

THE PECULIAR DEATH AT FOOTSCRAY.

After the body of Alexander Watson, whose unfortunate death was noticed in the Third Edition of last night's HERALD, had been removed to his residence at Maidstone, an inquest was held by Mr Drury, the deputy-coroner, at Powell's Hotel, Ballarat Road. The evidence of Govey, who found deceased, was to the effect that he at first thought he was struck by the sun, and was unaware he was dead until Alexander Watson, jun., a son of deceased, came and examined his father. The evidence of Dr Bowser went to show that death was in all probability caused by a piece of heavy conglutated clay striking the deceased while in a stooping posture and breaking his neck in a most extraordinary manner. The deceased was apparently in the enjoyment of robust health. He leaves a grown-up family. The eldest son, Allick, deposed that there had been a blast about twenty minutes previously from Munro's adjoining quarry, and the piece of clay produced by Sergeant Routledge and weighing about two and a half pounds had been in all probability thrown out with the splinters of stone. The jury returned a verdict that the cause of death was due to the neck of deceased having become broken, but there was insufficient evidence to show by what means. The piece of clay, which is similar to that seen in the interstices of rock, being nearly as hard, must have been thrown by the force of the explosion with tremendous velocity to break Watson's neck. An inch either way, and the man would have been uninjured. The reason why some time elapsed before Watson was found seems from the fact that he was engaged stripping at the top, while his sons were working in a bed of the quarry.