

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle

AND CHRONICLE

Saturday, January 2, 1869.

The illiberal character of our Mining Laws has proved an insuperable barrier to the introduction of capital from abroad into this Colony. Under the present system of royalties and penalties it is the height of folly to expect foreign capitalists to invest their funds here, however great may be the demand abroad for our coal or baser metals.

Mr. Bright has been giving the people of "Auld Reekie" one of his highly popular lecturing orations, shadowing forth the course of the coming legislation. He advocated the doing away of entails in land. He pleaded earnestly for the reduction of the army and navy of Great Britain for ever.

THE telegraphic news from the Mediterranean continues of a war-like character. The efforts of Greece and Turkey, anxious apparently to emulate the pernicious example too often set them by stronger European neighbors, threaten to fall upon each other sword in hand and complete the work of demoralization which centuries of degradation and immorality have commenced among their people.

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DEATH OF ANOTHER PROMINENT CITIZEN. The community was shocked in the midst of its mourning on Saturday by the announcement of the sudden death of Jas. W. Trahey, Esq. one of our oldest and most trusted citizens, who was found lying dead on the floor of a room in his house at an early hour in the morning by his servant.

ELEGANT OIL PAINTINGS—a rare collection of beautiful paintings—principally copies from the productions of the Old Masters by the new process known as Olography—will be exhibited to-day and to-morrow at the Hall of the Chamber of Commerce, near the Mass. office, Government street.

THE G. S. Wright, Capt. H. Langdon, arrived at 3 p.m. yesterday from Portland. She brings seven passengers and 150 tons of freight. She left Portland on the afternoon of Friday last, and made a fine run up from the Bar to New-Bay.

THE number of marriages in Vienna has diminished from 5,284 in 1862, to 3,802 in 1866, a decrease of about 29 per cent. In the same period there was an increase of about 8 per cent in Paris, 12 per cent in London, and about 13 per cent in Berlin.

In a letter recently received at San Francisco from the west coast of South America the writer mentions that Commodore Powell and the officers on board H. M. S. Topaz are to erect on the island of Juan Fernandez a tablet to the memory of Alexander Selkirk, whose history is popularly believed to have afforded De Foë the materials of his attractive story. The tablet will be of iron, and the inscription runs as follows: "In memory of Alexander Selkirk, mariner, a native of Largo, in the county of Fife, Scotland, who lived on this island in complete solitude for four years and four months. He was landed from the Cinque Ports (galley) A. D. 1704, and was taken off in the Duke (privateer) on the 12th February, 1709. He died, Lieutenant of H. M. S. Weymouth, A. D. 1723, aged 47 years. This tablet is erected near Selkirk's Look-Out, by Commodore Powell and the officers of H. M. S. Topaz, A. D. 1868. It was an odd thing that, whilst seeking for some one to do the lettering on the tablet, a man offered himself who rather claimed the job on the grounds that he had erected the tablet to Capt. Cook's memory at the Sandwich Islands.

The observance of the Christmas holidays has thus far been characterized with good humor, sobriety and interchange of social feelings, in practicing which citizens have been aided by the glorious state of the weather, which has been sufficiently cool to quicken the warm blood in their veins and impart a genial, ruddy glow to every countenance, quite in consonance with the joyous season and its hallowed associations.

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THE Spanish revolution has obviously changed the aspect of public affairs, not only in Spain, but in Europe. France will, it is believed, as a consequence, withdraw from Rome, and be much less belligerent towards Prussia. Indeed, if Spain were successfully to establish a republic, Napoleon would have enough to occupy his attention at home without meddling in his neighbors' affairs.

THE latest fashion for ladies is a new style of making, appropriately described as the "sink-in-the-back." It gives them somewhat the appearance of a dressmaker's skirt, to walk a slack rope, or a tight-rope walker, to walk a lumber pole across the water.

THE Magistrate's Court at Clinton, N. York, on Kelly. In this case, Mr. Edward J. Lilloet sued for \$362 for goods sold to the defendant at different periods from the 1st of July 1864. The defendant refused to pay because the entire balance was interest, and interest upon interest. The plaintiff produced his books and proved that in June 1865 he furnished an account to the defendant in which he charged \$50 as interest at 3 per cent per month on the balance then due. In March 1866 he charged \$140 for interest at 3 per cent per month. It appeared by the books that the account ceased to be a current account in December 1867; plaintiff maintained that he was entitled to 3 per cent per month on the balances then due. In March 1866 he charged \$140 for interest at 3 per cent per month. It appeared by the books that the account ceased to be a current account in December 1867; plaintiff maintained that he was entitled to 3 per cent per month on the balances then due.

THE Hartford Courant speaks of an unsuspecting Windsor (Vt.) Democrat who went to the headquarters on Wednesday night, to learn the result. Just as he got to the foot of the stairway leading to the rooms, he was accosted by one of the faithful, who said: "The State has gone for Grant." "By God to thunder; go! damn it all; my stars, you don't tell me so!" "Yes, and that ain't the worst of it—New-Haven has gone back on us!" "No, thunder and lightning, you don't tell me so!" "Yes, and that ain't the worst of it; Pennsylvania is all one way for Grant." "Hang my garters, blazes and gimblets, you don't tell me so!" "Yes, and that ain't the worst of it; Ohio cleans us out all through." "Oh, does it? I'll be horn swogged, gingerbread and scissors to grind, you don't tell me so!" "Yes; and that ain't the worst of it; everything is against us; we are completely flunked out every where!" "Is that so? Condemn the gal blasted kid, by jimmy thunder; damn it all to—damn it! I swan to—damn it all—go! blast you, you don't tell me so!" "At last accounts the old chap was heading homeward."

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