COUNTRY NEWS.

An inquest was held on Friday, at Sandhurst, on the body of the man Martin, who lately fell down a shaft 300 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 McDonald at Rockford, lately, was lodged in the House 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 fasten 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 boys, 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 Warruburn 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 tallowings 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 fireplace by Mr. Joyce before retiring to rest, rolling on to the floor during the night. The inmates 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 Parson, Sarah Gore, a young married woman about twenty-eight years of age, was called up on the 30th 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.