

LATER FROM THE COLONIES.

(By Electric Telegraph.)

The Derwent, a.s., Captain Lucas, passed Low Heads on Saturday morning at 7-55, and landed the following message for *The Mercury* :—

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY.

A telegram received from Bowen announces the death of Mr. Sloman, the leader of the Leichardt search party, also reported death of Walker on the Gulf.

The intercolonial cricketing team sailed for Sydney on Wednesday. The team is much weaker than it should have been.

Parliament is summoned for despatch of business on 17th of January.

The Lincolnshire and Swiftsure both left Falmouth within two days of each other, and both anchored in the Bay yesterday.

The entries for the Champion meeting are not very numerous. Volunteer, Barb, Cowra, Fishhook, and Seagull are the only ones paid up for the Champion Race. Volunteer and Barb are the favorites, at 3 to 2; Seagull 2 to 1.

Mr. Robert Power is appointed judge by the Victoria Racing Club, and Mr. George Watson starter for the champion day.

The steamer Barwon has been dragged round end to sea, and will probably be floated in a day or two.

Business generally is quiet. Some excitement existed in breadstuffs since the arrival of the mail.

100,000 bushels of wheat sold for shipment to Liverpool. Chilian, at 4s. 4½d. to 4s. 6d.; Californian, up to 6s. 6d. Holders now ask advance on these prices.

The Southern Cross arrived yesterday at noon.

SYDNEY.

The champion boat race between Hickey and Green was won quite easily by Green.

The City of Hobart sailed on Wednesday.

The ship John Dunthie arrived on Wednesday, and was discovered on fire at midnight. A party of men-of-war-men endeavoured to extinguish the flames with the fire engines, but were unsuccessful. The vessel was then towed into deep water in Moesman's Bay and scuttled, and settled down at 5 a.m. The fire originated forward; cause unknown. She now lies upright, water awash; the decks are not materially injured.

Wool sales dull.

Parliament will probably be prorogued on Saturday.

BRISBANE.

The Hon. John D. McLean, Treasurer, died of concussion of the brain, caused by a fall from his horse.

ADELAIDE.

Judge Boothby received significant, but indefinite despatches from the Imperial Government. It is understood matters won't be settled without reference to the Privy Council.

Wheat 4s. 2½d.

Several wheat crops in the Smithfield district average from 25 to 30 bushels per acre.

CONFIRMATION.—The rite of confirmation, in accordance with the forms of the Jewish religion, was performed on Saturday morning by the Rev. Mr. Goldreich, at the Synagogue, the declarant being Master Joseph Nathan, son of Mr. Nathan of Liverpool-street. According to the Hebrew religion a youth is considered of age at 13 years, and is received on the first sabbath following as a member of the congregation. He is previously instructed in all the doctrines and laws of the church by the catechists, and at the time mentioned makes a public declaration of his faith, and is received as a respon-

catechists, and at the time mentioned makes a public declaration of his faith, and is received as a responsible member of the church. Master Nathan recited the lengthy service proper to the occasion in Hebrew, and also delivered a very beautiful prayer in English. This is the fifth youthful member of the Jewish persuasion confirmed by Mr. Goldreich, and the pains which he has taken to instruct them in the difficult language of their fathers, has been amply rewarded by the proficiency of his pupils. Master Nathan read on Saturday without the use of vowel points, a difficult task for a young student, his fluency and correct articulation eliciting general remark.

THE CITY ELECTION.—We are requested by Mr. Rheuben to contradict an error, which occurred in our paragraph in reference to that gentleman on Saturday. Mr. Rheuben desires us to state that in promising not to oppose Mr. Dunn, he made his pledge with a proviso to the effect that he reserved the right of voting for any candidate who might oppose that gentleman, in favor of an income and property tax.

CITY ELECTION.—A meeting of the friends and supporters of J. A. Dunn, Esq., is to be held at Mrs. Newman's, Club Hotel, at half-past seven o'clock this evening.

FINGAL.—R. Clerk, Esq., was on the 15th instant unanimously elected Warden. With reference to the late fire at Falmouth, I am informed that the Cornwall Insurance Company have sent to J. Steel, Esq., a sum of money for distribution amongst those who so ably assisted to save the premises of Mr. Peters. The weather to-day is quite cold and showery.—From a correspondent of the *Examiner*.

PROLIFIC WHEAT.—Almost a sheaf of wheat has been left at our office by Mr. Holinsdale of Campania, the yield of a single grain. The wheat was grown on Mr. Holinsdale's farm, and is in full ear, very heavy. It is described as pedigree wheat, and certainly is a remarkable sample, upwards of 120 distinct stalks bearing full ears, springing from the one root. The wheat may be seen at this office.

THEATRE ROYAL.—An amateur performance will take place on Boxing night, as a complimentary benefit to Mr. J. G. Joyce. The pieces selected are the *Lady of Lyons*, and the *Conjugal Lesson*.

LAST REHEARSAL.—The last rehearsal of the "Messiah" takes place this evening, at the Town Hall, from 7 till 9 o'clock.

CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH.—On Saturday night last, a girl named Maria Marky, who had been in the service of Mr. Alderman Pearce at New Town, was arrested by Chief District Constable Jones, on a charge of concealing the birth of her child. She will be brought up to-day, and remanded, pending the inquest on the body of the infant, which will be held this afternoon.