The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, January 2, 1869

Two questions vitally affecting the public health, and which from time to time have agitated the popular mind, should not be lost sight of by the Council during the current session. We allude to the want of a plentiful supply of pure water, and the adoption of a proper system of drainage for the city. At the present time, when all the private wells are filled to overflowing, and the rays of the sun are not sufficiently powerful to create the mephitic gases which have been found so destructive of human life, the evils of which we speak are not felt to an extent as during the summer season. But, in common with other citizens we have no desire to again inhale the miasmatic odors emitted by pools of green, stagnant water in our streets, nor to see our little ones cut down by diptheria and other diseases—the origin of which can be directly traced to the use of bad water and imperfect drainage. In the city of Boulogne, France, where diptheria first made its appearance, and baffled the skill of the first physicians, its cause was for a long time a question of uncertainty; but at last it was discovered that families residing on the line of dirty streets suffered most severely from the ravages of the new disease, while those inhabiting the more cleanly suburbs escaped comparatively free. The result was that an admirable system of sewage was introduced and diptheria is now scarcely known within the limits of the city where it originated. In London, on the occasion of a visit from the cholera some years ago, it was noticed that the epidemic raged most furiously in a particular neighborhood. Scores of men, women and children were attacked, and in nearly every case the attack proved fatal. The attention of the health officers was at last directed to the singular mortality in the neighborhood, and it was discovered that all who used water drawn from a certain well died. The well was examined, when the horrid fact was brought to light that a sink adjoining the well leaked badly, and that the gases impregnated the water to such a degree as to render it poisonous. Numerous instances of the pernicious results attendant upon a bad system of sewage and the use of impure water might be cited nearer home. There are persons who shun water drawn from wells in the vicinity of the cemetery as they would a pestilence; and if water drawn from that source be tainted, have we not excellent reason for supposing that water drawn from the locality whence we obtain our summer's supply is equally prejudicial to health? There has been too little attention paid to the hygiene of our city, and best means of preventing the occurrence and spread of disease; and citizens are as greatly to blame as the City and Colonial Governments for the present insufficient water supply, and the uncleanly state of the thoroughfares. To these two causes, we are persuaded, more than to any other, may be attributed the ravages of diptheria in our midst during the past summer. For no purpose so good as an improvement in these respects could steps be taken by our local or colonial government, and to no better use could a surplus (if any) in the treasury be put. With a colonial guarantee of six per cent. per annum for a limited period, we are credibly informed that a company of capitalists stand ready to conduct water to the city from Elk Lake in iron pipes. The estimated cost of the work is $100,000; so, for a yearly guarantee of $6000 for a limited number of years citizens will have placed within their reach the priceless boon of a plentiful supply of pure water at low rates; while, with this powerful auxiliary at their command, the City Fathers would experience little or no difficulty in inaugurating and maintaining a proper system of drainage, thereby increasing the public safety and adding to our attractions as a place of residence. We shall return to this subject again; being determined that if no steps are taken towards improving our sanitary condition, the neglect shall not come from a want of proper and timely warning on the part of the Press.

Tuesday, Dec 29

County Court.

(Before A. F. Pemberton, Esq.)

Farron vs Duros.—In this case the plaintiff sought to have a cow returned to him, the animal having been seized by the defendant for alleged damage to defendant's crops of vegetables and fruit trees. The case occupied a considerable time, and the evidence was very contradictory. After carefully weighing the evidence, his Honor decided that the defendant was entitled to $10 damages.

Holmes vs. Duros.—This was a similar action, in which the damages were assessed as in the foregoing—$10 to defendant. Mr Drake conducted the cases for the plaintiffs and Mr McCreight for defendant.

Ure vs Lafont.—A suit for amount of board due for defendant and a boy for whom defendant became responsible. Judgment for plaintiff for amount claimed.

Orr vs Powell.—This was an action arising out of the late election, in which plaintiff sued for the amount of certain refreshments furnished at his house to supporters of defendant at defendant's request. Defendant objected that he never authorized the plaintiff to supply the quantity of refreshments stated. Plaintiff asked for an adjournment to permit of witnesses being present. Adjourned accordingly till next Court.

The paintings (so to speak) by the new process 'Oleography,' are well worthy the attention of *connoisseurs*. Although in each case only copies, they have all the fidelity and finish of the originals. The coloring is very beautiful, being subdued or brilliant in exact proportion to the originals. The gems of art from which these paintings have been copied are of great value, and the present copies from their truthfulness are in every way calculated to replace them. A like opportunity rarely occurs in this Colony of securing really fine pictures for our drawing-rooms, and should on no account be missed. They are now on exhibition in the room at the rear of the *Morning News* office, and may be seen to-day and previous to the sale to-morrow. Mr J A McCrea will sell the whole by auction on Wednesday at 11 o'clock.

A Jury summoned to-day to investigate the circumstances attending the death of an Indian under very suspicious circumstances, were dismissed till Wednesday, in order that the suspected parties may be looked after. The circumstances, as far as known, are simply these: About 12 days ago three Indians, a squaw and child, were assembled in a house that overhangs the bay. One of the Indians, a brother of the deceased, went out for some whiskey, and on his return he observed deceased was absent; about six or eight days afterwards the body of deceased was found in the salt water under the house, gagged and the legs firmly bound together, leaving no reason for doubt that deceased had been murdered. The chief evidence in the case is lodged in jail for safe keeping.

We must not forget that the exhibition of the Oxyhydrogen Lantern takes place on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when, we trust, there will be a strong muster of our juvenile population to witness the ever-exciting story of 'Cinderella,' and also a Tale of a Tub,' produced by the magic power of this wonderful Lantern. The prices, we note by advertisement this morning, are reduced to suit everybody, the charge of admission for adults being 50 cents; children under twelve years of age, 25 cents. Let everybody go. The proceeds of the present exhibition are to be applied in purchasing the instrument for this city for purposes of education. This is an object in which all are interested, and should be warmly supported.

Among the importations per the G S Wright were 40 tons of wheat from Portland consigned to Mr W T Armstrong, J P, of New Westminster, to be ground into flour at that enterprising citizen's new grist-mill. It is to be regretted that sufficient wheat was not grown last year in the New Westminster district to keep at least one flouring mill at work; but the fault is one that we hope will be remedied during the coming season.

Murder on Whidby Island.—Whidby Island, situated at the entrance to Puget Sound, and distant 35 miles east from Victoria, has just been the scene of an atrocious murder. Thomas Rowland, and his partner, (name not furnished,) on Christmas Eve, became intoxicated, and during a quarrel which arose between them, Rowland shot and killed his partner. The perpetrator lies in jail at Port Townsend awaiting examination.

Corns.—An exchange says that one of its patrons has effected a cure of these troublesome excresences by applying to them a good coat of gum arabic mucilage every evening on going to bed. He suffered with them for forty years, and tried nearly all the corn doctors and corn remedies in existence without relief, until he applied the above, which readily cured him in a few weeks.

Testimonial.—A very flattering testimonial was yesterday presented to Past Master M W Waitt, by the Brethren of Vancouver Lodge, through the Worshipful Master, who marked the occasion by an eloquent address, to which the recipient made a suitable reply. The testimonial consisted of an elegant gold Jewel.

Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, F. and A. M., R.S.—The following officers of this Lodge were installed yesterday by Dr Powell, Provincial Grand Master, to serve during the ensuing year:—S Duck, R W M; T S Ablatt, D M; A Frankel, S M; W Jackson, S W; Wm Dalby, J W; Jas Gillon, Treasurer; R B Powell, Secretary; P J Hall, Tyler.

The funeral of Mr James W Trahey will take place to-day at 2 o'clock. All the Masonic Lodges in the city and sojourning Brethren have expressed an intention of following the remains to the Cemetery.

An [illegible] lessers. Lowe Bros. [illegible] Saanich Inlet, on steamer Fly, 8000 gallons of whale oil, taken by Dawson & Co., of Saanich Inlet. Mr. Dawson came with the oil.

The body of a Siwash with his throat cut, was found near the Rancherie yesterday morning, supposed to be the victim of some gambling quarrel. The inquest is postponed until Wednesday next.

A Night Watch Service will take place at the Wesleyan church, Pandora street, on Thursday evening next, 31st inst. The hour for commencement of service will 10 p m

The sloop Leonede returned from a trading cruise among the islands on Sunday. She reports the natives quiet and well disposed towards the whites.

The steamer Fly, Capt. Frain, will sail for New Westminster this evening with freight and passengers.

Barnard's Express for Cariboo and way places will close this evening at 4 o'clock.

The steamship Continental sailed from Portland for San Francisco on Sunday.

The steamer Active sailed from Portland yesterday for Victoria.

The "Live Forever."

Editor British Colonist:—What is this plant the *"semper viva variety"* of which you speak in your Tuesday issue? I apprehend it is the "Rose of Jerico," Anastatica hierscuntina of Botanists, natural order Brassicaceæ, an annual common on the arid wastes of Egypt, Palestine, Barbary's sandy deserts, on the cost of the Red Sea, and on the coast of the Mediteranean Sea. The plant is called Maryane or Mary's Flower in Palestine, where it is said the flower first opened at the instant our Saviour was born, and paid homage to his resurrection by remaining expanded till Easter. The plant possesses strong hygrometrical qualities; if taken up when in a growing state, and kept entirely in a dry room it may be long preserved, and after being many years in this situation, if the root be placed in a glass of water a few hours the buds of the flowers will swell, open, and appear as if newly taken out of the ground. The common people of Palestine have many superstitions attached to this plant.

It was introduced into Mexico at an early date, and has since become perfectly naturalized there.

Cultivated in England by the curious in 1597.

H. M.

All Sorts of Paragraphs.

An extra fork at one's plate in one's boardinghouse, is supposed to be a delicate intimation to "fork over."

Pascal, the king of Paris restaurateurs, is dead. The hope is expressed that the recipe for a famous soup of his may be found among his papers.

A Polish Jew, of Wilna, has been fined by the Russian magistrates for crying fire in the Polish language when his house was burning down.

A German named Steindied from starvation in Pittsburg, the other day. A half starved dog kept watch over his body until it was discovered.

A Tipperary paper notices that this year, for the first time in that quarter, the farming classes have become reconciled to the use of reaping machines, owing, no doubt in some degree, to the increasing scarcity of labourers and the high wages demanded.

A statement appears in an Edinburgh paper, on the authority of the Edinburgh Spanish Evangelization Society, that Gen Prim has declared to Senor Cabrera, one of the agents of the Edinburgh Spanish Evangelization Society, and other exiles, that they may enter Spain with their Bibles under their arms to preach its doctrines

Rochefort is ungallantly severe on Eugenie. In his last *Lanterne* he says, "Isabella embraced Eugenie at Biarritz. Touching spectacle, to see female intelligence in the arms of female virtue."

"Why did you leave your last place?" inquired a young housekeeper about to engage a new servant. "Why, you see, ma'am," replied the applicant, "I was too good looking, and when I opened the door folks took me for the missus."

"A girl of the period" comments thus upon Mormonism: "How absurd—four or five wives for one man; when the fact is, in these times each woman ought to have four or five husbands. It would take about that number to support her decently."

An extraordinary charge has been brought before the Preston magistrates in connection with a fire which took place some months ago at a cotton mill in that town. The charge it mill was set on fire, at the instigation of the owners, by two men in the employ. The case so far rest entirely on the evidence of a single witness named Smith.

The Duke de Montpensier, it appears, made himself unpopular at Seville by his extreme niggardliness. He spent his time, writes La Liberte, in purchasing estates at low rate and selling oranges at a high price, and remained perfectly foreign to the politics of the country. The Duke may have inherited his father's economic ideas as well as his aptitude for amassing wealth.

Nutmegs are the fruit of a beautiful tree that grows in the Molucca Islands, and in various parts of the East. All the parts of the tree are aromatic, but only those portions of the fruit called mace and nutmeg are marketable. The entire fruit is of an oval form, about the size of a peach. The nutmeg is the innermost kernel. It is surrounded by a skin, which, peeled off, constitutes the mace of commerce. The tree yields annually three crops. The first one, which is gathered in April, is the best. The others are gathered in August and December.

Anthropophagy is still rife in Algeria. The authorities were in search of a stolen cow, and on examining an Arab's kraal, discovered human flesh. The woman stated that she was starving, and on the proposition of two men they seized two children, aged six and eight respectively, and cut their throats. The bodies were cut up and divided by lots, the woman receiving, as her share, the feet, hands and heads, with which she made soup for her own children, offering to share with the mother of the deceased. The three accused were sentenced to hard labor for life. While Algeria starves, millions are expended to beautify Paris!

At Ancona, Italy, during the night, some unknown individual spread a coat of black paint over the Bourbon coat of arms above the door of the Spanish Consulate.

The *Wellington Journal*, states that Mr Whitmore, the Conservative candidate for Bridgnorth, has sent his portrait to every elector of the borough.

A man at Illiers, France, nearly killed himself by drinking eighty-four cups of coffee for a wager. A cup of strong salt and water poured down his throat in time saved his life.

The great Italian artist, Michael Cauzio, author of the magnificent works at the villa Pallavicini and the statue of Columbus in Genoa, died recently at the age of eighty-one years.

During the past year the Bombay Government derived a net increase of £504,000 in the revenue on opium. The estimated value of the opium exported from Bombay and China was over £5,920,000.

A Swiss watchmaker, named Theuner, has patented in France, England and the United States, a watch with two wheels less than those commonly made. It is wound and set without a key, and can be sold in a silver case for £1.

A young reprobate at St Cosme, France, hanged himself while laboring under the effects of continued intoxication. On being discovered and cut down in time he immediately ran off to the cafe and recommenced his libations.

A Titian is being exhibited in the Plazzo Mocenigo of Venice, which belongs to the Protestant community of that city. The subject is the Savior, who holds in His left hand a globe representing the world, while His right hand is raised in the act of blessing.

There are in England and Scotland alone between sixty and seventy institutions in connection with the Society of the Jesuits. The existence of monastic institutions for monks under vows in England is forbidden by a clause of the very same Act by which Roman Catholics were admitted to Parliament.

The monument to be erected by America to the memory of Lincoln will be one of the most important mausoleums that was ever built in ancient or modern ages. Carrara marble is now being chosen from which to chisel one hundred statues. M Gagliardi has arrived in Florence for that purpose.

About a dozen rabbits were let loose in Barwon-park, belonging to a gentleman named Austin, in South Australia, some few years ago, and recently, in one year, 15,000 rabbits were killed on the estate. The partridges let loose failed to increase in numbers. The pheasants multiplied very slightly, owing to a want of cover; hares, likewise, did not do well; they do not appear to like the native grasses. The rabbits are not only very numerous, but very large.

The Paris *Gaulois* affirms that the Pope intends convoking all the Chevaliers of Malta and restoring the order to its former renown. It was founded to make war against the infidels, as its first name implies—the Order of St John of Jerusalem. The costume of the Chevaliers will consist of a long black mantle, ornamented with a white cross with eight points.

An editor who occupied a room in a hotel not a thousand miles distant, absented himself from town one night. The house being crowded with guests, the obliging landlord put a stranger in the editor's bed. This kindness the ungrateful fellow requited by scrawling on a piece of paper, which he left on the table, the following rhymes—

I slept in an editor's bed last night,
And others may say what they please;
I say there's one editor in the world,
Who certainly takes his ease.
When I thought of my humble cot away,
I could not suppress a sigh,
But thought, as I rolled in that feathery nest,
How easily editors lie.'

Austria.

[illegible]T'S SPEECH ON THE ARMY BILL.

[illegible] a letter in the *North Eastern* [illegible]*nce* gives a new version of Baron [illegible] on the Austrian Army Bill. [illegible] correspondent says that this speech, like all those delivered by Baron Beus on questions of foreign politics, was very cautiously worded, but that it produced so strong an impression of alarm on the commission that the motion of Herr Rechbeur proposing to fix the effective strength of the army at 600,000 instead of 800,000 men, was at once rejected by a large majority. Baron Beust began by reviewing the policy of the previous year. Austria had several times been in such danger that she might have been exposed at any moment to an armed conflict, owing, among other causes, to the treaties concluded by Prussia with the South German States. The Vienna Cabinet strove in the midst of these difficulties to preserve its liberty of action, and considered that its interests did not demand that it should take any decisive step in any direction, or enter into any of the uncertain alliances which had been offered to her even on the part of Prussia.

Baron Beust added that he would make this "policy of expectation" his rule of action in future; at the same time, though taking every care to have her hands free in matters of foreign politics, Austria had been obliged to defend herself against all pressure from without, and against every tendency to interfere in her internal affairs, especially from the side of Russia. The Baron then alluded to the cordial relations which prevail between Austria and France. Austria was also on very friendly terms with England—but he regretted that Great Britain and the statesmen who now direct her policy have no longer a definite and clearly marked line of conduct, as had been the case in other times and with other Cabinets, the consequence of which is that the words which have been spoken in London in favor of peace no longer have the same weight as they would have had formerly.

As for Prussia, the Vienna Cabinet has as yet had no practical proofs of the friendliness she professes toward Austria. With Russia its relations are not unfriendly, but a certain coldness still prevails between the Courts of Vienna and St Petersburg. In conclusion the Baron hinted that, though officially the relations of the Vienna Cabinet with the other Powers may be satisfactory, there is still much distrust between them, and that some of them show a very equivocal disposition toward Austria. 'The peace of Europe is not at this moment threatened, but the situation requires Austria to be prepared for any unexpected conflict, or else, in case a general disarmament should be proposed, to support it with all the weight of an imposing military force.'

New Zealand.

(Correspondence Panama Star and Herald.)

Wellington, Oct. 8, 1868.

You will remember that in my last letter I told you news had just been received of a battle on the west coast, and of the loss of several or our best officers. Beyond fuller accounts of this there is little to tell, and except you want a string of yarns all of which have been, and are still, denied by the manufacturers of rival yarns, there is little even now to give. The truth is, it was a disastrous affair. The officer commanding, Col Mandonell, employed a native guide, who either intentionally or accidentally led him astray, and after ten hours toiling through close bush and tall fern, up hills and down galleys, he came upon the enemy when he and his men were down in a gully, while the Maories lined the sides. Our men, most of them raw recruits under fire the first time, and tired with a most fatiguing march were panic stricken and huddled together like sheep. The officers tried to lead them on and fell immediately. How any got out of the place is a mystery. Those who were present cannot say.

The Gold fields in Auckland are still drawing diggers. On the Thames there are now estimated to be 14,000 diggers. A few claims, where the reef has been struck, are doing splendidly.

There have been two Churches opened during the past month—one a very handsome Wesleyan church in this city, and the other a Catholic church at Turiskina.

We have had a severe fire in New Plymouth, which destroyed several houses and damage to the extent of £10,000 or £12,000.

A laughable incident occurred a few nights ago here, at a ball at the *elite* only were present. Among others, Mete Kingi, one of the Maori representatives, a savage who can't speak English: and how to make himself bearable should use unlimited quantities of *Eau de Cologne*, was present. He 'moved' about scarcely speaking, but at last seeing a lady with very fine arms which were bare a little above the elbow, he went up to her and pointing to her arm said 'Kaipai, kaipai, fat' (good, good, fat) at the same time smacking his lips longingly.

Have you seen the beautiful displayed Evening Costumes for the coming festivities and the Elegant Fancy Goods for Christmas Presents, at London House, Government street? *