

THE WRECK OF THE TARARUA.

The bodies of two males came ashore at Otara on May 28. One of the bodies washed ashore was that of a man about 5ft 11in, of medium build. His clothing consisted of light tweed trousers, woollen drawers, and lace-up boots (without nails, and recently half-soled). There was no property or papers found on him. The other was that of a man of 5ft 9in, and of rather stout build. It was entirely nude.

Up to the present time seventy-one bodies in all have been recovered.

A contemporary states that the report circulated that Mr Nancarrow, late bandmaster at Queenstown, was a passenger by the ill-fated Tararua, was unfounded.

“If you want to dig graves you must bring your own shovels!” This was the reply given by a wealthy colonist when asked to supply implements to enable the police to bury the Tararua wrecked bodies near the Waipapapa Point.

The men who were most active at the recent wreck say that they would not go through the same scenes again for £100 per week.

The diver who went down to the wreck of the Tararua to endeavor to recover the silver lost in her has returned, being unsuccessful. He is not without hopes, however, of yet attaining his object.

The lady to whom Captain Garrard was engaged is a Miss Buckhurst, of Emerald Hill, Melbourne. The shock caused her a serious illness, and for some time she remained in a totally unconscious state.

The Rev. Mr Chisholm, of Milton, has said with reference to the newspaper report which represented the Rev. Mr Sidey as saying that “the Tararua was wrecked owing to the Union Company compelling their men to work on Sunday,” that he did not believe that Mr Sidey uttered such nonsense. He (Mr Sidey) was one of the deepest thinkers and ablest theologians in the Presbyterian Church, and the report of the Press should be taken with a grain of salt. He firmly believed that Mr Sidey never uttered the words attributed to him.

The ‘Daily Times’ has been informed that Captain Garrard, of the Tararua, was an expert swimmer, and on that account much surprise was felt by his friends that he did not succeed in swimming ashore. No doubt he felt it to be his duty to stay by his passengers to the last; but, as a matter of fact, when his body was found the arms were extended in a swimming attitude, and within about ten yards of the shore, entangled in the kelp, about a mile up the beach. The probability is that the unhappy man removed his coat and boots on the vessel going down, and swam away from the wreckage until he saw a clear chance of making for the beach at some distance from the fire which was lighted on the beach, so that he might avoid the rocks. Either the entanglement in the kelp, or the fact of his becoming exhausted in the surf, may account for his not reaching the shore alive. There was not a scratch on his body except a gash on the forehead by a blow from a piece of timber, which is known to have occurred during the previous day.

Captain Bradshaw, of the Good Templar, who went to the scene of the wreck of the Tararua with the object of raising any bodies that might be about the wreck and

discovering the lost silver coin, reports leaving Port Chalmers on the 14th ult.; arrived at Waipapapa Point on the next day; got out his surf-board, and proceeded to the site of the wreck of the *Tararua*. A heavy swell set in and carried away one of the ketch's anchors, and she stood off and proceeded to Waikawa on the 16th ult.; went off to the wreck with a boat, and the diver went down three times, but he was unsuccessful; had a northerly wind and falling glass, and as the wind shifted to the west-ward she shipped sixteen fathoms of cable, and stood off to save the vessel, with the boat in tow. At 4.30 p.m. on the 26th ult. the stern of the boat was torn out by the violence of the sea, and she was lost. Captain Bradshaw states that he passed right over the wreck, which is divided into three different parts, and from soundings taken he finds that there are from three to four fathoms of water all round her. He states the engines are still standing, but that the sea is very dangerous and prevents anything like work being done.

A curious tale comes from Adelaide. At the Pirie street Wesleyan Church in that city, on the Sunday after the wreck, the Rev. J. Watsford spoke eloquently of the Rev. J. Waterhouse, alluded to his last sermon in Sandhurst, when he spoke of the influence of one good man in his home, in the city, or in a sinking ship, and he (Mr Watsford) hoped all in the ship profited by the prayers of a good man like Mr Waterhouse. He related that Mr Waterhouse had a warning of his fate in a dream in which he saw himself and his son going down in a sinking ship, and also mentioned that, just at the time of the wreck, a young woman who was dying in Melbourne suddenly exclaimed to her mother, "Mother, yonder is Mr Waterhouse. He is standing on the shore beckoning to me."

It has transpired that Mrs Dunne and four children, whom the Oamaru papers reported to have been passengers by the *Tararua*, went to Sydney by the *Rotorua*. The last Melbourne mail brought confirmation of our statement that Mr John (not Henry, as was given by the Oamaru papers) Gibb was a passenger by the *Arawata* on the Sunday prior to the *Tararua* leaving Port Chalmers. It will be recollected that the announcement was made by a Christchurch paper that among the steerage passengers from Lyttelton were a couple who eloped under assumed names. It has now been ascertained that only the woman was lost in the *Tararua*, the man having gone to Sydney in the *Rotorua*, in the expectation of meeting his companion in Sydney. There are, we believe, good grounds for supposing that more than one name among the Dunedin passengers by the *Tararua* was assumed.