

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. II.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1870.

NO. 21.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS

TERMS:
Per Annum (in Advance) \$12 00
Per Month 1 00
Per Copy 3 00

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Public Meetings and their Results.

Public meetings in Victoria would appear to be in a fair way of acquiring a very doubtful celebrity, if haply they have not already done so. Within five weeks two public meetings have been held in this city, the consequences of which threaten the cause for the professed advocacy of which they were convened. Were an intelligent stranger to judge of this community by the meeting held in the Theatre on Friday night, it is to be feared his estimate would be far from complimentary. To say that it was a fair representation of the community would, indeed, be unwarrantable. The irregular and mysterious manner in which the meeting was called led a considerable number of persons to attend out of their curiosity, and very many of our most influential citizens were present at another gathering of a very different character. Of the three hundred and fifty (not one hundred and fifty) who were present, certainly not more than two-thirds in any way sympathized with, or participated in, the proceedings, and of these probably less than two-thirds were actual residents. Respecting the speakers it may truly be affirmed that he who dealt most loosely with facts and attacked the constituted authorities of the country in the coarsest and most offensive terms was most loudly applauded by the 'Lords' brought together for that purpose. We have neither the right nor the wish to object to the admirers of Mr. Humphreys giving some public manifestation of their love; but we must object to this being done in the name of the people, or in the interest of political liberty and freedom of discussion. Freedom of discussion, indeed! What freedom of discussion was there at the public meeting on Friday night? Some men are born great, and some attain greatness through praiseworthy self-effort; but there are others who have greatness thrust upon them. Mr. Humphreys may be said to have had greatness, such as it is, thrust upon him by what many regard as an error of judgment on the part of the Legislative Council. But it is to a much more important feature of the case that we would invite attention. What most concerns the people just now is the influence such proceedings are likely to exert in relation to the very general demand for Responsible Government. It will readily be admitted by all reflecting persons that it is not by loud-mouthed and coarse denunciation of those in authority that we will be most successful in convincing either the Imperial or the Canadian Governments of our fitness for full self-government. Every earnest advocate of Responsible Government must, therefore, view with regret and alarm such demonstrations, as placing in the hands of the Governor, at the most critical moment, the strongest arguments that can possibly be adduced against the policy of conferring full powers of self-government upon this colony. Nor can the Governor well be blamed for serving these meetings to such accounts, when our own colonial newspapers are found pointing to them as evidence of the unfitness of the people for self-government. Well may our Cariboo contemporary, in referring to the previous meeting, at which such unbecoming language was indulged in, remark, 'Irresponsible demagogues have done more to retard the material progress of the country than anything or

anybody else'; and, again, in speaking about the paucity of men fitted to fill positions of trust under Responsible Government, our contemporary says, 'The public meeting at Victoria only furnishes evidence of the rarity of such material. Let those amongst us who have substantial interests to be affected either for good or evil by the political institutions which may be conferred upon this colony consider well the ultimate and inevitable tendency of this system of trotting out irresponsible demagogues in the name of the people. Such exhibitions may serve to amuse at the time, but their fruit may prove to be anything but palatable.'

Shortly before noon on Sunday (16th inst.) the long-expected Flying Squadron was signalled as in sight from the Race-Rock Light to Admiral Farquhar on board the flag-ship Zealous, and soon after six war-ships, with all sail set, were in sight of the city. A breeze sufficiently strong to fill every inch of canvas was blowing, and as the vessels rounded the rocks, the townspeople flocked to adjacent hills and points to witness the grand p'otreeque sight. Of about Head four of the ships were abreast, tall, stately and majestically, with the bright rays of the sun falling full upon their snow-white sails and the stiff breeze bowling them swiftly on towards Esquimalt. The Soylla was the first to enter Esquimalt harbor, followed by the Liverpool, flagship of Admiral Horby. Of the entrance the Liverpool saluted, and the compliment was immediately acknowledged by H.M.S. Zealous, flagship of Admiral Farquhar, lying at anchor in the harbor. The remaining vessels followed one by one and took up the position assigned them at the bows.

The Squadron consists of the frigate Liverpool, 30, flagship of Rear Admiral G. T. P. Horby; frigate Liffey, 30; frigate Endeavour, 21; frigate Phoenix, 30; corvette Soylla, 16; and corvette Pearl, 17. The squadron reached Yokohama from Auckland on April 6. On the passage Lieut Robinson of the Liverpool, died of liver complaint. The ships were an object of admiration to the Japanese officials, many of whom came aboard and Admiral Horby subsequently visited the Mikado. At Yokohama the Barossa was dropped and the Phoenix came on with the Squadron. On the 19th April the Squadron, encountering a severe gale which scattered the ships when a day, or two out. On the 22nd April George Knowles, a 6, fell from the foremast yard of the Liverpool into the sea and did not rise again. He is supposed to have struck the anchor-fluke in his descent. Three days afterwards, in latitude 38° 49' N, 155° 04' E, E.R. Warren, a midshipman of the Soylla, while standing in the mizen rigging heaving the log, missed his hold and fell overboard. He rose at once and struck out for a lifebuoy which was thrown him, but when distant a few feet from it, he threw up his arms and went down. The ship was making 10 knots at the time. On the 29th April the ships were scattered by a gale, but were all together again on the 3rd inst. The Squadron then ran an average of 250 miles a day till the 12th of May, when the wind fell. Next day, on sighting land, the Soylla was detailed to report at Esquimalt, but being becalmed at the entrance of the Straits on Saturday morning, was overhauled by the Squadron. The ships came up the Straits with a fine breeze behind them, rounding Race Rocks in company, as before stated.

The Flying Squadron sailed from home on the 19th of June last, left the Bristol at Bahia and the Barossa at Yokohama, and brought the Phoenix and Pearl on. The Soylla will be left on this station and the Charybdis will proceed to England. They expect to reach England in October next. Rear Admiral Horby was on this station as Captain of H.M.S. Tribune, during the stirring time of 1839, when a brush with Uncle Sam with respect to San Juan Island seemed inevitable. He was visited yesterday by a number of former acquaintances.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SQUADRON.
Liverpool—Rear-Admiral G. T. P. Horby, Flag-Lieut James A. T. Bruce, Admiral's Secretary Thomas H. L. Bowling, Secretary's Clerk F. L. M. Dyer, Assistant Clerk Wm W. Inch, Captain John O. Hopkins, Commander Samuel Long, Staff Surgeon W. M. Saunders M. D., Staff-Commander William H. Sharp, Paymaster Robert W. Warwick, Chief Engineer Owen Jones, Lieutenants—Robert Layton, P. C. Jonstone, Burgess Watson, W. H. Hender.
Esquimalt—Naval Instructor Walter L. Tasker, Assistant Surgeons—James Bradley, Fleetwood Buckle M. D., Assistant Paymaster—Charles Austin, G. W. C. Mackay, Sub-Lieutenants—C. G. Crawford, Herbert Roxby [Navigating], Arthur H. O. P. Low, A. W. Moore, E. W. Gore [Acting].
Engineers—John Lanksbury, William Walker, Charles Beddington, Assistant Engineer J. O. Wright, Captain Royal Marines Frederick H. Ross, Lieut Royal Marines John O. Kendall, Midshipmen—Walter Bognold, Ernest J. Seymour, Leonard E. Dick, George E. Richards, Houston Stewart, Norman Macdonald, Charles J. M. Quayle, Edward H. Marsh, James T. Daly, Superintendent Midshipman—Reginald E. Newell, Archibald F. Macpherson, Walter Corbett, Randolph E. O. Foote, E. Radolph, R. A. Quaque, Charles W. Thomas, Lord Maurice Fitzgerald, Walter T. Wheatley, James Knox, Henry F. G. Carveridge de Lisle, Arthur T. Dwyer, Gunner Patrick Crane, Boatman Jas. Sodin, Carpenter Thomas R. Peters, Boatman 3rd class James Bird.

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Domestic Mail Summary.

Our Canadian files are to the 27th ult. The Ottawa Times has a long account of the marriage of Miss McDougall to Mr. Alfred Seymour. The bride is the eldest daughter of the Hon. William McDougall, C. B., of Canada, and the bridegroom is the son of the Right Honorable Sir Hamilton Seymour, G. O. B., of England. Mr. Seymour was not long ago quartered at Ottawa with his regiment, the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, but more recently A. D. C. to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Owing to the illness of the bride's father, she was given away by Sir John A. Macdonald and K. O. B. Amongst those present at the ceremony were his Excellency's son, General and Lady Young, Sir George A. Carter, Sir Charles Mordaunt, the Hon. Messrs. Tilley, C. B., Langerville, C. B., and many other prominent persons. Subsequently to the ceremony, Lady Macdonald received the guests at breakfast at her residence. The Governor-General proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, with the warmest wishes for their happiness. The bride received many valuable presents upon the occasion. Following in part the published report of debate in the House of Commons after 'recess,' on the 21st:—

Hon. Mr. Abbott's motion that the Bill respecting the Canada Central Railway Co. be read a third time, was taken under consideration. Mr. Chanveau moved his amendment. Mr. Ferguson spoke at some length against the Bill. Sir G. B. Cartier called the hon. gentleman to order in English. Mr. Ferguson asked him to repeat. Sir George B. Cartier did so in French. Hon. John S. Macdonald replied in Gaelic, evidently denouncing the Ministry, amid great laughter. Sir George B. Cartier defended the Government in Latin and Greek, (Greek applause.) Hon. Mr. Abbott protested against the debate being carried on in such languages. (Laughter.) Sir John A. Macdonald said it was all Greek to him. (Laughter.) Mr. Leveson spoke in Spanish. Sir John A. Macdonald said he quite agreed with the hon. gentleman that the debate should end. Mr. Ferguson then resumed discussion in English until the time for private bills was up.

Reifenstein was sentenced by Judge Galt to eight years imprisonment in the Penitentiary. The preliminary examination of Father Nichol and Scott, Bell's Delegates, took place before the Police Magistrate at Ottawa, on the 21st inst. Judge Black, of Red River, was present and occupied a seat on the right of the Police Magistrate. A great deal of evidence was given, and the examination resulted in the Delegates being admitted to bail in four thousand dollars each. The Hon. J. H. Cameron appeared for the prisoners, and Mr. Lees, county attorney for the Crown. The Prince Edward Legislative Assembly had discussed and favorably entertained a proposition for reducing the number of members from thirty to eighteen. The revenue of the Island for 1869 was \$26,929 10s, and the expenditure \$26,267 4s 6d, leaving a deficit of \$7,571 14s 6d.

CLOSING SALE.—The undersigned offers his entire stock of Watches, Jewelry, Clocks, Silver and Platedware at less than cost price to close business, as all must be sold by the 1st June. Parties having left articles for repair must call for them by the end of this month, or the same will be sold to pay charges. All persons indebted to the undersigned are requested to call and settle the same at once. All bills remaining unpaid on the 15th inst will be placed in the hands of a solicitor. Parties requiring anything in my line will now have an opportunity of procuring great bargains.—W. Geo. Jamieson, adjoining the Colonist Hotel.

Spane Fashion, 1870.—Just received at Victoria House by express—Ladies and Gents' elegant's Journal's Kid Gloves, Fine Hosiery (ladies' and gentlemen's), Silks, Poplins, Moire Antiques, Corsets (improved kind), Tie-bands, Nursing Corsets, Umbrellas, Parasols, Sunshades, Ribbons, Linens, the newest styles of Bonnets and Hats, Feathered Flowers, Fashion Monks, Corsettes, Lace Shawls, Grenadine and Broche Shawls, Children's Frocks and Petticoats, Silk and Cloth Jackets, new Trimmings, Buttons, etc.

ALEXANDER'S GLOVES IN NEW AND BEAUTIFUL COLORS.—The French Perfect Corset, from the most celebrated maker in Paris. These corsets, from the scientific principle on which they are cut, give universal satisfaction. Lace Shawls and Half-Shawls and the new Lace Mantle. Some entirely new makes of Dress Materials. Millinery, a really beautiful assortment. Ribbons, Flowers, Feathers, Muslin, Trimmings, &c. &c. Riding Habits and Jackets, made by a celebrated London Tailor, and a great variety of other goods, rendering ours as complete a stock of Drapery, &c. as would be seen in Regent street or Broadway.—London House.

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Depot: GLEY & CO. VICTORIA. LITTLE'S GENE... D & O's... TOLUTINE... A SOAP... DENTORINE... TIFRICE CREAM... POMADE... POWDER... LANGYLANG... BOUGRETS... SUNDRIES... ES' WARES... ST LONDON, E. C... PAIRS... BLANKETS... RIVE... I HAVE GIVEN... MRS. M. GAMERON...