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THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

By the European telegrams, which we lay before our readers this morning, it would appear that war between Austria and Prussia has at length been announced—that the diplomatic fencing has at last culminated in the armed duel. The panic which has taken place in the English commercial world, and which has broken the largest of discounting houses is due, according to the telegram, to the declaration of war between the two great German powers. With all the belligerent rumors that have been afloat for some time past, we confess we were not prepared for so sudden an announcement of hostilities; and with the history of these powers before our eyes, with the characteristic love of writing and talking rather than acting, we find it difficult to believe that a declaration of war has really been made. The fact, however, of the grave monetary crisis in London and the general alarm in Governmental as well as commercial circles, shows that something more than an ordinary imbroglio has taken place on the continent. Failure not merely the house of Overend, Gurney & Co. that has failed—other banking establishments have suspended payments, and wealthy mercantile houses have been obliged to close. Even the Bank of England, the solidity of which has almost become a proverb, was so shaken, on account of the run that was made upon it, that the very extraordinary course of suspending the Bank Act had to be resorted to by the Government, and an additional issue of £5,000,000 authorized. Simultaneously with this operation the rate of discount rose to the enormous figure of ten per cent. Bad as all this is, we have only heard the commencement. We are quite prepared to learn from subsequent despatches that the panic has spread over the United Kingdom, and that suspension and failures have become the order of the day. Already the premonitory symptoms of the disease are beginning to make their appearance in New York, and everything points to a general crash over the American as well as European continent. All this is a gloomy picture; but it is most likely to be a faithful one. We alluded a few days ago to the unerring barometer of the money market, and the probability that a serious crisis was at hand; the events, however, if the news of the announcement of war be true, have come upon us, as we have already said, more suddenly than we expected, and indicate the commencement of a conflagration that is not likely to confine itself to Austria and Prussia; for above all the situations of Europe the torch of war could nowhere be lighted with greater danger than in the centre of federal Germany. Italy cannot keep out of the blaze, and France, with all Napoleon's protestations, is morally certain to be mixed up in the struggle. If with all the various changes, and probably new partitions of Central Europe which such a war would give rise to, England can on the one hand and Russia on the other hold aloof, there is more in "dignified neutrality" than we are disposed to believe. We are afraid, however, there will be no neutrality—that indeed there can be none. It is not now whether a small kingdom at one end of Europe like Denmark is to be cut up and divided; but whether the grand "balance of power" is to be upset and the centre of gravity hopelessly lost—whether in fact the great bulwark against the ambition of both France and Russia is to be swept away. War, however, will not stop on the European continent. So soon as France shows a disposition to mix in the quarrel, the United States, with the two great supporters of Maximilian engaged in war, will make short work of the Mexican Empire. We shall have all the labors of Louis Napoleon and Maximilian thrown overboard and a new Government, not under European domination, given to the Mexican people. Everything however depends on the correctness of the telegram about the announcement of war—it may be true, or it may be premature. In any case we look forward with anxiety to the next European news.

Her Majesty's Birthday.

THE CELEBRATION.

Although there was not the usual organized programme for a public celebration of the Queen's Birthday, yet the 47th natal day of our Gracious Queen was perhaps more generally observed by all classes and nationalities in this city than any of its predecessors. The day was recognized as a close holiday, and the quantity of bunting fluttering in the breeze gave the town quite a gay appearance. At an early hour riding and boating parties commenced leaving in various directions, while a number of persons wended their way to Beacon Hill to witness

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

At 11 o'clock the Victoria Volunteer Rifle Corps, under the command of Capt. Young of No. 2 Company, marched to Beacon Hill headed by the band for inspection by the Governor. Shortly afterwards His Excellency rode up and was saluted by the Corps during the inspection. The Volunteers then broke into column of four companies and marched past in quick time which was done with great precision. The corps next performed sundry evolutions advancing in line, volley firing by companies and in line, etc. After this His Excellency addressed the corps complimenting them on their marked improvement since the last inspection which was due to their attention to drill and the exertions of their Adjutant. He gave them especial credit for their marching and volley firing. Three cheers were proposed by His Excellency for the Queen, he giving the time, and the Volunteers responding heartily. The corps then formed and marched to town. His Excellency's family and a large number of spectators were on the ground.

EXCURSION TO SAN JUAN.

Pursuant to the announcement made by the committee of the Mechanics' Institute, the Hudson Bay Company's fine steamer Enterprise left at half-past eight o'clock in the morning with from 170 to 180 excursionists on a visit to the British garrison at San Juan Island. Among the company were the Hon. R. Finlayson and family, Dr. Tolmie, M.L.A., and family, Dr. Tuzo, Mr. Munro and family, Rev. T. Somerville, M.A., Councillors Jeffery, sen. and jun., the Committee, consisting of Messrs. Trounce, Wallace, Bull, Fell and Teague, and a number of citizens with their families.

After a pleasant run of two hours the party reached the beautiful and sequestered little spot where stands the neat and picturesque camp of the British garrison. Capt. Bazalgette being absent, the officer in command, Lieutenant Sparshott, came on board and invited the company ashore, where everything would be done to make them feel at home. He returned with his boat filled with ladies, and the rest of the party followed in the ship's boats, the whole being disembarked in about half an hour. On reaching *terra firma* it was announced to the excursionists that the steamer would leave at one p.m. for the American garrison, and in a short space of time groups were dispersed throughout the woods seeking some umbrageous spot where they could regale themselves with creature comforts before embarking again. Shortly after this, however, it was announced that a number of field sports would take place by the garrison, who were very anxious that the company should stay and participate in them. A deputation waited upon the committee with a request that the excursion might terminate there, when a meeting was called to ascertain whether any passenger was on board who had paid for a passage to the American camp and it was found that a solitary soldier had done so. The marines however took the man under their own protection and promised to set him on his homeward way in the morning. The steamer was accordingly detained much to the delight of the garrison. It should have been previously mentioned that invitations were kindly extended to the majority of the excursionists to partake of the hospitalities of the camp.

At one o'clock a drum announced that the sport had commenced, and everybody repaired to the spot prepared for the purpose. The subjoined programme of games was then carried out, occasioning the liveliest interest. The various contests were open to all comers and many of the passengers entered into the competition with heart and soul, as did also Lieut. Sparshott and the doctor on the station. Some of the performances were excellent, especially the jumping and racing. The wheel-barrow race blindfolded evoked intense amusement, the men rushed about in all directions and several of them disappeared, barrow and all, over the embankment. Only one of the number approached anywhere near the goal. The two sack races and the bobbing for rolls also created great laughter. As the steamer was about to get under weigh the last game which consisted of walking a greasy pole extending 15 feet from the end of the wharf at the extremity of which was a stick three feet high with a bunch of evergreens, worth $3 to the person who could reach it, came off. From the deck of the vessel the excursionists witnessed several men who attempted the perilous journey take an involuntary header into the briny deep.

Before leaving the party assembled beneath the shade of a large tree when the Rev. Mr. Somerville proposed that the National Anthem should be sung. This was done the marines joining in lustily, and Mr. W. K. Bull having been called upon to make a few remarks, entertained his hearers by a short fervent and patriotic address which went to the hearts of the men of the garrison, who gave him three cheers. A vote of thanks to Lieutenant Sparshott and his men was proposed by Mr. Bull, and responded to the echo. We may here remark that the neatness, cleanliness, and good order observable throughout the entire camp were the subject of general observation and reflect the highest credit on both officers and men.

On the return of the steamer, the tables were cleared, the band struck up, and dancing was kept up until the arrival of the steamer at the wharf at 8:30 p.m.

Nothing but the most perfect harmony prevailed throughout the entire day, and the excursion was pronounced on all sides to have been the most successful and enjoyable re-union of the kind that has yet taken place on this Island.

The Institution will receive some pecuniary benefit from the affair. Arrangements are in progress for a similar excursion on the Fourth of July.

The following was the programme of the sports and amusements which took place at the Royal Marine Camp:—

1. One paddle canoe race, won by Private Cox of the Royal Marines.....$2 00
2. Foot race, 150 yards, 1st prize, Private Shee 1 50
   2d prize, Corporal Gee 1 00
3. Hop, skip and jump, Private Higgins... 2 00
4. Two paddle canoe race, Private Cox 4 00
5. Wheelbarrow race, blindfolded, 100 yards, 1st prize, Private Tompkins..... 2 00
   2d prize, Private Hills 1 00
6. Sculling race, Privato Cox and Private Hurley..... 2 50
7. Foot race, half mile, 1st prize, Private Sharp 2 00
   2d prize, Mr Gray of Victoria..... 1 00
8. Long leap, standing, Private Hitchman. 1 00
   High leap, running, Corporal Gee and Mr Burns, a tie..... 1 50
9. Three paddle canoe race, Private Cox... 6 00
10. Sack race, 50 yards, 1st prize, Private Anderson..... 2 00
    2d prize, Private Miller..... 1 00
11. Heaving the shot, 16 lbs., Mr Donohue of Victoria..... 1 50
12. Throwing the hammer, 15 lbs., Color Sgt. Gillby 1 50
13. Hurdle Race, 150 yards, 6 flights, Hunter, Victoria, 1st prize..... 2 00
    1st and last. 3 feet 6 inches, others 3 feet, Private Anderson, 2d prize..... 1 00
14. Sack race, 50 yards, P ivate Anderson, 1st prize..... 2 00
    2d prize, Private Oliver..... 1 00
15. Bobbing at Rolls, not decided..... 2 00
16. Carrying the bucket of water, not decided 1 50
17. Walking the greasy pole, Hurley..... 3 00

Ball at Government House.

The day was appropriately brought to a close by a most delightful ball at the Vice-Regal residence. Invitations were extended to several hundred persons including not only residents in this and the neighboring colony, but the English and American garrisons at San Juan Island, and visitors from the American side. The guests commenced arriving shortly after eight o'clock, and were received in the drawing room by His Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Kennedy and the Misses Kennedy; Miss Banks, a young lady from California, on a visit at Government House, also forming one of the reception party. At nine o'clock the Governor ushered his guests into the fine ball room, and the band, consisting of Messrs. Haynes, Sandrie, Palmer and Bushell, then played the first quadrille. About ten o'clock the room was crowded. Among those present we noticed the following ladies and gentlemen:

His Excellency A E Kennedy, C B, Mrs Kennedy, Miss Kennedy, Miss G Kennedy, Miss Banks, Mr H Wakeford, Private Secretary, Mrs Wakeford; Hon. Chief Justice Needham, Mrs and the Misses Needham, His Worship the Mayor, Hon W A G Young, Colonial Secretary, Mrs Young, Hon T L Wood, Attorney General, Mrs Wood and the Misses Leggett, Hon A Watson, Treasurer, Mrs Watson, Hon B Pearse, Surveyor General, Mrs Pearse, and the following, arranged in their alphebetical order:—Miss Armstrong; Mr Anderson; Mr Alston, Registrar General; Mr and Mrs Adamson; Mr and Mrs Bacon; Miss Baillie; Mr Bishop; Mr Blair; Mr G Brown; Mr Burnaby; Mr Cave; Mr Chambers; Mr Cochrane, M.L.A.; Mr and Mrs Copland; Mr Callingham; Captain Clarke; Mrs and Miss David; Dr Davie; Dr Davie, Jr; Mr, Mrs and Miss Davies; Mr Dickinson; Mr and Mrs Denny; Mr and Mrs Ella; Mr Farwell; Mr Fell, Mr Findlay; Mr, Mrs and Miss Fisher; Colonel Foster; Mr Fowler; Mr and Mrs Frontin; Hon Mr Fraser, M.L.C, Mr and Mrs Gibbs; Mr A R Green; Capt Good; Mr and Mrs Gentile; Mr and Mrs Hankin; Mr G Hankin; Mr Hanson; Mr and Mrs Harvey; Mr W Harvey; Mr W A Harries; Mr J Harries; Mrs and Miss Harris; Mr Heisterman; Mr Heath; Mr and Mrs Higgins; Mr Homfray; Mr Hill; Mr. Howell; Mr G H Jackson; Mr Jacob; Mr Keast; Mr Karney; Mr Long; Mrs Lonati; Mrs Lang; Mr Lowe; Mr Langley; Mr Livock; Misses Lester; Mr Moorehead; Mrs and Misses McKenzie; Mr McKenzie; Mr Macdonald; Miss Moore; Mrs Miles; Mr Mallandaine; Mr M'Clure, M.L.A.; Mr Mitchell; Mrs Munro; Mr McCutchan; Misses Macdonald; Mr Nathan; Mr Naylor; Mr and Mrs Newton; Mr E J Nesbitt; Dr and Mrs Nicholles; Mr Neustadt; Mr Pearkes; Mr Pemberton; Misses Pidwell; Dr Powell, MLA; Mr & Mrs Plummer; Mrs and Miss Pitts; Mr Prevost; Mr Pocock; Mr Mrs and Miss Pickett; Mr McFarland; Mrs and Miss Palmer; Mr and Mrs Pike; Miss Reid; Hon Mr Rhodes, M.L.C, and Mrs Rhodes; Mr and Mrs Rushton, Mr Reinhart; Mr and Mrs Roscoe; Mr and Mrs Searby; Mr Shepherd; Mr Skinner; Mr Siffken; Mr A E Siffken; Mr and Mrs Scott; Mr Stuart; Mr and Mrs W B Smith; Mr Seelye; Mr and Mrs Thomson; Mr and Mrs Tarbell; Mr and Mrs Turner; Mr & Misses Thorne; Mr Toller; Miss Townsend; Mr Vinter, Adjt VVRC; Mr and Mrs Wright; Mr Willis; Mr — Willis; Mr C W Wallace; Mr Wylly; Mr and Mrs Wootton; Mr and Mrs Ward; Mr Williams; Mr Wakeman; Mr Wigham; Mr, Mrs and the Misses Woods; Mr Walker; Mr Welch; Mr C B Young, MLA; Mrs Judson Young; Capt Price, Mr Jocelyn and ten Officers of HMS Scout; Capt Fox, RN; Capt Bazalgette, RM; Lt Cooper, RM; Capt Gray U.S.A.; Mr Nicoll; Mr and Mrs A H Francis; Mrs Devereux; Miss Weller; Mr M Wallace.

Aware of our total inability to discharge a task so difficult to the uninitiated we dare not venture upon such delicate ground as to attempt a description of the many really handsome dresses that graced the room. It was a subject of remark that on no previous occasion had the ladies of Victoria been more elegantly attired and looked to greater advantage; the palm was universally yielded to the family of the worthy host and hostess and their fair visitor.

The room was somewhat too densely thronged to render dancing an easy pastime, but when once commenced the programme was carried through with the greatest spirit. All seemed to feel that they were welcome and nothing being wanting that could add to their comfort and happiness, it remained only for them to increase the satisfaction of their hospitable hosts by enjoying themselves to the utmost. Between 12 and 1 o'clock the supper-room was thrown open, dancing being maintained during the interval. After the company had partaken of the various good things set in profusion before them, His Excellency proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen, which was responded to by the most enthusiastic cheers. His Worship the Mayor, in a neat speech, proposed the health of the Governor, alluding to the pleasure he, in common with the rest of the company, felt at participating in the festivities provided under His Excellency's hospitable roof. The toast was drank with unbounded enthusiasm. Governor Kennedy responded in his usual happy style, expressing the lively gratification it afforded him as the Representative of His Royal Mistress in welcoming her loyal subjects and the foreign residents who resided in her dominions to do honor to Her Majesty's natal day, and assuring his guests of the pleasure that it would afford him to meet them on all future occasions.

On repairing to the ball-room, Miss Kennedy ably presided at the piano, while the musicians partook of refreshments. Shortly before 3 o'clock, the programme, consisting of 21 dances, exclusive of several extra ones, was concluded, and a most agreeable surprise was experienced by those who remained to the end. The Misses Kennedy having ascended the musicians' platform sang the first verse of the national anthem as a duet in the sweetest manner. The second verse was well given by Mayor Franklin, who was followed by Miss Banks, the audience being completely electrified by the magnificent and highly cultivated voice possessed by this gifted young lady. Although a foreigner, Miss Banks did homage to our Queen with a degree of fervor, which, heightened by the thrilling strains of her powerful voice, quite entranced her hearers. Great applause greeted this vocal effort. The company then took their leave of His Excellency and family.

FROM LILLOOET.

Judge Begbie held court here on the 11th instant; the only case tried was A. C. Walden vs. O'Reilly, an action brought for the recovery of $3,000, on the grounds that the plaintiff had one Jacob Towers arrested for debt and safely lodged in limbo under care of the Deputy Sheriff about two years ago; the said Jacob skedaddled one evening from the deputed guardian, and plaintiff never got his pay. Mr. Walkem for plaintiff, the Attorney General for the late High Sheriff. It was elicited that the real Deputy Sheriff had suddenly resigned, that quaintly the deputy deputised a deputy to act for him, the High Sheriff not having revoked his appointment or sanctioned the acts of this deputy's deputy; and, further, the deputy's deputy did not have the honor of deputy conferred upon him till six days after he let Jacob go to look after his mules. Although the prosecuting barrister had no chance, it seemed, to gain a verdict, he persistently worked for four hours to prove he had; a non-suit was accepted, and the case is to be brought up again. There were two or three other civil cases to come off that did not, the "bhoys" either applied for change of venue, or fought shy, compromised rather than faced the music—there is a heap of "cussedness" in this section in the course of trading to be shovelled away all the time.

A ditch of three miles is being brought in for sluicing a claim on the junction of the North Fork with Bridge River; the parties interested say they have a sure thing of good pay, and some of them will leave for Cadwalader Creek to open other ground so soon as the water is on, intending to work the ground referred to with hired help. The claim known as the "Twelve Apostles," mentioned in my last, on the lower river, turned out some very pretty gold this past week, equal to the amount stated—a dollar per hour to the hand. One of the party says he believes plenty of bars and benches in the same vicinity will yield similar pay did men go to the trouble of bringing water on—that is simply a matter of opinion, they will tell their own tale in time; the proof of the pudding is in—chewing the bag, in *propria persona*, without the interposition of a deputy's deputy.

The Lillooet Flour Mill Co. are turning out 20 to 30 barrels of Extra Flour daily, is greatly preferred to the imported articl

F. W. S.e

THE CORNHILL ROBBERY.

Disclosures of a Thief.

(From the Sunday Gazette.)

The young man, Caseley or Scotty, who was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude the other day for having robbed Mr. Walker the jeweller, of Cornhill, has been favoured with the distinguished opportunity of parading his wickedness before the public in a highly enjoyable fashion. His appearance as a witness in the case of Walker, the robbed, against Milner, the maker of the safe that was not thief-proof, must have caused him enjoyment sufficient to correct the bitterness of [illegible] withstanding the humiliation every honest man must feel at the spectacle of a thief in the Court of Queen's Bench, commanding breathless attention from a crowded court, filled by the fame of his evil deeds, scarcely a man would fail to be anxious to hear with reference to the burglary, how it was done? And "Scotty" tells the Court and Jury. After describing how Mr. Walker and all in the house had been under the surveillance of the gang for at least seven weeks, he said a party of five of the robbers repaired to the premises at ten minutes past six on the evening of Saturday, the 4th of February, 1865. The occupants had not then left for the night, but the offices on the second floor were empty, and to these, three of the robbers at once ascended by means of the common staircase, and there took up the first position, the other two remaining in the street to watch and give signals. At twenty minutes to eight the signal was given by the confederates outside that Mr. Walker's foreman, who appears to have been the last on the premises, was gone, and their operations were at once commenced. The three robbers concealed in the house first went down to Sir Charles Crossley's floor, where, for pastime or practice, they opened the safe. The chief object of the expedition was postponed until past midnight, when the thieves got into the tailors' room on the lowest floor, and forced their way through the ceiling and flooring into Mr. Walker's shop above. Having thus effected a lodgement against the real point of attack, they distributed the duties of the night. Of the two thieves stationed in the street, one was to be on the watch lest Mr. Walker or any of his people should return to the house, while the other was to keep guard over the police, and give warning whenever any constable approached the shop. Inside, one of the gang sat upstairs, in Sir Charles Crossley's arm-chair, at the window of the second floor, to correspond with the sentries in the street, and the signals of these men he communicated by means of a string to his comrades below. One of these, placed in a hole half-way between the shop and the tailor's room, handed up such instruments as were wanted for use, the other, who happened to be Scotty, "did the work." The first proceeding of the operators was to "test" the safe in which the booty was secured, and this experiment was conducted by the insertion of a thin wedge of steel into the almost imperceptible chink left between the door of the safe and its side. Supposing a wedge holds when so driven, it is taken as evidence that the operation is practicable, inasmuch as something or other is clearly yielding to pressure and that pressure may be gradually and dexterously increased up to the point desired. If the wedge, instead of holding, rebounds from the plates and flies off, it is proof that the affair cannot be managed, or, at least, not in this manner. In this instance the wedge held, and so the operation was continued. First, a little bar was inserted to release the wedge, then another wedge a little larger to release the bar, then another bar a little larger still to release the second wedge, until after ten or a dozen such steps the chink was opened sufficiently for the introduction of "the alderman." The instrument thus dignified in name, is a long iron bar, sometimes as much as five feet in length, jointed together in pieces, so as to be carried in a small case. With the end of "the alderman" fairly introduced, and the arm of a strong man acting at the other extremity of the lever, the safe has no longer any chance, and so it was on this occasion. The door was prized open by the force of this powerful lever, and the booty was won. At a quarter before four on Sunday afternoon the thieves were "up in Sir Charles Crossley's office, washing their hands," and by twenty minutes to five were "miles away" on the Guildford-road.

COFFEE AND COFFEE DRINKERS.—H. E. Moring of New York City, the best recognized authority on the subject, has estimated that the whole non-producing world consumes about 300,000 tons of coffee; of which the United States uses up 60,000 tons, or 20 per cent. This is 28,000 tons more than France; 36,000 tons more than Austria; 44,000 tons more than England, and but 6,000 tons less than all Germany exclusive of the Empire of Austria. We consume coffee at the rate of 4¼ pounds per year to every man, woman and child, white, black and red in the United States; England about one pound; France about one and a quarter pounds, and Austria less than one pound. Of this vast amount of coffee, Brazil furnishes 46 per cent; Ceylone, 13; and South America, the West Indies and Arabia the balance. The famous Mocha Coffee which comes from Arabia Felix, does not make up one half of one per cent of the whole production.

THE SMALL POX AT NEW WESTMINSTER—Passengers by the Enterprise inform us that the Indians who were conveyed to the hospital under the supposition that they had been attacked by small pox had been cured, and all cause for alarm was happily removed. It was said to have been a very mild type of disease, resembling chicken pox.