

IRONBARK AND WELLINGTON ROAD DIGGINGS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MAY 5TH, 1858.—The pleasing anticipations in which we lately began to indulge, consequent on the promising aspect of the weather, were but partially realised, as the showers mentioned in my last were the only ones worthy of the name which have fallen to our share, the succeeding falls of rain having been too slight to facilitate mining operations, although of great service in freshening the feed for stock in the district.

POST OFFICE.—A numerous signed memorial has been forwarded to the Postmaster-General, from the residents of the Ironbark, Wellington Road, Mookerawa Creek, and Burrandong diggings, praying the speedy removal of the Post Office from Stoney Creek to a more central position at Ironbark. This change would be a great convenience to nine-tenths of the population of these diggings, and at the present time could be effected without any delay, as there has been no postmaster at Stoney Creek for several weeks past, the duties of the office being performed at the present time by a youth under age, who conducts a store at Stoney Creek for a Bathurst tradesman, and for these two reasons can hardly be considered a responsible person.

THE DIGGINGS.—Mining affairs remain *in statu quo*, with the exception of "Poor Man's Gully," where a few parties have of late been doing tolerably well, but even there the scarcity of water has proved a great hindrance to the diggers.

QUARTZ REEF.—The extensive quartz reef on the Jingers (or Ginger) Creek, half-a-mile from the Ironbark, still continues to yield its treasures in payable quantities, to the only party working upon it, and that entirely without the aid of machinery. This reef can be easily traced for the distance of five miles, and, taking into consideration the fact that it is well-known to contain gold, it does really seem most surprising that the inducement such a profitable speculation as the employment of steam-power to extract the gold by crushing holds out to the enterprising capitalist, should have been so long neglected. There can be but little doubt that an individual or company crushing quartz for the diggers at a fixed price per ton, would

quartz for the diggers at a fixed price per ton, would reap a handsome return for their outlay. There is no constant stream of water in the vicinity, but dams could be formed across the creek to hold an abundant supply of water. Many parties accustomed to quartz mining in the sister colony, and at Adelong, have stated their conviction that this reef is likely, with the aid of steam power, to prove as profitable to all parties engaged upon it as some of the best in the above named places. There has been some talk lately between sundry diggers and storekeepers of forming a company amongst themselves to work this promising reef on shares, but the population of the diggings in New South Wales is composed of such incongruous materials that it would require the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the lifetime of Methuselah, to unite them in any scheme, however plainly it might be for their own benefit, consequently the matter remains in abeyance. Diggers, although possessing a consciousness of independence and freedom unknown to the dwellers in towns, are not an united body, as the very feeling of independence they delight in and cherish produces isolation. There is an unmistakable individuality about every man on the diggings that affords no right of enquiry, and imposes no duty of assistance on any other person; and if the digger is independent in his thoughts and actions, so is he left to sustain the burden of his own poverty if unsuccessful.

MAIL ACCIDENT.—An accident happened to the mail cart on the 19th ultimo, which unavoidably delayed the postal delivery until a considerably later time than usual. It appears from the statement of the driver, that when on his way near Shepherd's Creek, the young horse he had in the shafts proved restive, and in the course of his gambols broke both the shafts of the vehicle; but with as little delay as possible, the mailman placed the bags on a pack horse, and proceeded towards his destination, a few miles from Stoney Creek, meeting two troopers, who had been despatched from the latter place to enquire into the cause of delay. It does not appear that any blame is to be attached to the driver in the affair, the mistake being quite accidental.

CELESTIAL INTELLIGENCE.—A few months ago scarcely a celestial could be found upon these diggings, but our benighted Ironbark Settlement is now illuminated by about a score of these heavenly bodies, and that they are really luminaries in our sense

and, that they are really luminaries, in one sense of the word, is now established beyond a doubt, as these brothers to the sun, moon, and stars, have lately been enlightening us upon the celestial method of abstracting valuable washing-stuff from the piles of the outer barbarians, although when brought before the Commissioners to answer for this very earthlike transgression, the heavenly host of Confucius, or rather Confusians, brought forward for the defence, succeeded in enveloping the whole case with such a nebulae of doubts and mystifications, that it would have been a matter of as much difficulty to name the stars of which the Magellan clouds are composed, as to get at the truth of the matter. Although far from being an admirer of the yellow-skinned race, yet we believe they are far before many of our own countrymen here, in the practice of the virtues of sobriety and industry, for it is a sad truth that some men, who boast of being free-born Britons, are in fact the abject slaves of intemperance, thus voluntarily reducing themselves by a sure process to a lower level than those whom they affect to hold in such unmitigated contempt.

LIVERPOOL RACES.—We have been requested by the stewards to state that in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, the Liverpool Turf Club Races are postponed until next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 18th, 19th, and 20th instant.

ACCIDENT.—Mr. John Dillon, solicitor, was proceeding at a steady pace in a gig, down William-street, on Friday evening, when, on approaching Forbes-street, a dray horse which was being ridden in the opposite direction ran upon the gig shaft, and besides going itself seriously broke the dashboard, bent the step, and with its head grazed Mr. Dillon's nose, chin, and left side of the face in some unaccountable manner, besides bruising him somewhat. Beyond the shock, however, he was not seriously hurt. He was got out of the gig, and after waiting at the Imperial Hotel a few minutes, he was conveyed home by Mr. Woodcock, surgeon, who happened to be in the neighbourhood at the time of the accident, and rendered assistance. The rider of the horse was stated to be a drayman in the employ of Mrs. Fitzpatrick, a widow, residing in Brougham-street. The loss of the animal, if such should accrue, (and the wonder is that it was not killed instantaneously)

the wonder is that it was not killed instantaneously) will be to her a serious matter. The man was taken into custody by the police, to be held safe until it should be shown that he was not seriously in fault. The gig was said to be running on its right side.

MORE LAND.—The survey of the reserve at Whitty's station is completed, and the surveyors are now engaged in laying out farms at the Piney Range. Additional farms at Corowa will also be placed in the market shortly. Preliminary surveys are also in progress at Brocklesby, and we believe the site (about two miles below Corowa) offers great advantages for a township, commanding extensive river frontage suitable for a wharf, and being situated below the Wahgunyah rapids or rocky bar which obstructs the navigation to Wahgunyah and Corowa. The only place reserved for a township at the Corowa is above this bar, and the space left between the river and the large farms is too small to admit of the formation of a large township at Corowa. We understand that the Brocklesby farms will extend to the boundaries of the Corowa farms, and from the character of the soil in the locality, there is reason to believe that a large settlement will some day be formed at this spot.—*Border Post.*

PUBLIC MEETING IN AID OF THE INDIAN RELIEF FUND.—On Thursday last, a meeting, called on requisition by the Warden, was held in the Court-house, Wollongong, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the sufferers by the Indian mutiny, and contributing towards the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund. The attendance numbered about seventy persons, amongst whom were most of the local magistrates, clergymen, and other gentlemen of respectability and influence; several ladies were also present. The warden, Mr. W. W. Jenkins, J.P., took the chair. Resolutions in furtherance of the objects of the meeting having been passed, a subscription list was opened, and the sum of £35 subscribed by those who remained in the room.—*Illawarra Mercury.*

THE TELEGRAPH.—Post holes are dug and the route cleared as far as Little Razorback, on the Yass road, about twenty-four miles from Goulburn. The posts have been erected for ten miles beyond the town, and would be put up more rapidly, but that difficulty is experienced in getting labourers. The contractor is prepared to furnish regular employment to about a score of hands. A dray was despatched some time

a score of hands. A dray was despatched some time since from Sydney with a considerable quantity of wire, but has not yet reached its destination. On its arrival, no time will be lost in fixing the wire, and bringing the telegraph into working order.—*Goulburn Herald.*