

SOCIAL.

Mr. John Perkins, ex-Mayor of Hobart Town, left for Melbourne on the 5th instant, where he embarked on board the Stad Amsterdam on the 9th inst., intending to visit Europe. Before Mr. Perkins left Hobart Town he was entertained at a picnic by a number of leading citizens. The locality chosen for the festivities was Brown's River. Speeches of a highly complimentary nature were made respecting the discharge of the duties of Chief Magistrate of the city while Mr. Perkins held office. A complimentary supper was given to Mr. Perkins, who is a P.P.G.M. of the Order, by the members of the Hobart Town District, M.U.I.Q.F., at the Mechanics' Institute, on the 30th January. At the last half-yearly meeting of the Hobart Town District of the Manchester Unity Friendly Society, a certificate was granted to Mr. Perkins, as P.P.G.M., to enable him to attend the A. M. C. to be held at Exeter on Whit Monday, as deputy from this District. This is, we believe, the first time any Tasmanian has received such an honour, and a similar appointment has been conferred on very few of the Australian colonists.

Mr. Lewis Riley, of the Tasmanian Operative Lodge, 345, I.C., was presented with a sterling silver salver and a centre-piece of nickel and bronze, suitably inscribed, on the 23rd ult.

Captain Richard Gopping, who was for some time captain of the barque Lufru, but has retired from sea-life owing to ill-health, was presented with an address and purse of sovereigns by the owners of the Lufru on the 24th ult.

Two silver readings, both of which passed off successfully, were given during the month at Spring Bay. The first was in aid of the fund for purchasing a pianoforte for the Council Chambers, and the other was given for the benefit of a man who was in indigent circumstances.

The steamer Monarch has made two trips to New Norfolk and Port Cygnet during the month. On each occasion the weather was favourable, and a large number of passengers were conveyed to the places already named.

A subscription list has been opened for the benefit of a poor man named Forcott, whose son was killed on the railway on Wednesday last. A large amount has already been subscribed, Mr. R. C. Bagot, of Melbourne, having succeeded in obtaining £31 from visitors alone.

A tea meeting was given to the inmates of the Brickfields Invalid Depot on the 11th instant. The tea was followed by a meeting of a devotional character, at which some of Sankey's songs and solos were sung, and exhortations delivered.

The *Horsham Times* of a recent date contains a report of a pleasant affair which took place in that township (which is in the Wimmera district, in Victoria), on the occasion of the departure of Mr. Edward Ellis, a brother of Mr. W. H. Ellis, of Green Ponds, and a former resident of Tasmania. Mr. Ellis was in the Lands and Survey Office at Horsham, and was one of those affected by the recent reductions in the Civil Service. Being about to leave the place, there was a dinner at the Horsham Club, at which the Rev. J. M. Watson (who is not altogether unknown in this colony) presided. In proposing health and prosperity to Mr. Ellis, the chairman greatly deplored the action of the Government, which he described as being one of the gravest errors ever committed by any Government, and especially deplored the fact that the Civil servants, whose services were being dispensed with, were the most deserving men in the service. It was cruel and unjust, he thought, to dismiss men against whom not a fault could be alleged. He warmly eulogised Mr. Ellis' character and abilities, and wished him success in his future career. The toast was drunk in the heartiest possible manner. Other speeches followed, all speaking in the highest

terms of the respect and esteem in which Mr. Ellis was held, and during the evening Mr. Ellis was presented with a valuable gold pencil case and a handsome diamond pin.