

The Weekly British Colonist 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. An American company, some three years ago, came fully prepared to engage in active operations to a large extent, but were positively frightened away by the long list of conditions which might be imposed, and forfeited the whole of a preliminary investment—several thousand dollars—rather than subscribe to them. The earliest ideas our Government had regarding regulations necessary to secure the proper working of our gold mines were excessively crude and illiberal, and in some respects of a most ridiculous character. Time and experience, however, have taught them that with few restrictions placed upon the goldminer more interest was taken in the development of the latent riches of the Colony and the greater the yield, until at length the British Columbia gold miner is as free and unfettered in his operations as his brethren in any other country. A principle that has been found to answer so well in gold will apply with equal force to every other description of mining. The capitalist must be made feel that his money is as secure when in the form of shares in a mine as if he had laid it out in the purchase of a town lot, before we can expect to see any very important addition to the number of coal or copper mines in the colony. Capital is very sensitive. It must be rendered secure or it will flow past our doors and seek an investment in localities where its presence is appreciated, and where it is protected from either governmental or private raids. Under existing laws, conditions are laid down impossible for any company to fulfill, and few men in the possession of their senses would be found willing to invest their means in a Colony where the tenure is so uncertain. The Government appear, latterly, to have seen their error in this respect, and in His Excellency's Speech a more liberal measure was promised. This measure has passed, a first reading, and has gone into the printer's hands. Should it possess the liberal features claimed for it, its passage will have a most beneficial effect upon the Colony at large by the attraction of foreign capital.

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. Both Governments have assumed a truculent and hostile demeanor; have insulted each other's Ministers and Ambassadors, and have ordered beyond their favored borders the respective citizens of each. Both profess to pant for war, while both turn with longing eyes towards the Great Powers in the hope that at the latest moment they will step forward and "box" the ears of the armies, pack the soldiers off to their homes like unruly, blackguard schoolboys who, escaping the vigilance of their preceptors, have met to fight out their grievances in a secluded spot of the playground. The quarrel is really one in which—but for a fear that prevails in regarding the Eastern Question—and involving Europe in a general war—searcely any interest would be felt beyond the borders of their own territories. Civilization could scarcely feel the shock were both nations to receive the coup de grace. The world has nothing to lose, from a moral standpoint, by the victory or defeat of either; and but for the contingency we have named, the precious pair would be left to settle their differences after their own fashion.

and like the traditional cats of Kilkenny, leave daunt save their legends to mark that they ever had an existence. 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. Then for a public education system like that of the United States. Then he came happily home to the "tender man" of everybody present by talking of a very low duty on tea, coffee and sugar. He then contended that personal comfort and education were the best preventives of crime. In conclusion he asserted that an effort of civilized power should yet be made on behalf of the people in their present condition, such as was recently made to bring up the lost ocean cable and mend it, and his audience gave him a storm of cheers for the felicity of his closing metaphor. Goldwin Smith ranks him with Lord Bolingbroke and Lord Chatham for oratorical effect, and Mr. Bright certainly seems to come up to the general English idea of a powerful speaker.

DEATH OF ANOTHER PROMINENT CITIZEN. The community was shocked in the midst of its merrymaking 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. Mr. Trahey had been suffering for some weeks from palpitation of the heart and an inability to sleep in a recumbent position, and on Christmas night was made as comfortable as possible in an easy chair placed near the fire, while Mrs. Trahey (worn out with assiduous attention to his wants for several nights) retired to rest in an adjoining apartment. Deceased had apparently died without a struggle some hours before his body was discovered. Mr. Trahey was a native of Nova Scotia, and had resided in Victoria since 1859; where he engaged in shipbuilding. He possessed great ability in his line, and all the fine Fraser River steamers, the "Isabel," and other craft were built by Mr. Trahey from his own models. His last work was the new steamer "Mr. Marvin," built to run on Fraser River from Big Bar to Soda Creek. The departure hence of so estimable a man is a public loss which cannot easily be supplied. Mr. Trahey leaves a widow, to whom he was devotedly attached, to lament his untimely death. The remains will be interred with all Masonic honors at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon—deceased having a few days ago been chosen W. M. of Victoria Lodge F & A. M.

AN AMERICAN'S OPINION OF AN ELECTIVE JUDICIARY.—Henry Ward Beecher, the eminent divine, in a recent sermon on the corruption of the times in America, said: "So corrupt are the courts of law that the name of judge stinks (laughter). I say there is nothing so disgusting, nothing so corrupt beyond the pale of forgiveness as a corrupt judge. Strike him down. The judges plunder and are known to plunder. They make decisions and hold them up for sale. They auction justice and grow fat on bribes. Our Courts are becoming more and more corrupt, and our judges more and more infamous. Some time ago I was written to by a young man, the son of a judge, who complained of observations I had made. Alas! no, one will write now for that would be a sign that some conscience was still left. They may reply, but their acts will become known of men. The judges will be silent, because they are lost to rectitude. The community is now in its moral tone that indignation cannot rise in thunder against them. The justice of the courts, I repeat, is rotten, rank, and foul. I say we are in more danger now than before slavery was wiped away, for truth, justice and honesty have departed. Our most sacred liberties and institutions are being destroyed. Money rules supreme, and our courts of justice sink with corruption. We are in more danger now than by being overwhelmed by slavery. Money is our danger and the corruption which follows it." The Erie Assurance Company, having offices or agencies at San Francisco, have agreed to the following uniform rates of premium: On fire and steam boats, the rate will be 10 cents on \$1000, 15 cents on \$2000, 20 cents on \$3000, 25 cents on \$4000, 30 cents on \$5000, 35 cents on \$6000, 40 cents on \$7000, 45 cents on \$8000, 50 cents on \$9000, 55 cents on \$10000. There will be no charge on special and hazardous rates. The company doing business there have all agreed to this by writings duly executed. Can any good reason be furnished why the rates charged here should exceed those charged at San Francisco?

In a letter recently received at San Francisco from the west coast of South America the writer mentions that Commodors 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 interchanges of social feeling, 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. At midnight on Christmas Eve, a Grand Mass was performed in the Catholic Cathedral, and on the following morning services were held in the Episcopal and Wesleyan churches. The sacred edifices were tastefully decorated with wreaths and garlands of evergreens, intertwinning appropriate sentences, &c. New antems were sung with powerful effect by the choir.

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, rear of the News office, Government street. The paintings are one hundred and thirty-six in number, and are executed in the highest style known to the art. On Wednesday Mr. McCrea will offer the lot by auction.

The lovely blue sky with which we are favored at present makes the delightful state of our streets all the more disgusting by contrast. Will our City Fathers do nothing for us in this respect? A row of buildings to walk across muddy streets on bad crossings forever? Or will our effort will be made to remove some of the superfluous mud before the dawn of the New Year?

We heard about forty persons, yesterday, say: "I wonder if the authorities will take any measures to prevent the introduction of smallpox by the Continentals. Forty other people answered: "I guess not." The latter forty were perhaps about right.—Portland Oregonian.

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. A quick to start.

POST-REMARKS.—In consequence of the sudden and melancholy death of the Worshipful Master elected of Victoria Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Vancouver Lodge has postponed the Ball, announced for this evening till next Monday.

THE S. Revenue Cutter "Wanda," Capt. White, sailed yesterday for Sicily direct. She will winter among the icebergs. A fine outlook for the officers, poor fellows.

HAVING Prof. Monteggia, a member of the Italian Parliament and professor of medicine, proclaims that his countrymen are underfed. Italians, he says, not only suffer in body by living too poorly, but their mental energies are thereby lessened. The weakness of the individual is correlative with the weakness of the nation. If each worker does less than he ought, the productive power of the nation is diminished. Hence a long train of evils. Taxes cannot be levied on luxuries when the sheer necessities of life are alone resorted to. Those who think they have done enough when they barely keep body and soul together are unworthy members of society. There is no force in reserve for the hour of need. They have neither money to contribute for the common weal, nor the aid of strong right arms to bring to the great duty of national defence. It may seem an exaggeration to say that, because the Italians lived upon macaroni and water-melons, the Italian Chancellor of the Exchequer is puzzled how to arrange his Budget so as to avoid a deficit. Nevertheless, this is a statement based on facts which it were presumptuous either to repudiate or doubt.

The Magistrate's Court at Clinton. A young lad named Kelly (last name) was charged with the larceny of a watch valued at \$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 balance, and that the defendant had sufficient notice that he would be required to pay such interest inasmuch as he had been furnished with the accounts. The defendant said he was willing to pay 12 per cent per annum on the balance due when the account ceased to be a current account. He supposed it was illegal to charge interest on a current account, and that he should not pay more than 15 per cent per annum in the absence of a special agreement to do so. Mr. Bell, of the firm of Beady & Co., was examined, and said that it was usual to make an agreement as to the rate of interest in such cases. On an account due for eight months last year, Mr. Nelson did not charge any interest. His Worship decided that the plaintiff was entitled to 3 per cent per month, ab initio on the balance of account, and he agreed with the plaintiff that the first interest at 3 per cent per month was charged, was a sufficient notice that defendant would be required to pay such a rate of interest on all future balances. A special agreement as to the rate of interest was not at all necessary. Decree accordingly for \$362. Defendant appealed to the Superior court.

December 16th, 1868. A Domestic. Sweeping the horizon with the naked eye. In an employer weds his cook, is he a master marry-er? (The perpetrator has been sent to the hulks.)—Ibid. A Memphis grand jury have returned a verdict of murder in the first degree, while the murdered is alive and well. It is supposed the jury will either rescind their verdict or kill the man.

An ambitious drawn by steam power, and containing thirty-five persons, was successfully tried, lately, on the road from the Boulevard Mezas to Nogent-sur-Marne, by way of Vincennes. When Sir William Hamilton announced to the Royal Irish Academy his discovery of the central sun—the star on which our orb of day and planetary attendants revolve—a gentleman exclaimed, "What! our sun's son? Why, that must be a grand sun!" The questioner stated the Duke of Cambridge in Cavalry uniform, which stands upon its stone pedestal in the centre of the inclosure, and which was erected in 1770, has become so delapidated that it is about to be taken down to be recast.

The Pope recently sent a silver medal to a certain Madame Lemmet, a lodging-house keeper of Marseilles, whose kindness and attention to the volunteers for the Papal army passing that city, had been brought under his notice.

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. The number of illegitimate births in Vienna in 1865 was in the fearful ratio of 475 to every 1000 children born, while in Paris and Berlin it reached only 276 and 163 respectively. From these statistics it would appear that Vienna, not Paris, is entitled to the reputation which attaches to the "wickedest city in the world."

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 dromedary, owing to walk a slack rope, or a bobtail pup trying to walk a lumber pole across the water. When we read an extract from the London report, stating that the month would be worn slightly open this season, we looked upon it as a joke, but why not, since the back is about all that is left of a woman.

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 as some without meddling in his neighbor's affairs. Doubtless, however, he will do all in his power, aided by other kings and emperors, to hinder such a result in Spain.

A fashionable physician of Paris, whose love of fees is as proverbial as his obliging attention of his patients for expenses, recently paid a visit to the Duke of Devonshire. The Duke gave him a napoleon. Dr. Y. prefers "two" so, going out he dropped the one on the floor. The Duke helped to pick it up. The doctor picked it up, but continued the bear: "I thought you'd got it," said the Duke, "what are you searching for now?" On, replied the doctor, "I'm looking for the other."

Daniel Webster, remarked old Col. Galt pay, as he trimmed a quid of nigger-head, and fastened it securely between two decayed teeth in the left side of his mouth; Darnel Webster was a great man. There wasn't nothing mean about him. I've heard him talk, but 'twas in his talk so much as his generosity that tick me. He had a kinder careless way like, that kept him from getting rich. He never seemed to think what things cost. I was a comin' up the Hudson river, along with him once, and in the morning Darnel Webster and me was washin' our faces and slickin' our hair in the cabin, and he took out a toothbrush and brushed his teeth. I didn't see no other toothbrush around, so I borrowed his'n. And after I used it I handed it back to him, and what do you think? Why, Darnel Webster just slung that toothbrush right into the river. And I suppose next day he went and bought him a new one. That's all he cared about money! There ain't no such men as Darnel Webster living now, concluded the Colonel meditatively, as he sipped a stream of tobacco juice into the fireplace at the other end of the room.

A COLORADO REPRESENTATIVE.—A Washington dispatch says: "There is, after all, a chance that a colored Representative may have a seat in the Fortieth Congress. By the rejection of the returns of certain parishes in Louisiana, 'Mensid,' a negro, is declared elected to fill the unexpired term of Mans, Democrat, and deceased. Menard will get the certificate which will be prima facie evidence of his right to be Mans's successor, and the most he is admitted to the seat, and Mans, Democrat, who is defeated by the rejection of the returns, will have a chance to contest Mans's seat. But the original certificate of Col. Mans having been contested by one Simon Jones, Republican, both Mans and Hunt will be ousted if Jones is successful. If not, then provided things are done in the usual way, Mans is the sitting member by virtue of the certificate, and Hunt is the contestant. But things may not be done in the usual way. To admit Mans involves the recognition of the legality of the late election. Hence, there may or may not be a colored gentleman in the Fortieth Congress. Altogether it is a very curiously complicated case, and involves at least half a dozen questions, including one of color."

Miscellaneous Items. 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 swoggled, 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 Jiminy thunder; darn it all to—' 'I swan to—darn it all—go! blast you! don't tell me so!' 'At last accounts the old chap was heading homeward.' The Figaro says: "A rumor was current lately that M. Marfori had left for Brussels to demand satisfaction from M. Rochefort for some offensive remarks in a number of the Lanterne. We had not adverted to this subject from the fear of circulating a statement without foundation. We however have now received a letter from Brussels which leaves no doubt on the subject. The intendant of the 'ex-Queen' is in Belgium, and intends to send his seconds to Rochefort." The Liberator states that a duel with pistols took place yesterday between Rochefort and Marfori, and that the former had his right collar bone broken.

The newest trade for the fashionable world is the hiring of fruit for grand banquets. In the same way, as people hire crystal for balls, outgrown apples and pears, prize melons, etc., are hired for the central piece. As soon as the banquet is over the speculator removes his fruit, and it is next day on some other aristocratic board. It would be very unfortunate for all parties if a lady, in a position when wishes are uncontrollable, should take a fancy to one of these hired pears.

An interesting discovery has just been made at Paris, in the portrait of Marie de Medici, of the date of 1602, when the Queen was twenty-eight years of age. Her Majesty is represented in the florid style of Rubens, with a large collar, of guipure or by neck, half covering a necklace of white pearls, to which is attached a cross in bright steel over a dark silk moiré dress, with a band set with precious stones round the waist. The head hair is crisped and rolled round the head and ornamented with a small black cap. The eyes of a bluish gray, are full of life and impart great animation to the picture. The treatment of the accessories and the execution of the work leave no doubt that it is the production of the younger Porbus. A piece of ground, of nearly three acres in extent, has been secured in Westminster, near Buckingham Palace, and the splendid range of buildings now in course of erection on the Belgtravian estate of the Marquis of Westminster, and upon which it is intended to erect a cathedral for the diocese of Westminster, as a memorial of the late Cardinal Wiseman. On the completion of the cathedral, the remains of the Cardinal, which now lie in St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal-green, will be removed to the chapel to be built for their reception. Meanwhile, Mr. Pugin has been commissioned to furnish a design for this shrine which is to cover the grave in the cemetery.

The Roman Correspondent says: "The excavations along the Tiber have not only given Baron Visconti during the week, some enormous blocks of rare marbles, such as African and Capolin, but have led to the discovery of a new quay in a perfect state of preservation."