

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, September 17, 1867

Free Education.

The friends of Education will learn with a feeling of deep regret that the Governor has declined to make any further appropriation for the maintenance of Free Schools on the Island. The reason assigned for the refusal is an extraordinary expenditure required in another quarter; but the true reason will, we believe, be found to lie in the hostility of certain of the clergy to any educational system that does not admit of the instillation of their peculiar dogmas into the minds of the young. We need not say that the great mass of the people are opposed to the introduction of a hybrid system such as that proposed to be substituted for the one now in force. The popular voice has been heard on that point. It is nearly unanimous in favor of non-sectarian Free Schools; and the Governor, by pursuing a line of policy calculated to undermine and destroy that system, is increasing his own unpopularity and inflicting a lasting injury on the Colony. The school of Mr Jessop in the city, and the school of Mr Burr in Victoria District, comprise 155 pupils in daily attendance. Close these institutions to-morrow, and at least one-half of that number will be cut off from the benefits of Education. In the Districts and at Nanaimo there are 230 more scholars who would be turned into the streets if the free system were abolished, and more than half of whom would become, in the language of a speaker at the late public meeting, "worse than Indians" in a moral point of view. In the course of a previous article we showed that the grant of \$6000 for the Island was not alone inadequate, but that it was inequitable when considered in connection with the number of scholars in attendance upon the schools on the mainland as compared with the number attending schools on the Island. We also showed—that out of the \$6000 appropriated, only \$2500 were available for the expenses of education subsequent to the 31st of March last. The balance has been swallowed up in liquidating the indebtedness of the past year. But when the Board came to lay these facts before the Executive they were asked why they did not "compound" with the teachers? "Compound" with men and women whose salaries at best are but one remove above starvation rates! "Compound" with those who have trusted to the honor of the Board until they can scarcely find a single tradesman in the place willing to trust to their honor to pay him for the necessaries supplied while they are acting the part of philanthropists towards the rising generation of the Colony! One is almost tempted to ask why the Governor, in view of our financial distress, has not compounded with some of his underworked and overpaid officials? Why, indeed, has he not compounded in the matter of his own salary, which is far beyond any sum the Colony can afford or ought to pay him? "Charity begins at home." Let His Excellency furnish a practical example of the pecuniary sacrifice he is willing to make in the cause of philanthropy, and we will be bound that for every dollar he may remit the teachers will remit two. The Board of Education have battled manfully for the preservation of the system. They have held frequent meetings, and have sent several deputations to wait on His Excellency and request further aid. The answer is before the public. No more money will be granted. The Grouse Creek war, or some other source of expense, which ought to be defrayed from the Civil List, or from any other fund rather than the School fund, is made a pretext for "starving the minds of the young" and denying them the boon of Free Education. The resolution passed yesterday by the Board is the only one, under the circumstances, that they could pass. It remains to be seen in what spirit the last resolution will be met by an unfriendly Executive, who seems determined to destroy the system by the slow but certain process of starvation.

REFUSING TO AID AT A FIRE.—A well-known citizen appeared before the Mayor yesterday to answer a summons charging him with having refused to assist in working a fire-engine, on the occasion of the fire at Mr McTier's house a few days ago, when ordered to do so by Councillor Gowen, Fire-Warden. The accused was defended by Mr Bishop, who pointed out several omissions in the summons, but consented to waive the defective summons, and stated that his client had an engagement at the bank, which he was desirous of meeting. The statement was accepted and the case dismissed. In accordance with By-Law No. 2, any person declining to assist at a fire when ordered to do so by the proper officer is subject to a fine.

CHOP HOUSE.—Levy & Aarons have opened a chop-house in connection with their oyster saloon. They have also been appointed sole agents at Victoria for the celebrated Olympia oysters.

THE RESACA.—The few small-souled persons in our community who would barter the health of the place for the little profit that unrestricted communication with an infected ship might bring them, found fault with the course adopted by this paper towards the U. S. ship Resaca. In looking over the files received by the last Active we observe that the State of California has proceeded against a boatman who is charged with taking off a person from the Resaca while that vessel lay in quarantine and landing him at San Francisco. The following extracts from an article in the San Francisco Times on the condition of the same ship and the sanitary precautions necessary to prevent a spread of the disease are exceedingly apposite: "The yellow flag hoisted at her (the Resaca's) mast-head indicated that there was disease on board, and in a few minutes her Surgeon, Dr G. H. Cooke, came on shore, and reported to Dr Elliott, the quarantine officer, that she had sixteen cases of yellow fever on board. Dr Elliott at once went off to her, and found on inquiry that the disease had broken out while the vessel was lying in the bay of Panama, that her commander had at once put to sea, hoping that change of latitude might arrest its progress, but that there had been sixty-eight cases on the passage, and sixteen deaths. Dr Elliott then desired that she should be at once taken over to the quarantine ground off Saucelito, but on the representation of Captain Bradford, that it would be necessary for him to be within signaling distance of the Admiral, he permitted the ship to be taken out into the harbor, and moored temporarily off Goat Island. Admiral Thatchers was absent, but a telegraph message was at once dispatched to him, requesting him to come down immediately. * * * If the yellow fever can kill men in our harbor, it can kill them in our city; and therefore no precaution, however expensive it may be, or whatever inconvenience it may entail upon individuals, should be omitted. So far, the dictates of common prudence have been followed in the case of the Resaca. All communication from the shore to her, or from her to the shore, is interdicted, and the captains of the Oakland ferry boats have been instructed to run their craft to windward of her. To-day she should be sent to Saucelito, and as soon as possible out of the harbor and away from this part of the coast. It is possible that the disease which has decimated her crew would not prevail in this city. So many content. But as these are the first cases that have ever been brought here, there is nothing but theory to go upon in making assertions of this kind. The experiment is far too dangerous a one to be attempted, and we have no comortable precedents to guide us."

DRY DOCKING.—A San Francisco paper, speaking of the opening of the new dry dock near that city, remarks that H. M. S. Zealous will shortly come down to be docked there. While the Zealous was at Valparaiso, Chile, it was stated by the dockyard authorities that the cost of placing her on the dock would be \$3000 per day, and no doubt, the San Franciscans look for as rich pickings, should the Zealous require their assistance. The necessity that exists for a dockyard here is becoming daily more apparent.

GREAT GOLD DISCOVERIES AT KOOTENAY. By way of Oregon, we learn of the discovery of extensive new gold fields at Kootenay, supposed to exceed in richness anything yet found in British Columbia. The excitement about Walla Walla is represented as intense in consequence of these discoveries. We shall have full particulars to-morrow.

FOR HONOLULU, S. I.—The schooner J. L. Thornlyke sailed from Muir's, Sooke harbor, on Saturday, for Honolulu, S. I. She is laden with salmon and other Island produce. The schooner Goldstream, with a similar cargo, will sail from Sooke for the same destination to-day. Both vessels will be offered for sale at Honolulu.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT.—On Thursday evening a complimentary benefit will be given at the theatre to the charming and accomplished young Prima Donna, Signorina Bellini, of the Opera Truppe. Selections will be given from "La Somnambula," "Lucia di Lammermoor," and the fine Ballad "Lurline," in English, will be sung.

MAPLE BAY QUARTZ.—Mr Beaumont, of Maple Bay, Cowichan, has laid on our table a number of specimens of quartz, believed to contain silver, which were taken from a shaft sunk on a ledge in that vicinity. It is the intention of the finder to have the specimens assayed.

AN EVENING WITH EDWARDS.—Our readers must remember the entertainment at the theatre this evening. In addition to the attraction offered by Mr George Edwards, the Marsh Truppe, Mr Charles Clarke and Tom O'Neil will appear.

IT IS REPORTED THAT negotiations are pending with the American Government for a Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and British Columbia similar to the treaty just made by the American Government with the Sandwich Islands.

FROM PUGET SOUND.—The steamer New World, with a large number of passengers and a large freight, arrived last night from Olympia and way ports.

LIBERATED.—Tripp and Keys, who killed the sailors at Port Townsend, are at liberty. The grand jury found no bill against them. The jurors are sensible men.

MR RING, we learn, has been recommended to the Governor to act as Chief Justice during the absence of Chief Justice Needham.

THE brig Rona, Capt. Hayes, will sail for the South Sea Islands on or about the 25th inst., and will carry a few passengers.

FINE.—A Mexican was fined \$50 or four months imprisonment, at the Police Court yesterday, for selling grog to Indians.

THE Eliza Anderson, with 26 passengers and a full freight, came in from the Sound at 8 1/2 o'clock last evening.

THE Solicitor General sat yesterday in Chambers as Commissioner in Bankruptcy.

THE VICTORIES OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK BOATMEN.—The St. John's Globe says: "When the news reached the city that in both races the 'Western Boat Club of St. John, N. B.' had won the 'International prizes' at the Paris Exhibition, the joy, especially among the young men of the place, was very great, and even men of advanced years took a lively interest in the success. Flags were run out on flagstuffs in various quarters, and particularly in Carleton, where the sturdy oarsmen belong, the display of bunting was very general. If New Brunswick was not represented by any work of art or by native produce at the Great Exhibition, she was well represented in bone and sinew and in native pluck. As the telegraph wires spread the news through the different towns of the Province various demonstrations of joy took place. The same paper says of a recent victory at Boston, says: 'In the four oared race in Boston on 4th of July six boats started, among them the Geo. B. McClellan and the Geo. O. Wiggins, both lap streaks, built by Mr Christopher Coyle of this city. The former was rowed we believe, by three Saint John men and a Boston man. The race was very close for the first mile and a half, the McClellan leading slightly. At the end of the second mile the Wiggins closed up alongside, and a very exciting race ensued. At this stage a gale of wind carrying clouds of dust obscured the scene, and when it cleared away the two boats mentioned were close home, and all the others were found to have swamped. The McClellan crossed the line ahead, while the Wiggins, close behind, sank at the score. It was a very exciting scene and it is a wonder no one was drowned.'

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Between Health and the Grave there is but a thin partition, and all who value life are willing to do their best to prevent disease from breaking it down. Who so mad as to await the final attack, when the first Pill, a preparation so gentle and pleasant, so searching yet so invigorating, that while it lights down the complaint, and expels its cause, it also builds up the strength and braces the constitution of the patient. Composed of antiseptic and cathartic vegetable ingredients, at once acts and searches; it is the only cure for disorders of the stomach, the liver, and the bowels, which can be relied upon under all circumstances and in all climates. The idea of pain is justly associated with ordinary purgatives; but Bristol's Sugar-coated Pills do not create even an uneasy sensation, either in the stomach or the alimentary passages. Need it be said that they are the best household cathartic and alternative at present known. They are put up in glass vials, and will keep in any climate. In all cases arising from, or aggravated by impure food, Bristol's SUGAR-COATED PILLS should be used in connection with the Pills.

For sale by all Druggists.

Editorial Correspondence.

MILFORD, SOUTH WALES, July 14, 1867.

EDITORS COLONIST:—Although I have been rusticated for some days amid the green fields of old Cambria and have busied myself more with visiting familiar haunts and renewing old acquaintances than with watching the progress of events now occupying public attention in Europe, I may still be enabled to furnish a small budget of gleanings that may be deemed of sufficient interest to find a place in the columns of the COLONIST.

THE FATE OF MAXIMILIAN.

The subject uppermost in the minds of all civilized Europe is the cruel fate that has befallen the brave Emperor of Mexico. So many contradictory rumors had reached the old world from the new that the first announcement of his execution before the walls of Queretaro was generally accepted as a canard, until subsequent intelligence made it a painful fact. France is naturally stung with remorse at having been the indirect cause of this inhuman butchery. M. Thiers and M. Jules Favre have used strong language in the Legislature. The former declared the prestige of his country's greatness to be compromised in America, and her commerce with Mexico to be ruined; while the latter declared "that the French troops ought to have brought back Maximilian and thus have saved France from the stain of blood which will rest upon her." This language of course produced a sensation in the House and elicited a protest from M. Rouher. In the meantime everybody asks what is going to be done with the perpetrators of such barbarity? Austria has fitted out a fleet under Admiral Tegethoff—of Lissa notoriety—to proceed to Vera Cruz and demand the body of poor Max, which it is said his murderers refuse to surrender, and then comes the question, what can the Admiral do in case of noncompliance? To bombard Vera Cruz, which remained to the last faithful to the Imperial cause, would certainly be unjust. Everybody would like to see summary punishment inflicted on the Juarists, but nobody appears to see exactly how it is to be done with propriety, taking the whole circumstances of Maximilian's position in Mexico into consideration. The Monitor had a threatening article against the Juarist Government; but it is thought to be vox et preterea nihil and that the various governments will have to accredit their ministers to the Mexican President, unless, indeed, that fine country is to be merged into the American Republic, which Europe would, I believe, now rejoice to see.

CELEBRITIES IN LONDON.

Abdul Aziz Khan, Sultan of Turkey, and Ismael Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt, are the present guests of John Bull in London, and a right hearty welcome Johnny is giving them. A grand naval review at Spithead, a military review in Hyde Park, with balls, fetes, dinners and divers other public entertainments are in preparation for the gratification of our illustrious visitors. Of these exhibitions the daily papers will afford you full details, while, I presume, you will have had an outline of what is passing by telegraph. The Belgians are over to join in the festivities and to receive the welcome prepared for them in return for the munificent hospitality extended by them last summer to the British volunteers. They will of course take part in the

WIMBLEDON RIFLE CONTEST.

which has commenced and has been initiated by some fine shooting. In the international contest Scotland won for the second time, scoring 1086 points, the highest yet made, and beating England by 38 and Ireland by 129 points. The highest single score was made by one of the Irish 20. Private Smyth, who ran up a total of two, five and six hundred yards of 68 points in 21 shots. For another prize offered by Mr. Bass, M.P., to volunteers who had never before competed at Wimbledon, the winner, Capt Hicks, with an Enfield rifle, at 500 yards made the highest possible score of 20 points in five shots, or all bull's eyes! The second mark marked 19. A Sergt. Ballie won a prize with 27 out of a possible 28, in seven shots at 500 yards. The Russes are again distinguishing themselves by their splendid shooting, and are included in the Scottish eight who will shoot for the Bloch challenge shield, which will be the grand event of the day.

A MIXED CHAPTER.

When the thermometer is at ever so much in the shade, when the trees in the squares are covered with dust and the roads so dry as to steam again beneath the refreshing shower of the water cart. When fat old ladies and gentlemen with parched mouths, perspiring foreheads and general symptoms of hydrophobia, crowd the shady sides of the streets and drop languidly into the pastry cooks' to mop themselves and cool their melting internals with an iced beverage. When young men with limp shirt collars resembling a piece of boiled asparagus, are seized with an unquenchable thirst which can only be quenched at some well known retreat round the corner. When evening sees the 'Drive' blocked with carriages, a phalanx of equestrians in the 'Row,' and every seat in the shady spots of the Park occupied; drawing-room windows left open, enabling the passer by to enjoy the stirring music of Godfrey or Cootie, and the ceaseless roll of carriages increasing rather than diminishing after nightfall. When young ladies run the dangerous risks of sitting draughts and drinking too much iced lemonade. When the haughty and the fashionable establishments of Howell & James, Swan & Edgar and Lewis & Altony, are continually occupied by pampered mortals in plush and powder and my Lord Dukes and Sir Arrys have sat until, like the Yankee girl they are almost 'taken root.' When several streets are nightly lined with carriages waiting to 'take up' at the opera houses. In short, when confinement to the house becomes tedious, and croquet parties, morning concerts, balls, fetes, fancy fairs, flower shows and every species of the gayest amusement follow so quickly upon the heels of one another as to satiate the most ardent devotee to the pleasures of London life, and Richmond and the Crystal Palace have lost their savour, then does all the world and his wife become seized with a longing desire to spend the hours of sunshine elsewhere than in the seething atmosphere of the metropolis.

Most of those who can afford it have already 'done' Paris, and people are now flocking to Germany, to Italy and to the many charming watering places in their own kingdom. Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight are full of visitors awaiting the grand naval review, while many others are merely awaiting the termination of the present festivities in honor of our distinguished foreign guests to hasten to the sea shore, so that by the end of this month London will be almost deserted. Of course the Wimbledon gathering is a great point of attraction this year owing to the *etat* that the Belgians are giving to it; and not only are the arrangements in every respect said to be most complete, but the volunteers by their hospitality render it a most delightful place for visitors to frequent. Every species of amusement has been introduced into the camp this year, which the splendor of the weather renders doubly enjoyable. Tom Styles in the New Comedy of Society, boasts "that he had started eighteen morning papers, every one of 'em failures." Not so with the little *Evening*, which has again crept into the camp, but this year with one or two rivals, while some of the London journals have temporary offices under canvas.

THE SHEFFIELD DISCLOSURES.

You will also by previous mails have received full details of the villainy that has been perpetrated at Sheffield with the full concurrence and under the protection of the various trades unions there. The transactions refer to deeds of the past, but Englishmen have been much shocked to think that any associations of their working countrymen could be found to imbue their hands in innocent blood in the revolting manner that the perpetrators have themselves recounted, and the regret is general that the foul acts to which the guilty parties have testified could not be brought to light except by the promise of pardon held out to them on their making a clean breast of it. In your particular branch of business you have experienced the mild effects of "ratting." The Sheffield Unions adopted something more forcibly persuasive against transgressors of their dictatorial rules and called it "ratting." Among other associations of the kind we hear of the existence of a "Washerwoman's Union" at Oldham. The Secretary of the craft recently mauled a sister of the tub because she was a non-conformist. A facetious writer humorously observes that the society should adopt for its motto "Mangling done here."

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The Editor of the *Canadian News* promised me when I was in London that he would send you out his published report of the proceedings of the influential deputation which recently waited upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies to advocate the importance of opening up the highway, leading through the Red River Settlement to the Rocky Mountains, and I presume he did so. This is a step in the right direction for lifting the veil that has so long hung over your hitherto neglected Colony, and as I perceive that the admission of British Columbia into the Confederacy will come before the Canadian Parliament next month, it is to be hoped that the vista is now doomed to be dispelled and that a brighter future is dawning on our possessions in the Pacific. You have seen of course that Macdonald has been knighted and the other delegates made C. B.

THERESA LONGWORTH AGAIN.

This unhappy lady, who still calls herself the Hon Mrs Yelverton, has after eight years of litigation in which she has been worsted again, appeared in *forma pauperis* before the House of Lords to make her final appeal to their Lordships. The Scotch law allow what is called the "oath of probation" to be put in certain cases to the respondent when all other resorts, and if permitted to be put will compel Major Yelverton to declare on oath whether or not he did believe that he was lawfully wedded to the appellant. This would probably be a poser and the Major resists on the ground that it involves the question of polygamy and that he cannot be compelled to incriminate himself, also that it involves a third party, his present wife. Miss Longworth, who acted as her own counsel, made long and able addresses to the bench; judgment is reserved.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

The late Sir Geo J. Turner, senior Lord Justice of Appeal, is to be succeeded by Sir J. Rolt, Attorney General, whose place will be filled by Sir John Kaslake. H. M. S. Sutlej immediately on her arrival from the Pacific was ordered to Spithead to take part in the grand Naval Review. The armored frigate Pallas, Capt. Conolly, was also one of the number. Two pieces a day has been added to the pay of non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the Queen's service, dating from 1st April last. A welcome boon to our gallant troops. The Princess of Wales to the great satisfaction of the nation is once more able to take part in public affairs. Omar Pacha professes to have entirely subdued the insurrectionists in Crete. The Ritual Commission is said to be making considerable progress. The Reform bill may be said to be now an accomplished fact; it has passed through its several stages in the Lower House. Sothera has been playing Lord Dandery in Paris. He was cordially received by the English and American residents, but the Frenchmen can't see the point, and are puzzled at the presence of an *engine hydrotherapique* (shower bath) in a gentleman's bedroom. The Government have determined to despatch an army of 10,000 men from India to Abyssinia to bring King Theodore to his bearings. The representation of Birmingham is vacant by the death of Mr William Scholefield, its popular and respected member. The papers again announce that a bishopric of New Westminster, to be taken out of the diocese of British Columbia, is to be formed, and that the Rev. John Postlethwaite, M. A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, late incumbent of Oxbath near Redcar, has been nominated the first Bishop, but no time has yet been fixed for his consecration.

W. A. H.