

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING.

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EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

The batch of English papers brought by the steamer Active are more than usually interesting. The gigantic and much opposed undertaking—the construction of a canal across the Isthmus of Suez—is at length an accomplished fact. After seventeen years of obstructed but persistent labors, the indefatigable French engineer, M. de Lesseps, has connected the Mediterranean with the Red Sea. This is the most important victory France has, during the present generation, achieved, and the misfortune is on our part that we have been obstructive in the way rather than participators in the glory. From the first moment when the great English Engineer, Stephenson, risked his reputation by condemning the project until almost the present time, the diplomacy of Great Britain has been wielded against it. Now it brought forward the opposition of the Sultan of Turkey, then the combined testimony of interested scientific men, until the undertaking seemed almost fruitless. The political obstructions, however, were removed after a time through the exertions of Louis Napoleon, and the scientific obstacles were taken vigorously in hand by M. de Lesseps, and today we have the satisfaction of knowing that a vessel laden with coal has already passed from the Mediterranean into the Red Sea. No single incident could revolutionize European commerce with the East so much as this. Several thousand miles will be saved in the voyage to India, Australia, or China, and "doubling the Cape of Good Hope," lids fair to become in the course of a few years, almost a thing of the past. The fears at first entertained by England that the success of the undertaking would jeopardise her influence in India and the East generally, will prove as years roll on entirely baseless. What benefits Europe in the aggregate must ultimately benefit England, and although France may just now be not only the recipient of all the honor, but of the principal commercial advantages, Great Britain will speedily become a large participator in the commercial gains created by the new order of things. The canal will for a time have an antagonistic influence on the Eastern routes by way of Panama; but it will only be for a time. The new competitor for the Eastern trade will stimulate the older rival to fresh exertions, and the world generally will be the gainer.

The details of the failure of the Atlantic telegraph are given in full in the English papers. It appears that a flaw was discovered in the cable (supposed to have been caused intentionally by one of the workmen on board) when the Great Eastern was 1,212 miles out, and that the defect when it was found existed about six miles from where the vessel was. On hauling in the cable, it snapped when about two miles of it was got on board, and the ingenuity of the scientific men was taxed to get hold of the end that sunk. The efforts made proved successful; but although the cable was grappled on the bottom of the ocean and hauled up four successive times, showing the strides science has made within the last four years in oceanic matters, it could not be got on board, on account of the weakness of the rope which was used in the hauling, and it, therefore, was left finally to sink. It is doubtful whether any fresh efforts will now be made before next May.

Wholesale murders would seem now to be the principal feature in the sensational world. We have been lately giving accounts of Pritchard, and the supposed poisoner Sprague, who by the way has been acquitted, but recent advices place us in possession of even more cold-blooded villainy, if that can be possible. A woman named Winsor has just

been sentenced to death at Exeter for murdering a child. It appears that she has led a most atrociously criminal career for a considerable period, having made infanticide a kind of trade. She had her scale of charges for committing child murder, ranging from £3 to £5 a child. Owing to a defect in the trial she has been respited, and may probably escape punishment altogether. It appears that the murderers had been tried at the previous assizes on the same charge, and that the jury, failing to agree, had been by the judge imprudently discharged. Subsequently she was brought up, found guilty, and sentenced. Her counsel contends, however, that according to English criminal law she cannot have her life placed in jeopardy twice on the same charge, and the case is referred to the twelve judges. Another and most horrible murder was committed by a man named Forewood alias Southey. This man had been a billiard-marker and won at one time £1100 from a relative of the Earl of Dudley. Not getting paid he applied to the Earl and was treated rather summarily. This preyed upon his mind and led, as he says, to the inhuman acts perpetrated. He had, although being already married, run away with another married woman who had three children. These he took to a coffee-house in London, where he engaged beds for the night. When the servant went to look after the children the next day they were found dead, having been poisoned. A man named White hearing of the circumstance went to see the children and recognized them as his own, he being the husband of the runaway wife. Suspicion fell upon Southey, the alias of the murderer; but he had not yet it seems finished his work. He had a wife and child living at Ramsgate, whom he had not seen for seven years,—to them he immediately repaired and shot them both, when he was arrested.

While the approach of cholera—it has already reached France—is spreading alarm throughout Great Britain, forcing the Government and municipalities into all manner of sanitary measures and precautions, a destructive cattle disease has been imported which has been sweeping off the cattle at a fearful rate. The evil has become almost as alarming as if it were a human epidemic, and the Government has been obliged to take measures in its importation, sale and treatment of stock. One gentleman maintains he has discovered a cure for the disease in inoculation, but whether he has or not, meat has arisen and is rising to such fabulous prices, that none but the wealthy classes will the present year, at all events, be able to indulge in it. What makes the matter more distressing is the fact that much of the meat sold is diseased and liable in itself to produce some fatal scourge without the aid of importations. What between the moral epidemic of murder, the physical epidemic of cholera, and the political epidemic of Fenianism, the mother country is at present passing through a rather painful crisis.

when brethren from all parts of the country have assembled together. Mutual congratulations were interchanged, and much friendly feeling was evinced.

FIRES IN NEW YORK.

New York, Sept. 19.—The loss by fire yesterday reaches three millions of dollars. Nine thousand dollars worth of cotton was destroyed, instead of nine hundred thousand as stated.

New York, Sept. 20.—A fire this morning destroyed the American rice mills, 141 South street, with their contents, and damaged the adjoining buildings occupied by Archibald M. Rentz, ship-chandler. The entire loss is between four and five million (?) dollars.

THE COSTA RICA FOR BRAZIL.

New York, Sept. 21.—On the 28th, the steamer Costa Rica will leave New York for Rio Janeiro, being the first vessel of the new line between New York and the empire of Brazil. The Costa Rica will touch at St. Thomas, West Indies, and at Pernambuco.

THE DEBT OF CUBA.

New York, Sept. 21.—We have Havana dates to the 18th. A royal decree says: The army in Cuba is to be reduced to the same footing as before the campaign in San Domingo.

This must imply a denial of the statements that Spain was still determined to conquer Dominica.

The Diana Dela Mareña declares, though without giving official authority, that the island now owes Spain seventy-eight millions. In 1827, the debt amounted to one hundred and twenty-seven millions.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

FARTHER POINT, Sept. 19.—The Damascus from Liverpool on the 7th has arrived.

Queen Victoria would return to England from Germany on the 8th.

The annual meeting of the British association for advancement of sciences commenced at Birmingham.

The Paris *Monitor* is highly satisfied with the manner in which the people and press of England and France are harmonious in their mutual interests, and with the uniformities of their principles.

In matters of public policy, the Ottoman Empire, and the Emperor has freed Italy England determined to refuse to retain the Ionian Islands and consented to restore them to their original nationality.

The London *Times* of the 7th, editorially opposes the project of saddling England with heavy obligations on account of the inter-colonial intercourse from Quebec to Halifax and argues against the expediency of the undertaking.

PARIS, Sept. 8.—It is asserted that the French Government has addressed a note to Prussia in reference to the murder of Otto by Count Edinberg. It dwells on the fact that France extends protection to all her subjects.

Accounts from Constantinople place the destruction of buildings by the Stamboul fire at 2,800, and 22,000 people were rendered homeless.

Mrs. Thos. Moore, widow of the poet, is dead.

It is rumored that an alliance has been formed between the youngest son of the King of Italy and the Princess Isabella, daughter of the Queen of Spain. Another rumor points to Prince Amadeus as her probable husband.

The Cork *Reporter* announces that the Government has ordered a number of gunboats and two men-of-war to be stationed off Bantry Bay and other stations of the west coast of Ireland.

Cyrus W. Field is a passenger by the Australasian. He was present at one of the meetings of the British Association, and made a brief speech expressive of increased faith in the accomplishment of the Atlantic cable enterprise next year.

THE FENIANS—THEY INTEND TO CONQUER CANADA.

A letter from an American Fenian to the Dublin *Freeman* contains the following interesting story: The Fenian is an organization commenced about seven years ago for a very different object than that of freeing Ireland from the English yoke. It is not entirely composed of Irish. At the present moment it numbers many thousands of native Americans and American Germans. It has a large treasure in its bureau. The exact number of enrolled members at the beginning of last August was 273,531. Notwithstanding the statements of the Fenians at their gatherings in the United States that the object is to free Ireland, that is not the case. The statements are put forward to mislead the public, and keep the authorities off the scent. The object is to conquer Canada, and divide most of the territory from the yoke of Britain on the American continent among the exiles of Erin. The United States authorities do not only tolerate

Fenianism, but the movement is sanctioned by the Government, and ruled by Seward, Secretary of State. The laws and governing rules of the society are framed at Washington, printed in the Government printing office, and sent free through the mails to every exile and others in the Union.

The London *Post* says the Fenians are commonly reported to be disaffected to the English Government, and to be engaged nightly in the performance of military evolutions, preparatory, we presume, to the adoption by them of the ulterior measures for gaining their end. Whatever these may be, the only practicable consequences of a serious nature likely to arise out of their silly designs, will probably fall upon the Fenians themselves. The conspiracy we believe to be exaggerated; yet it does not follow that more respectable persons of any property, intelligence or position, would for a moment think of joining the illegal gathering which must naturally result in the guilty parties being sent to Spike or Portland. There is not a single respectable person connected with it.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—A correspondent of a Philadelphia paper gives the following in regard to the Fenian movement:

Negotiations are pending for the purchase of eight ocean steamers, intended to carry one thousand men. The purchase will be made before the first of October. There has been an immense purchase of arms from the Government by parties supposed to be identified with Fenians. Preparations for further purchases are now under consideration.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

DARING AND SUCCESSFUL FEAT ON THE TIGHT ROPE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 27.—The Overland Line resumed work at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

About 5,000 persons were present at the Cliff House to-day to witness Mr. James Cooke perform the feat of walking a tight rope from the Cliff House to Seal Rock. At 12.15 P.M. precisely, Cooke stepped upon the rope at the Cliff House and started out on his perilous journey, the crowd standing in awe-struck silence, not a word being spoken, so intense was

the excitement. As he stepped upon the rope, he slipped, and fell on his back, and lay motionless on the surface, and after about five minutes passed in resting himself, the exertion having completely unnerved him, he stepped out fresh once more upon the rope and walked steadily towards the shore; near the centre the rope swayed badly, but he appeared to have made up his mind that a failure this time was not on the bills, and without a pause or moment's hesitation he continued his walk to the end.

As he neared the shore the excitement became intense and it required the active efforts of a number of policemen to clear the landing so that he could step upon the solid ground. The crowd, which covered the whole face of the Cliff House, balcony and roof, and the whole beach below, for the first time broke silence, and one tremendous hurrah! burst from the lips of thousands. In an instant the crowd, men, women, and children, rushed toward him to shake him by the hand, and it was some minutes before he could reach the Cliff House to resume his usual apparel.

The most remarkable feature of this affair is, that Cooke never stepped upon the rope until within the last two weeks through a circus performer by profession, and as he could not swim at all, it is evident a fall would probably have proved fatal to him. The crowd was so pleased with his success that hundreds offered to subscribe for a testimonial to him, and he was surrounded by a vast throng who eagerly importuned him to delay his departure and give another exhibition of his wonderful skill and daring.

The new screw steamer Montana, which left New York for San Francisco on the 12th ult., when four days out met with an accident which caused her to return to New York. She was to have sailed again for San Francisco on the 5th of September.

Mrs. Lizzie Bell has lately arrived in this city from the East, hoping to raise means towards establishing in New York a home for the orphan daughters of the Union soldiers.

The purpose is to raise seventy-five thousand dollars with which to build and found a home. In it the orphan girls will be given a thorough practical and moral education, and be fitted for the duties of life.

The workmen on the new overland tele-

graph line leave for San Jose to-morrow to commence the construction of the line through Pacheco Pass to Stockton, and from thence to Placerville, under the contract let to Charles A. Stearns. It is expected this portion will be finished in three or four months.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23.—About eight o'clock last evening, the works of the Eagle Distillery, and the California Petroleum Rectifying Company, located on the corner of Mason and Chestnut streets, were destroyed by fire, as well as the dwelling house of Charles Stott, adjoining. The Petroleum Company's loss was about \$3,000, there being no insurance on their property. The building and machinery, which were owned by Mr. Stott, were valued at \$500, and were not insured. Mr. Stott's house was insured for \$1,500, and was worth considerably more. The owner of the distillery was John McCulloch. The cost of the distillery arrangements was \$600, and the leased machinery was valued at \$500 more, all of which was totally destroyed, and no part of which was insured. The distillery was set on fire in a corner where there had been no heat of any description for the last five months.

MARKETS.

The influx of five ships, two from New York, and three from Boston, is timely, and with the markets thus replenished and a good demand for all articles of prominence, there is decidedly more animation in commercial circles. We quote a long list of goods from these ships have changed hands, part previous to arrival. Trade generally is in a remarkably healthy condition, there being very little speculation going on, notwithstanding the abundance of money and low rate of interest.

The produce Market is without decided change, if we except the decline in corn and a slight disposition to ease off on barley. The receipts generally are quite free, and warehouses are rapidly filling up with wheat.

Mining Stocks are dull and some of the leading speculative shares are subject to rather wide fluctuations.

Legal Tenders were inactive with 73¢ offered and 72¢ asked. They sold outside the Board at 72½¢.

The plethora supply of money in the city has induced the Bank of California to reduce their rate of interest to one per cent per month.

Butter—37¢ for Western and 50¢ for choice State.

Candles—sales 2,000 lbs. @ 17¢.

Sugar sales previous to our last, 5,000 @ 6-000 half bbls Hawaiian, 8½¢ @ 12¢ for low choice refined is firm at previous quotations. Flour, a good healthy trade, demand better than for some time past, sales at \$6 25 @ 6 50 for extra, and \$5 75 @ 6 ¢ per bushel for superfine in half and quarter sks. Wheat, the market is without material change with good demand, chiefly for home use, sales 500 sks. No. at \$1 90; 2,000 do, choice, \$1 92½; 1,200 do, Po 2, \$1 80 @ \$1 85; and 500 do, very inferior, \$1 70 @ \$1 75. Barley, the market is a shade easier on common feed, but firm for strictly prime, sales 700 sks inferior, at 95¢; 15,000 do fair, at \$1; and 10,000 do prime, at \$1 05 @ 100 lbs. Corn, 450 sks light new crop, \$1 50 @ 100 lbs. Oats, sales 700 sks, poor coast, at \$1 37, and 800 do, good, \$1 50 @ \$1 55 @ 100 lbs. Bran is selling freely at \$1 17 @ \$1 75 @ ton.

Arrived, Sept. 27.—Ship Sacramento, 161 days from Boston; ship Kate Dyer, 154 days from Boston; ship Robin Hood, 127 days from Boston; ship Black Hawk, 124 days from New York; ship Garibaldi, 167 days from New York.

Cleared, Sept. 27.—Bark W. B. Scranton, Portland, bark Susannah for Sitka and Kleac-storm.

Sailed Sept 26.—Bark Gold Hunter, for Puget Sound.

SOUTH AMERICA.

By an arrival from Buenos Ayres we have dates from that city to July 15, which is 18 days later than previous advices. No further engagement of importance had taken place, but an epidemic among the Brazilians with great mortality, caused apparently by the change from their usual Brazilian farinaceous food to an almost exclusive fresh beef diet in the Argentine Republic. The disaffection in the Argentine army resulted in the entire disbandment of Urquiza's force. In Upper Brazil the Paraguanays had everything their own way, and were roaming throughout the country unopposed. Now levies were being made for the Brazilian army. There was nothing later from the Brazilian fleet. The Emperor of Brazil had left for the seat of war.—N. Y. Tribune.

New York, Sept. 21.—Intelligence received from Porto Rico via Savannah, on August 24th, states that the people of Porto Rico were startled from their sleep by an earthquake more violent than any living person of that place ever experienced. It occurred at half-past two in the morning, and consisted of terrible oscillations from east to west, preceded by fearful subterranean rumbling. Houses were violently shaken, though none fell. The people in terror rushed into the streets in their night clothes. The shock which only lasted forty-five seconds, was not repeated. The shock was felt all over the island, but most forcibly at the capital city.

CUBA.

Havana dates of August 11th state that Kirby Smith is in Matanzas. Judah P. Benjamin is still in Havana.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Latest News from the East

Europe, Mexico, South America, California, etc.

The steamer Active arrived yesterday morning, bringing files of the *Oregonian* to Thursday last, from which we extract the following telegraphic despatches:

FROM MISSISSIPPI.

New York, Sept. 20.—A private letter from Mississippi says, most of the militia now being organized in that State, express the determination not to be mustered in under any other but the State flag—the Stars and Stripes. The same letter also says a regularly organized gang, composed of ex-rebel soldiers, has recently been formed in Vicksburg for the purpose of embarrassing, in every way possible, the action of the government officers in the State.

THE EASTERN STEAMER MAILS.

New York, Sept. 19.—The Atlantic Mail Company was on Saturday consolidated with the Pacific Mail Company, the latter paying four and a-half million dollars for the ships and appurtenances. Rumor says there will be a weekly line to California, in a few months at the outside.

ODD FELLOWSHIP.—U. S. GRAND LODGE MEETING.

Baltimore, Sept. 18.—The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the United States, took place this morning, Grand Sire Isaac M. Veatch presiding. Representatives from nearly all the States in the Union, and several of the British Provinces, were in attendance. This is the first occasion within the past five years

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