

The Yass Drowning Fatalities.

THE Tribune gives the following particulars concerning the drowning fatalities at Yass on Friday evening:—About 8 o'clock on Friday evening a number of boys belonging to the Yass Public School cadets, under the charge of Staff-Sergt. Anderson, started for the Murrumbidgee on a three days' fishing and shooting excursion, intending to return home on Sunday. Messrs. W. Sunderland, J. Mead, and F. Mote were also of the party. Although strictly forbidden by Sergeant Anderson to go swimming, the temptation was too strong, it being a very hot evening; and some of them getting out of sight of the others proceeded to undress. Kiley and Davis went in together, and were greatly enjoying their bathe, when suddenly they got out of their depth and commenced to sink. Several of the boys ran for assistance, but the camp being about a quarter of a mile away some time elapsed before anyone else arrived on the scene. Meanwhile two or three of the boys jumped in and tried to save their schoolmates. Bruce Barber, Vivian Harrison, and Eugene Sheehy behaved very pluckily, the two latter particularly so. Sheehy succeeded in catching Davis by the hair, but was unable to get him out, and at last became so exhausted that he was obliged to relinquish his hold. Barber and Harrison had hold of Kiley, but were unable to get him to the bank. On the alarm being given Mead, Sunderland, and Mote rushed to the spot, undressing as they came, and lost no time in taking action. Sunderland, although totally unable to swim, plunged in without a moment's hesitation, only to go to his death, for he, too, sank almost at once. Mead, who was an expert swimmer, had divested himself of all his clothing except his boots, went to Sunderland's assistance, but being probably exhausted by the long run along the bank suddenly cried, "Oh, save me!" and vanished from sight. Messrs. Roy Barber (who happened to be in the vicinity) and Fred Mote nearly lost their lives also in attempting to save those of the others, and but for Mr. O. Cook two more deaths might have been added to the already terrible list. Mr. Barber was quite insensible when taken out of the water, and remained so for some hours. He was brought into town next morning, and though rather low throughout the day is now (Monday) almost quite recovered. Mr. William Sunderland was the only son of Mr. William Sunderland, of Cooma-street, and was 30 years of age. He was a most energetic young fellow, and was always first and foremost in anything connected with sports, etc. He leaves behind a widow and one child. Mr. Jeremiah Mead was 29 years of age, and the son of Mrs. Mead, of Ross-street. He was a quiet, unassuming, and hard-working young man. He was captain of the Yass Football Club. Edward Bado Kiley, the eldest son of Mr. E. Kiley, of Hardwicke, near Yass, was only 14 years of age. He was a bright, intelligent lad and a great favourite. John Davis, aged 15 years, the son of Mr. Elwin Davis, of Coolah, was also a bright and lovable little fellow. He was a great chum of young Kiley's, and they were always seated alongside one another at school. In death they were not parted.