

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 coals 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 to 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 for 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 corruptions which follow 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 \$1,000, and 15 cents on \$2,000; on dwellings, 15 cents; the advance will be from 15 to 50 per cent; the smallest advance being on fire and steam boats, 70 cents on the \$1,000; 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 to 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 anthems were sung with powerful effect by the choirs.

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 new scheme is being tried to walk across streets on bed crossings forever. The first 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.

POST-REMARKS.—In consequence of the sudden and melancholy death of the Worshipful Master elect 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. In a case Mr. Edward Kelly vs. Mr. Edward Kelly, in this case Mr. Edward Kelly of Lillooet 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 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.

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DIFFICULT WORK FOR A DOMESTIC.—Sweeping the horizon with the naked eye.—"Ibid."

An employer weds his cook, is he a master marry-her? (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 omnibus 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 son!"

The equestrian statue of the Duke of Cambridge in Cavalry square, which stands upon its stone pedestal in the centre of the inclosure, and which was erected in 1770, has become so dilapidated 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 1,000 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 timber pole across the water.

When we read an extract from the Berlin 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 worn slightly bent?

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.

A fashionable physician of Paris, whose love of fees is as proverbial as the obliging attention of his patients for expenses, recently paid a visit to the Duke of X. 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

was 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 mornin' 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 livin' 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, 'Menard,' a negro, is declared elected to fill the unexpired term of Mann, Democrat, and deceased. Menard will get the certificate which will be prima facie evidence of his right to be Mann's successor, and the most he is admitted to the seat, and that, by the way, is defeated by the rejection of the returns, will have a chance to contest Mann's seat. But the original certificate of Col. Mann having been contested by one Simon Jones, Republican, both Menard and Hunt will be ousted if Jones is successful. If not, then provided things are done in the usual way, Menard 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 Menard 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?' 'Condann the gal blasted kid, by jiminy thunder; darn it all to—damn it! I swan to—damn 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."

AND CHRONICLE. Saturday, January 2, 1869.

Let the streets of Victoria with gas, conduct a bountiful supply of pure, health-giving water (in pipes) to every citizen's door, institute a thorough system of sewage, and our city would become the most healthy, as it is now the most delightful, place of summer residence in the world. These three are the desiderata which alone require to be supplied to give tone and importance to our city, and render it what nature intended it should be—a natural sanatorium for refugees from the dry and dusty atmosphere of San Francisco, the enervating heat of more southern climes, and the frozen regions of the far north. Nature has dealt liberally with us; She has prepared for our reception a spot unequalled in climate, scenery and salubrity, and all she requires of the men who have builded a city on this site, in acknowledgment of her favors, is the adoption of ordinary precautions to protect them and those whom they may invite to come among them from the effects of malarious fevers and contagious diseases. This is a duty incumbent upon our government—nay, the very object of its existence is to secure the happiness and well-being of every subject, and extend theegis of its protection over him. It is not enough that it should pass laws to repress crime and defend the property and lives of subjects from the inroads of the unprincipled and the bloodthirsty. It has a higher and nobler task to achieve. It is called on to pay due regard to the hygienic condition of the people entrusted to its care—to see that, so far as lies in its power, the means are placed within the reach of all, to preserve health; to stay, if possible, by the adoption of strict sanitary measures, the spread of pestilential diseases. There is no foe so dangerous, so insidious, or more fatal to human life than foul air. The midnight assassin one may struggle with and overcome; but let him lie down to sleep in an atmosphere pervaded by poisoning gases, and with every breath he will inhale them. They will enter into and become a part of him; they will taint his blood, and undermine his health; and when the victim is made ready for the sacrifice they will beckon with a hundred hands for Death to enter in and complete the rain which they have begun. "Cleanliness" is said to be "next to godliness;" and while the clergy may be safely trusted to guard the spiritual welfare of their flocks, the lavatory requirements of a people should be carefully provided by its Government. In the present sanitary state of our city, no efficient means of drainage can be adopted without the powerful auxiliary of a constant supply of water. It would be a useless waste of money to build sewers now. They would become mere places of deposit for filth—yawning pestholes, exhaling carbonic acid gas and carrying death and destruction far and wide. Water is the first want; that secure, sewage follows as a natural consequence, and lastly, light. It is therefore plainly the duty of every official and every citizen to urge forward any and every scheme having for its object the securing of the first mentioned desideratum. The others will follow as a matter of course. We cannot conceive how any opposition could be offered to the consummation of so beneficial a result. Within a distance of six miles from the city there is a lake, the water of which, having been submitted to severe tests, is pronounced as pure as any on the continent. The elevation of this lake is seventy-nine feet above the level of Church Hill; so that a company formed to conduct its water to the city, would hardly require any greater force than would be derived by the "fall" from the lake to the city to supply every house. Competent engineers have decided that the water can be brought, partly in pipes and partly in wooden flumes to the city, for \$40,000; others, that it can be brought all the way in iron pipes, reservoirs constructed, and the water carried past every door at a cost of \$100,000. Accept the last sum as the most correct, would not a guarantee of six per cent. be mere bagatelle when contrasted with the series of incalculable benefits that would flow from the outlay?

Thursday, Dec 31. The splendid success which attended the theatrical performance and ball, given on Tuesday under the auspices of Admiral and Mrs Hastings and the Officers of Her Majesty's Squadron stationed at Esquimalt, must have proved as gratifying to the gentlemen who so ably and hospitably entertained so large a body of our fellow-citizens as it was agreeable and amusing to their guests. The gathering at the theatre was large, and composed principally of ladies; and what imparted to the affair an additional interest was the fact that every class in the community was represented. All who came were welcomed with cordiality. The first piece offered was 'Pipkins Rustic Retreat,' (a farce in one act) in which nearly all the performers acquitted themselves well. The principal role (that of Mr Brittle Pipkins) was sustained by Mr Brodie—who had on prior occasions won an honorable distinction as an amateur performer on our boards, and who acquitted himself in a most creditable manner on this occasion, keeping his audience in roars of laughter by his droll rendition of the mannerisms and eccentricities of a retired crockery dealer whose nerves had been shattered by the destruction of numberless dozens of wash-hand basins. Betty Perks (Mr Stock) was got up in such excellent shape with erinoline, waterfall and the estrotes, that we cannot wonder at Shandy Gaff (Mr Janney) falling desperately in love with her and proposing to 'punch the 'ed' of anyone caught making violent love to her. Betty's provincialisms in speech and manner were highly amusing. The character of Salvator Rosa Robinson (Lieut. Stopford), an artist with a taste for the terrible, and in love with Pipkins' daughter Florida (Mr Berkeley) was creditably sustained—and lovers of the horrible who chanced to be present must have been surfeited by his highly-wrought descriptions of awful assassinations invented to frighten Pipkins from his snug retreat. Mr Walker (as Mrs Pipkins) and Mr Berkeley appeared ill at ease in female apparel; and seemed more afraid of showing their ankles than of forgetting their parts. When the curtain was rung down, the audience applauded vociferously and the actors bowed an acknowledgement of the tribute paid to their merits. The Steeple Chase; or, in the Pigeon followed. It is one of the most amusing and laughable farces ever produced on any stage, and passed off with scarcely a fault or blunder. The principal character—Mr Titums—was taken by Mr Dickens, a son of the world-renowned 'Boz' an author who has done more to amuse and instruct the human family than any other living writer. We cannot say more in praise of the acting of the great novelist's worthy son than that he is a veritable 'chip of the old block.' Mr Dickens sustained the part in a manner which gave evidence of great natural ability combined with careful study, and his audience was convulsed with laughter from first to last. Mr Brodie, by his admirable rendering of the role of Dr Clipper and his self-possessed manner, added to the honors which he bore off with Pipkins. Mr Stock as Mrs Titums, and Mr Ashington as Mrs Clipper, were 'made up' charmingly, and walked the stage with all the ease and grace of genuine ladies—in fact, to adopt the expression of an old tar—their close looked as if they'd 'bin born on 'em.' The characters of Alderman Stowcock, (Mr Walker), Buzzard, the bailiff, (Mr Pirrie), Cummings, (Mr Logan), Thomas, (Mr Janney), and Chambermaid, (Mr Ashington), were all well played by the gentlemen who assumed them. At the close of the farce, the actors were again called before the curtain and loudly cheered. During the evening the fine band of H.M.S. Zealous performed several choice selections with taste and accuracy. From the theatre about 250 of the guests repaired to Alhambra Hall, where dancing was maintained for several hours. Admiral Hastings and Mrs Hastings, Capt Dawkins, Lieut Brooks, and many other gentlemen connected with the Squadron, contributed by their presence and personal exertions to the comfort and enjoyment of the guests, who retired at an early hour of the morning, evidently greatly pleased with the hospitable manner in which they had been received and entertained.

Thursday, Dec 31. The theatre was crowded, gallery and pit, yesterday afternoon, with young ones, accompanied by parents or guardians, to witness the magic lantern exhibition entertainment, which had been announced for the past few days. During the illustrations by the aid of the new magic lantern, of Cinderella and the glass slipper, a Tale of a Tub, with other subjects, Mr Burnaby did the talking part of the programme, repeating the oft-told stories—to the little juveniles. Representations of other subjects were also given, such as Mount Vesuvius in eruption; the Mill—showing even the rippling of the stream and the mill wheel in motion; the beautiful chromotrope, almost dazzling in its effect; the Crystal Fountain, &c. The difficulty of working the lantern, experienced at a late exhibition, appeared to have been obviated, and on this occasion worked to a charm. Although the prices of admission were reduced to 50 cents and 25 for adults and children respectively, quite a good sum must have been realized, as most of the seats were reserred at an additional fee of 25 cents each. The children and all were pleased with the treat, and the hour and a half which it lasted passed away as rapidly as the dissolving views. Mr Digby Palmer gave selections upon the pianoforte, at intervals, throughout.

INQUEST.—The adjourned inquest on the body of the Songish Indian Alpoose, was held yesterday before A F Pemberton, Esq, Coroner, with a jury composed of the following named gentlemen:—Messrs Solomon, Sylvester, Jamieson, Becksmith, Sehl and Spencer. The evidence went to show that deceased had received ten dollars for service rendered to Mr Sayward, the half of which he expended in whiskey, with which deceased, three other Indians and a Kootenah man caroused in the house of one of the Indians named Jim. Jim left the house for a short time, and when he returned he found Alpoose had gone away; he asked an Indian named Charley, who still remained, what had become of Alpoose; he [Charley] said he had gone to Saanich. The body was afterwards found in the water near Store st, with one end of a scarf tied tightly around the neck, and the other end tied to a stone; the legs were also tied. Dr Davis stated that he had examined the body of deceased, and found that the ligature around the neck had caused considerable abrasure, which must have occurred before death, but the immediate cause of death was drowning. The jury returned a verdict of 'found drowned.' The police were instructed to make further enquiries.

INDIAN MURDER.—A Coroner's jury was called together yesterday, before A F Pemberton, Esq, Coroner, in order to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of an Indian found with his throat cut, at the Songish camp. The only evidence produced was that of Dr Davie, who deposed to having examined the body. He found the carotid artery severed, and other injuries inflicted, sufficient to cause death. The wound did not appear to be self-inflicted. A verdict, in accordance with the above facts, of willful murder against some person or persons unknown, was then returned by the jury, which was composed of the same gentlemen who acted in the case of the Songish Indian Alpoose.

The circumstances connected with the death of Mary, a Fort Rupert Indian woman, were investigated yesterday before A F Pemberton, Esq, Coroner, with a jury composed of Messrs McTiernan, Braverman, Schultz, Mansell and Croson. It appears from the evidence that deceased had been last seen alive, drunk, in a house on Government street. She was subsequently found dead in a house on Cormorant street. Dr Davie, who examined the body, did not observe any marks indicating violence. There were however some suspicious circumstances which the Coroner thought worthy of further enquiry, and therefore postponed the inquest until Tuesday next.

The sale of Olographs, yesterday, was brought to a close in consequence of the prices not being such as to induce further sales at present. The pictures will be withdrawn from auction, and may be had at private sale. They will remain on view at Smith's Room, to day. The price is marked on each picture. Call and see them.

A GOOD IDEA.—A meeting of gentlemen representing mining interests other than gold mining, has been suggested. In view of the desire of the Government to liberalize and simplify the laws relating to mining, the idea is a capital one. The meeting should come off, if possible, before the Mining Bill goes before the Council for second reading.

DELICIOUS CAKES.—Piper is going to dispose of some of his beautifully decorated cakes by raffle to-night at the Brown Jug, corner of Fort and Government streets. The above fact need only be known to attract a crowd of competitors. He well merits encouragement, and the winners will have prizes.

HORSE RACE.—Mr Thos Harris' 'Royal Bill' and Smith's (Swan Lake) 'John' will contest a race over the Beacon Hill course to-day at half past one o'clock precisely.

The gas jets in A T Stewart's new store in New York are lighted simultaneously by an electric battery. The windows on the ground floor are of a single plate of glass, each costing \$600. The establishment covers more than two acres, and is twice as large as Morrison's in London, the next largest dry-goods store in the world.

THE SISTERS OF ST. ANN beg the public to accept their heartfelt thanks for the generosity with which their appeal in behalf of the orphans has been responded to. They deem it their duty to thank especially the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly volunteered to assume the task of collecting, and who have succeeded in realizing the sum of eight hundred and forty dollars.

THE BALL at Government House will take place this evening. A large number of invitations have been issued. On the 6th a Children's Party will be given at Government House.

THE steamer Fly, with a full freight, left for New Westminster last night about 9 o'clock.

THE steam yacht Leviathan left this port for New Westminster at 6 p. m., yesterday.

Water Supply.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Your article of the 29th inst, on the subject of a water supply to the city of Victoria, commends itself to the serious reflections of every man interested in the welfare of this community. While the Legislature is now in session it is to be hoped that the matter will be vigorously taken in hand and moulded into some practicable shape.

We have had representations from the faculty, leaders and letters in the press, promises from embryo Mayors and Councilors, both Municipal and Legislative, of the desirability and imperative necessity of inaugurating a scheme that will give to Victoria an abundant supply of good water. We all know and admit its importance. Therefore, I should presume it is the duty of the Mayor and Council to memorialize the Legislature to approve a plan that may be submitted by them having for its object so great a boon. If a guarantee of 6 per cent per annum on the required capital is given by the Colonial Government, little doubt can be entertained that capitalists would undertake it without delay, and before the next summer is on the wane, every house in Victoria could be supplied with the first necessity of life, water ad lib. Let there be no qualms of conscience on the part of liberal economists in hesitating to give their support to a measure that may be doubtful in their minds whether the scheme is legitimately one that should receive the support of the Government. We have but a small population; money is scarce; but the people of Victoria contribute largely to the revenue and demand some consideration. The diseases which carried off our little ones last summer are monitors for warning us that the responsibility of effecting the carrying out of a successful scheme rests upon each individual to do, in his capacity his utmost. Let the Mayor call a public meeting to receive the sentiments of the people on the subject, and I am much mistaken if a cordial and hearty support is not given to the best propositions made. The Agents of the several Fire Insurance Companies would no doubt throw their influence in the scale by acquainting the respective companies they represent with the desirability of supporting a scheme that would diminish their risk. The present subject is one that may be written upon day by day, but sufficient has been said for the present to arouse the inhabitants of Victoria to a sense of their own safety and prosperity, for I maintain unless we can offer to strange visitors a wholesome supply of good water, much value is detracted from the proud position that Victoria ought to fill on the Western Continent of America.

A SUFFERER FROM BAD WATER.

The Proposed New Burrard Inlet Road.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—During the last few weeks certain letters have appeared in the columns of your paper purporting to have been written at Burrard Inlet. The last of these productions, dated at Burrard Inlet, and signed 'New Brighton', advocates the construction of a new road from New Westminster to the Inlet, to take the place of the present one. It is not very difficult to discover that this is a bogus letter, never written at Burrard Inlet, and that the adoption of the signature 'New Brighton' is one of the 'coolest pieces' of impudence and dishonesty the writer of a bogus letter could be guilty of, for the very existence of New Brighton depends altogether upon the present road, and the inhabitants of that place in conjunction with the other residents of the Inlet, in view of the fact and the general convenience of the different settlements, have at present in circulation a petition largely signed in support of the present road and of keeping it in a 'thorough state' of repair.

The present line of road is the most direct that can be constructed to any point below the second narrows, although a shorter one could be made to terminate above them; its length is 'nines miles, less three chains'; of which distance about one-half is at present in fair condition; its terminus at New Brighton is the most central that could be selected, being almost equi-distant from Stamp's and Moody's mills and within easy reach of all the other settlements on the Inlet. A floating wharf has here been constructed by private enterprise, and a ferry established to the different mills and settlements. The sum expended on this road last year reached the enormous amount of two thousand dollars

a very trifling part of which was spent over the portion of the road now complained of as being almost impassable for vehicles.

The writer of the letter of the 16th inst, if he knows anything of the geography of the district he writes about, must know that from the Northwestern end of Burnaby Lake to False Creek there extends a continuous belt of swampy land, and that to build a road along the gravel ridge he speaks of would only have the effect of increasing the distance without in any way decreasing the amount of swamp to be overcome. The length of the proposed road would be about fourteen miles, or about five miles longer than the present road; its terminus would be either upon or close to the mill property of the British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar, Lumber, and Saw Mill Company, 'Limited,' and it would be practically useless to the other mill on the Inlet, as the distance thereby to New Westminster would be almost double that of the old road. In fact, to sum the whole matter up, the only parties to be benefited by this proposed road would be the before mentioned British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar, Lumber and Saw Mill Company, 'Limited,' who would thereby have their landed property converted into a town site by a road constructed for their sole benefit out of the public purse at a time when everything in the shape of public works for the public benefit have been indefinitely postponed from the want of public funds.

The indefatigable manager of the above Company has worked industriously to have the road made, he failed in his attempt last year, but has gained strength on the subject since, having powerful friends to back him who probably either own or have friends who own shares in the Company, he may succeed this session of the Council in having the road passed; if he does, we may expect his next move will be to have his logging roads made at the public expense, for the latter proposition might just as honestly be accorded to by the Legislative Council as the spending of the public money in the construction of this road.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.
Victoria, Dec. 30th, 1868.

The Famine in India.

The Times' correspondent, writing on the 5th of October from Calcutta, says: But the death in Rajpootana and some parts of Central India is terrible and cannot be prevented now. Deserted villages, dying and dead cattle, and a whole population emigrating to more favored regions, old and young tottering along half starved and feeble by the subordinates of our feudatories of the little money on which they had to subsist for weeks—such is the spectacle presented in such States as Marwar, Dikaner, Shekwatotee and Jesulmere, the most governed, not only in India but in Asia. In the city of Joudhpore, capital of Marwar, where there is simply no government, the Ranees and Court favorites interfere with the food market and the poor manage to live only by carrying water from a distance at 24d per gurah or earthen pot. 'Marwar' says the highest authority on the spot, 'will shortly be a wilderness, while the population who remain must manage to live till the next rainy season, or July. The Chief who has been officially reported as utterly incapable of governing, and whose vessels are kept from open rebellion against him only by our political agent, was I regret to say honored with the highest class of the most exalted Order of the Star of India, at the Agra Durbar. His Principality is as large as Scotland; with half the population of that country, and his revenue is £175,000 a year, his sons live by highway robbery. Col Keatinge is carrying out relief works wherever he can do so. The purely British districts of Ajmere, Mhairwara, the latter of which Joudhpore would like to absorb into his ill-governed state will be only saved by the tanks which were made long ago by Colonel Halls and Dixon. The Mhair, once dreaded savages, have been developed by us into a noble and a loyal race, who can be trusted to help themselves.

THE GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO MEET THE FAMINE.

The Times' correspondent, writing on the 5th of October from Calcutta, says that in its 'resolution,' the Government of India contemplates, not only the destruction of the khurree, or autumn crop, which in many places is now inevitable, but that more dreaded failure of the rubber, or spring crop, of which I wrote some weeks ago. The pressure will increase till November, before which time we cannot be certain regarding the future. Even if the worst be realized, the famine will not be suddenly developed, so that grain may be poured into the afflicted districts by the railways which now traverse or border them, except in feudatory States. Prices show that there is a good stock of wheat in the Doab, between the Jumna and the Ganges, but the cost of the two grains which form the staple of the peoples' food, *Jowar* and *bagree*, doubled between January and July, and went up still further in August and September. What this means for millions of the laboring classes who live from hand to mouth you may imagine. Not only have railways spread, Lahore and Delhi being almost practically linked on to Delhi, but the area irrigated by the Granges Canal has nearly doubled since the last great famine of 1860-61. The Doab is in all respects unlike Orissa, being so open to markets on all sides that the law of supply and demand may be trusted to operate unobeked almost as in England, which depends upon the rest of the world for its food quite as much as a famine-stricken district in India. Accordingly relief if required, had best assume the form of money paid for public works, and the local Governments have been told to begin such works wherever necessary, and to call in the aid of civil, military and railway officials if necessary. The projected railways and canals in Oude, Rohilound, the Doab, Bundelound and elsewhere are to be utilized and pushed on in this way. Government is to give a rupee for every rupee contributed by the public, in addition to all this. Altogether the lie, in addition to a mastery and they have been ordered. We may rest assured that mortal, life and intense suffering will be confined to native States.

Saturday, January 2, 1869.

In the absence of our papers we are indebted to the *Western Gazette*, of the 27th which came to hand this morn, for the following additional information to the progress made by delegates toward the session of the Northwest Territory as stated by us a few weeks ago. The following extracts from the *Times* of 14th November show the position of the question: The General Council of the Hudson Bay Company, on the 24th ult, probably acceding to the wishes of the Canadian Government, matter may be considered settled.

A general court of the Hudson Bay Company is to be convened on the 24th. According to the *Western Gazette*, of the 27th ult, the delegates report that they have agreed to the sale of the territory to the Dominion of Canada, stated last week, no sale made. The Oregon Territory with the United States, and Lord Stanhope has been sought. Trade favorable—and an interest of 6s per share is recommended.

The following relates to the Hudson Bay Company to be regretted that the parties cannot keep the discussions sufficiently confidential to prevent the publication of a regular official annual report.

147 Leadenhall Street, Sir—In your impressive November you reprint from the *Railway News* negotiations between the Hudson Bay Company and the Hudson Bay Company, I therefore, ask you to insert the enclosed from the *News* of yesterday, which the public can judge for themselves.

I am, sir, yours &c
P. ROBERTSON

THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY.

We understand that the now being carried on by the Hudson Bay Company, as between delegates and the Hudson Bay Company, are likely to result in the incorporation of the Northwest Territory with the Dominion of Canada upon the terms of the fortnight ago.

SINCE there is a prospect of all matters in relation to the Hudson Bay Company, Canadian Government, and the Hudson Bay Company, Cauchon writes that the Hudson Bay Company, as a member of the Hudson Bay Company, was officially drawn up a report on the Hudson Bay Company, and then came to the conclusion that it appears has again been decided, and the Imperial Government—that the Company, or control over the Hudson Bay Company, between Western Canada and the Hudson Bay Company, on this point that he has no objection that we should have a company a royalty on the Hudson Bay Company, and are all but certain, in concurrence of Sir G. S. Lewis, certainly with that of Mr. Cauchon, as Commissioner of the Hudson Bay Company. This latter gentleman's official review of the Hudson Bay Company, is a right to the country along the Hudson Bay Company, since virtually the Hudson Bay Company, but also no legal title to the Hudson Bay Company, Northern territory, or called the Polar slope, said he could substantiate a court of law, and appropriate action of the Imperial Government, to have virtually at least with respect to the Hudson Bay Company, for it is likely that a powerful Hudson Bay Company, up its rights to the Hudson Bay Company, had been fully convinced to that portion at least was invalid. This being the case, the Hudson Bay Company, may be considered as a country, many, France, and peopled and fertile, for a mission of Ministers

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, January 2, 1869

In the absence of our English files of papers we are indebted to the Montreal Gazette, of the 27th November, which came to hand through the medium of the overland mail, for the following additional information relative to the progress made by the Canadian delegates toward the settlement of the Northwest Territory upon the basis as stated by us a few weeks ago. The following extracts from the European Times of 14th November will explain the position of the question up to that date: The General Court of the Hudson Bay Company, announced for the 24th ult, probably accepted the terms of the Canadian Government and the matter may be considered definitely settled:

A general court of the Hudson's Bay Company is to be held on November 24th. According to the Permissive Act of last session, the directors report that they have been in negotiation for the sale of their property to the Dominion of Canada; but as we stated last week, no sale is likely to be made. The Oregon treaty dispute with the United States is still unsettled; and Lord Stanley's influence has been sought. Trade is reported favorable—and an interim dividend of 6s per share is recommended.

The Times of the same date says:—The following relates to the affairs of the Hudson Bay Company. It is to be regretted that the negotiating parties cannot keep their preliminary discussions sufficiently secret to prevent half statements from being circulated previously to the publication of a regular official announcement:—

147 Leadenhall Street, Nov. 13. SIR—In your impression of the 9th November you reprint a paragraph from the Railway News relative to the negotiations between the Canadian delegates and the Hudson Bay Company May 1, therefore, ask the favor of you to insert the enclosed from the Canadian News of yesterday's date, so that the public can judge for themselves which statement is correct? I am, sir, yours obediently, P. ROBERTSON.

THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY. We understand that the negotiations now being carried on through the instrumentality of the Imperial Government, as between the Canadian delegates and the Hudson Bay Company, are likely to result in the settlement of the whole question of the incorporation of the Northwest territories with the Dominion of Canada upon the terms we foreshadowed a fortnight ago.

SINCE there is a prospect of a settlement of all matters in dispute between the Hudson Bay Company and the Canadian Government, the Hon Mr Cauchon writes that when Commissioner of Public Works of Canada in 1856, he was officially called upon to draw up a report on the validity of the Hudson Bay Company's charter, and then came to the conclusion, which it appears has again been come to by the delegates and the Imperial Government—that the Company have no right to, or control over, the territory between Western Canada and British Columbia. Mr Cauchon is so positive on this point that he repels the suggestion that we should allow the Company's royalty on the country we opened up and settled, and in this, we are all but certain, meets with the concurrence of Sir G B Cartier, and certainly with that of Mr Macdougall, as Commissioner of Public Works. This latter gentleman went further in his official review of the question, holding that the company had not only no right to the country along the boundary line from Lake Superior to the Pacific, since virtually granted to Canada by the Imperial Government, but also no legal title to the more Northern territory, on what may be called the Polar slope. Mr Macdougall said he could substantiate this in a court of law, and appears, from the recent action of the Imperial Government, to have virtually made it good, at least with respect to the basin along the boundary; for it is not at all likely that a powerful company like the Hudson Bay would quietly give up its rights to the most valuable portion of its extensive territory unless it had been fully convinced that its title to that portion at least of the territory was invalid. This being the case, the Dominion may be congratulated on its acquisition of a country equal to Germany, France, and perhaps Spain, in size and fertility, for the mere cost of a mission of Ministers to England.

Wednesday, Dec 30

The remains of Mr James W. Trahey were escorted to their last resting place yesterday by a long procession of sincere mourners. The Masonic Fraternity, it is true, led the van, and, decorated with the various symbols of the Order, invested the scene with striking solemnity. But Brother as they claimed him to be in virtue of his membership, he was really as a brother to all there in true friendship and affectionate regard. The bereaved widow accompanied the remains to the grave. The District and Provincial Grand Lodges, and the Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo and Cariboo Lodges were largely represented in the procession, the rear of which was brought up by citizens, who had long known the deceased, and respected him for the many ennobling qualities he possessed. Haines' Brass Band, on the way to the grave, performed appropriate selections; and the scene presented as the cortege moved through the streets and the "muffled sound of the drum rolled along" was of the most mournful character. At Christ Church Cathedral the body was borne into the aisle and the Episcopal service read by Dean Cridge; and amid the pealing of the organ whilst performing the "Dead March from Saul," the mourners resumed their march to the cemetery, where the Masonic Burial Service was read by District Grand Master Boroaby and the body was consigned to the tomb with the usual ceremonies. The number present to do homage to the memory of a good man was unusually large. The procession was under the management of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, L Franklin, Esq.

INDECENT ASSAULT.—A half-breed woman named Lilly Williams charged a man by the name of John Davis with an indecent assault. According to the statement of prosecutor, on Wednesday the 18th inst, about 8 o'clock in the evening, the prisoner, Davis accompanied by his friend Peter Irwin came to her house. Her husband was absent working at Cameron's. Davis first assaulted her at 10 o'clock, subsequently about 11 o'clock in the morning; he remained with her till 4 o'clock in the morning. Irwin was outside, but returned at 12 o'clock and tried to get prisoner away. She was alone in the house with her infant six months old. Peter Irwin, who appeared as evidence for the defence, stated that he was passing the house of the prosecutrix between 7 and 8 o'clock on the night in question in company with Davis. The dogs began to bark and prosecutrix came to the door with a light, he spoke to her and she invited him to come in; Davis had then passed the door, but returned and followed her into the house. They were both quite sober; they sat in a large room where a fire and lamp were burning; and had any assault been committed, he must have seen it. Was only out for a short time; remained two hours and a half after Davis went away. Prosecutrix and the witness Irwin were both re-examined, but the testimony was so widely at variance, that his honor dismissed the case.

ROBERT.—A maiden of the forest, rather mature in age, charged one of her 'tillicums' of the masculine gender with having appropriated certain property belonging to her. It appears that being absent with a circle of female friends, with whom she was on the spree, she had delegated the prisoner at the bar to proceed to her house and bring to her certain monies there deposited, with the object of providing more of the 'rosy'. The prisoner found, after possessing himself of \$3 75 in silver, a ten dollar piece (which he stated was brass), a portrait of the prosecutrix and certain other articles, that he had another engagement, and faithfully absented himself until invited to meet her by the officer at the court. He was appointed to fourteen days' employment for behoof of Government.

HOW TO PAY THE AMERICAN DEBT.—The New York Sun has a plan of its own, which it outlines as follows:—Let every office-seeker contribute a dollar a week to it until and after he gets an appointment. Men who are honorably ambitious to serve their country are sure to find an effective way to serve it by the adoption of this rule. If this cannot be accomplished, we would suggest to General Grant to sell the letters of applicants to the rag men, instead of burning them up. The proceeds would make a considerable item to be handed over to Treasurer Spinner. We dare say the applicants for office would think their correspondence with General Grant much more interesting if it were not all on one side.

ALASKA.—BRIBERY.—The Pittsburg (Penn.) Post says: Some intensely interesting items concerning the Alaska business will be made public some of these days, in which distinguished officials, leading newspapers and correspondents thereof will be made to figure. Over a half million dollars were distributed, and the most conclusive testimony is promised to establish the fact. It will be no electioneering dodge as it has been withheld partly for the reason, that if made public during the canvass, motives might have been misunderstood.

At Port Townsend, the following Officers of Lodge No 6 of F & A M, were installed on St John's Day, 1868: D O H Rothschild, W M; E S Fowler, S W; H L Tibbals, J W; E S Dyer, Treasurer; W L Chambers, Secretary; S A Norwood, J D; W H Taylor, Marshal; Geo O Calhoun and M S Booth Stewards; Harry Zimdars, Tyler.

BENJAMIN YOUNG says he would be willing to give up half of his wives if he were certain they would get husbands who could 'lead them to eternal salvation.' In his uncertainty he thinks he will keep them for their own sakes.

The performance at the Theatre last night was a complete success; the gallant amateurs were perfect in their various roles. The Ball at the Alhambra which followed, was a brilliant affair, and equally successful for the dramatic portion of the entertainment. We shall do justice to each in to-morrow's issue.

DAWK AND DISORDERLY.—An unfortunate bachanal, whose head was ornamented with a variety of bandages, was brought up on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. He acknowledged the 'corn' (sic) he acknowledged to being 'earned' for which he was mulct in five shillings and costs.

REV H K HINES, of Washington Territory, has gone to the Federal Capital on business connected with the Columbia River and Puget Sound Railroad.

A LADY in San Francisco has sued for divorce on the grounds that her husband is a fool.

Our Puget Sound Correspondence.

PORT TOWNSEND, W. T. Dec 28, 1868. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—A new schooner, of thirty tons, has recently been launched at Utsalady, designed to be employed in the Sound and Victoria trade. A bark of upwards of five hundred tons is to be launched at Ludlow, on New Year's, designed to run between the Sound and San Francisco; will be commanded by Capt. Burns, now in command of the steamer Merrimac.

On Christmasnight, at Whidby Island, a man named Craig was murdered by another man named Robert Newman, under the following circumstances: As reported, the murdered man Craig had been over to Port Townsend the day before and there indulged somewhat freely in drink, and on returning took some liquor with him. The man Newman was in his employ, had been plowing, and at night returned to the cabin, when he commenced getting supper. While thus engaged, Craig, being under the influence of liquor, was exceedingly abusive, upbraiding Newman for having spilled some grease on the floor. At length the latter became exasperated, and, seizing a gun which was at hand, threatened to kill Craig unless he would apologize, which, not doing, he (Newman) fired, shooting Craig through the neck. As soon as the deed was done, a third man, who was present, rushed to town with the news of the murder. Meanwhile Newman, finding he had shot a man, which he asserts he did not intend—not even knowing that the gun was loaded, but simply desirous to frighten Craig and stop his abuse—hurries off to two of the neighbors to get help; but finding none at home, all being away at a Christmas festival, he returns to the cabin and finds Craig speechless and expiring, having lived some half an hour after he was shot. Newman then starts for town, as he says, to give himself up to the officers of the law, when he is met by the sheriff and arrested. The following day he was brought to Port Townsend and imprisoned to await trial at the next term of Court in March next. Craig is reported to have been an inoffensive, peaceable man when sober, but quarrelsome and abusive when drunk. This is only another sacrifice offered at the shrine of Bacchus.

CHRISTMAS WAS DULY celebrated at Port Townsend. The eve before, all the children of the place were assembled at the Public School House, where a Christmas Tree, laden with Christmas gifts had been planted. Each child in the town, and they number considerably over one hundred, received some token of remembrance that best of all Saints in the children's calendar, old "Santa Olans," while cakes, pies, apples and gingerbread in generous profusion were lavishly distributed. Songs befitting the occasion were sung. Sundry articles wrought by skillful fingers were offered at public auction and found ready purchasers, from which sale the sum of sixty dollars was realized, to be expended towards the purchase of a new melodeon for the Episcopal Church.

At length a handsome cake (purchased by the donor at the sale aforesaid) in a handsome manner, was presented by (as the ladies, I doubt not, would say—single, I mean,) a handsome gentleman to (pardon the use of the comparative degree, etc.) to a handsomer lady, the chief promoter of this Christmas festival, and the youngsters with their friends dispersed, happy, with faith unbanded in their patron saint, old "Santa Claus."

Christmas Day proper was celebrated by merry greetings on the street, and from house to house; a horse race in the afternoon and a ball in the evening, and, wonderful to relate, Port Townsend was distressingly sober. So say the retailers of "tangle leg" and "chain lightning." Our chronicler reports but one entrapped by the former or stuck by the latter, and he was Kanaka Jack, who if caught walking straight one day in the calendar would lose his identity. Poor Jack without his whiskey would be non est.

The "Live-For-Ever."

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—Your correspondent 'H M' asks, 'what is this plant, the 'Semper viva variety'?'—and immediately proceeds to answer his own question by saying that it is a plant of the Brassicaceae or Turnip order, and an annual. But not content with this exhibition of botanical knowledge, without the slightest hesitation he says it may be kept many years in a dry room, which is contrary to the established idea of the nature of annuals generally.

What does all this mean? The plant is well known to botanists—in fact, the mercenary in botany would recognize it at once as a Lycopodium or Club-moss; and on further examination would class it as Lycopodium Squamatum, a native of Brazil, and now found all over South America, Mexico and Southern California, and occasionally cultivated in greenhouses in England. This plant has no flowers, and consequently cannot be made to bloom by placing it in water or by any other known means. J. L. H.

The New Dominion.

DATES TO NOV. 28TH, BY OVERLAND MAIL. OTTAWA, NOV 25.—A telegraph from New York was received to-day, stating that Sir John Young would leave on Thursday, and arrive here on Friday, has been contradicted. It is not certain now when His Excellency will arrive here. The delay has been occasioned by the inability of the Judges to leave Toronto before the close of the term, to swear the Governor General into office, on Saturday, without seriously interfering with public business. His Excellency will probably not arrive before Tuesday, to give the Judges time to come from Toronto.

A serious accident is reported to have occurred to-day at Spencerville. While the morning train from Prescott was waiting for crossing it is stated, Sheriff Powell and Sergeant Davis were amusing themselves by firing at a telegraph post, when one of the balls glanced, striking in the forehead a girl sixteen years old, who was sitting in an upstairs window of a house near by. The girl was alive at last accounts but the ball had not been extracted.

In the Ontario House, Mr McKellar moved an address to the Lieutenant Governor, for copies of correspondence with Ottawa on precedence. He said the table of precedence sent from home had given general dissatisfaction, the Government of Ontario and Quebec disregarding the table and calling Lieutenant Governor 'His Excellency.' He desired the propriety of setting aside orders from so high an authority. Another case of dissent was that the Anglican Bishops were allowed precedence next after the Lieut. Governor. He did not object to that, but he did to the Anglican Bishops having precedence of clergy of other sects which had no Bishops. The Attorney General said he would express no opinion as to the table of precedence. The motion was carried nem con.

The Government of Ontario has invested in securities of the Dominion the sum of \$750,000—half a million in debentures, and the balance in 6 per cent stock. We believe that both classes of securities were purchased at 98, and that they are now worth 105. By these fortunate investments the Government has netted some \$50,000.

The Ontario Legislature has abolished the property qualification for members of the Assembly.

HALIFAX, Nov 25.—Mr Howe came out in another letter yesterday, in which he reproduces some telegrams from parties who heard him propose the resignation of the Local Ministry. The letter is not so interesting as some of the preceding ones. He points out, in reply to the statements that responsible government was won by perseverance, that all the Province was united as to the changes required from England, and that the men who insisted on them kept aloof from office until the questions were settled. He then asks whether Nova Scotia can spare the money or time required for a repeal agitation, and that the one difficulty is revealed in the Halifax Chronicle of the 19th instant—that it would be impossible to negotiate with Ottawa save through the Local Government, or by delegates. From the moment Sir John A Macdonald sent for the leader of the anti-Unionists, including Nova Scotian members of the Dominion Parliament, two gentlemen who represented one wing of the party got their 'backs up,' and out of their unreasonable pretensions all this trouble had sprung.

In Oaslow, Colchester Co, Nova Scotia, last week, a young man playfully pointed a gun at the object of his affection, saying he would shoot her. The gun went off, but the youth not being a good shot, the ball only grazed the lady's face.

The Halifax Reporter says: 'We scarcely ever saw a time when there was so much work for everybody nor too lazy; wherever you turn there are building, excavating, repairing and painting operations going on, and there need be but little poverty this winter, for everybody seems to do well.'

We submit the following from the Newfoundland of the 10th inst:—The Harbor Grace election, which took place on Saturday last, has resulted in the return of Mr Godden, by a majority of forty votes over his opponent, Mr Pendergast. The whole proceeding passed off with the utmost quiet and order. The features of chief interest in this election are that the successful candidate is a strong Confederate, and that he was invited to the representation by several of the leading inhabitants of a district which has hitherto been represented by members opposed to Confederation. This is a very significant and correct indication of the growth of Confederation opinions throughout the country. Harbor Grace has, in this instance expressed a conviction from which, we are glad to say, there are very few dissentients amongst us. The necessity for Confederation is day by day asserting itself with more demonstrative effect; and even those who seem most wilfully blind or possessed by invincible prejudices, appear much longer to resist the teaching of events.

ST JOHN, N. B. Nov 24.—Financial matters are improving, confidence being gradually restored. St Stephen Bank paper is now taken at 90 to 95c. It is considered as certain that the bank will shortly resume operations. A meeting of Mr Scovill's creditors took place last night. Great indignation was expressed at the preference given to certain creditors. A committee was appointed to endeavor to obtain an investigation of affairs. The liabilities are supposed to be half a million.

Mr Tilley forwarded the following telegram to Fredericton, when informed that the Local Government of New Brunswick would probably suffer through having its funds locked up in the Commercial Bank:—The Dominion Government will advance to the Local Government to prevent any embarrassment growing out of the failure of the Commercial Bank. Mr Ross has specie at St John sufficient to pay all savings bank deposits.

On Sunday afternoon last, at about five o'clock, a large bear entered Ganaoan, south of King street, pursued by dogs and soon by men, to the foot of Stone street, where it entered the St Lawrence, followed by two boats and six men. The first overhauled him at three hundred yards from the shore and fired several shots at him. The bear turned just as the second boat came up and seizing it he got in. Two of the men jumped out. The bear then sprang on one of them, James Moore, tearing his head and face severely and biting his arm. William Allen jumped in the second boat and captured it. The bear then swam away, followed by the first boat and many others, who did considerable firing without effect. One Anderson, in the first boat, at length dealt a fatal blow with an axe, and after about a hour's struggle the animal died. Its weight was four hundred pounds.—Quebec paper.

DEATH OF BARON ROTHSCHILD.—The death of Baron James Rothschild at Paris, on Sunday, November 8th, is announced. He was the head of the French branch of the great European banking house of the Rothschilds, and the youngest and only surviving son of the founder of the house—Mayer Anselm Rothschild, of Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

With the Baron James, the second generation of this great family of money-lenders, so often the prop of tumbling thrones, the ready succors of exhausted treasuries, has passed away. There were five sons, who were taken into the 'House of Rothschild' as fast as they became of age. These were Anselm, Solomon, Nathan Mayer, Charles and James. Anselm was his father's partner and successor at Frankfurt; the second son, at first travelling partner, and was eventually established at Vienna; Nathan Mayer settled in London in 1798, and became the most prominent, as he was generally deemed the ablest, financier of the family; Charles settled at Naples in 1821; and James, after being awhile with his brother in Vienna, established himself in Paris. Thus, when the father, Mayer Anselm, died, his sons had increased the influence of the house, and stood at the head of five immense establishments, united in a copartnership the most wealthy and extensive the world has ever seen.

James was born in Frankfurt on the 5th of May, 1792, and took up his residence in 1812. A few years later he was appointed Consul General for Austria in France. During the early years of his life in the French Empire he was interested in railroad affairs to a great extent, and was noted for the boldness of his speculations. After the great famine of 1847, he was charged with having caused much of the fearful suffering of that time by his transactions; and became very unpopular, with the mass of the people, so that in 1848, when the revolution broke out, a portion of his property, the Castle of Suresnes, was seized by the populace. He was married, late in life, to his niece, the daughter of his brother Solomon. He founded several Jewish charitable institutions during his life, and gave large sums of money at various times to other like institutions. In Paris he was known, on account of his frequent dealings with crowned heads, as Le pretre des Rois, The Kings' money lender.

His title of Baron was received from Austria. The Austrian Emperor conferred on each of the brothers a patent of nobility with the title of Baron of the Empire, on account of the promptness and courtesy with which they responded to Metternich's application for a loan in 1813.

Revolutionary catechisms now abound in Spain. The following is an extract from one of them:—'Who are the enemies of Spain?—Isabella of Bourbon, Gonzales Bravo, and Father Claret. What evil have they done to the country?—The first has robbed it of its liberties; the second of its money; and the third of its conscience, covering with the cloak of religion the turpitude of the two others.'

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE. Saturday, January 2, 1869.

The annual season of holiday enjoyment and recreation has come around once more, and to-day we are called on to celebrate the eighteen hundred and sixty-eighth anniversary of the advent of the Saviour of Mankind. From time immemorial the season has been one of happiness and merry-making; and in every part of the world, where the enlightening rays of Christianity have penetrated, the heart will ascend to-day with a prayer of thankfulness and a hymn of praise to the Most High in acknowledgment of the beneficent boon vouchsafed to fallen Man. Among our heterogeneous population are representatives from every Christian country, all of whom, we trust, will join in the festivities incidental to the joyous season and contribute to sustain the general good feeling. To-day we lay aside our cares, and the mind involuntarily wanders back to the time when all was happiness and innocence around us, and we were happy and innocent too. When the pleasant little fiction of Santa Claus kept us awake through the long night, and when with the first appearance of dawn we seized the prizes that had come down the chimney-flue. Then was the poetry of existence—the lovely and beloved time. All dreams and fancies, almost impossible to imagine on account of their loveliness, were to come true then. But, how few of those youthful dreams and fancies have been realized. And what of to-day and to-morrow, and of the long, weary twelvemonth which will intervene between the booming of another season of rejoicing? Shall we look upon it only as another year in which we may grow more careless and more selfish and lay up for ourselves treasures, which the moth and rust do corrupt? Better that we should banish from our minds all recollection of past happiness and youthful innocence—better that we should forget Christmas and all its hallowed associations—than that we should suffer another year to find us more worldly than before. A twelvemonth may bring some who read this article to the grave—stripped of importance and wealth and dead to the world and its cares and its merry-makings forevermore. Let us, then, bear well in mind, that life is not merely made up of frivolity and ambition; that we are not placed here solely for the gratification of our senses; but that there are higher and nobler things to be done. The sick are to be visited, the suffering are to be comforted, the poor are to be relieved, the world is to be made better and happier because of our living in it, and we are to remember, "One who went about doing good," and follow his example as closely as we can, so that with better resolves and purer purposes to guide us we may make not only to-day, but every day of the new year as soon to dawn as MERRY CHRISTMAS.

and to indulge the hope that an amount will be placed in the Estimates sufficiently large to ensure the people of the Inlet, speedy and safe communication with New Westminster at all seasons and in all weathers. Friday, Dec 25. The ordinary Petty Sessions for the purpose of granting, renewing and transferring licenses, was held at the Police Court yesterday, before A F Pemberton and W J McDonald, Esqs, Justices of the Peace. The following licenses were granted:—Tugwell, Bush Tavern, Esquimalt Road; J B Thompson, Wm Reid, P Smith, A Astrie, Loyet & Loewen, Geo Coleman, W P Marsh, J J Jacobs, Thos Chadwick, Wm Beck, James Hall, P Mansie, McKeop & Co, S Driard, F Golden, Wm Nichol, B P Griffin, F G Richards, P Gilligan, Geo Reid, N O Bailey, Geo Balls, F Bushell, Strachan & Mady, J Carson, Geo Mason, W S S Green, J Willcox, Wm Lange, W McNiff, J D Johnson, Geo Baalb, A Vereker, W H Franklyn, W Lueb, Sprout & Co, O B Brown, Hudson Bay Co, Henry Nabhan, H Simpson, John Walsh, A Pratt, Jas Bailey, H Wain, William Smith, A R Everett, H Hedy, J Maidment, M Howland, W Beaumont, W C S Sealey, Dwyer & Burns, C F Green, P Murphy, Loewen & Sehl, Townsend & Griffin, John Pawson, T J Barnes, G Richardson, Jas Orr. Postponed till 6th prox.—Wm Lyons, Wm Quarles, E R Thomas, John Stevens. THE SETTLERS on Salt Spring Island have signed a memorial to His Excellency, in which, after referring to the recent murder of Mr Curtis, and prior assassinations in the neighborhood, they pray for the appointment of a resident Justice of the Peace to take cognizance of offences as they may arise, and bring the culprits to punishment. They add that, unless adequate protection be supplied, they will be compelled either to emigrate, or to organize a Vigilance Committee and inflict swift punishment upon evildoers. We have frequently directed attention to the frequent occurrence of murders and outrages on Salt Spring Island and its vicinity; but, so far as we can learn, little exertion has been used to bring the perpetrators to justice or to adopt measures against their recurrence. We hope, now that the state of things has been brought directly to the notice of the Executive by the sufferers themselves, an effort will be made to purge the East coast of assassins and robbers, and render the fairest portion of this beautiful island habitable, which it really is not now. Land and Water gives an extraordinary account of the destruction going on among sea birds. On a strip of coast eighteen miles long, near the mouth of the Fraser, four months, 12,000 by mob who shoot them for their feathers, and 79,500 young birds who died of starvation in the emptied nests. Commander Klocker, there stationed, who reports these facts, saw two boats loaded above the gunwales with dead birds, and one party of eight guns killed 1,100 birds in a week! So great is the demand for plumes to brighten ladies' dresses, that thousands of birds are killed every day, and quack pheasants are flayed before cooking. The poor sea-birds ought at least to be let alone while bringing up their young, and ultimately there must be a close time to the whole feathered race. Law alone can preserve them from destruction by their inferiors. We would caution the public against the wholesale destruction of evergreens, that is going on at present around the city. Many of our prettiest walks are ruthlessly despoiled of their choicest ornaments, and some of the finest effects spoiled. But this is not the worst part of the matter, some of these vandals are not content with polluting the public eyes, but to save trouble plunder private gardens (always at night, or very early in the morning), every one of these valuable trees, but always causing a great deal of wanton destruction. We are amongst those who admire the Christmas bush, and the most appropriate ornaments formed from evergreens; but we insist that the material for these should be obtained at a sufficient distance from the city, and where no injury will be done. The Race yesterday between Loy and Volence was well contested. Volence took the lead by about a length at starting and held the advantage till about two thirds of the course had been covered. At this point Loy began to take up the running and gradually gained, so that for about a quarter of the distance they ran neck and neck. In the last 500 yards, however, Loy evidently was distancing Volence and ultimately won by nearly a length. The betting was very animated, commencing even, and subsequently during the day running 20 to 15 in favor of Volence, were offered and taken. A large sum changed hands. There were about 250 persons on the course. Another race is to be the topic for New Year's Day. The steamship Continental sailed yesterday morning for Portland. Capt Metzger remains behind for medical treatment.

Cariboo News.—We have the Sentinel to the 6th of December. The news is unimportant. The Eagle and Welsh Companies' dump-boxes were robbed on the 1st inst., and an armed guard is suggested. Flour was \$18 per 100 lbs on the Creek, and prices generally were moderate. Weather, cold; on the 4th inst. the mercury stood 4 degrees above zero. A few companies were at work on William, Stout Gulch, Conklin, Mosquito and Red Gulch, with good results. The Barker took out 67 and the Cariboo 50 or for the week. The Willow and Point companies on Mosquito are yielding good pay. The Committee of the Mechanics' Institute purchased a considerable number of books at Mr McCrea's late sale, among others may be mentioned 12 vols. of Tales from Blackwood's Magazine; a set of Miss Beadon's works; a set of Capt. Mayne Reid's; books by one of the Sisters Bronte and by Alexander Dumas, and A. Trollope. We congratulate the guests of our friends at the other side of James Bay. To-day there will be a footbridge laid so as to admit of foot-passengers crossing. The new bridge makes steady progress, two of the piers being already completed in a very substantial manner. This construction, when complete, will be a credit to the city. From New Westminster.—The steamer Enterprise returned from New Westminster yesterday afternoon with twenty passengers.—Mr Justice Begbie in the list. Over forty thousand dollars came down by express and a large amount in the hands of private persons. The Cariboo and intermediate mails also arrived down. The proceeds of the entertainment to take place at the theatre on Wednesday, the 30th inst, will be devoted towards the purchase of the magic lantern which will be used for educational and other useful purposes. It is expected that Mr Buraby will give the story of Cinderella. Later.—A gentleman from Barkerville on the 11th, reports mild weather on William Creek and good sleighing to Hamilton's at Cottonwood. The outside creeks all promised well—Keithley's being the favorite. The wagon road was in excellent order throughout. At some of the schools in England the young ladies play cricket. Canadian girls understand only one rule of the game, which is—never miss a good catch.—Canadian paper. Sugar Beet Culture.—An article in the Sacramento Herald, California, who went to Europe from Sacramento to study practically the business of making sugar from beets, preparatory to starting a factory in that State, says the following interesting notes of his observations near Magdeburg: "The district from which I am writing is a level, streamless and sandy, but generally fertile for grain and root crops. Twenty five years ago the farmers in this region were very poor, and the town was a mere village. Five years after the sugar beet culture was introduced, and the first factory introduced. There are now seventeen factories, the village has become a handsome city, the farmers are prosperous, the land has been improved for a variety of crops by the deeper working necessary for beets, cattle are numerous, and good, where before they were scarce and poor, a railroad has been built through the district, population has increased, and profitable employment is found for all the year through. These changes are due to the success attending sugar beet culture." The factories employ a capital ranging from \$15,000 to \$200,000 each, the larger ones embracing refineries that cost much more than that portion of the work devoted to producing the grades of brown and ordinary white sugars. Some of the factories have been gradually built up from the very simplest beginnings without capital. The successes recorded have been achieved in the face of a government tax of 22 cents on every hundred pounds of beets that pass into the factory. These facts are certainly encouraging to the experiment on sugar beet culture about to be made in California, where a more prolific soil and more favorable climate are circumstances that will offset the difference in wages. We notice that several of the Mississippi States are going into the beet sugar business. In Iowa a single establishment has planted 5000 acres to the root. In a few years we hope to record larger things than this of the Sacramento Valley. Mr Wadsworth has begun an apprenticeship in a factory at Coblen, working for nothing and holding his own board and clothes. The seeking of practical knowledge in this way indicates qualities certain to command success in the large enterprises that he has in view. Such men, while promoting their own private interests, make themselves also public benefactors and earn a title to praise above that of thousands of dawning politicians who receive it.—Cal. paper. The revolution in Spain has rejected the hearts of one family at least, namely, that of the political editor of the Democracia, of Madrid, who has been released from prison. His sentences amounted to one hundred and two years of imprisonment. According to the Standard of Paris, the French Minister of War has recently passed an order for 10,000,000 sheets of paper for the manufacture of cartridges, the entire quantity to be delivered within five weeks. Another indication of peace added to the list. The Paris has removed his Cheap Shaving Shop to the opposite side of Johnson street, just above the Miner's Saloon.

Rome. General Dumont has lately paid a visit to Cardinal Antonelli, and held a very long conference with him in reference to an important communication from the Emperor Napoleon. This, according to my information, was to the effect that if the Pope desired to preserve his independence at Rome, it would be necessary for him to cede to Italy the provinces of Nelfetri and Frosinone, as on this condition alone, could the Emperor consent to maintain a French garrison at Civita Vecchia. Cardinal Antonelli did not object to open negotiations on this basis; but the Pope met the proposal with his old non possumus. Such is the report given to me of what took place, but, though coming from a quarter always well informed, I do not guarantee its accuracy, and it is possible that General Dumont may rather have been sounding Cardinal Antonelli than making a positive stipulation. The Emperor is no doubt anxious to conciliate Italy, without deserting the Pope; but whether he will be able thus to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, remains to be seen. It is certain that the move of General Dumont has been followed up by Count Armand, who communicated to Cardinal Antonelli a note from General Menabrea to Signor Nigra informing him, as the representative of Italy at the French Court, that now the Italian Government had arranged the question of the Pontifical debt, it expected the Emperor to recall the French troops from Civita Vecchia. Count Armand added that the Emperor well knew the danger to which this measure would expose the Holy See, but that he should be driven to adopt it unless the Pope made some important concessions to Italy, and I am assured that Count Armand then reiterated the proposition of General Dumont, engaging, if it were complied with, that the Emperor would guarantee the security of Rome, the Marches and the province of Viterbo. A TOUGH YARN—AN INSANE WOMAN RUNS A MUCK, KILLS TWO MEN AND COMMITS SUICIDE.—The Rochester (N Y) Democrat of Nov 28th is responsible for the following story: Late last night a singular and lamentable tragedy was performed in South St Paul street of which we have gathered the following particulars: A beautiful and accomplished young lady, Miss Emma W., a stranger, temporarily lodging at the Osburn House, disguised herself in male apparel and proceeded to No 27 South St Paul street, where several of her friends, including her uncle and her mother, were passing the evening, whom she at first accosted in a friendly manner and conversed with pleasantly enough though rather excitedly, for an hour or two. She is said to be a person of singularly romantic and erratic disposition, and her freak of donning man's attire therefore attracted little attention and created no surprise. In the course of the evening, however, she suddenly became insane, and drawing a knife, attacked and fatally stabbed an old gentleman, who was endeavoring to curb her eccentricities, and then rushing upon her uncle, whose name was King, killed him with a single blow of her weapon. Before the horrified spectators could summon the presence of mind enough to seize the infuriated fanatic, she swallowed some fatal poison, apparently strychnine, and died in a few minutes. The news of the sad tragedy spread rapidly and attracted a large crowd to the premises which were however speedily cleared by the officers. As our reporter was turned out with the crowd, we are unable to give any further particulars of this terrible affair. A Romantic Law Case. (London Correspondence of the Western Morning News.) The courts of law will in all probability be occupied, early in the ensuing session, with one of those remarkable cases which so often occur in romances, and so seldom in real life. It appears that about one hundred and twenty years ago a large estate close to one of the most important English manufacturing towns was in the possession of the great grandfather of the parties to the present litigation. Since that time the land has been built upon to a great extent, and now forms the most wealthy suburb of the town in question. At the death of the owner, his eldest son, finding there was no will, naturally claimed the estate. The children of a second marriage, however, who had never lived on good terms with their half brother, protested against his title, on the ground that his parents had never been married, and that he was consequently illegitimate. It seemed at first that there was no ground for this statement. The parents had always been received in society, and no one had ever heard of any scandal in connection with them. On making inquiry, it was, however, found impossible to discover any trace of the marriage and the eldest son was forced to submit, and to leave the home he had always considered his own, without a shilling. He went into town and embarked in trade apparently without much success, for his grandson, at the present time a shoemaker in a back street, and in a very small way of business. The tradition of the lost estate has, however, always been preserved, and some time since the descendant of the eldest son recommenced the search for proof of the marriage in question. After much trouble he succeeded in getting hold of the copies of the registers, which are preserved in the Chancery at Chester, and there in the index, he discovered, somewhat earlier than was expected, the names of the original possessor of the estate, and his first wife. There was, however, no such entry in the body of the book. At that time, however, he going through it for the last time, it was discovered that two leaves had been fastened together, and on their being separated a copy of the entry of the marriage from the books of a Manchester church was duly found. On referring back to the church register, the book was produced, but the entry was not there. Further examination showed, that this book, too, had been tam-

pered with but in a different way—a leaf had been cut out with scissors, and the marks were even then distinctly visible. On these facts the action will be brought, and when it is remembered that the present family have been in possession for nearly a century, and that they are highly respected, and their members married amongst the wealthiest people in the county, it may readily be imagined that the matter is creating a good deal of interest. The value of the property at stake is between one and two hundred thousand pounds. Revolution in Passenger Traffic. An Englishman, Mr Raphael Brandon, suggests that railway passengers should be transported at a uniform rate of fare, as letters are now sent for a uniform rate of postage. Not only this, but in England, he thinks, a three-penny stamp should, under proper arrangements, pay for a journey from Land's End to John O'Groats. In fact, Sir Rowland Hill's post office scheme, which has been so successful, is said to be adapted to passenger traffic. Mr Brandon proposes to consider a passenger as a letter, and to send him from one end of England to another, without regard to distance, for a certain fixed rate. For a three-penny stamp the passenger may go one mile or to the end of the rail, third class. A six-penny stamp will send him any distance, second class, and for a shilling he may ride five minutes or all day in first-class carriages. Incredible persons are invited to a consideration of figures, which seem to prove that such an arrangement can be made profitable for shareholders. It appears from his figures that this absurdly low rate is not very much less than the fare at present paid for an average journey. In 1865, in round numbers, 3,600,000 passenger trains ran over 71,000,000 miles, carrying 252,000,000 passengers. The traffic produced £14,724,302. This gives an average of nearly twenty-one miles and seventy-three passengers for each train, which is about three and a half passengers per mile, giving an average fare for the present average journey of fourteen pence. The reduced rate, Mr Brandon thinks, would increase the traffic sixfold, which would give the railway companies an excess of £24,000,000 of receipts, with very little additional expense, at a three-penny rate. But it is claimed that of the increased number of passengers one-seventh would ride first class at one shilling, and two-sevenths second class at sixpence, which would raise the annual return from £14,750,000 to £32,000,000. To overcome the charge that the analogy between carrying a half-ounce letter and a "meaty hundredweight" is false, Mr Brandon asserts that the most expensive part of the present postal system is the delivery and not the transit, and as the "meaty hundredweight" would deliver themselves, the balance would be in favor of the passenger over the postage system. Rumored Discontinuance of the Epsom Race course. There seems great probability that the Derby in future will not be run at Epsom. According to a statement in the Sportsman, the new proprietor of a portion of the course has absolutely refused to allow the race to be run over his ground. It appears that the rent of the ground was formerly £500 a year, but Mr Studd has endeavored to raise it, very naturally, considering the circumstances, to £1000. To this increase the lessees of the course would not submit, but endeavored, vainly, to make a new course, advertising the races to be run as usual. This proceeding enraged Mr Studd, who now refuses any terms at all. Should he persist, not only will the race have to be run elsewhere, but the nominations for 1869 and 1870 will all be void, seeing that the young animals are engaged to be run over the Epsom course and no other. This is a matter of some little interest to many who care nothing for racing as a rule. The loss of the Epsom course itself would scarcely be a subject for serious regret. It is one of the worst possible for a great race, and a year or so passed without one or more horse-races or jockeys being injured at Epsom Courser. The difficulty is that there is no other within an easy distance of London, and the Derby Day, as we all know, is a London holiday. The new market would afford by far the best course, but then the Derby would be little more than a repetition of the Two Thousand, and the distance from town is too great. Perhaps Ascot will have yet another great race added to its enormous programme. HETA WATA OMBRENO AND FILLS.—Rhetoric and Gout.—These phrases and nothing remedies demand the earnest attention of all persons liable to gout, sciatica, or other painful affections of the muscles, nerves, or joints. Ointments should be applied after the affected parts have been partially saturated with warm water when the ointment should be diligently rubbed upon the adjacent skin, unless the friction should cause pain. Holloway's Pills should be simultaneously taken in moderate quantities, until the purity of the blood. This treatment abates the violence, lessens the frequency of gout, rheumatism, and all analogous diseases which spring from hereditary predisposition, or from an accident weakness of constitution. The Ointment checks the local misery. The Pills restore the vital weakness and speedily and effectually cure all hereditary and constitutional diseases. It should not suffer from a cough which a few doses of Ayres' Cherry Pectoral will cure. Time, comfort, health, etc. all saved by its use. It is sold by all respectable druggists.

By Electric Tel. SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH. Cuba. HAVANA, Dec 22.—Intelligence here says Col Kellogg and his insurrectionists arrived at Matanzas as prisoners. All the general usually silent on the affairs of the insurrectionary districts. There are no engagements, generally, and all the troops lately arrived from being sent to the seat of war. Europe. London, Dec 22.—The following dated Constantinople, yesterday been received, it embraces the from that quarter. The Sultan to three weeks the time for the Greeks from Constantinople. Emperor of Russia has authorized vessels to raise the Russian flag Pascha, the Turkish Admiral, men of war, is blockading Syria. The Turkish Minister at Athens is in Constantinople. The movement is openly preparing for Cardwell is re-elected to Parliament of Oxford. MADRID, Dec 22.—The electors of the Cortes in this city comparatively little disturbance. Monarchical candidates are elect publicans carried the provinces and Barcelona. It is stated on authority that up to the present thousand troops have been sent to the army of Cuba; more will. The Government announces never abandon a colony of Spain. VALLETA, Malta, Dec 22.—of Mount Etna has subsided. ATHENS, Dec 22.—Government of the Chambers a credit of a billion drachmas and that the port of Pratos be fortified. PARIS, Dec 23.—A semi-official the Great Powers have united to dissuade the Turks from the Greeks from Turkey, Syria and PARIS, Dec 24.—The Montie active move of the great powers that diplomacy, by the exert moderation, will ally trouble. The Public says that Russia proposition of Prussia to invade France and Austria to a conference Turkish and Greek difficulty. Eastern States. NEW YORK, Dec 22.—Caleb arrived at Aspinwall on an errand the Isthmus Canal obtaining California. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 24.—New York, 1844; five-ton 110—of 1867 109 7/8. Wheat—Dull and nominal; \$2 1/2 Flour—Dull and nominal. Superfine \$4 75 @ 87 1/2; extra, \$5 75 @ \$6 00. Choice, \$6 00 @ \$6 25. 11000 choice, \$1 60 @ 6500 choice, \$1 75 @ 80. Barley—Choice brewing, \$2. Arrived—Dec 24—Steamer from Victoria; steamer Colorado. Sailed—Dec 24—Ship Revere, Oregon. PORTLAND, Dec 24—Steamer from Victoria, arrived last night. DELAYED DISPATCH. Europe. MADRID, Dec 19.—Elections of the Cortes are proceeding in a state of disorder. A majority of those elected are favor formation of a monarchical government. The Government authorities meant that the treaty of peace will be considered as an accomplished London, Dec 19.—Dispatches, stantipole report that the Turkish government to invade Greece unless armed bands of Greek frontiers. PARIS, Dec 19.—The Montie following details of the Erosis at Erosis answered Seaboard. Pas with shot and immediately sought the port of Syria, where she was by the vessels of the Turkish fleet of Pascha announced his will abandon the blockade on condition Erosis should be escorted to At Greek frigate and there await the judicial proceedings for the omitted. The following dispatch is received Constantinople, Dec 19th: Ambassador in this city to-day of the guaranteeing powers protect Greek subjects in Constantinople French envoy on the part of the Sublime Porte demands the ban all Greeks from Belgrade. London, Dec 19.—The Times very Johnson at the Birbeck says the sum of Johnson's political must not prevent the peaceful relations between America. The Times thinks the obstacles to the treaty should be Athens, Dec 18.—A Cabinet formed with Alexander Kinnos the head of the Ministry. London, Dec 19.—Mr Laird correspondence with Beverly Johnson made the first friendly advance for the Liverpool banquet. Johnson to visit him to hear his wish for lasting peace. Johnson accept the invitation for lack of

The Weekly British Columbia AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, January 2, 1869

The Settlement of British and American Claims.

(From the London Times, Nov. 10.) The public will learn with much satisfaction from the speech of Mr. Beveridge...

The New Map of France.

We (N. Y. Tribune) have received from Paris a copy of the new map of France, to which we alluded on Wednesday...

Second: Under the Government of July the revolution in Belgium had improved our position. They fortified Mons, Philippeville, and Marienburg...

Third: Under the Second Empire, France has recovered on the side of the Alps its natural frontiers; the forts of Lesseillon no longer bar the Mont Cenis route...

The second matter in dispute between the two Governments related to the denationalization of the United States. In one or two cases among the Irish trials there was just the shadow of a ground for alleging that England tried and punished men who had become American citizens for acts done in America.

England and America.

SPEECHES OF THE LATE PREMIER AT GUILDHALL.

On the evening of Nov 10 the usual inaugural banquet was given by the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs of London in Guildhall. After the usual loyal toasts, the Lord Mayor gave 'The Health of Her Excellencies the Foreign Ministers' coupled with the name of Mr. Johnson, the representative in this country of the United States of America...

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Shipping Intelligence.

Table with columns for PORT OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, and PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND, W.T. listing ship names, destinations, and dates.

Entered. Dec 31 - French ship Jeanne Alice, from San Francisco. Landed at Usualty for Hong Kong.

Passengers. For star ELIZA ANDERSON from Puget Sound - Mrs. Reddie and child, Messrs. Huntington, Wheeler, Smith, Elliott, Newland, Blum, Reese, Boland, Hodges, Haskaway, Wyckoff, Donohoe, Smith, Cook, Watson and 80 others.

Imports. For star ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound - 1 cow and calf 44 sheep 4 dressed hogs 1 piano 16 sacks oysters.

BIRTHS. In this city, Dec 29, the wife of J. Fried, Esq., of a son.

DEATHS. In this city, on the 27th inst., of consumption, Wm. May Travers Bishop, aged 10 years and 11 months.

JUDSON'S Simple Dyes for People. REGISTERED. Anyone can use them. Anything can be dyed with them in a few minutes without soiling the hands.

DANIEL JUDSON & SON, The Coleman Street, London. N.B. - A small bottle of color will dye 12 yards of bonnet ribbon.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND. LIECHTER MEETING, 1868. UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.

J. & F. HOWARD, Britannia Iron Works, Bedford. THE FOLLOWING PRIZES WERE REWARDED TO:

INSURANCE AGENCY. MARINE - Pacific Insurance Company, San Francisco. FIRE - Imperial Insurance Company, London.

FURNITURE At Reduced Prices. J. SEHL, CORNER GOVERNMENT ST. and Broughton Street, Importer and Manufacturer of all kinds of Furniture, Bedding, Mirrors and Upholstery Goods.

Carpets and Floor Oil Cloth. Children's Carriages, Glass and Brass-headed Pictures Nails and a variety of Hardware.

AMERICAN SAW COMPANY. EMERSON'S PATENT PERFORATED CIRCULAR & LONG SAWS. REQUIRE NO GUMMING. DESCRIBE THE ADDRESS.

PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS & C. C. (Free from Adulteration). Manufactured by CROSSE & BLACKWELL, FURVYERS TO THE QUEEN, SOHO SQUARE, LONDON.

HER MAJESTY'S TABLE. C & B are Agents for L. & F. PERBINS' CELEBRATED WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCES, and are Manufacturers of every description of Officers' Stores if the highest quality.

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THE PACIFIC RAILROAD completion. The entire done in August of the present year, with an aggregate of \$100,000,000, an engagement they receive \$60,000,000, a land grant of 12,800 acres all 35,000,000 acres from the States Government as an investment of their capital, the most kind yet inaugurated. The effect of a consolidation of the Pacific Railroad into one company upon the Republic has already been discussed in the pages of this paper. A member of the Pacific Railroad Company has just been elected to the Senate of the United States. They will wield a power that will make an era in the history of the Republic. The Pacific Railroad is a great work, and it is a great work that will make an era in the history of the Republic. The Pacific Railroad is a great work, and it is a great work that will make an era in the history of the Republic.