

WOLLONGONG.

(From the Illawarra Mercury of Monday.)

WOLLONGONG LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.—The usual weekly meeting of this Society was held in the Mercury Reading Room on Tuesday evening last. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the attendance of members was middling. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President took the chair. The Rev. Mr. Charter read an essay on the question, "Whether the formation of character depends exclusively upon circumstances." The essay, delivered in an elegant and pleasing manner, was loudly and unanimously applauded at its conclusion.

WOLLONGONG COURT HOUSE.—The tender of William Stodart has been accepted for the erection of this building, for the sum of £1250; the work to be completed in six months. The successful competitor for this work is a builder in Sydney. There were several tenders sent in by builders residing in Wollongong, but we believe they were all some hundred pounds higher than that of Mr. Stodart.

THE WEATHER AND ITS EFFECTS.—We have been visited with most unfavourable weather this last week. On Monday, it was threatening during the whole of the day, and at night it commenced to rain heavily, and continued until Tuesday afternoon, with but few and brief intervals. It rained almost continuously on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday it was fine until about eight or nine o'clock in the evening, when it came down heavily and incessantly until daylight on Saturday morning. It kept clear all Saturday and Saturday night, and we began to comfort ourselves with the contemplation of a fine day. We were doomed to be disappointed, however, for, about nine o'clock yesterday (Sunday) morning, the rain descended in torrents, and continued all day, accompanied with a strong wind from the south. The effect of all this has been to render locomotion not only disagreeable and dangerous, but almost impossible. It completely suspended our communication with the metropolis, by post, for several days. This inconvenience was the more severely felt owing to the arrival of the English mail—the letters by which were not delivered here until Saturday morning. We received no mails from Sydney on either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. On Saturday, the mails from Sydney for Wednesday and Thursday were brought in, and on Sunday those of Friday and Saturday arrived, as also did the mails from the south, which ought to have come to hand on Saturday. The detention of the Sydney mails has arisen from the state of Broughton's Pass. The Nora Creina was prevented from making her usual trip on Tuesday night, owing to the heavy sea and strong wind; after laying in Botany some time, she put back to Sydney. With regard to the English mails, the Kiama people were more fortunate, as they were forwarded per steamer on Thursday. The same thing might have been done for Wollongong, and we would respectfully suggest the propriety of doing so to the Postmaster-General on future like occasions. The effect of the rain on the farmers has been to continue the suspension of ploughing. This has now become an urgent matter with our farmers, though no serious apprehensions need be entertained if they could get their wheat in early next month. If this cannot be done—and a short continuance of the present weather will effectually prevent it—the prospective harvest will fall far short in extent and yield of its predecessor in these districts. To make up for this there will be abundance of feed during the winter, a fact the more gratifying to the dairymen owing to the rise in the price of butter. The roads, we need scarcely add, are

gratifying to the dairymen owing to the rise in the price of butter. The roads, we need scarcely add, are in a most fearful state. In fact, notwithstanding the money which was expended in repairing them last winter by the inhabitants, they are all but impassable, and nearly as bad as ever they were. The same remarks apply to the streets of Wollongong, especially the lower part of the town. The inhabitants of both town and country will have to take the matter in hand again before long, or else it will be an utter impossibility to move abroad.

EXPORTS FROM WOLLONGONG.—For the fortnight ending the 23rd May they were:—490 kegs butter, 8 cases eggs, 10 coops poultry, 12 bales bacon, 3 cases fish, 2 cases fruit, 6 casks lemons, 162 pigs, 19 calves, 1 cow, 10 bags wheat, 24 bags oats, 11 bags maize, 7 bags barley, 3 cases leather, 50 sides leather, 2 casks allow, 9 hides, 15,600 hands cabbage tree, 18 bales aths, 1 bale trees, 29 horses.

KIAMA, 22nd May.—This week the fall of rain has been very heavy. Yesterday morning the creeks were running high. To-day it is dry though cloudy; but it will require several dry days to fit the soil for being turned up with the plough. On the 16th instant, Mr. W. Irving sold by auction Mr. L. Nethery's farm, near Kiama, the greater part of which is uncleared, at £40 2s. 6d. the acre. Mr. John Henery was the successful competitor for this farm. Mr. W. Irving sold by auction, this week, Mr. W. Dumbrell's dairy cattle at prices averaging £9 18s. per head.

OUR ROAD FROM JAMBEROO TO KIAMA.—"Chain of Ponds" is a term that might be applied more fitly than "mud track" or any other term to denote what we usually call our road from Jamberoo to Kiama. Something ought to be done to render the conveyance of produce along this road practicable, or the farmers of Jamberoo will not be able to get their grain and butter to market. The dray is no longer of any use on this road; and if steps are not taken to drain it, the only suitable vehicle will be a light raft of usual construction.

LOST IN THE BUSH.—A resident from the Sassafrax Range, about forty-five miles from Shoalhaven, came to report to the police that an old man, well-known in the district, who was living with him, had taken a walk into the bush on Sunday morning last, and had not been heard of up to Wednesday, the 20th instant. Several of the neighbours had been looking for him, but to no purpose; and as it had been raining heavily two nights after his disappearance, it is supposed he has perished. John O'Brien is an old Waterloo veteran, about eighty years old, and quite deaf.

MANSLAUGHTER.—Matthew Duncomb, who was acquitted by a coroner's jury a little time back for the murder of his wife, was apprehended on Monday last, and committed by the Bench for manslaughter. The evidence of the boy (who is the only witness as to the blow being struck) which was not received by the

coroner, only as a mere statement, and who, at that investigation, was not sworn, from his ignorance of the penalties attached to an oath. In the above trial before the Bench, the boy's evidence was received, he appearing to have improved in his knowledge of matters which he at the inquest professed ignorance of—regarding an oath.