BRITISH COLONIST--SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. 5. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1864. NO. 27.

HOW NOT TO DO IT.

During the last two days, the community has been, strange to say, startled by the action of our Legislature. It is not often that public attention is very seriously engrossed by the antics of our politicians, but we must confess that the killing of the two important measures of the Session—the Incorporation and School Bills—has created quite a lively sensation. On the score of *esprit*, we really cannot blame the President of the one assemblage, and the Speaker of the other, in thus breaking the dreamy spell which seemed to have been thrown around the Houses of Legislature. Eight months of a monotonous existence had passed—a dreary season of mental paralysis—and it was certainly time that some little spirit should be thrown into the Legislative proceedings. People had begun to forget that there were honorable gentlemen meeting periodically across James Bay with the avowed purpose of making laws and assisting in opening up the country. What with speculation sublimated by the argentiferous and auriferous excitement of Goldstream—with copper and coal developments sufficient to throw the Pacific coast into a perfect *furore*—with well-meaning gentlemen for the first time plunged into the dangerous vortex of that patronage which comes from a sort of irresponsible expenditure of the public money—with, in fact, a host of interesting excitements keeping the minds of our population in a state of continued tension, it was not to be expected that the humdrum performances of the members of Legislature would be invested with much importance. The politician has been slighted, and, in a spirit of hurt dignity, turns upon the unappreciative populace, and denies them clean streets and education for their children.

There is something grand in this expiring effort of the two Houses. It is the "charge, Chester, charge," of the dying Marmion. "Down with Municipal Government," cries one. "Death to Education," shouts the other, and, presto, the Mayor is garotted and the schoolmaster is put in the stocks. The result is highly gratifying for eight months' work; eight months did we say? rather five years. Five long laborious years. It is the same, sad, old story. The curtain lifts and the play commences. We watch the performers with a kind of mechanical attention. Scene after scene flits by, "act" after "act" comes up, and at last we are warned that the thing is over by the gradual extinction of the lights. We struggle towards the pure atmosphere again, and, for the first time, truly realize that what we have been witnessing was a mere phantasy gotten up for the occasion. If we turn back we shall probably see Iago and Othello, whom we witnessed a little while previously in their death-throes, nobnobbing jovially over a glass of 'af and 'af, and dilating upon the powerful character of their delineations. It is rather mortifying to think that after all the cutting and slashing and fine sentiments, the whole affair was a sham—pre arranged and rehearsed. Iago was never intended to be slain—the Incorporation Bill was never intended to be passed. Othello's dagger was never meant to penetrate even his Moorish garb—the School Bill was never drawn up for Legislative sanction. The play has been performed—some of the actors have been allowed to take the good characters; others have been obliged to delineate the bad; but both good and bad were mere fictions.

The Incorporation Bill as it went up to the Council was one mass of incongruities, and deserved its fate. But why was it made a thing of such 'shreds and patches' at all? Why were the members not content with the Legislative wisdom of other countries, without endeavoring to improve upon it? Did they fancy that a predilection for "rock and swamp" was indicative of "heaven-born" statesmanship, and that the ability of England, Canada or Australia was something that might be moulded into practical shape, were it only placed in their august hands? From the first faint efforts, however, of granting the people of Victoria municipal privileges, to the present time, it was unmistakably evident that the Legislature of the Colony were determined that no other law-making body should exist upon the island but themselves. Hence the bungling from first to last. With the School Bill, it is also clear that no free system of education was ever intended to become the law of the land. Clerical influence on the one hand, and retrogressive tendencies on the other were quite sufficient to kill this measure at any time. The long delay in getting up the school report—the inharmonious and disjointed manner in which the bill was framed, with the innovation of a poll-tax—all seem as if the ultimate end was clearly perceived and calculated upon by the Committee. Were anything wanted to compleate the case against these men it would be the fact that but one out of the whole of the members of the Committee was present yesterday. In our remarks the other day we pointed out the principal drawback of the measure, but that could have been remedied by proper action in the committee. On the whole, the present session has managed to arrest public works in the city at a time when they are most wanted, and has disgraced the colony by shutting its face determinedly against the education of our youth. Its life has been wicked enough to be cut off in the most summary manner, and we look, so soon as proper action is taken on the Crown Lands Committee, to see a dissolution that will send the members back again to their private occupations.

THE BUTE TRAGEDY

The horrible tragedy enacted but a few days ago on the banks of the Homathico river is still fresh before the eyes of the astounded public, and close upon the heels of the first great question "How shall we punish these blood-thirsty villains?" comes a hardly less important and more painfully exciting enquiry, "Do any of the unfortunate men whose atrocious massacre has been credibly reported, yet survive?" And a spontaneous answer springs to the lips of every one, hoping, believing the affirmative. There is an air of doubt cast over the tragic story, when it is asserted that seventeen strong robust fearless men, even although soundly reposing after a weary day's labor, could be attacked and nearly all murdered by a dozen of cowardly savages, assisted by a few boys, and only three escape with life. The very fact and manner of escape of these three lend a strong probability to the supposition that some more of the party may still be alive, especially when it is remembered that nothing positive is known as to the fate of forman Brewster. Who knows that one or more of the unhappy men may not be lying, like poor Walker, weltering in their blood, and anxiously despairingly waiting for that sorely-wanted succor that comes so tardily? A strong feeling pervades the entire community that something should immediately be done in this matter—that there should be no possibility of a single sufferer being left to perish uncared for, or at best to receive only the precarious assistance of some friendly savage. Let the Government, as it must, undertake the task of organising a party for the effectual punishment of the murderers, but, pending the unavoidably deliberate action of authorities situated at a distance from both the scene of the catastrophe and the source of information, let us at once take steps to ascertain if there are any survivors, and to afford them the needed help. Let us enact the part of the good Samaritan, and not calmly sit down or heedlessly "pass by on the other side" while some of our fellow-creatures may be dragging painfully out the last few hours of their existence, without a hand to soothe their wounds or a voice to encourage their fainting spirits. There are numbers of courageous warm-hearted men who would readily volunteer to carry out something of this kind, and we are glad to say that there are also numbers of gentlemen among us who will contribute liberally towards the necessary expenses of such a scheme. One gentleman, a member of the House of Assembly, has offered $25, and others have expressed their desire to follow his laudable example. Let some of our public spirited citizens take the matter in hand at once, and we doubt not that an ample fund may be collected, and a suitable party of men obtained, this very day. His Excellency would, doubtless, at once place a gunboat at their disposal, and ere the close of the present week, the real fate of the road-party may be ascertained, and the survivors, if any, rescued. The case is urgent, and not a moment should be lost—an hour's delay may cost a human life.

DRAMATICAL ITEMS.

(From the Oriental Budget.)

Mr. Tilbury, the comedian, is dead.

Mr. Alfred Wigan is preparing himself to appear in more than one Shakspearean character.

The present income of Miss Bateman, the actress, is not less than £13,000 a year.

The esteemed old favorite actress, Miss Murray, is about to be married to a merchant.

Mdle. Patti is in Germany, accompanied by her lamb, that is, Herr Lamb, the violin-player.

It has been stated that Mr. Tom Taylor had become one of the lessees of the Olympic Theatre: this is not true.

Miss Lucy Chambers, an Australian contralto, is said to be producing a great sensation in Florence.

Patti has introduced a new air into the "Barbiere," which has met with success: it is called "Di Gioia inondata," and is composed by her brother-in-law, Mr. Maurice Strakosch.

Not less than twenty new operas have been produced during the past year in Italy, all by young and generally unknown composers. Not one of these productions has met with sufficient success to warrant its performance in this country.

It is stated that the late Mr. Thackeray sent in two comedies to London managers, and never heard anything more of them; and yet Messrs. Barnard and Byron's names may be seen in half-a-dozen playbills at a time as the authors of as many pieces of one kind or another.

Blondin has just closed an engagement with Mr. J. Russell for Italy, Germany, and Russia, for which he is to receive upwards of "ten thousand pounds;" after which he will pay a flying visit to Spain to fulfil an engagement under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen. He will subsequently return to England, and make a fare-well tour of the provinces prior to his retirement from public life.

In the pleasant town of Stratford-on-Avon there is a busy note of preparation. Each week the excitement of the good people of Shakspeare's town increases; and so large is the number of visitors who are expected to arrive there at the coming celebration, that people are puzzled how to meet the expected demand for lodging and other accommodation. Already bedrooms have been let to speculative agents for about £5 a week each, and we are told that one person has been offered £70 for the use of a small house during the festive time. Not will the matter of lodging be the only difficulty; for, in a town with a population of about 3,000, it will not be an easy matter, on a temporary occupation, to provide food for some 10,000 visitors who may be expected. If £5 be charged for a single bedroom, without any other accommodation, it is probable that the expense of one person would be little short of £15. This would deter many from attending, and is a matter well worthy the attention of the Stratford Committee of Management.

THE SHUSWAP COUNTRY.

From a gentleman who arrived in this city on Wednesday evening by the Enterprise, from Shuswap, we have the following interesting description of that section of country.

Our informant started from William's Lake in February last, and reached Fort Kamloops in the same month. He proceeded past Okanagan Lake and reached Captain Houghton's farm, where he found some miners who had been in the country since the preceding season. He remained there for about a month, learning from these men that it was too early to go into the mining district of Cherry Creek, which is situate about 30 miles from Captain Houghton's ranch.

About 75 miners (white men) went into the country in the spring, and prospected Cherry Creek. A party of four men called Houck's party, and another called Roger's party, and some others, in all about 20, wintered on the creek, and made every preparation for carrying on mining operations as soon as the season opened.

They reached the bed-rock in many places at a depth of from two to six or seven feet, but struck nothing. They declared that they could not make more than six bits a day, the best prospects being obtained on the surface. About eighty Chinamen had also reached the creek. Most of the men, dissatisfied with the prospects, left again before the end of April. A number of the white men had gone into Buise, and the Chinamen were going to Forks of Quesnelle. Houck's party had taken up a ranch and intended putting up a grist mill this summer, the machinery to be brought over from Colville. Some of the men who remained (including two Frenchmen) intended constructing a boat in order to cross the smaller lake above Cherry Creek and push up Shuswap river towards the head-waters, where they believed good prospects might be obtained.

Our informant prospected Mission Creek, concerning which some excitement existed in 1861. He found the color everywhere, but the best diggings had been worked out.

As an agricultural and farming country our informant entertains a high opinion of the entire district. Wheat grows splendidly, also barley, oats, and potatoes, and stock thrived admirably all the year round, and never lose their condition. Fine bunch grass prevails in abundance in many portions of the country, especially at the Mission and the upper end of Lake Okanagan.

The timber consists of pine, fir, cedar, and tamarac, and grows to a large size. The pitch pine is very fine.

A party of 16 men had gone from Kamloops to take up land and settle on Shuswap Lake, where they said there was excellent agricultural land.

Mr. Spencer obtained all the heavy timber used in the construction of his bridge at Cook's Ferry from this lake and rafted it down the river which connects that lake with the Kamloops. Our informant describes this river as a magnificent sheet of water for navigation. It is wide, deep, and still the entire distance.

A FIRE VIEW

Mr. McKay, of the Hudson Bay Company, together with a white man and some Indians, passed in about the last of April by Okanagan Lake, bound to Fort Colville, to explore a trail from that Fort to Fort Shepperd, near the Kootenais mines, where the company have some fine buildings erected, with a view to opening up trade with the miners of that section.

The Indians around the Mission and on the reserve at the upper end of Okanagan Lake are very peaceably inclined, and do not molest the white people at all. Some of them are commencing to trade the proceeds of their hunting for stock. They live principally on fish, which are most abundant in the Lakes. The salmon trout grow to the size of ordinary salmon, and are splendid eating. They commence to catch them as early as April.

The weather is somewhat similar to the Bonaparte country. Dry and very little snow. Stock need not be put under cover during any part of the year. In summer it is dry and warm, and the soil in most places requires irrigation, which can be accomplished without much difficulty.

French Louis and two or three others who had wintered at Shuswap had left for the Kootenais mines. John Jeffery had arrived at the Bonaparte from Oregon with a drove of cattle (about 500) intended for the upper country. Captain Houghton purchased 80 head from him for his ranch. A man named Snipe had also got in with a drove of cattle.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, May 12th, 1864.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Franklin, Tolmie, Jackson, Foster.

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

Mr. Young presented a petition from a large number of the inhabitants of the colony in regard to the exclusion of the Bible from our common schools, and praying the House to provide for its admission, stating, however, that the petitioners did not wish to make Biblical instruction compulsory.

The petition was signed by the Revds. Messrs. Wood, Dundas, Cridge, Reece, and a number of other gentlemen.

The petition was ordered to be laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he would move that the House fix a day to take into consideration the Despatches between Governor Douglas and the Duke of Newcastle, with respect to the constitution of the Legislative and Executive Councils.

RECIPROCITY.

Mr. DeCosmos moved for information as to what steps had been taken by the Executive towards carrying out the resolutions of this House on Reciprocity. Carried.

PILOT BILL.

Mr. DeCosmos moved for information as to whether Pilot Commissioners had been appointed by the Executive under the new Pilot Act.

Mr. Young stated that on the 9th of this month, His Excellency had appointed Messrs. Colonial Secretary Young, J. J. Southgate, and H. Wootton, as Pilot Commissioners.

THE BUTE INLET MASSACRE.

Mr. Franklin rose to call attention to the terrible massacre at Bute Inlet, and to ask whether any steps were to be taken in this matter. Also he thought this a fitting time to call attention to the defenceless state of these Colonies. The hon. gentleman alluded to the magnitude of native wars in New Zealand and elsewhere, and to the necessity of appealing to the Home Government to supply us with a military force for the preservation of peace. He thought we should not throw the entire *onus* of this difficulty on British Columbia, but do our share.

Dr. Tolmie agreed with what had fallen from the hon. gentleman, but it was not competent for our government to do anything; what we should do was to get up a volunteer party to see if some of the unfortunate men were yet alive, and also to bury the dead. We had no information of Brewster's death, and they might yet be wounded or in slavery in the hands of the Indians.

EXTRA EXPENDITURE.

The report of the Committee on Supply on the additional expenditure was adopted.

DANGEROUS WELLS.

The hon. Colonial Secretary introduced his bill for the closing of dangerous wells, which was read a first time.

THE SCHOOL BILL.

The House went into Committee on the School Bill, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

On the first clause being brought up

Dr. Helmcken moved, that the chair do now rise. His object was, that the bill should be postponed till next session. This was the only important matter now before the House, and as the session had now lasted so many months, he thought it would be much better to close it at once and bring the bill up next session when members were fresh, and not now when there were only 4 or 5 members present. If any argument were needed in favor of postponement, he would only ask hon. members to look round the House, and say if this were a fit time to bring it up. The bill was very imperfect, looking as if the various sections had been thrown together without the least care or arrangement.

Dr. Tolmie—No, no.

Dr. Helmcken said he did not believe in every body drawing up bills; they should be drawn up by certain individuals, or by experts.

Dr. Tolmie was painfully convinced of the truth of the hon. Speaker's remarks when he saw that he was the only member of the school committee present, and so very few hon. gentlemen in the House. He therefore thought it perhaps better for this House to draw up a series of resolutions to the Executive showing their views and praying them to draw up a bill in accordance with these views to be presented at the earliest period next session.

Major Foster agreed with the remarks which had fallen from the hon. Speaker.

Mr. DeCosmos said if we adopt the hon. Speaker's motion we virtually kill this bill.

The Speaker—Certainly!

Mr DeCosmos—And if we follow the hon. member for Victoria District we confess that we are incompetent to draw up our own bills (No, no.) He thought the best way would be to pass this bill, even in an imperfect state, and trust to future sessions to have it amended. If the House with so few members present thus throws out the bill, he thought they would be doing that which would be opposed to the wishes of a majority of the House. The hon. member alluded to the great want of a system of education in the colony and urged the necessity of passing this bill, which, if thrown out now, would be actually postponed a year. Let some system be adopted, altered or modified as may be, but still enough to establish a ground-work, of a system on which to build a future plan. He would, therefore, move that the House rise and report progress, and if the bill is to be killed, let it be done when there is a full House.

Mr. DeCosmos' vote to rise and report progress was lost, mover only in the affirmative.

Dr. Helmcken's motion that the chairman do now rise was carried.

Ayes—Helmcken, Foster, Jackson.

Noes—DeCosmos, Tolmie.

House adjourned till to-day Friday.

NUISANCES.

MR. EDITOR,—As I had the misfortune to be born with a nose, it was anything but a pleasure for me to learn that the Council had thrown out the incorporation bill. For whatever legal blunders there may have been in the construction of our late corporation, there can be no question that it made itself generally useful, and specially attended to the sanatory condition of this city. If it taxed us pretty heavily it spent our money wisely, which is more than can be said for much of the government expenditure. No doubt it is a relief in this season of depression to find ourselves exempt from any kind of taxation. Taxes at any time are unpopular; no one has a greater objection to them than I have myself; as offensive as physic, things inevitable, which we only accept because there is no help for them, necessary evils indeed, of which we forgive the evil for the sake of the necessity. Now that the hot weather is setting in, some sanatory regulations for the health of the inhabitants of this city are absolutely necessary. It may be that we cannot very well afford the expense, but if so, I would ask can we afford to be ill! Cologne, with its forty distinct smells, which everyone who has been there will remember, is altogether eclipsed by this city, which certainly more than makes up by intensity what it lacks in variety.

Victoria, at the present time, Mr. Editor, is the Cologne of the Pacific. At this moment in front of my door, before my very eyes, and almost I am sorry to say under my very nose, is a collection of sewerage from an adjoining alley, which even the Thames would be ashamed of. Repetitions of the same offence are to be met with in almost every street, to the disgust and detriment of everybody. Had I been the only sufferer, I might possibly have consented to become an unexplaining scapegoat, but as it is an evil which affects all, a cure is loudly called for. Some steps should be at once taken to improve or rather to inaugurate a system of drainage for this city, and so remedy a state of things which is a disgrace and injury to every inhabitant of it. Don't talk of expense in the matter. For myself, I can say, at the present rate, if things remain as they are it will cost me this summer more in mops and chloride of lime than the whole amount of my last year's municipal tax.

If during the next few months we are troubled with an epidemic, afflicted with doctors, and become too familiar with undertakers, we shall have to thank a Council which has always shown a constitutional aversion to everything useful, and displayed a power of obstruction which alone raises it above insignificance. Mr. Editor, we have a Coroner to look after us when dead. Is there no public functionary to attend to us when living?

Yours obediently,

VANCOUVER.

[We fear that our correspondent will be under the necessity of wearing a nose-bag for some months to come.—ED.]

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SOCIETY.—This society, which was organised in London in May last promises to be a success. A summary of the proceedings taken at the first general meeting, held on the 1st inst. is thus given by the *Canadian News* of the 3rd ult.:—"The first general meeting of the International Financial Society was held yesterday, when the Chairman, Mr. A Heath presided. The report was unanimously adopted, and the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, agreed to. In the course of his observations, Mr. Heath observed that when the prospectus was issued in May last it was supposed the undertaking would be too speculative. Out of 150 companies started since that period only five were bought out by that society. The most colossal of all was the Hudson's Bay Company, which always paid a good rate of dividend to the investor and the future of which was most promising. The society held 17,000 shares, and the board intended to retain them. There were 100 million acres of fertile land in the company's territory, and estimating them at 1s. per acre, the shares were at once worth £50 each. The board spoke at first of a dividend of 4 per cent, but more than 5 per cent. had already been received."

PASSING THE LINES.—General Morgan having escaped from a Federal prison by tunnelling, Colonel Streight and a party of Federal officers, said to be 117 strong, have returned the compliment by tunnelling their way out of the Libby prison in Richmond, where they seem to have been so carelessly kept that, according to a Richmond paper, the Colonel lately fell out of a window into the road and hurt himself. But there is a later novelty in "underground travelling" from Richmond. Dr. McClure has for some time been engaged in the business of disinterring and embalming the dead, preparatory to transportation to the homes of their families. He has just been arrested while driving a wagon in which were two coffins, supposed to contain the remains of dead Federal soldiers, but found upon examination to be occupied by two live Jews, who, it is believed, paid high fares for their conveyance.—*Times.*

BAD LANGUAGE.—William F. Kerr, a colored man, was yesterday fined $2 50 by the Police Magistrate for being noisy, and using obscene language. Kerr set up the usual plea of drunkenness. The acting magistrate does wisely to check the indulgence of foul and profane language so openly and profusely indulged in the public thoroughfares of this city.