

The Weekly British Colonist.

AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, January 15, 1867.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

The St. Andrew's Church Festival.

The St. Andrew's Church Festival, on Wednesday evening, was one of the largest, most respectable and most agreeable gatherings of the kind that has yet been held here. The church had been tastefully decorated, and the Festival was arranged by the ladies, who were assisted by a committee of gentlemen belonging to the society, among whom we recognized the familiar countenances of Messrs Lindsay, Wallace, Gray, Brown, Gibson and Stewart. Over the pulpit was an illuminated oval of stained glass, on which was painted the burning bush that appeared to Moses on Mount Horeb, and the motto (in Latin) of the Church of Scotland—"Neither is it yet consumed." Beneath the oval were the words, "Blessed are the Peacemakers." The walls were covered with mottoes in Latin and English; and over the entrance the letters "V. R." with a blazing star in the centre, formed of gas-jets, the handiwork of Messrs Wallace & Stewart, presented a beautiful appearance and had a most pleasing effect. The tables, which were presided over by ladies of the congregation and served by gentlemen, were covered with the good things of this life, to which full justice was done by the numerous guests. After supper had been disposed of the company retired to the church, where they were addressed by the worthy pastor of the society, Rev Mr Somerville, who gave a brief history of the origin of the Church of Scotland, and alluded to the rapid growth of the branch of that body which he has been instrumental in establishing in this Colony, concluding by saying that there was not on the coast a more energetic or determined congregation in the prosecution of every object and purpose that was good and lovely than that of St. Andrew's [applause].

Chief Justice Needham followed with (for such an occasion) a rather lengthy but patriotic and eloquent address, which was listened to with marked attention by the audience, and frequently interrupted with applause. His Lordship, in the course of his address touched upon the greatness, the power, and the goodness of England, and spoke of her deep sympathy and unbounded charity towards those in distress, whether they were her own or the children of a foreign State; and in recurring to the depressed state of the Colony, begged the people to remember that, although their lot had been indeed hard, they still had cause for thankfulness at having escaped the dire and devastating visitations of fire, famine, war and pestilence—scourges that had swept over many fair cities and lands since the advent of 1866. The Chief Justice sat down amid prolonged applause. Rev Mr Simpson, of Olympia, followed with a very humorous address; the rev. gentleman's voice, unfortunately, was sunk so low as to be almost inaudible 20 feet distant from the speaker's stand. An intermission of a few minutes was here taken, during which two cakes, made by Piper, and containing two valuable rings, one presented by Marks and the other by Jungermann, were cut up. It was originally intended to have distributed the pieces according to number, but, owing to an unlucky error in the numbering of the tickets this system was found to be impracticable, and a lady or gentleman was presented with a piece of cake for each ticket that she or he held, without regard to the number of the same. In the centre of No. 182 was found one of the rings, but no claimant came forward. The second ring was found by a Mr Jones in his mouth after he had taken a generous bite of the sweet morsel he had drawn. After intermission, an able and interesting address was delivered by Mr A. R. Robertson. Mr Daniel Lindsay, in a neat speech, proposed the health of the choir, and a response was made by Mr Jenkinson. Mr Joseph Jeffery, sen., proposed the health of the ladies, which was responded to by Mr Lawson, and the party separated singing the National Anthem. In closing this notice of a very pleasant reunion, we feel that great credit is due to the ladies and gentlemen who composed the choir, under the leadership of Mr Jenkinson, for the delightful sacred music discoursed by them. Each piece was received with manifestations of favor, and had an *encore* been orthodox we are sure that an enthusiastic one would have been given in every instance. The St. Andrew's Church Society, from the success that has attended this effort to contribute to the popular enjoyment and at the same time increase their funds, have much reason for self-gratulation.

GEN. CHAS. H. N. WILLIAMS, a prominent member of the California Bar, was killed on Friday last, in San Francisco, under the following circumstances: He had been engaged in business conversation with some gentleman on the street, and proceeded to his bedroom, when the report of a pistol was heard, and on the persons in the office entering the room, they found the General lying on the floor bleeding from a wound in the head, and a pistol in his hand. It was at first supposed that the fatal wound was self-inflicted, but the unfortunate man rallied sufficiently to be able to satisfy Dr. Rowell, who was in attendance, that it was caused by accident, in carelessly removing a pistol from his bureau. He died three hours after the accident happened.

NEWSPAPERS AND JURIES.—In the neighboring British Colonies there have been within the last six years some half dozen actions against newspapers for alleged libel suits. However much the colonists may have mismanaged their affairs in other respects, they are far more alive to the necessity of preserving the freedom of the press than some of our fellow citizens. One of half a dozen trials and twice as many suits, for they are a litigious people in Vancouver Island, only one verdict has been returned for the plaintiff, and in that case the jury awarded only \$5 damages. By the State telegraphic news of to-day, we learn that after a trial of two days in a suit by one Young against the proprietors of the Victoria Colonist, the jury found for the defendants. In fact, in no part of the British dominions can any editor get damages from a newspaper except the libel has been malicious in the ordinary sense, as well as the legal signification of the word. Had it not been for juries invariably interfering between the ruling of the judges under the old common law of England, and the men who made the press a power in the State, and by their writings restrained tyrants, suppressed vice and extended liberty and knowledge—if it had not been for the firmness of the jurors—free newspapers could have no more been established in England than in Spain or Austria.—*San Francisco Bulletin*.

NAVAL.—The following items are furnished from Panama: H B M's steam ship Alert, 17 guns, Commander A J Innes, arrived in Panama harbor on the 10th of December, from the coast of Mexico, and will remain here for some time. The only British vessel of war on the south coast are the Commodore's ship and the Columbine. Rear-Admiral George F Hastings, has received the appointment of Commander-in-chief of the British fleet in the Pacific, vice Rear-Admiral Hon Joseph Denman, who has been promoted to Vice-Admiral, through the vacancy caused by the death of Admiral Sir W Parker. Admiral Hastings was to have left England for the Pacific by the Royal Mail steamer of the 2nd December. The British ship Shearwater, Captain Smith, sailed on the 8th for Vancouver Island.

A JURY REBUKED.—The San Francisco Bulletin, says: "Judge Dwinelle granted a new trial in the case of Julia Gould Hall es, the bark Emily Banning, on the ground that the verdict was not in accordance with the evidence. It will be remembered that we commented at the time upon the absurdity of a jury giving \$350 damages in a case where the plaintiff was either entitled to the amount sued for or nothing at all. The Judge, in granting the order, said that it was full time the Court sets their faces against such verdicts, and made some comments on absurd decisions recently reported in the Eastern and other papers." The bark was bound from Victoria to San Francisco, and Mrs Hall is better known as Julia Gould Collins, the actress.

THE SCHOONER A CROSBY, now lying in Port Townsend harbor, having put back in distress, after two unsuccessful attempts to cross the Columbia Bar, cleared from Nanaimo on the 7th of Dec, for Portland, with a cargo of coal; sighted the bar on the 17th inst; laying off for two days—being unable to cross; and no pilot appearing, though signaled for, put back to Neah bay, with loss of tiller. After undergoing repairs, sailed out of the Straits on the 23rd, and again, on the 27th sighted the bar; owing to rough weather, was unable to cross, and after laying off four days, and having run out of provisions, again put back to the Straits with loss of foremast, and entered Port Townsend on the 3rd, where she lies awaiting instructions from consignees.

THE GREAT YACHT RACE.—Further particulars of this interesting event appear in our exchanges: The yacht Henrietta arrived at the Needles, off Cowes, at 5:45 p. m., on the 27th; the Fleetwing arrived at 2 o'clock this morning (28th), and the Vesta at 3:30 this morning. The Board of Admiralty gave orders that every facility should be rendered the yachts by the officers on duty in the English Channel. The members of the Royal Yacht Squadron extended a magnificent and cordial invitation to their crews. Meantime, the New Yorkers were the guests of the civil authorities of Cowes. Sir John Lennox would preside at the yacht banquet. The entertainment was to be one of the most noticeable international courtesies ever extended in the country. The vessels in the roads were everywhere showing the Stars and Stripes alongside of the Union Jack, in honor of the American yacht fleet. A subscription had been started for the families of the four men lost from the Fleetwing. It was headed by a gentleman on the Henrietta, who subscribed \$500 in gold. Only four persons were drowned from the Fleetwing, two being saved. The Henrietta would leave for Havre. She made the entire trip on one tack, without the slightest accident. The greatest day's run was 280 miles, and the least, 113 miles, which was made during the heavy storm, when she hove-to for several hours.

CONCERT.—We would call the attention of the public to the approaching concert, announced to be given by Mr Geo. F. Wilson who, we regret to learn, will shortly leave us. Mr Wilson is a thorough musician, and deserves liberal patronage, as he has ever been foremost in rendering his services on benefit occasions. We doubt not that he will furnish an entertainment that will be in every way worthy of support. Particulars will appear hereafter.

JAPAN.—A fire broke out on the 26th of November, on the street leading from Beuten-dori to Yoshiwarra, and before it could be subdued, destroyed a very large portion of the city. The fire had its origin in a small cook-shop: some grease dripping on the fire caused a blaze that caught the dry wood-work, and in a few minutes attained mastery over the whole place. The Japan Herald estimates the total loss, in Japanese and foreign property—houses, gardens and goods—at between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

THE FLAGSHIP SUTLEY arrived in San Francisco in 13 days, having experienced a succession of heavy south-east gales. On the 17th she had two quarter boats blown from the davits, and lost several sails. On the second day out she parted with the Clio, bound for Honolulu. On entering the Bay, the Sutley hoisted the U. S. flag, at the fore, and fired a salute, which was returned from Fort Alcatraz.

VIEWS IN VANCOUVER ISLAND.—The Illustrated London News has two faithful engravings from pictures taken by Mr Fredk Whymper, the artist, who accompanied the exploring expedition under Dr Brown. They represent the 'laughing waters' or Puget Sound Rapids, and a fortified village on the west coast inhabited by the Whyaaks, a savage tribe of Nootian Indians.

FRENCH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting of the Committee of Administration of the French Benevolent Society, the following gentlemen were elected to serve during the present year: J B Timmerman, President; V Cabu, Vice-President; G Promis, Treasurer; J Merle, Secretary; Committee—M Camusza, S Driand, F Duvernoy, J Field, H Passerard, I Ragazzoni, J Reuff.

PROMPT ACTION.—The authorities have acted with promptitude in the matter of the survivors of the wrecked bark Mauna Kea, by despatching H. M. S. Sparrowhawk yesterday afternoon to the Northwest coast of the Island to demand the surrender of the captain, 3 men and a female, held prisoners by the Indians. Sergt. Ferrell accompanied the steamer.

MISSIONARY MEETING.—On Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock, the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, will be held in the church, when addresses will be delivered, and a collection in aid of the cause will be taken. Missionary sermons will be preached on Sunday morning and evening, by Rev. E. White, of New Westminster.

FROM SITKA.—The Russian Fur Company's steamer Alexander II, arrived yesterday, under canvas, 12 days from Sitka. She is consigned to Messrs Janion, Green & Rhodes, and the object of her visit is to replace her old boiler with a new one, for which purpose she will go under the Hudson Bay Company's shears.

REPORTED LOST.—A rumor reached the schooner Gazelle, while on the N. W. Coast, from Indian sources, that the schooner Nonpareil had been lost with all on board. The captain's name was Stephens, and the schooner was engaged in the fur trade.

A CONFERENCE between the heads of the Fire Department, and the Mayor and City Council, took place last night, with regard to the financial position of the department. The conference will be resumed on Monday, at 2 o'clock.

THE ACTIVE reached her wharf at 5 o'clock last evening, bringing a number of passengers, among whom we noticed Hon J J Southgate and Henry Nathan, Sr. Rough weather was encountered.

THE U. S. revenue cutter Wyanda, commanded by Capt. Selden, who is well known on the Sound, has arrived at San Francisco in 180 days from Hampton Roads.

THE COLORADO, the first steamer of the China and Japan line, sailed from San Francisco on the 2nd inst. There was great rejoicing among the people in consequence.

THE MARQUIS OF WATERFORD, father of Lord Beresford, R. N. died suddenly on the 5th November, at his seat near Currourghinco.

THE ISABEL, towing a raft of spars for the refitting of the Vortigern, returned from the "other side" yesterday morning.

WILSON FLINT, a prominent citizen, and pioneer of San Francisco, died on January 4th, aged 46.

THE ACTIVE will leave for San Francisco on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

THE Mayor of San Francisco has had a leg broken by being thrown from a horse.

A French Count is in prison at San Francisco, under the name of John Davis, upon a charge of larceny.

SAFE.—The Hudson Bay Co's schooner Mink, 42 days from Victoria, has reached Honolulu, S. I.

It is rumored that the Isabel will go to Stekin in a few days for the Collins's Telegraph Company.

SUSPENDED.—The City Council has resolved to suspend the municipal by-law for raising a revenue until further announcement.

The steamer Thames is advertised for sale at San Francisco by Sprout & Welch.

Licensing Court.

(Before the Stipendiary Magistrate and Mayor.)

THURSDAY, JAN. 10th.

Occidental.—Transfer of license from Radovich to Keenan, granted, all differences between the parties having been arranged and opposition withdrawn. In answer to enquiries made by the Bench, Mr Keenan stated that the saloon would be fitted up and conducted in the same respectable manner as before.

Grotto.—Mr Bishop applied for a license in the name of McNiffe and McDougal. Permission granted to sell for one month.

Australia.

By way of Panama we have Melbourne dates of November 16th:

Business was very dull and there was great distress among the laboring classes. A delegation from the unemployed waited on the Government, October 15th, and asked for an issue of Treasury notes to save interest on loans; the amount of interest to be spent on extra public works. The interview ended without any result.

On the night of October 16th, the clipper ship Keenly was discovered to be on fire. The vessel was placed on the berth for London on the 25th October, and was loading alongside the Sandridge railway pier, at Melbourne. She had in her 200 tons of copper ore and 300 tons of general cargo. As soon as the fire was discovered, every endeavor was made to subdue it, but in an astonishing short time the ship was one mass of fire. All the water supply had no effect by the board, the rigging being in a sheet of flame. She burned to the water's edge.

A great gale and flood occurred at Melbourne early in October. The Argus of the 11th says:

In the neighborhood of Richmond the Yarra rose very rapidly. From the Sir Henry Barkley Hotel, in the Pont road, stretching away to the Cremorne asylum, was one sheet of water, and some idea of the height to which the flood reached may be gathered when we mention that the steps of the hotel were inundated. All round about the neighborhood of Johnston street bridge, where the surrounding land is very elevated, the water from the river had reached almost up to the floors of the houses, caused considerable alarm to the inmates. The Plenty river and the Merri and Darebin creeks are higher than they have been for a considerable time, while the Diamond Creek was yesterday rendered altogether impassable by reason of heavy floods. If all the tributaries be swollen to a like extent, there is every reason to fear that we shall be visited by heavy floods, in the course of the next few days.

At Heidelberg the market gardeners and occupiers of land in the immediate vicinity of the Yarra have suffered from the effects of the gales. In Hobson's Bay the full force of the gale was felt. The raft fell in torrents, and the tremendous sea which prevailed rendered it altogether impossible to hold communication with the vessels at anchor in the bay, in consequence of which one or two crafts which arrived yesterday could not be cleared by the custom-house officer. The ship-pling lying on the Sandridge side of the bay sustained considerable damage, as they were necessarily exposed to the full force of the gale.

Incendiarism was rampant at Brisbane. On the night of October 11th four fires occurred the first at 2 o'clock in Leichhardt street, Spring Hills, where six houses were rapidly burned down. They were partially insured. Another fire, discovered at the back of Queen street, was quickly got under, but a time threatened immense destruction property. Two houses in different localities in South Brisbane were shortly afterwards seen to be on fire, and were completely consumed. There is but little doubt that the late fires have been the work of incendiaries, and the Government has offered a reward of £500 for the apprehension of the guilty parties.

A dispatch dated Adelaide, October 6th, says: The Chief Secretary gives notice today of a series of resolutions to the effect that it is desirable to abandon the Northern Territory settlement, and to refund to purchasers money paid by them for land. Haymaking is general on the plains. The crop is likely to be very good.

A dispatch dated Sydney, October 8th, says: L. E. Threlkeld & Co, the large auctioneers of George street, have succumbed to the present commercial pressure, and will assign their estate to three banks, who are the principal creditors. Their liabilities are said to amount £400,000.

News has been received of the desolation of the beautiful island of Nangaa by a terrible hurricane on the 27th of March last.

Very favorable accounts continue to be received from the mining districts of Balarat and Queensland.

New Zealand.

By way of Panama we have Auckland, New Zealand, dates of Nov. 3d:

The Southern Cross says: Since our last summary the war on the west coast has continued with varying success. On that occasion we recorded the surprise and capture of a native village by Major McDonnell and the colonial and native forces under his command, the loss to the natives being 25 killed and several prisoners; our loss being one killed and three or four wounded, since

then, His Excellency having assumed the command in person, an attack was made on the Ketemar Pa, which fell to us, with a loss to the natives of 7 killed and 8 or 10 prisoners. A concerted attack, in two divisions, was to be made on the natives the next night, but it miscarried. Capt. McDonnell, brother of the Major commanding, having been mortally wounded by a shot from an outlying Maori picket. The force under his command retreated. We have not heard further from the west coast, but if a very concerted attack is to be abandoned, owing to the wounding of an officer, the war is not likely to be soon brought to a close.

On the east coast, the Hauhaun fanatics invaded Hawkes Bay province, and took up a position in a strong pa within a few miles of Napier. They commenced eating the sheep of the settlers. The militia and volunteers, and about 200 friendly natives, commanded by Col. Whitmore and Donald McLean, Superintendent of the province, advanced to the attack. A flag of truce, and a summons to surrender, were disregarded by the rebels. After an hour and a half of hard fighting, the pa was commanded by our men, and when the garrison was about to be put to the sword they hoisted a flag of truce. It was with difficulty the friendly natives could be restrained from killing the prisoners. Fifty-eight surrendered. There were 21 killed, and about an equal number wounded of the natives. Our loss was two killed and nine wounded. Several expeditions have been undertaken since, but without result, except in one case, when eight of the rebels were killed in a skirmish.

In the Upper Waikato districts there are unpleasant rumors; but no definite proof that the natives mean to attack our outposts. Except a good deal of grumbling in the North, on the subject of pay, the natives are peaceably disposed.

The General Assembly was prorogued on the 8th of October. The Governor afterwards left for the east of war on the West Coast.

The Provincial Council had been summoned to meet on the 12th of November.

There is no news of importance in the province. The mineral resources of Auckland are attracting a good deal of attention. The Waungarei coal mine is being worked with considerable success by Henry Walton, and the coal is improving. The Government is about to open the Kawakawa (Bay of Islands) coal-field to public competition; but upon what terms we cannot say at present.

The monthly return of gold from the Oromandel and Kapanga claims is over 1000 ounces. This proves what may be done by judicious management at Oromandel. Thanks to Francis White, an old settler, the iron ore of this province is likely to be utilized. It is found in large quantities, and on smelting yields a fine, white grain iron, attracted readily by the magnet. The ore is found in places near water carriage and coal. The general appearance of the country is improving, and large breadths of new land are being brought into cultivation. Labor is abundant, being in excess of the general requirements of the place.

Peru and Chile.

Peru continues to fortify both the forts of Arica and Callao. The Nacional of Lima says:

In Callao and Arica our fortifications are greatly improved. The Government takes the greatest pains to put them on a footing according to the rules of modern military art.

There is not the least doubt that Callao within a very short time will be one of the best strongholds capable of making resistance to the most powerful fleet. The 2d of May has given us a proof of what can be done in Callao in case of need, if the system of defence is improved, and the number of guns is increased as actually has been done, we shall no longer be afraid of any attack.

Peru and Chile have determined to reject the proposed terms of mediation from France and England as being degrading, and no discussion on the subject will be entertained. Spain must salute the Chilean and Peruvian flags—she must abandon her claims and return the \$3,000,000 received from Perez's government. In the terms named by England and France, the very points which are conceded to Spain are just the very points at issue between Spain and the allied Republics.

At the same time, Peru, who was victor in the late contest, is called upon to accept the terms of the vanquished. The voice of every class is unanimous for rejecting the terms lead to peace. Our preparations for war are progressing and will exceed anything like recent Spanish reinforcements.

Paraguay.

By private advices we learn that a treaty, offensive and defensive, has been concluded between Bolivia and Paraguay.

The former power is to supply a contingent of 2,500 men to Paraguay, and carry war into Brazil, and possibly republicanize that country. Gen. Mitre is said to be not indifferent to this plan.

Newfoundland.

The Gaspe fishery has been a failure this year, and there is much destitution amongst the fishermen and their families.

A correspondent of one of the St. John's, N. E. papers writing from Placentia on 31st Oct, reports the results of the fishing season as very bad. As usual, he says, when the French leave the Banks, there has been a good deal of fish at Cape St. Mary's during the month, and some good catches had been made, when bait was got. The potatoe blight is worse than in any past year, and this with the bad fishery causes great poverty, and numbers must starve if employment is not given.

Salvador.

A prolonged shock of earthquake was experienced at San Salvador of the night of the 29th of November, but no damage was done by it.

The Government has received from Madrid the ratification of the treaty of peace and friendship entered into between Spain and Salvador on the 24th of June, 1866.

El Constitucional says that the late heavy winds have destroyed a large portion of the coffee trees in the neighborhood of Santa Tecla.

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