

Mr Thomas Fitzpatrick

Waranga Chronicle

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The grim reaper Death has been busy with his keen sickle, and has gathered the bearded grain at a breath and the flowers that grow between. The ravages which the "fell destroyer" has made in our number during the last week has been unprecedented in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Two funerals took place on Monday last and two on the Saturday preceding it. The funerals on Saturday were those of two children, named respectively John G. Bryce and Muhlhan, and on Monday those of Messrs J. Sloane and **T. Fitzpatrick** took place.

The weather was exceedingly stormy on Saturday, in consequence of which the funerals were sparsely attended.

On Monday the weather was much finer, and the number of mourners who attended the funerals of the adults testified in an unanswerable manner to the great respect and esteem in which they were both held.

It is fortunate that it is owing to no epidemic that we have to attribute our numerous losses; the two children died, one of sanguineous apoplexy, the other of whooping [whooping] cough; the adults one of serous apoplexy, the other of disease of the lungs.

The illness of John Bryce was of very short duration, as he was attacked with a violent convulsion at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon, and succumbed to its virulence at three a.m. on Friday, he was 11 years old.

In the case of the other child even less time elapsed between the announcement of the attack and the fatal result, as she was attacked at five o'clock on Friday morning and died at nine.

Mr. Sloane was found dead in his bed on Saturday evening, he had been complaining for some time past of various ailments as it seemed in the chest, and, although known to be far from healthy, none would have thought that he so soon would have been summoned to "that bourn whence no traveller returns."

Mr T. Fitzpatrick has been suffering for a considerable time, and his disease, by slow but sure degrees, has been destroying his vital power, his death was of course expected, but was none the less severely felt by his friends.

Mr Fitzpatrick commenced mining here in 1857, on the Old Lead, and was one of the earliest to commence quartz mining here. In conjunction with J. Porter and J. Ferguson, he had one of the first claims on Nuggetty Hill, and although bad luck followed every venture he still persevered till about four years ago, when he purchased a share in Cracknell and Co's claim, on the Frenchman's line, which has continued to yield him a moderate income ever since.

Finding about this time that his health was failing from overwork, he determined, with the little money he had saved, by strict economy, to purchase a home for his wife and family, and some time after he became the proprietor of the Imperial Hotel, where he resided till the time of his death.

