20th March, 1865.

ns of Victoria,

ER ISLAND,
AND—
COLUMBIA.

ORM YOU THAT I
sold and transferred my
HOUSE GROCERY ESTAB-
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fee and Spice Merchants,

experience that Messrs
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feel confident that they
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espectfully,
C. A. BAYLEY.

G TO THE ABOVE
from Mr. C. A. Bayley,
former customers, and
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Business, we shall be
satisfaction to all those
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be ourselves
ost obedient servants.
LL & COMPANY.

ylor & Co.,
4 Washington St.,
RANCISCO,
AND DEALERS IN
Materials!
LINGS, AND BECKER
for Assay and Bullion Bal-
Melting and Muffle Furnaces,
Ingot Moulds, Cupel and
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assortment of goods in this
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—ALSO—
Glassware,
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AND BRASS
and Machinists,
Iron Works.
ORIA, V. I. ap9 m

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MAGNESIA!
DURING TWENTY-FIVE
ally sanctioned by the Medical
versally accepted by the Public
REMEDY FOR
Stomach, Heartburn,
out, and Indigestion.
ient for delicate constitutions,
adies and Children Combined
ED LEMON SYRUP,
Effervescing Draught, in which
are much increased. During
hot climates, the regular use of
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FORD & CO.,
New Bond street, London;
.I., by
W. M. SEARBY,
Chemist, Government street.
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E IS FURTHER GIVEN,
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TUPPER & COMPANY.
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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND. TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1865. NO. 23.

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AN IMPARTIAL DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT.

When a child takes a razor in its hand we may predict with every degree of safety a cut finger or a cut face; when a novice essays to throw the boomerang we may be almost equally certain that he will achieve for himself a broken head; and when an inexperienced youth rushes hastily into print and assumes the garb of mentor, we may without much fear of contradiction prognosticate a self-induced catastrophe. There is a fatality that attends slipshod writers in their novitiate very similar to that which accompanies the followers of Munchausen—the fatality of self-contradiction. If they make one assertion in the morning they are very apt to make an opposite one at night, because, having no ideas of their own, they necessarily belong to that class spoken of by Napoleon, who are always of the opinion of the first comer and the last speaker. Our contemporary the *Chronicle* has, we are sorry to say, after a period of extraordinary gyrations, at last fallen under this "first comer and last speaker" category. On Monday it tells us with all the pomposity of light-headed, presumptuous inexperience that the only thing to save the country is to tax uncultivated lands; on Tuesday it denounces the idea as socialistic, and almost weeps for the poor land speculator who is taxed to death, and who will leave the colony if his burden be increased. It sees nothing in union, as asked by the House, but abject submission on our part to British Columbia, and ruin to Vancouver Island. In a few days, however, it has recovered from its fright and asks politicians of all shades to join and save the country by a union with the neighbouring colony. No cameleon ever changed its hue more rapidly. When Dr. Tolmie takes hold of its head and gives it a little squeeze, it talks loudly of the wrongs of men who hold large tracts of land in their primitive state, and shows that if they cultivate a few acres out of a thousand the tax on the thousand will be equal to seven per cent. of the produce of the few acres—*ergo*, says this reasoner, the large landholders are very badly treated. When Mr. DeCosmos takes it under his wing it talks profoundly of the dangers of paying the Civil List, and of the righteousness of our claims against the Hudson's Bay Company. When the unfortunate scribe undergoes a manipulation at the hands of Dr. Helmcken, the claims against the Company suddenly become mythical, and the people are sneered at for thinking they ever had any claims at all. When Dr. Trimble—for it seems rather in want of the doctors—suggests that there should be some active steps taken to settle the question of the Crown Lands, it becomes enthusiastic in the matter, and is ready to advocate any scheme that will tend to bring the subject to a final close. Met, however, in the interim by an official from James Bay, its ardor immediately cools down, and with an indignation that is perfectly terrifying it launches its *brutum fulmen* at the suggestion of a delegation. "Every thing by turns and nothing long" would seem at present to be the most appropriate motto that could be found for our gyrating contemporary.

Above all the acrobatic feats, however, performed by this "mighty engine" of public opinion, we believe last week bears the palm. On Wednesday the engine was in a patriotic vein, the steam was up, and it worked vigorously to show the purity of the English Government, and the correctness of the boast of Britons that they "never, never, never, never would be slaves." The poorest and weakest subject could obtain his right from the Government as well as the most powerful—as for the idea that because we were a small colony our voice would be any less heard in Downing street that was simply rank heresy. This time the machine was under the hands of Mr. DeCosmos on the Civil List question, and it ground out the following:—

"They do not ignore that fond old delusion to which we so tenaciously cling that the English Government admits into its decision *the justice of* a claim rather than the *strength* of a claimant."

Two days afterwards, however, it manufactured an article "Concerning Delegates" under the special supervision of a clerk in one of the Government offices, if we take its own line of reason for actuating motives, and in this lucubration, as will be seen, the patriotic steam had become condensed and we having nothing but cold, sceptical water. The "justice of the claim and not the strength of the claimant" doctrine is repudiated, and we are told in as many words that

"We have to remind our readers that we have sent home remonstrance after remonstrance, and petition after petition, and that to all that was done before we have added a report of the Crown Lands Committee and a series of resolutions from the House of Assembly. These latter have been forwarded, through His Excellency the Governor, who doubtless in forwarding them, will have added his own weighty remonstrances in favor of *the justice of our plea.*"

This was undoubtedly written under the instruction of some of the anti-Hudson's Bay Company members; but following out that impartial rule laid down by His Excellency in the delegation business, the Company must have their say as well, and so under the Tolmie or Helmcken influence we have the following rather conflicting statement in the issue of Friday last:

"If we had the best claim in the world on the Hudson's Bay Company (*which we know we have not*) and our delegate presented himself some fine morning at the Colonial office just about the time of the dissolution what chance would he have of a hearing?"

Here we have in one article the justice of our pretensions asserted, and in the other the writer, "*knows*" that our claim is a humbug. Verily this "Daniel come to judgment" is determined to give a decision that will suit all parties. Putting aside, however, the little tumbling business, the argument deduced from his premises against any more active measures being taken with regard to our colonial difficulties is rather unique in its way. *Because*, reasons Profundity, we have sent remonstrance after remonstrance, petition after petition, Land Reports and resolutions, to the Home Government without receiving a response, it is no use, nor is it desirable to take any more energetic steps. Ordinary minds by ordinary methods would draw a very opposite conclusion, and show that on account of these failures the necessity of "changing our base" was only the more apparent. When Dogberry's watchman after being instructed to call at all the ale-houses and bid the drunkards go to bed, propounded the serious question to his master—"How if they will not?" that functionary was in nowise disconcerted and replied—"Why then let them alone till they are sober; if they make you not then the better answer, you may say they are not the men you took them for." Our contemporary would make an excellent Dogberry. If you cannot, by petitioning the Home Government, obtain your rights, why, then, let the Imperial authorities "depart in peace."

Our space will not admit of much further allusion to our amusing neighbor, but we cannot close without giving one more of the thousand specimens of *Chronicle* consistency. A few numbers back our contemporary, struggling heavily no doubt under the burden of the Crown lands question, wished the matter settled, and considered that it would be well worth $5000 if it could be accomplished.

"If we thought," says the sapient writer, "there was even a reasonable prospect of the settlement of the Crown Lands question alone, we would not object to paying the proposed $5,000 for a delegate's expenses. *We think that it would be worth that sum* to get rid of a question that so much retards our progress."

Feeling relieved, probably, as he continued writing, we find him towards the close of the self same article repudiating the $5000 arrangement with scorn, and declaring or implying that the "most complete success" could not compensate the colony for the outlay. Thus:—

"The proposed sum of $5,000 is another objectionable feature in the motion. It would be simply an investment in a chancery suit which had all the mere hopeless appearance from being once decided against us. *If we were even sure of the most complete success, it would be a very heavy sum to pay for such a purpose.*"

We cannot blame the unfortunate editor of the *Chronicle* for these vagaries any more than we can blame a landsman for losing his balance on a ship's deck. When his lack of knowledge, which makes him the helpless tool in the hands of designing men, ceases to make itself so glaringly apparent there will probably be a change for the better. In the meantime Heaven guard the public from the infliction of such vile rubbish as our contemporary has been lately placing before its readers. A postaster is bad enough, but a politicaster of the *Chronicle's* calibre is worse than tartar emetic.

RATHER HARD UPON FELIX.—We observe that several Victorians have been called upon to give evidence pro or con before the Board of Enquiry sitting in San Francisco to investigate the character and antecedents of

testimony given by the Rev. Modeste Demers was not calculated to create a favorable impression on the minds of the Board. "I am Catholic Bishop of Vancouver Island; a short time after O'Byrne arrived in Victoria he applied to me for the loan of $300, telling me that he had money coming to him from England. Trusting to his word I saw Alexander McDonald, the banker, and told him that I would indorse O'Byrne's note for $300, and that he was authorised to draw a note for that amount in O'Byrne's favor; I was in a hurry, and went into the private office and saw the note drawn up and lying on the table, and I endorsed it *bona fide*, and afterwards I saw that it was drawn for $500; O'Byrne never paid the note, and I had to pay it, capital and interest, amounting to $700, as near as I can recollect. It was distinctly understood between myself and O'Byrne that the note was to be for $300. I discovered that the note was for $500 before the money was paid, but I thought that if, as he said, he had money coming from England, the additional $200 would not make much difference, and so I let it go. At that time I did not know much about the general character of O'Byrne; afterwards I knew his general character only from reports. Cross-examined—Cannot say whether O'Byrne was present when the note was indorsed, but think he was not; I suppose some of the clerks in the office drew the note. I did not give O'Byrne a check for $300 or for any other sum; instead of a check I endorsed a note; don't know that O'Byrne could not pay the note in consequence of being out of employment; as I said before, I indorsed the note on his representation that he had money coming from England.

STRUCK A SNAG.—The *N. P. Times* relates the following circumstance: The steamer Hope, on her way up on Wednesday met with an accident which might have been very serious. She had just got above the Mission, and it had fallen quite dark, when she ran upon a huge snag. Luckily the snag was high out of the water, and caught her forward on the port side, close to the door of the Purser's office, smashing in the whole of the side, and passed through the hurricane deck, about a foot above the berth in which Captain Dodge was lying. From there it proceeded till it caught the smoke-stack, through which it was driven, protruding some fifteen feet on the other side. Of course the steamer was brought to a stand still, and the snag had to be sawed off, above and below. Great consternation was caused amongst the passengers by the crash of her striking, and many rushed aft and prepared to jump overboard. One female passenger was so terrified that in her frantic efforts to get out of her cabin she broke the key of the door and fastened herself in. The Purser, Mr. Cooper, was thrown down the fire-hole, in company with a pair of oxen, by the shock. The Hope had on board many thousand dollars' worth of freight at the time.

FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The British ship Bacchante which arrived at San Francisco April 1st, touched (*en voyage*) at Honolulu, and brought advices from that place to the 4th ultimo. The yacht Themis, No. 196, of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, whereof are patrons, their Majesties the Queen of Great Britain, the Emperor of the French, and the Kings of Belgium, Holland and Italy, and of which Lord Alfred W. Paget, M. P., is Commodore, and the Right Honorable Lord de Ros, Vice Commodore, came to anchor off Waikiki, at nine p.m., of the 27th ultimo. The arrival created a good deal of interest among the leading men of the Island. The *Gazette* is advocating the enterprise of sinking Artesian wells in the sterile plains so common on the Sandwich Islands. John H. Milne, aged twenty-one years, a native of the United States, was devoured by a shark on the 18th of March, while attempting to escape from the ship Kentuckian lying in the roads. An earthquake was felt at Honolulu on the 3d of March. It woke up the lethargic inhabitains a little, but did no damage.

VANDALISM IN VANCOUVER.—The residents in the vicinity of Craigflower have been much annoyed by the attempted destruction, by an individual whose utilitarian zeal greatly exceeds his love of the beautiful, of a large and fine maple tree which grew on the side of the road close to the school-house. The tree was not at all in the way of passing vehicles, but because it encroached on the space laid out for the road it was ruthlessly fired, and so nearly burnt down that its vitality is probably destroyed, and an ornament to the road and the neighborhood thus demolished.

SAN FRANCISCO GOSSIP

We are indebted to a friend who has been spending a few weeks in San Francisco, for the following chit-chat from the Bay City:

J. C. RIDGE.

This well-known *quondam* Victorian left San Francisco on the steamer of the 3d inst. for Paris, whither he had been ordered to repair with all haste, by a special telegram from the French Government. He will not remain there, but will return at once to Sonora, where he is said to have received a very high appointment. The object of his mission to San Francisco was stated by himself to discourage immigration to that State from California, there being already an abundance of *peon* labor. What he wanted was capitalists who would develop the mineral and other resources of the country. Mr. Ridge states that Sonora is to be under Maximilian's flag, but really under French rule, to be held as a guarantee for the debts against Mexico. [illegible] with Mr. Ridge.

VICTORIANS IN THE U. S. ARMY.

Messrs. Simon, Dupratt, Gibson, and the brothers Hill, all young men well known in Victoria, who recently went down to San Francisco, have "taken the shilling" and enlisted in the Federal army. The shilling aforesaid consists of a bounty of $100 *in greenbacks*.

IN FELIX O'BYRNE

is still in everybody's mouth, and there is every prospect of his being ousted from his snug berth in the commissariat. A feeling is expressed by many, however, that he has been unjustly treated, after doing the dirty work of the government, and that the investigation should have taken place before the appointment was given to him.

PERSONAL.

Mr. George Barnett was to leave for the East by the opposition steamer of the 13th. He has received a temporary appointment as traveling correspondent for the San Francisco *Alta* during the trip across, and ultimately at Denver City, where he will proceed after visiting England.

Rev. R. J. Dundas preached last Sunday week in Grace Church Cathedral, to a crowded audience. In the evening he preached in Trinity Church, Pine street. Previous to leaving for England Mr. Dundas will take a trip through the Yo-semite valley.

STATE OF TRADE.

Business in San Francisco is frightfully dull, even worse than in Victoria. Dry goods and clothing of all kinds are greatly reduced in price, and merchants are using their utmost endeavours to lessen their stocks. Nearly every store is placarded "selling out," from head to foot, and almost every description of goods may be bought amazingly cheap. The loss to many of the merchants will be ruinous, their stocks having been laid in when gold was high.

DIRECT STEAM.

The attempt by our sister colony to subsidize a line of direct steamers to these colonies was, as previously reported, a complete failure. In fact, the Mexican trade is absorbing all the vessels to be had. Ben Halliday has sent for a new steamer to place on the Mexican line.

FROM JAPAN.—By the British ship Bacchante, which arrived at San Francisco on the 1st instant, in sixty days from Yokohama, we learn that the troubles of the foreigners with the Japanese are far from being ended. Horrible butcheries are being perpetrated by the subjects of the Tycoon, whenever opportunity offers; and the outrages have no palliation. They are caused simply by the feeling of hatred experienced by the Japanese toward outsiders.

THE TELEGRAPH LINE from Seattle had not connected with New Westminster when the Enterprise left on Saturday morning, but the position of the break was reported to have been traced to within the compass of a few miles, and it was confidently expected that a day or two would enable Mr. Haines and his men to repair the mischief and set the wires "a talking."

ANOTHER ASSAY OFFICE IN CARIBOO.—Mr. Edwin Russell, of the Bank of British Columbia, will leave to-morrow morning for New Westminster *en route* for Williams Creek, where he will remain for several months as manager of the Richfield Branch. Mr. Russell takes with him an experienced assayer and all the necessary material for opening an assay office in connection with the bank.

ACCIDENT AT SEA.—The ship Merrimac, Leckie, from Port Ludlow, Puget Sound, with a cargo of spars and lumber for Liverpool, has put into San Francisco. She was struck aback by a southwest gale, at midnight, March 26th, carrying away her wheel, a portion of the rail, and severely injuring the captain. She also lost her head-sails, and received other damages.

GOING EAST.—Mr. James S. Jackson, well known in connection with the firm of Anderson & Co., merchants of this city, in which house he has held a responsible position for the last three or four years, will leave to-morrow morning by the Geo. S Wright for Portland whence he will proceed to Canada to visit his friends.

THE NEXT STEAMER.—The next steamer—Brother Jonathan—will leave San Francisco on the 27th for this port via Portland, and will be due here on the 4th May.

British Columbia.

LATER FROM CARIBOO.

The steamer Enterprise returned on Saturday from New Westminster, with 15 passengers and Dietz and Nelson's express.

[From the N. P. Times.]

From Mr. Marks, who left Williams' Creek on the 30th ult., we have been favored with the following items, to which we have added some extracts from our regular letter:

THE WEATHER AND TRAFFIC.

Snow has disappeared at the mouth of Quesnelle, and there only remains three and four inches at the creek. The Fraser was frozen over at Quesnellemouth, and sleighing was in full force. Mr. Marks met about 500 men on their way to Cariboo, the majority bound trying the Horsefly country and Cunningham's Creek, after laying in a stock of provisions, &c. Messrs. Marks, Brown, and Poole were the first to cross Spence's bridge in a wagon. Mr. Spence expected to have the road cleared for traffic by the 14th (to-day).

STOCK:

Beedy had arrived at Mud Lake, with from 300 to 400 head of cattle. Harper, out of 900 head of cattle, had lost 110. All the cattle above the junction looked in good condition, and little mortality had occurred. Felcker, at the Blue Tent, had not lost one out of his whole band.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS.

Provisions on the creek were at the following prices: Flour, 75c; sugar, $1; butter, $1 75; beans, 37c; bacon, 62c; hams, 92c; gum boots, $18; coffee, 65c; tea, $1 50; beef, 35c to 40c; vegetables plentiful.

THE SALOONS.

In anticipation of a fruitful season, several saloon-keepers are fixing up their places very stylishly. The Paris and London is quite a snug looking establishment, having been newly papered, varnished and curtained. Harry Lamon's, next door, is similarly retouched, with the addition of a new billiard table. Pat. Kerwin has restored Steele's old saloon to its former grandeur. The German Restaurant in Barkerville has also donned its spring garb, and looks quite tidy. Martin's, the "Tybee" saloon of the creek, is undergoing some substantial alterations. The proprietors of the Parlor are building a new Music Hall, next door to their old place, and are getting it up quite in the Oxford or Canterbury Hall fashion.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The winter is now considered to be nearly over. At latest advices they were enjoying charming spring weather—days quite sunny and warm, and nights mild.

A troop of Fort George Indians arrived on the Creek recently—men, women, and children.

There is a rumor of a marriage shortly to take place in Camerontown. There are three suitors for the fair one's hand, but it is not positively known which will be the happy bridegroom.

THE RELIANCE.—The steamer Reliance left for Harrisonmouth on Wednesday, with a large number of passengers and a full freight. The Hon. Mr. Haynes and party, and Mr. Dewdney and party went up on her—the former to proceed to his station at Osoyoos Lake, and the latter to superintend the construction of the Kootenay trail.

IMPUDENCE.—The *Chronicle*, with characteristic assumption, essays in its last issue to call us to account for endeavouring to allow the proper credit to be given to contributors to the Ladies' Bazaar. We suppose we should feel much indebted to our contemporary for the gratuitous and uncalled for lesson bestowed upon us, but inasmuch as we do not recognise in any of the compilers of that journal the capacity to dictate to us what is or is not fit matter for publication, any more than to acquaint us of the state of public feeling on any subject, the admonition is thrown away, and we would mildly suggest that future homilies be directed to some other channel.

THE ALEXANDRA.—This fine stern-wheel steamer, after having had a thorough overhauling and refitting, has emerged from the hands of the painters looking smarter than ever she did. A number of persons accompanied her on a trial trip on Good Friday, when everything, we are informed, worked satisfactorily. She will leave at six o'clock this evening for Fraser river.

THE CALEDONIA.—This steamer having been thoroughly overhauled, repaired and repainted, will sail for New Westminster this morning at 11 o'clock from Nathan's Wharf carrying freight and passengers. She has had new boilers put in, and is expected to make much better time than formerly.

CRICKET.—A cricket match, the first of the season, is to come off shortly at Nanaimo, between the miners and the Nanaimo Cricket Club. Our champions of "the willow" must bestir themselves, as they may soon receive a challenge from their energetic rivals in the North.

DANGEROUS.—A number of large dogs tore a porker limb from limb in New Westminster 'tother day. So says the *Columbian*, adding that the number and ferocity of dogs prowling the streets imperil the comfort and safety of human beings!

RIVER OPEN.—The steamer Reliance has succeeded in getting up to Yale, although with difficulty, touching bottom several times. She will now run regularly.