

The Weekly British Colonist
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, December 10, 1867

The East Coast Steamer.

An esteemed friend, in a communication sent yesterday, persistently refuses to look upon the advertisement calling for tenders for the carriage of the mails between Victoria and the outlying districts in any other light than an attempt to deprive the settlers of the benefit of steam communication with Victoria. The burden of our correspondent's plea is, withdraw the Douglas and the Colony will stand still; the development of our natural resources will cease; the growth of pigs and cattle and grain on the Island will be stunted henceforth and forever. "The Douglas," cries our correspondent, "or we perish!" We agree with our correspondent, that the Douglas has contributed to the prosperity of the settlement; that her obliging captain is deservedly popular; and that "there are other expenses which might with advantage be reduced" before the Sir James Douglas need be interfered with. We grant all this, and still we say that when the gentleman asserts that the salvation of the Colony depends upon the Douglas being kept on the route, he lays down a proposition that is altogether erroneous and untenable. He might with equal correctness declare that if the Colony declined to continue to pay \$500 a trip to the California, and preferred to employ another vessel at \$500 a trip, the country would be forever and irretrievably lost. To what in order to preserve the country is it necessary for Government to incur a loss of \$2000 or \$3000 when the same might be avoided by the employment of a private steamer?

The Government has been from the Governor down to the humble janitor at the public buildings, and with a deficit in the current year of \$250,000 to \$300,000, it is in the face of what reasonable man can object to the demand? Therefore we repeat to-day what we said on Tuesday, if the Government can have the mails conveyed up and down the East Coast upon a steamer owned by private parties at a less figure than its losses in keeping the Sir Jas. Douglas running, then it is the duty of the Government to employ the private conveyance; but if when the tenders have been opened it shall be found that the lowest sum demanded as a subsidy is equal to or in excess of the amount annually lost by the Douglas, then we think that the latter should have the preference. The only object we have in view is economy; for it must be patent to every one that the Colony cannot bear a heavier load of taxation than it now staggers under. If we increase the Tariff, we drive our foreign trade to other marts. If we raise the Trades' Licences, we augment the number of empty stores; and if we tax real estate, we render valueless the bulk of the occupied land in the Colony. The only course for the country to pursue is to keep down expenses until an addition to our population brings an increase to our revenue. The object of the advertisement is to ascertain whether the Government can perform the mail service cheaper than it can be done by private conveyance. Is there anything unreasonable or objectionable in that?

New Brunswick.

An accident happened to the wedding party on Tuesday when returning from escorting Mr. and Mrs. Tilley a short distance on the way, by which Lt. Col. Ingham suffered considerable injury, the wagon in which he was driving being upset. Mrs. Ingham, Miss Lottie Rose and Miss McDonald were in the wagon and were thrown out, but sustained no material injury.

Friday, Dec 6

After a feast, they say, comes a famine. Why not after a famine a feast? Nearly three months have elapsed since the Summary Court was abolished and a County Court established on the Island, and during that period the machinery has not been put in motion. Now, however, we find that notices are out for the holding of two County Courts. The Chief Justice advertises that he will sit as County Judge on the 16th inst. and Mr. Pemberton announces that he will hold a County Court on the 19th inst. So far as we know, summonses have only been issued by the Registrar of the Supreme Court; but the public would like to be informed before which Judge they must carry their causes. An explanation at an early day would prevent confusion, and, perhaps, expense to intending litigants.

The Dublin correspondent of a London paper says one of the most dangerous results of the late troubles in Ireland is the introduction of the practice of discharging loaded revolvers at obnoxious persons in the streets. This reckless method of revenge, says the writer, is of recent importation, and is more dangerous than hedge-fencing, which has now happily ceased in Ireland. Several attempts at assassination, which in two instances were successful, have been made in Dublin within the two past years. The latest attempt is that on the life of Mr. Robert Atkinson, who was shot at while proceeding along Ormond Quay. One bullet struck him between the shoulders and a second broke the leaf of his hat, but he nevertheless escaped without injury.

The New Postal Treaty.—By the terms of the new Postal Treaty between Great Britain and the United States it is provided that each of the contracting powers shall carry the mail bags over any or all of its postal routes to a point nearest the territory of the other at which it may have a post office. We are therefore entitled to have our mails carried by the United States Government, weekly, to Port Townsend. The same Treaty provides that for carrying books and samples the postal charge shall be 4d. or 8 cents per lb. by each power.

Arrival from China.—The British ship, *Trinidad*, Capt. Lewis, arrived from Shanghai yesterday afternoon, having been on a voyage of 100 days.

By Capt. Nicolson.—The *Trinidad* was at anchor at nine o'clock, and that another in English harbor at one P.M.

Mr. D. A. M. have served the public faithfully for the past five years, and we are glad to learn that instead of severing their connection with the colony we shall still number them among our residents, they having embarked in the milling business at Burrard Inlet.

The Strakes won at the Hurdle Races will be paid over this evening at the Beehive Hotel. There will be a balance of cash left, which we understand will be applied towards a contemplated race of a similar character, which is to come off as soon as arrangements can be completed, a home race.

H.B. Co. Claims.—We learn that all the testimony in regard to these claims against the United States is now printed. The evidence on the side of the United States amounts to four stout volumes; the case is therefore ready for argument unless the claimants see fit to take rebutting testimony.

ROSPERITURE.—Five dollars were forfeited to the Crown yesterday by a gentleman who had deposited that sum the night before as security for his appearance before Mr. Pemberton to answer to a charge of drunkenness.

FUNERAL.—The remains of William Thompson, first-class petty officer, belonging to H.M.S. *Zealous*, who was drowned in Rock Bay, were interred at two o'clock yesterday, by his late messmates.

NAVAL CONTRACTS.—We learn that Lowe Bros. have been awarded the contract for provisions; E. McKenna, for bread; and Reynolds & Bolterell for fresh meat and vegetables.

For Alaska.—A small trading vessel sailed for Alaska yesterday morning, and carried despatches and papers for the American commandant there.

The Chorus at the Theatre.—Mr. Bartholomew has hired the theatre for a limited number of nights and will open there in a few days with his famous troupe.

Pipes Across the Harbor.—Water is to be conveyed from this side of the harbor to the flour mills on the other side, through pipes.

Coal Shipment.—The shipment of coal from Nainaimo last month footed up only 1942 tons.

Only one drunk was disposed of yesterday in the Police Court.

The steamer *Fly* sailed for Nainaimo yesterday morning, with freight.

The gunboat *Forward* went over to San Juan Island yesterday noon, with supplies.

Letter from Nainaimo.

NAINAIMO, V.I., Nov. 27, 1867.
EDITOR COLONIST:—From the silence of your contributors in this region it might be supposed that our political atmosphere has been clear and undisturbed, and that with the demise of the redoubtable *Tribune* all our political

gossip has been hushed. Formerly the great bone of contention was the ill-accommodating character of our Post Office arrangements, but as the sagacity of our present Government (notwithstanding all its faults) has remedied that, we hope the matters I am now about to touch upon will also receive the attention of the powers that be.

PUBLIC SCHOOL.—This useful institution still continues its efficient career, but its resources, which are derived through the Board of Education, from the Government, are marvellously crippled by the reluctance of the Executive to furnish the Board with funds to enable it to pay the teacher's salary, and rent, fuel and other current expenses of the school. The teacher (Mr. C. Bryant) like his fellow-teachers in Victoria, has actually performed the whole of the duties of the present year without receiving one cent of remuneration, and neither the rent nor fuel for the same period has been paid, and although this is the most inclement season of the year, not a pound weight of fuel is provided beyond what the teacher finds himself. But, gentle sir, how is it that at New Westminster the teacher receives his salary regularly?

THE NAINAIMO LITERARY INSTITUTE.—The oldest Institute in the Colony still lives, but like the school, languishes for funds. Its members are not numerous or wealthy. They, however, are bravely striving to furnish wholesome and first-class literature for the public benefit, and yet the President (who applied to the Executive a short time ago for pecuniary assistance) is informed that no portion of the grant for Public Libraries is available for us, notwithstanding that the New Westminster Institute or Library has derived help from that source. Can you tell us, Mr. Editor, why partiality is shown in this matter—why this deserving Institution is left in the cold, while the folks up the river are furnished with money, and a building too, at the expense of the Colony?

STEAMER, SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.

There are rumors afloat of the withdrawal of this vessel from the East Coast trade. To do so would be to retard the now rapid growth and prosperity of the Coast Settlements—which benefit largely by her weekly trips—as well, in all probability, as to put the Colony to no inconsiderable additional expenditure. The "Sir James" is almost sure to be employed by the Government somehow, and in the event of her being taken off this route, another vessel would necessarily be subsidized, at a figure pretty nearly equal to the cost of running the "Douglas," thus the expense of keeping two steamers would be incurred. The "Douglas," I should say, is about paying expenses, and if such be the case the subsidy is saved and the Colonial Exchequer not drawn upon for anything more than the steamer earns. Many considerations, which are generally understood, might be urged why the steamer should be kept employed as at present. She is fast, is ably commanded, but lacks good accommodation and good fare for passengers, which ought to receive attention at the proper quarter.

The Condition of Things in Abyssinia.

Rev. A. H. Stern, one of King Theodore's captives, whom the British are now making efforts to release, writes to his wife, from his prison at Magdala, under date of June 29th, as follows: "Our Magdala house, which, with the exception of the short intervals that it was occupied by the King, has for a long time remained quiet and undisturbed, like the rock on which it is built; but it has of late become quite animated, noisy and tumultuous. Almost every day we hear and see something that amuses or agitates us. Reports, whether true or false, from the Royal camp, our hostile neighbors, the Gallas, and from the various provinces in the possession of the rebel chiefs, come to us daily through the medium of those who bring to our prison provisions of all kinds to sell. Now we hear of the Wagshum Gbaze of Tigra coming to besiege our Amhar, then it is whispered that the King has quitted his fence at Debra Tabor, and is marching towards the

capital. Formerly the great business of the villagers of our fortress, and while they graze on the pastures below in the valleys. Stirring tales of contests, pillage, triumphs and defeats have diffused among the inhabitants of the hills and valleys, mountains and plains, a sort of warlike feeling, up to this very rock, where every cowardly ruffian babbles and chatters as if he were the champion of Abyssinia and the prop of the convulsed realm. We have had our demonstration of the wonderful courage and prowess of the brave guards over us. On one occasion, about a fortnight ago, our fortress was in great excitement at the news that a force was coming to invade us. All the soldiers were ordered to arm, and trembling looked up their rusty weapons, and half the garrison sallied forth to prove their courage, went out at the gate, and encountered an old woman and her family of small children. On another occasion, between Damash, a gallant arrakee (ardent spirits) hero, as Mr. Rassam's empty bottles can testify, was sent with a party to drive off the Gallas, who had absconded with the King's cows, which he and his brave soldiers had stolen from the peasants in Dembea and Begomedar. However, after a night's apparent search, they came back, without an encounter, and astonished the natives with their bluster and swagger about nothing. A dozen stout Englishmen, with a revolver or two each, might easily subdue the whole garrison here, and set us all at liberty. It would appear that the King has been advised to remain at Debra Tabor during the rainy season, and to defer his visit to the Magdala until the Spring. I trust we shall never see his face again, or hear his venomous and unblushing tongue prate about Solomon, Jerusalem, Sennar, England, the Turks, the Bishop, and all sorts of worthless trash, with which he has tormented his white prisoners, and delights his malicious heart. The report about the imprisonment of the Gaffat workmen is contradicted, and it would appear, if the account we have received is correct, that they are, on the contrary, in Theodore's favor, and are the managers of his artillery. I should be sorry to have a hand in either the making or the firing of his Majesty's cannon, "mais chacun a son gout."

Another Opposition for the Holidays!

Great Reduction in Prices. BRUNN & CO. offer their Entire Stock of Men and Boys' Clothing, Hats, Caps and White Dress Shirts at Reduced Prices, so as to enable one and all to dress well for the holidays. Sovereigns taken for \$5. Greenbacks as usual. BRUNN & CO., Corner Yates and Langley streets, Victoria, V.I.

Facts and Fancies.

Two women each lost a leg by getting caught in the coils of a steamboat stern line at a Fenian picnic near Sandusky.

An old bachelor who recently attended a 'hop' at Saratoga, says: "It is woman, and not her wrongs, that ought to be repressed."

One of the Troy papers sagely remarks: "The fools are not all dead." To which another paper makes the spiteful addition: "The readers of our neighbor's paper were well aware of the fact."

Rabbi Joshua once met a boy who carried something in a covered vessel. "My boy," said the Rabbi, "what have you in your covered vessel?" "If it was intended for you to know," replied the boy, "it would not be covered."

In Westfield, Massachusetts, there is a fellow named George W. Williams, who calls himself a "natural, spiritual, phrenological, second advent, free love, Gramscott perfectionist." He has just been sent to jail for drunkenness.

A man who lives in Chicago, but hasn't applied for a divorce, and who has been to numerous picnics during this Summer, says: "It is aggravating to see a good looking man wrestling with your wife in a waltz, without having the privilege of going up and tightening his cravat."

The following is from an execution report in the Montgomery (Alabama) *Advertiser*: "After mounting the scaffold, he exhorted his hearers to profit by his example. The preliminaries having already been arranged, after the singing and praying, the hatchet of Sam. Alexander, Esq., waited the soul of the unfortunate man to Heaven."

A correspondent says: "A lady at Saratoga is now sending her baggage home, as she intends to return to New York by the last of the month. The most valuable articles are to go first. The most worthless last. It is needless to say that the lady will be the last load."

In the town of S— there was a shoe maker, who at the time officiated as preacher. He always wrote the notices himself, in order to save the expenses of printing. Here is one of them: "There will be preaching in the pines this Sunday afternoon on the subject, all who do not believe will be damned at three o'clock."

A correspondent says it is very amusing to watch the ladies bathe. They are almost always timid, and avoid going into the water as long as possible, preferring to run down the beach just near enough to get their delicate little feet damp, and then scream in the most heart-rending manner. They sit

courageous, they form a line by taking hold of one another's hands, and slowly inaugurate a 'second march to the sea.' Not many years since, in West Plymouth, N. H., it used to be the custom for the schoolmasters to 'board round' among the families of the pupils so as to save expense. Sometimes, of course, the days didn't come out quite even—there would be eight and a half days at one house and nine at another. One man, who was notorious for his meanness, just before the schoolmaster began his dinner, said to him: "Mr. —, I suppose, by rights, that your time is up just about half way through this dinner. That's as near as I kin make it, and I've calculated pretty close. But I don't wish to be small about it, and you kin eat just about as much as you would do for ordinary."

A lady who has been to hear Dickens reading one of his own books has been disenchanted. She had formed "Great Expectations" which were not realized. She says: "At the first glance I received a shock and my old tumbled of the pedestal whereon I placed him long ago, when I wore his hair in a locket, and thought Shakespeare an idiot beside him. I did not expect to see the handsome, foppish young man who once paid us a visit, and caricatured us so capitally afterwards; but I did think some sign of genius would be visible—some glimpse of the genial creator of 'Little Nell,' 'Tom Pinch' and the 'Cherry-brothers' would certainly appear. Far from it; youth and comeliness were gone, but the foppishness remained; and the red-faced man, with false teeth, and the voice of a worn out actor, had the scanty gray hair curled; a peep in his button-hole diamond ring; pin and studs; a ruffled front and a waistband a la 'Glossin Beach.'"

Gallupani says: "From a letter we have just received from Homburg we learn that the same Maltese millionaire who, in 1865, broke the bank at Baden, has renewed his exploits this year. A few days ago he did the same in that town three times running. The Prince of Wales happened to be there at the time, amusing himself with playing a few Napoleons from time to time; the Duke of Hamilton and Mustapha Pacha were also among the visitors. He then started for Berlin, taking Homburg on his way, and at this latter place won three hundred thousand francs, but did not break the bank; because the director kept sending bank notes as long as the play lasted. The coolness with which the Maltese millionaire played struck every one with astonishment, so much so, that the director of the Homburg bank called upon him the day after and told him he had never seen a gentleman play with the same impassive demeanor, since he was not more moved than most singular is the circumstance that the Maltese keeps the money he wins, and does not, like almost all others, win one day to lose double the next. It also appears that he spends his winnings most freely, giving large sums in charity and presents, and that he has thus become well known among the paterfamilias who frequent these bathing places. In 1866, it appears, he did not pay any visit to Germany."