

COUNTRY NEWS.

An inquest was held on Friday, at Sandhurst, on the body of the man Martin, who lately fell down a shaft 250 ft. deep. The jury, having heard the testimony of the mate of deceased, found a verdict of accidental death.

A miner named Thomas Martin died in the Maryborough Hospital last week, and on his effects being searched nearly £400 was found. The fact has been the subject of severe comment in the district, and much inquiry has been made to ascertain the reason why the imposition was not detected.

The *Lancefield Chronicle* says that a person answering the description of Collingwood, the bushranger, who stuck up Messrs. Burton and M'Donald, at Rochford, lately, was lodged in the Romsey lock-up on Friday night. He was captured at Melton on Thursday morning, by constable Johnstone, after having ineffectually attempted to rob the till of the Royal Hotel at that place.

Snakes, says the *Ballarat Star*, are not generally supposed to "lurk in graves and fatten on the dead," but a good-sized one was killed in the New Cemetery a few days ago. It was seen wriggling on the ground by some men, who watched it to its hole and then dug it out. It was found to be of the black species, and Mr. Levinson, of Sturt-street, to whom it was taken, measured it, and found it nearly four feet long.

The Warburton correspondent of the *Western Post* says:—"After the water had somewhat gone down in the Two-mile Flat Creek, a lad named Connell picked up a diamond weighing ten grains, said by competent judges to be a very brilliant one, and of the first water. It is supposed this diamond was washed from tailings from the Deep Lead. Beyond a few obtained by chance by Toby and party while working there, no search has been made for diamonds at this place."

A destructive fire occurred at Stawell at about a quarter-past 4 o'clock on Friday morning, and the Hibernian Hotel, owned and kept by Mr. John Joyce, was completely destroyed. The fire was caused, it is said, by a log, which had been placed in the fire-place by Mr. Joyce before retiring to rest, rolling on to the floor during the night. The inmates, who were in bed, had barely time to escape with a few clothes in their hands. The *Star* learns that the house, stock, and furniture were insured for £600; £200 with the Australasian Company, and £400 with the Imperial Company.

In the Court of Sessions, Philadelphia, before Judge Paxson, Sarah Gore, a young married woman about twenty-eight years of age, was called up on the 10th April, to receive judgment upon a conviction of perjury, in preferring, for the purpose of blackmail, a false charge of rape against Mr. Wiener, who, upon his trial, was acquitted. The judge, in passing sentence, addressed the prisoner as follows:—"The motion for a new trial in your case has been withdrawn, and you are now before the court for sentence. I have considered the appeal made in your behalf by your counsel,

and I have considered the appeal made in your behalf by your counsel, Mr. Brey. The mercy of the court, which was invoked in your behalf, is a mercy based upon a sound discretion. It is not a weak sympathy with crime or with criminals. In your case there is nothing to commend it to our favorable consideration. The crime of which you are convicted was one necessarily involving premeditation. It was not the result of a passion or of provocation. You deliberately and falsely charged a respectable citizen with the high crime of rape upon your person, and having made it you brought him into this court for trial, and upon that trial you committed wilful, deliberate and corrupt perjury in order to convict him. You did all you could to consign an innocent man for a long term of years to the penitentiary, and to blast his reputation for all time. Nor is this all. I have judicial knowledge of the fact that you have made similar charges against several other respectable citizens, for the purpose of extorting money, and that in some of these cases you have been successful. But Mr. Wiener would not submit to your demands and he appealed to a jury of his fellow citizens, and they have vindicated him, and he has also brought you to the bar of justice, for which he deserves the thanks of every good citizen. Your offence is one which can receive no mercy here. While we give a burglar the extreme penalty of the law, we can do no less in a case like this. A man had better have twenty burglars in his house than one such woman as you. A burglar may steal the property of the citizen. You would rob him of his good name and make him infamous in the community, as well as sow the seeds of discord in his domestic relations. The sentence of the court is that you pay a fine of 500 dol. to the Commonwealth for the use of the country, that you pay the costs of prosecution, and that you undergo an imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for the eastern district by separate or solitary confinement at labor for the period of seven years, and that you stand committed until this sentence is complied with."