—Ed. "Star."]

TRENCHER POLITICS.—Mnemon, in the Sydney Mail, says:—Members of Parliament are in the habit of remaining away from home for such a number of hours out of the twenty—four that it is a question of momentous importance to them what they shall eat and what they shall drink; and still more important, it seems to some of them, is the question as to how what they eat and drink is to be paid for. The autocrats, "the fleecers," as his Excellency humorously termed them, view their refreshment bills with the air of gentlemen; but the democrats feel rather anxious when called upon to pay a shilling for a slice of bread and butter. Besides the expense, it must be exceedingly tantalizing to a bread-and-butter democrat to have to sit in the refectory elbow to elbow with a member whose voting power is no more than his own, but whose plate sends forth odours of indefinable sweetness. Is this state of things consonant with our liberal institutions? (Would it not be much more to the satisfaction of our representatives if not only the table linen, glass, waiting &c., were paid for by the country, but the bread and butter too? Then the only occasion for grumbling would be when there was not enough to eat and drink; and members would not be so likely to go to the House, as Mr. Driver very delicately put it, with their "skinsful.") The Assembly in no way adds to its dignity by these unseemly bread-and-butter discussions, or by allowing its Refreshment Committee to be in a chronic state of insolvency. If, however, I am rightly informed, it is the bread-and-butter customers who are the cause of its bankrupt condition, and yet it is from them that most of the complimentary copies are permitted the use of the teapot, sugar, and crack ad libitum, no matter what the sum of soups and slices, and they have a very delicate appetite, the expense of a shilling if you like—cover all damages.

THE RUSSIAN LEVANT SQUADRON IN AMERICA.—The arrival of a Russian fleet in America is a matter of very great importance, particularly when taken in connection with the telegrams which we publish to-day, announcing that the Porte had definitely rejected all the proposals of the Conference. One section, and an important section, of the fleet cannot now, in the event of war, be driven to the Black Sea, but is at liberty to operate from a neutral port. A London telegram to New York, dated November 29, announces the departure of this squadron, and the interview on the subject between the Czar and the American Minister at St Petersburg, as follows:—"An authenticated rumour recently appeared in some of the Continental papers that the Russian Mediterranean squadron had been ordered to America. The St Petersburg correspondent of the Times under date of November 22, says that on Monday, November 20, Mr. Boker, American Minister to Russia, was suddenly informed that the Czar desired to see him at Tzaroselo. As it is unusual for diplomatists below the rank of ambassadors to be admitted to such audiences

As it is unusual for diplomatists below the rank of ambassadors to be admitted to such audience, every imaginable rumour was circulated as to what passed between the Czar and the American Minister. Although the truth has not officially transpired, I believe the Czar's object was simply to beg Mr. Boker to communicate to President Grant the fact of the departure of the Russian Mediterranean squadron. The squadron has sailed, and although the position of the commander of a naval force ordered to take refuge in foreign ports on the eve of war cannot be enviable, it is difficult to see what else Russia could do, as even the Turkish navy alone would be sufficient to dispose of any ships that Russia could bring into action."

RECOGNITION OF PRESS SERVICES.—Mr. Morgan, editor of the *Dubbo Dispatch*, is fortunate in labouring in a district where the residents appreciate the value of a local newspaper. A substantial proof of their gratitude is now on view at Messrs. Lassetter and Co.'s, George-street, in the shape of an elegant silver tea service, selected by Mr. Penzer, one of the subscribers. This and a purse of 400 sovereigns will be presented to Mr. Morgan some time this month in recognition of his services to the *Dubbo* district during five years' editorial duty.

SMALLPOX.—UNDER the heading, "Small-pox and Vaccination," Dr. J. E. Croft of Brisbane, writes to the *Telegraph* as follows:—As an addendum to your leader of Friday evening, the public should know that the vaccine lymph at present in use in Brisbane works very well. The medical men are not dependent on a supply from England, but keep lymph from patients whose family history is known to them. Very few persons would submit to vaccination this spring, and had I not carefully sought out a few children, should have been without a supply of lymph. The lymph we use has been perpetuated for long periods, and as far as I know, could in no degree be improved by again passing through the system of the cow, in imitation of vaccination. The following from Aitkin's "Practice of Medicine," vol. 1, p. 425, on this point:—"Mr. Croft has also often recommended the vaccine disease from man back to cow (retro-vaccination as it has been called); and he has observed that good human lymph, when re-transmitted in this manner, loses some portion of its activity. The phenomena appear later, the virus is produced in smaller quantities, and the re-inoculation is more difficult." "Later"

wards propagated from cow to cow by the milkers, lymph from the vehicles of which, when applied to the skin of the human subject, is what is called vaccination. By passing through the system of the cow, small-pox is shorn of its virulence, and its contagious nature then becomes the modified disease of cow-pox, and has been proved almost a perfect protection against

been proved almost a perfect protection against the contagion of small-pox. When I was a child it was considered necessary for perfect protection to be vaccinated every seven years, consequently I was successfully vaccinated when an infant, at seven, and at fourteen years. A vaccination attempted some twelve years ago was not successful. Should small-pox appear in the colony all persons should again be vaccinated, and it would be fortunate for the people if the operation could be made compulsory.

THE FINE ARTS.—It is pleasing to observe that despite the rough way in which many of us are compelled to live here, the love of the beautiful is implanted here, and that in the person of Mr. Reed, the district possesses an artist, we have every reason to be proud of. During the past week we have had the opportunity of inspecting several "gems" in oil paintings from the easel of that gentleman, and can affirm that they are worthy of taking a place beside anything of the kind as yet produced in the Colonies. It is not for us to paint the lily or adorn the rose; and as this gentleman's talents with the pencil and brush, are well known, we merely note the fact, and hope that he will find plenty of lucrative employment in thus elevating our tastes, and decorating our homes; while in some of the charming scenes of the Richmond Rives he will no doubt find ample scope for the exercise of his talents.

HOSPITAL.—The following collections made in this district have been received by the Treasurer of the Grafton Hospital.—Runnymede Station, per C. Edwards Esq.—Runnymede Station, £2 2s; C. Edwards, £1 1s; Thomas Dixon, 10s 6d; Peter Held, 10s 6d; James MacMillan, 10s 6d; James Felton, 10s 6d; William Pratt, 10s 6d. Total £5 15s 6d. Wyangrie Station, per W. C. Bundock Esq.—W. C. Bundock, £5 5s; Joseph Woods, 10s; John Reeves, 10s; Alexander Reeves, 5s; Richard Clarke, 10s; John Johnson, 10s 6d; Norah Ryan, 5s; Charles McCarthy, 10s; A. Friend, 5s. Total £8 10s 6d.

AMERICA SUPPLYING TURKEY WITH RIFLES.—A Philadelphia telegram to the "Times," dated November 21st, states that the Turkish Government being short of funds to pay the Providence Tool Company for 400,000 rifles made there, work has been suspended on the contract till a guarantee is given, 100,000 rifles being withheld from shipment.

THE PROPOSED NEW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.—In the Legislative Assembly, last week, Mr. Robertson laid on the table of the House copies of maps showing the division of the colony into the 76 new electorates proposed by the bill before Parliament. One of the maps shows the whole colony so divided; the other represents the county of Cumberland, and the metropolitan and suburban electorates, on a larger scale.

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A NOBLE RECRUIT.—Among the men sworn in for the army, at the Woolwich Police Court, on the 23rd November last, was a young viscount about 23 years of age, the son of an English earl, who has for some years past been in pecuniary difficulties. He was attested in his own name as a gunner in the Royal Artillery, for the term of twelve years. This was the second time he had enlisted at Woolwich, but on the former occasion he was bought out by his friends before being sworn in.

A CONTRACTOR'S WAR.—The 'Daily News' of November 24 contains an article having the title "Round About France," the writer visits various cafes and restaurants and in one of them drops across an American speculator and his friend at breakfast. A question is asked the Yankee relative to his opinion of the Eastern question. "Well," he replies, "I have sold some considerable amount of old stores to the Russians and to the Turks. I shall soon have them ready for delivery. We have an almighty lot of them in the United States, besides arms and ammunition to any extent, which I offered this afternoon to Prince Boguhitchana for delivery by land or water carriage in any part of Roumania. You see it looks to us in America like a contractor's war brewing, and we determined at first scent of it to make our game as well as we could. My partner is now at Vienna, and I declare if here isn't Prince Tiekavitch from Servia. Have a drink Prince." The person thus addressed was a lank, cadaverous man, who seemed to be made of pale-coloured gingerbread, but whose demeanour was of preternatural gravity.