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Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 123, 3 May 1852 — MONDAY MORNING. MAY 3. THE FORTNIGHTS NEWS. [ARTICLE]

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 3.

THE FORTNIGHT'S NEWS.

One of the principal topics of public discussion throughout our State, and perhaps the only one of importance which is widely agitated at the present time, is the question of permitting Chinese labor in the mines. Since the departure of the last semi-monthly mail steamer the increase of the foreign immigration to our shores has been very great, and the class which has far outnumbered all others has been

the Chinese. These people, although peaceable and honest and in their mining operations less obtrusive

than any other distinct portion of the mining community, are believed to be less advantageous to the State as citizens than any other class of laborers, on account of their parsimonious habits of life and their temporary intentions among us. Against these people in particular, is the growing dislike of our miners directed, and it is the rapidly swelling tide of immigration of their countrymen that has disturbed the minds of our citizens, and created doubt, apprehension and dislike in all parts of the State. The subject of the Chinese immigration has been transmitted to the State Legislature in an executive document, and has been discussed with some spirit and occupied no small share of public debate. The miners, in some sections of the gold districts, have carried the matter still further, and quite summarily and informally expelled from the diggings parties of Chinese who had established near them. Meetings have been held in divers places in the Northern and Southern mines at

... places in the northern and southern mines, at which it has been agreed to prevent the labor of Chinese in the neighborhoods represented at the meetings. No violence has yet been attempted, or is contemplated, but the diggers in some of the districts proclaim an unalterable intention not to permit Chinese labor near them.

Gov. Bigler, in his message, recommends that measures be taken by the State Legislature to check this Asiatic immigration, and that aid from Congress be also invoked. He proposes for the State such an exercise of the system of taxation as shall prevent the Chinese from realizing the gains which they have hitherto enjoyed.

Here the matter rests at present. The apprehensions entertained on this subject have been exaggerated and distorted, and it is, therefore, not unlikely that they will pass away as suddenly as they were created. We do not anticipate difficulty from this

state of things.

The clipper ship *Challenge* arrived April 22d, *thirty-three days* from Hongkong. This is believed to be

the quickest trip ever performed between this port and the coast of China. She brought over 500 passengers, (Chinese.) The *Challenge* landed her cargo and cleared for Hongkong on the 27th.

Our State Legislature will adjourn this evening. The session ends without any really important business having been accomplished for the State. Since our last semi-monthly review of their proceedings a few new bills have been introduced, and among the business disposed of, the bill for submitting the question of a Convention to amend the State Constitution to the people has been killed in the Senate.

The Indian difficulties in the South, which at the date of our last review presented a threatening aspect, have been brought to a close by the prompt and efficient operations of our troops along the Gila. The Indians have been driven into the mountains, and Camp Yumas is now prosperous, and well protected

and supplied. The only district now harrassed by troublesome and hostile Indians is the Shasta country, and the Trinity mines. Here the old feud between the whites and Indians has been revived with much bitterness, and with the shedding of blood on both sides. Several murders have been committed by the Indians. A report recently reached this city, which is generally believed, that a party of eleven singers, known as Donaldson's Serenaders, had been cut off by the Indians near Shasta Butte City. The inhabitants of the infested district have organized and taken arms against their red enemies.

The accounts from the mines are generally favorable. The rivers are still too high to permit of extensive operations, and the weather has been cold and unsettled. The products of labor in every section of the plaecer is reported good.

The news from the gold mines of South Australia (from which country we have advices to the 11th Feb.,) is anything but favorable. Heavy rains had set in, the rivers were swollen, and disease and crime ravaged many parts of the mines.

We do not get any further news of the rebellion at the Society Islands. A marine railway has been constructed by the French at Tahiti, and it was put in operation on the 15th March amid great rejoicings.

The intelligence from China, from the Cape of Good Hope, Singapore and Manila, received at this port is all very late, but without much importance.

We have dates from Honolulu, S. I., to the 19th April. There is no news.

From Oregon we have advices up to the 24th ult. The Custom House at Astoria was burned down on

the 16th, together with the Post Office. The books were saved.

A very interesting yacht race came off at San Diego a week or two since.

Madame Biscaccianti has concluded her series of concerts in this city, which have been crowned with success. She next week sings in Sacramento.

The number of crimes committed within the past fortnight, in various parts of the State, is not large. Several murders have been perpetrated in Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.

In this city everything is quiet. Three or four sad accidents have occurred within a day or two. The death by drowning of Surgeon Rutter, of the U. S. S.

Vincennes, is much lamented. The weather has been cool, and indications of more rain have been noted for several mornings past.

THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE.—The Government contractor of the Custom House to be built in this city, since his arrival here in the *New Orleans*, has been very busy in arranging the preliminaries for the commencement of the work, and has been so successful as to indulge in the assurance of being able to lay the corner stone in another month, or on the arrival of another mail from the Atlantic States. The site for the building has already, we understand, been put in his possession. It is embraced in the square bounded by Washington, Sansome, Jackson and Battery streets. The first story of the edifice is to be built of Quincy granite, and the remainder or upper stories of brick, manufactured by a new apparatus which Mr. Adams (the contractor) has brought out with him, and which will be put in operation near the city.

THE LEGISLATURE.—To-day is fixed by a concurrent resolution as the day of adjournment. Our latest advices from the State Capital lead us to suppose that no attempt to prolong the session will be made. They have been in session four months, and are probably as well prepared to adjourn as they are likely to be, if they sit four months longer.

MASONIC MEETING.—We have been requested to state that the Grand Lodge of the State of California, Free and Accepted Masens, meet at the Masonic Hall on Washington, between Montgomery and Sansome streets, in this city, on Tuesday the 4th day of May,

instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.