

Semi Weekly British Colonist.

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European Mail Summary.

The Emperor of the French has pardoned everybody who has done nothing. By a decree of Aug. 14th, he released all persons under sentence for political offenses, press offenses, offenses against the combination laws, or the laws which restrict the right of meeting, and all deserters of both branches of the service. The decree took instant effect. Ste. Pelagie threw open its doors to some dozen of offending journalists and printers; Reds swarmed back to Paris from Brussels and Geneva, while 1,700 persons who had been condemned to toil in Cayenne came forth and returned to their homes in peace. The Prince Imperial has performed royal functions for the first time; Napoleon, being unable to pass his fête in the midst of his great military family at Châlons, sent his son, now thirteen years of age. The child is said to have presided with the utmost gravity and propriety at the review, watching from a sort of throne the distribution of crosses, and declaring himself well satisfied with the appearance of the troops at the review. The Emperor evidently aims at educating the popular mind to regard the boy in the light of a great State personage. All the training of the lad points in that direction; and it is said the little man plays his part with more than his father's dignity and confidence. It is a long time, however, since the French sceptre has descended from father to son, and the temper of the French would not appear to be more favorable to such a result now than in bygone times. It has been suggested, doubtless from the best of motives, that there is an excuse for the eccentricities of the Duke of Edinburgh in Australasia to be found in the alleged fact that His Royal Highness was told, on his arrival at Melbourne, that he was the guest of the colony, and that money had been voted to pay his expenses. The British people will without doubt be anxious to believe the Prince imagined that in a country so princely in its generosity, he would not be expected to pay anybody for anything, not even the furrier's and jeweller's bills. His Royal Highness, meanwhile, would scarcely appear to have been less unfortunate in New Zealand. Indeed, the complaints coming from that colony, although of an entirely different nature, are infinitely more serious, viewed in the light of possible results. It appears that the visit of the Prince was regarded by the Maori chiefs—friendly, neutral and hostile—as of great political moment, destined, in fact, to bring about a settlement of the unhappy differences that still distract the colony. But the chiefs were disappointed, disgusted, insulted. The Prince threw away the golden opportunity, sacrificed the duties of his position to the gew-gaws and display of a gay and frivolous life, in which the excitement of the chase, the fascination of the racetrack, and the attractions of the ball-room and theatre occupied the chief place. The meeting of the chiefs he appears to have looked on as simply an occasion for his glorification. The loquacity of the Maori orators overcame the patience of the Prince, and he had not the courtesy to conceal his impatience. He told them, through an interpreter, to put an end to the speeches, as he had other engagements. This was too much for the pride of the native Princes, and all, both Maories and Anglo-Saxons, turned away in utter disgust! This conduct on the part of the Prince, at the very moment when, within a few miles of where the Galathea lay, the Colonists were engaged in a hand-to-hand fight with the ferocious natives who had but recently devastated their homes, has created a most painful feeling among all classes, and thus a visit from which the most happy results were expected, has turned out a curse! One really cannot help regretting that Prince Alfred is permitted to go from home without being in charge of a discreet keeper. The news from Ireland regarding the disposition of both parties to accommodate themselves to the new ecclesiastical condition, continues to be of the most gratifying nature. The Catholic Bishops everywhere exhort their flocks to con-

sider Protestants their brethren, or "children of the same mother, Ireland," while the Orangemen everywhere position to co-operate with their Romish "brethren" in giving effect to the new dispensation. The Church most directly concerned is, with marvellous alacrity and grace, accommodating itself to the new state of things. The laity in the Free Church are to be supreme, not only in general management, but they are to choose their pastors! The Times has a "Commissioner" at work in Ireland, investigating and reporting upon the agrarian grievances. His second letter has been published. It is written from Tipperary, where the grievance is supposed to be most felt. "Instances of injustice," says the Commissioner, "are not numerous, but are sufficient to spread a fear of possible wrong and oppression among the whole class, who, consequently, combined to defend themselves." Capt. Seymour, the Orange candidate for Antrim, has been returned by three to one. Members of Parliament are threatened with a most terrible danger. A mechanician named Gensoul has invented a machine which reports speeches, verbatim. The reporter sits down before a piano-like instrument, and plays, as it were, upon the keys, each stroke placing part of a word upon his copy. When in full practice he can outstrip the swiftest speaker. Referring to the invention, a London contemporary remarks, "Perhaps four men in the Commons, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Mr. Disraeli, and Sir J. Coleridge, could stand it; but to the majority of speakers' photographic reporting would be ruin."

Saturday Sept 18

FIRE ON COLLINSON STREET.—At 5 o'clock yesterday morning Sergt. McCarthy, while going his rounds, observed a column of flame shooting up from the vicinity of Church Hill, and immediately sounded the alarm upon the Deluge bell. The fire apparatus were soon rolling towards the scene of conflagration, which was found to be the burning of a double-cottage house on Collinson street, the property of Michael Wells, contractor. The Deluge and Tiger Engine Companies, aided by the Hook and Ladder Company, went to work and poured streams of water on the burning dwelling and surrounding property. They succeeded in saving two cottages, belonging to the same owner, in one of which he was sleeping at the time the fire was first discovered. The cottage in which the fire broke out was entirely consumed, with some of the furniture. A hired man named Robert Clayton, who was asleep in one of the rooms of the cottage, narrowly escaped with his life. The first intimation (he says) that he had of the fire was a loud, crackling noise, which awakened him. He sprang out of bed and discovered the room full of smoke and that the flames had seized on the woodwork and ceiling. Springing to the door he was unable to find the key and at last effected his exit through one of the windows, carrying the cash with him in his hurry. The building was insured for \$400 in the Phoenix Assurance Company. While the fire was in progress, Wells and Clayton were arrested and locked up upon suspicion of having purposely caused the fire. They were brought before the Police Magistrate yesterday and discharged upon their own recognizances to appear when wanted. We learn that suspicion rests upon Wells because he quite recently sold off all his stock and furniture; but his friends assert that the building destroyed cost much more than the insured sum, and that some months ago he reduced by 25 per cent. the amount for which his houses had previously insured. A Fire Inquest will be held.

DEATHS OF VICTORIANS AT SAN FRANCISCO. Mr J O Colquhoun, C. E., died at San Francisco on the 9th of September in utterly destitute circumstances, leaving a widow and several small children. Mr Colquhoun was a native of Scotland. He came to Victoria in 1869 and constructed several roads in the city and Colony. The last public work in which he was engaged was that of dredging the harbor of Victoria. Mrs S Weynton died at San Francisco on the 9th inst., at the early age of 19. Mrs Weynton was formerly Miss O'Brien of this city, where her mother still resides. For a period of some months before her death the unfortunate young lady was stone blind.

FRUIT THEIF—Simon, an Indian, was arrested by Officer Kennedy and charged in the Police Court yesterday with stealing apples from the garden of the Rev. Mr Ross. The Magistrate ordered him to find security in the sum of \$50 to be of good behaviour for six months or in default to be imprisoned for three months.

MAIL DATES—English letters and papers to August 22d were received yesterday.

THE BYRONIC SCANDAL.—Our exchanges come to us unburdened with criticisms upon the Byronic, or rather the Stowe scandal, and these criticisms are most severe in the latter from which Mrs. Stowe might naturally have hoped for sympathy. Bonner, of the New York Ledger, and Bennett, of the New York Herald, especially handle the modest Harriet without gloves; indeed, the press both in the old world and the new condemn the publication of the improbable and disgusting story with a unanimity and warmth seldom equalled. In truth there appears to be nothing left but to suggest that the law prohibiting the circulation of immoral and obscene writings should be put in force against Mrs. Stowe's story.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—Now that the season of the year is closing in upon us when street improvements are most needed, and when the expenditure of municipal funds will be of the greatest benefit, it is to be hoped the City Fathers will exert themselves in that direction. Many persons would be induced to spend the winter here could they obtain employment, who will otherwise go to California, perhaps never to return. It should be the aim of the Council and the Government to afford as wide a field for labor as possible at this particular season of the year, especially when labor can be directed to works of a much needed and reproductive character.

H. M. S. SATELLITE, Capt. Edge, will go to sea at 6 o'clock this morning. The Satellite will proceed south to Mazatlan, and it is beyond the range of probability that she will ever return to this station. The departure of the gallant officers and crew of the Satellite is keenly regretted by citizens of every grade. No ship's company has ever been more deservedly popular, and a long, long time will elapse before the pleasant recollections that associate themselves with the departing vessel will be effaced and forgotten. May the best of luck attend the good ship on her homeward cruise.

THE EXCISEMAN.—Wm. Steinberger appeared yesterday, in response to a summons, before the Police Magistrate to answer a charge preferred by John Morrow, a sort of a special excise officer, of refusing to exhibit his books. Mr. Bishop, for Steinberger, contended that the excise man was not competent to conduct the examination, and, moreover, that the returns made by Steinberger corresponded with his books. Upon this showing the case was dismissed. The excise duty is \$1 per gallon.

CRANBERRIES.—A lively trade has sprung up in cranberries, and all the coopers are employed in making barrels to hold them. The principal point of production is on the Lower Fraser, and hundreds of busy hands are now employed in gathering the berries. The market is California, where the dryness of the climate is unfavorable to the growth of cranberries. The yield this year will be very heavy.

ARRIVAL OF THE ACTIVE.—The steamship Active, Capt. Hewitt, with passengers and mails from San Francisco on the 11th inst., reached her wharf at 6 o'clock yesterday morning. The Active will sail for San Francisco direct this afternoon at six o'clock.

BURNING FLAKES FROM WELLS' HOUSE were carried a long distance. Christ Church experienced a shower of the flaming messengers, and at one time the edifice was seriously endangered by the glowing cinders that fell on the roof.

WHEAT SHIPPED.—The shipments of wheat from California for Europe since July 1st have been 1,500,000 centals, valued at \$2,700,000, and twenty ships are now loading.

A NUMBER of men are in custody on a charge of destroying with fire the snowsheds of the Central Pacific Railway. They were 'down on the road because it was partly built by Chinese.

THE steamship Guesie Telfair sailed at 11 o'clock yesterday morning for Portland. She carried coal and general merchandise—a full cargo—and a few passengers.

A SHOCK of earthquake was felt in this city about half past 11 o'clock on Thursday night. The undulations were from north-east to south-west, were quite sensible, and lasted for about a quarter of a minute.

RE-IGNED.—Mr. Charles S. Nicol, for nine years manager of the Nansimo Coal Mining & Land Company, has resigned the position. Mr. Nicol is now a resident of San Francisco.

THE steamer Enterprise got off at 10 o'clock yesterday morning for New Westminster, carrying 15 passengers and about 40 tons of freight.

THE cargo of the bark Zephyr, now due, will be found in our columns to-day.

The "Douglas."

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—With regard to the letter of your correspondent "Viator," in this morning's Colonist, I cannot help thinking that his experience regarding the regularity of the time that the steamer "Douglas" leaves the Cowichan and Maple Bay wharves on her way to Victoria is somewhat assumed; I must therefore beg to take exception to what he says on this point.

In the first place, to my own individual knowledge the "Douglas" frequently leaves the wharf at Maple Bay from 10 to 10 30 a. m., although her regular time for leaving there is 11 30, and the consequence has been that one half of the settlers wishing to send produce or to go themselves to town, have arrived at the wharf only to find themselves an hour too late, exactly as you described in your issue of Thursday. In consequence of occurrences like these the greatest dissatisfaction reigns among the settlers, especially those who come from a distance, for they never can make certain of catching the boat unless they arrive at the wharf before 10 o'clock, and then they have to wait until 11 30 or 12 o'clock unless the boat happens to arrive an hour or so before the proper time.

As to one half the clocks in the settlements being from half an hour to an hour wrong, even if this were the case it would make no difference; the settlers know how to make allowances for it themselves, and the untoward periods at which the steamer leaves the wharf are timed by her own clock.

This evil may easily be remedied, as you suggested in your article of Thursday, viz., by the boat never leaving before a specified time.

[What has "Viator" to say to "Ego"?—Eds. COLONIST.]

Murder of a Countess in a Railway Carriage.

Naples August 10th. Correspondence London Times.

Every one here has been horrified by the details of a murder which was committed last Thursday night in a first-class carriage of the night train from Rome to Florence. The victim was the Contessa Armanda Sartorio-Ribrandi-Cataneo da Novara—a long name, but you must take it as it is. Separated from her husband, to which it is necessary to allude, she came from Voghera, in the north part of Italy, to Naples about a fortnight since, and took lodgings at San Paolo, a village near Nola. Here she was in the habit of receiving every evening several officers of a cavalry regiment, among whom was a Lieutenant Negri. One evening last week the cries of the Countess, in a half-suffocated tone, were heard beseeching for help, on which the landlord, Signor Conteri, went out on the staircase, fired a shot, and met Negri running down. He then went to the Countess, who confessed that she had come to San Paolo in order to see Negri, who had some letters or papers of hers which he refused to give up; that after her "society" had left her that evening he returned, having sent away the servants under some excuse, and closed the doors, when he endeavored to force her to write a letter to her friend stating that she had committed suicide. What could have been the motive for this can only be imagined. On her hesitating to do this he snatched a dagger from her hand, which she carried for self-defence, and was in the act of striking her, when she fled to another room, followed by her maddened lover. The dagger was again uplifted, when the pistol shot fired by the landlord seemed to paralyze him, and he made his escape.

In Conteri's apartment she remained all the night, and Negri returned to ask her pardon, insisting also on remaining in another room. On the next day (Wednesday) several of the officers of the regiment, hearing of the affair, came to the house to protect the Countess, who determined to return to Voghera the next day—Thursday last. The officers and the landlord, Conteri, accompanied her as far as Caserta, where they left her, the Countess refusing their society any further, adding that she no longer had any fear. On the train arriving at Isola, the station on the Roman frontier, the body of the unfortunate woman was found extended on the floor of the carriage, a revolver at her feet, a pistol shot in her head, and her hands covered with blood, and as if by glass. More than this is not known at present. Some assert that they saw Negri get into a third-class carriage, dressed as a civilian, in the same train by which the Countess left, and that his cap was found near her. It so, he is suspected of having walked along the footboard to her carriage, and of having shot her through the window. Of him nothing has yet been heard. This horrible tragedy, which I report almost in the same words that it is described in all the journals of Naples, has created here an immense sensation; in all details it is most revolting, and might furnish another Mrs. Radcliffe with materials for a sensational romance. A highly respectable journal, in defending Negri against the imputation of theft, also says there can be no ground for the suspicion in the simple fact of his having loved a woman so desperately as to murder her. He was not a mauvais sujet. He was well born, rich, honest and only vain." "In another passage

he is described as being "unfortunate." Thus it is that crime is condoned, and that a sympathy with it generates that prevalent sentimental feeling against capital punishment. Wonderful to relate, however, Neapolitan juries have within the last few months brought in verdicts in three cases without attempt at circumstance. Justice still hesitates; there are the Court of Appeal and the royal mercy to be invoked. The probabilities are the sentence of three heinous murderers will be commuted.

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The grand secret of attaining happiness is to secure good health, without which life is stripped of its pleasure. The first irregularity of any function about the system, checked and set right by appropriate doses of these purifying Pills, which strengthen the system by thoroughly cleansing the blood from all impurities. They balance disordered action, remove the cause of disturbance and restore the normal and natural power to every organ, without loss of time, pain or any other drawback.

Derangement of the Bowels, Liver and Stomach Complaints. This medicine is so well known in every part of the world, and the ones effected by it are so wonderful, as to establish every one. It is pre-eminently a remedy for bilious and liver complaints and derangements of the stomach and bowels, in no longer a matter of dispute, but a fact. It cleanses the bowels, and cures all the ailments of the system, and restores the normal and natural power to every organ, without loss of time, pain or any other drawback.

Determination of Blood to the Head. This is generally occasioned by some irregularity of the stomach and bowels, which, if not quickly attended to, frequently terminates fatally. A few doses of these pills never fail to give tone to the stomach, regularity to the secretions, and purity to the fluids. Vertigo, dimness of sight and other indications of approaching apoplexy are quickly dissipated by a course of this valuable medicine.

The Female's Best Friend. For all debilitating disorders peculiar to the sex and in every contingency pertaining to the life of women, youth, full or aged, married or single, this mild but speedy remedy is recommended with friendly assurances. It will correct all functional derangements to which they are subject, and restore the system to its normal and natural power.

Scrofula and all Skin Diseases. For all skin diseases, however inveterate, these medicines are a sovereign remedy. While the Pills act upon the blood, which they purify, the ointment passes through the pores of the skin, and cleanses every structure, as water saturates sponges or salt penetrates the pores of the earth. The whole physical machinery is thus rendered healthy, regular and vigorous.

Indigestion—Bilious Headaches. These complaints are sometimes considered trifling, but if should be borne in mind that by inattention and neglect, they often end most seriously. Give early thought to a deranged stomach take Holloway's Pills, and the bilious headache will be cured. The stomach will shortly perceive a change for the better in your digestion, spirits, appetite, strength and energy. The improvement though it may be gradual will be thorough and lasting.

Holloway's Pills are the best remedy known in the world for the following diseases: Aches, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Headache, Toothache, Stomach and Bowel Complaints, Colic, Constipation, Indigestion, Biliousness, Dropsy, Dysentery, Hemorrhoids, Piles, Stricture, Urinary Affections, Female Irregularities, Menstrual Disorders, Scrofula, Skin Diseases, Scalds, Burns, Ulcers, and all other ailments of the system.

Any one can use them. They are undoubtedly the most useful and safe of all medicines. They are sold in all the principal cities of the world, and in every part of the Colonies.

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