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AGENTS.

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The Grouse Creek War and the Duty of the Press.

Give but time and the truth must win. The victory may be deferred, the contest may be protracted, the end apparently uncertain; but the result is sure. Were it otherwise, we might well despair of human progress. If there be not in just principles of conduct—if there be not in truth and justice some element to give them the superiority, what ground have we for faith in the future? Why should we not resign ourselves to the belief that the government of the world is a chance? The decision of Chief Justice Needham in the Grouse Creek cases, furnishes an instance in point. The Flume Company, after undergoing months of anxiety and incurring enormous expense, have been confirmed in the possession of one of the richest strips of gold mining ground in the world. Their chances appeared at first "slim" indeed for the recovery of their property, but possessing the consciousness of ultimate triumph, they were calm under temporary defeats and patiently awaited the final issue. Aside from the victory over which the successful contestants to-day rejoice the credit of the country and its reputation for law and order were at stake; the security of capital invested in the Colony was involved in the issue, and we hesitate not to say that had the trial resulted adversely for the Flume Company the effect would have proved most disastrous to the best interests of the Colony. It is for this principle we have contended—and it is in the triumph of the principle and not in the discomfiture of the Canadian Company, that we consider we have cause for gratulation. We are prepared to believe that every member of the Canadian Company conceived he was legally entitled to a share of the disputed ground. It is unnecessary to review acts that are so fresh in the minds of the people. Vain repetitions of the errors in their conduct do not become less vain if they are a thusand times repeated. The Canadian Company believed they were fighting a good fight, and we really respect a delusion we cannot share. The sight of a good man struggling with adversity is held to contain all the elements of tragedy; but it is not half so tragic as that of a sincere man hopelessly entangled in the false conclusions of his own reason, and we cannot help thinking that had the disinterested voice of the only representative of the "fourth estate" at the mines been raised in remonstrance—that if the Canadian Company had been shown the unsound and unstable ground on which they stood—that if the simple truth had been laid before them through the medium of their local paper, it would not have been possible for them to have misapprehended. But instead of instructing the miners wherein they were wrong, and exhorting them to pause and reflect before engaging in a struggle so hopeless and so certain to end in disaster, the *Sentinel* on the watch-tower failed to sound the alarm, and the unhappy results are before the country. We say this in all kindness. We entertain feelings of warm respect and esteem for our contemporary; and those feelings prompt us to say that to its painful want of manly independence in the late crisis may be attributed the prolongation of the struggle, and the pecuniary ruin of more than one victim to a false conception of duty and a mistaken sense of right. So far as our own course is concerned, we may have been severe in some of our strictures; we may have misjudged some of the acts of the Canadian Company and unwittingly misrepresented others. If we have failed to do them full justice, no one will regret that failure more than ourselves. We have, at any rate, tried to do our duty—to show the losing parties what the result has proven was their error—and to convince them that in pursuing the course they did they were involving themselves in vexation, trouble, expense and disaster.

Monday, Oct 7th.

RETURN OF THE OTTER—The H.B. Co.'s steamer Otter, Captain Lewis, returned from a trading trip to the Northwest coast and [illegible] Mr Duolan, and Rev. Mr Owen, from Metlakahla; Father Blanchet, from Fort Rupert, and Mrs Horne and three children, from Fort Simpson. The weather at Sitka has been a succession of heavy rains and strong gales. The U.S.S. Resaca sailed from Fort Simpson for New Archangel on the 13th September. The schooner Langley sailed from same port for similar destination on the 26th Sept. At anchor in Milibank Sound, on the 29th ult., was seen H.M.S. Beaver; she will return to Victoria early in November. The Otter coaled at Nanaimo, and ascertained that the steamship John L. Stephens started for the North at [illegible] on Saturday.

DEPARTURE—H.M.S. Alert went out of Esquimalt harbor at 1 p.m. on Saturday last. In passing the Sparrowhawk, Scout and Zealous she was loudly cheered, the band of the latter ship playing 'Home, sweet home,' and 'Auld lang syne.' Captain Knocker, who had only been a short time here, is a naturalist of considerable reputation, and has made a valuable collection of the fishes of the coast that will be prized at home in an economic point of view, and may serve to direct attention to the resources of the colony. The Alert goes to the Sandwich Islands, and from thence, by way of Tahiti, to Valparaiso.

NEEDLESS ALARM—Some of our readers are disposed to credit the statement of a New Westminster contemporary that in the event of Confederation Mr Birch will be appointed Lieutenant Governor of this colony. The statement is put forward to injure the cause. There is not the slightest fear that the Canadian Ministry would commit an act so absurd or so distasteful to the mass of the people. On the contrary, Confederation would close the official career of all men of Mr Birch's stripe, and place the Government of the colony in the hands of a Colonial man and a Responsible Ministry.

THE NEW BRIG—The Isabel yesterday [illegible] Robert Cowan, Capt. Ellis, from Sooke to Janion, Green & Rhodes' wharf. The brig is a fine specimen of marine architecture, and is most beautifully sparred. She is 300 tons burthen, builder's measurement, and will carry 300 tons of freight. The vessel is named in honor of Mr Robert Cowan, grandfather of the Muirs of Sooke, four generations of which family are represented in the colony. The brig has a cargo engaged, and will sail for Honolulu, S.I., in about ten days.

BURGLARY—At an early hour yesterday morning the family of Mr T. L. Fawcett, who resides on Kane street, were disturbed by strange noises in the house, and one of the male members of the family discovered a stranger leaping out of one of the windows. The fellow made good his escape, and an examination revealed the fact that the house had been robbed of a quantity of silver plate and other valuables by burglars. The plate bears the initials of the owner. This is the third burglary within ten days. Look well to your fastenings and keep a 'barker' within reach.

THE SHADES—THE THEATRE SALOON.—Mr Bushell and his partner have ted comple the theatrical establishment, so praiseworthily carried forward by Mr Marsh, by attaching to the house a saloon fitted up in good taste for the refreshment of the theatre goers and all others, and the celebrity of Bushell's spirits for "driving dull care away," is not much less than his chaste musical compositions and his accurate performance upon musical instruments. We wish him good success.

THE J. L. STEPHENS—Mr J. R. Stewart, the agent of this vessel, returned on Saturday from Nanaimo. Mr Stewart states that the vessel received no injury whatever from grounding. She left on Saturday evening for Sitka.

FELL & Co—This well-known firm are removing their coffee and spice mills and grocery store to Fort street, premises formerly occupied by Messrs Wilson & Murray, where they will, in a few days, open with a choice and well selected stock of goods.

MR LEGH HARNETT, the lecturer and traveller, left Cariboo for the lower country on the 25th ult. He will stop and examine the Canyon Creek quartz ledge and the Cherry Creek silver ledge, on his way down.

SHIPS COMING—Captain Stamp's agents have chartered the bark Lightfoot to carry 300,000 feet Burrard Inlet lumber to Sydney, and have sold a cargo of 500,000 feet to be shipped per Austerlind.

RETURNED—Joe Eden, from his summer's tour through the mines, looking in better health, spirits and funds than when he left, and none the worse for wear from Wilson's fists.

OUTSIDE—The ship Day Dawn, laden with Burrard Inlet lumber, for Melbourne, is at anchor in the outer harbor, and will sail this afternoon for destination.

WE are glad to perceive in the list of passengers by the Otter the name of Rev. Dean Cridge of this city, who returns from a two-months' trip to Metlakathla much improved in health.

METLAKATLA MISSION.—An interesting account of the state of affairs at this mission will appear to-morrow.

THE ROADS—The heavy rains of Friday and Saturday announce the near approach of the rainy season and the necessity of timely repairs being made to the roads leading into the country districts.

THE gold dust paid into Court by the litigants in the Grouse Creek [illegible] suits, as the product of the ground in dispute, amounted to $3068, all of which [illegible] to the Flume Company.

[illegible] advices as to the day on which this steamer will start on her return trip.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ELECTION—The election for Chief and Assistant Engineer of the Fire Department will be held to-day.

SAILED—The U.S. steamer Ossipee left Esquimalt on Saturday morning for New Archangel.

Accident to the J L Stephens—Card of Capt. Dall.

NANAIMO, V. I., Oct 3, 1867.

EDITOR COLONIST.—In your issue of to-day appears an item that might cause uneasiness in San Francisco unless explained. I refer to the grounding of the steamer J L Stephens in this port. The facts are as follows: We arrived and anchored at 7:30 a. m., Oct 1st; the coal shutes being occupied we had to move farther in, near the man-of-war anchorage. Whilst doing so (tide half ebb) we grounded on a sand and mud flat, where we remained several hours. At half flood we floated and anchored in proper place without the slightest damage to the ship. By inserting this explanation you will oblige your friend,

C. C. D'ALL,
Master, str J L Stephens.

No Prospects of an Entente Cordiale Between the Holy See and Italy.

[From the "Journal des Debats" of August 5th.]

Although eight months have now elapsed since the French occupation ceased in Rome, there appears but little hope of an understanding between the Holy See and Italy. The latter Power has made every advance, has renewed effort after effort, but all in vain. Is there a better chance for the future? We cannot see that there is; the very *conditio existendi* of the Pontifical State being a bar to either yielding or improvement. As to a conciliation which Italy, the results of the efforts made by the Italian Goverment are well known. The Ministry which had attempted them, was forced to retire when its endeavors were clearly seen to be fruitless, and all negotiations between Florence and Rome had to be broken off. Those essays at an accommodation it was that had kept the Romans in a state of calm by giving them some hope. The Holy See has its reasons for evading. By anathemas, excommunications, and encyclical letters, it had interdicted itself beforehand from any accord with Italy, and will not now reverse its previous decision. As to reforms, we have ourselves often remarked that it cannot give to its subjects rights and guarantees without impairing that doctrine of infallibility, which, by confusion of powers, it has transplanted into its temporal administration. It cannot give liberties to its subjects without establishing with its own hands some separation between those two powers, the confounding of which is the very essence of its Government. But whether the nature of things or the horror of progress condemns it not to grant anything, the result is the same; and the Romans can now obtain reforms only by force. In France, during a solemn discussion, the Minister of State said, "The cause of the evil arises from the condition of the Roman populations and the voices of the Government which has embittered or provoked them." How can an end be put to the cause of the evil? Is it waiting patiently until it shall suit the Holy See to suppress them? The Romans have waited and now all illusion is at an end. The truth must be told; the Holy See, by its immobility, necessary or not, raises the Revolutionary question, and in that cause there is danger of permanent conflict. It is true that an illustrious French Bishop is spoken of as the future successor of Pius IX. By abandoning the banks of the Loire for those of the Tiber, he would be changing the mitre for the tiara. Supposing that this rumor, added to so many others, had some foundation, we cannot say whether the expectation of so extraordinary an event will renew the lease of patience of the Romans.

DENTISTRY—Dr G. W. Cool has arrived in town and will be found at the St. George Hotel, rooms Nos. 22 and 23. Those who desire his services will please call immediately, as his stay in town will not be protracted. *

Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TORONTO LEADER, Sir:—This connection link between the navigable waters of the Upper Mississippi and those of Lake Superior, 160 miles in length, in connection with the Huron and Ontario ship canal, is of the utmost importance to both Canada and the United States. The former, a land grant road, is in progress of construction and when completed from St. Paul to Superior, or Burlington, will afford an unbroken route to travel from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The distance from St. Paul to New Orleans, by water, is about 2,000 miles, and the distance from the head of Lake Superior to Quebec, *via* Toronto, passing through Georgian Bay, is about 1,400 miles—thus shortening the distance 600 miles by avoiding Lake Erie.

This international and inland route, passing through the most fertile portions of the United States and Canada, is destined to form the shortest and most desirable through line of transit from North America to Europe— carrying the agricultural, mineral, and other products of this wide extended region of country.

This great route, extending half across the continent, in connection with the Northern Pacific railroad, for which a very liberal grant of land has been given by the United States Government, ought to encourage capitalists both in America and Europe to invest their surplus means so as to insure their early completion, it being, without doubt, ultimately destined to form the great line of through travel from Europe to Asia, across the continent of America.

Yours, &c.,
J. DISTURNELL.

Marryat's Boyhood.

Marryat ran away to sea at twelve years of age, so that at best his education must have been very limited. I remember this story which he himself told me of his early school-days: "The very first school I ever went to was one kept by an old dame. There was a number of other boys there who were all very good boys, but Charlie Babbage and I were always the scamps of the school. He and I were forever in scrapes, and the old woman used to place us side by side standing on stools in the middle of the room and point to us as a warning to the others and say, 'Look at these two boys! They are bad boys and they will never get on in the world. Those two boys will come to a bad end.' It is rather funny," he concluded, "but Babbage and I are the only two in all the school who have ever been heard of since. We got round the old dame, though, in the end. The boys used to curry favor with her by being the first to bring in the daily eggs laid by two or three hens she kept in the garden. If a boy brought in one egg he was approved of, but if he brought two, he was patted on the back and called 'good boy.' So Charlie and I agreed to get up very early in the morning, before the other boys, and abstract the eggs from the hens' nests; and then we hid them away in a hole in the hedge. The old dame was in a great state of mind at having no eggs day after day; and when her vexation had culminated, and all the good boys were very low in her books, Charlie Babbage and I made a discovery. 'Oh, mam! here's ever so many eggs in the hedge!' Thenceforth we were the prime favorites: and whenever our credit waned a fresh hoard of eggs was found, and set things straight." "What made you take to the sea?" I asked. "I always had a fancy for it," he answered. "I ran away from school twice, but was pursued by my father, discovered, captured and brought back again. I was bent upon going to sea; but that was not the immediate cause of my running away." He looked up laughingly, and I asked, "Why?" "Because I didn't like having to wear my brother S——'s breeches. You see, I came just below him, and, for the sake of economy, my mother used to give me his outgrown clothes. I could stand anything else, but I could not stand the breeches."

Mountain in Switzerland Falling into a Valley.

The following is an extract of a letter sent by a young gentleman in Feldkirch, Switzerland, to his parents in Liverpool:

"Not far from here part of a mountain has set itself in motion, and is sliding down into the valley. The inhabitants of a village are in great consternation at the occurrence. Last winter we had very much snow and rain, and the water has trickled down through all the crevices of the mountain into the ground. It has undermined the foundations in one part, and caused it to fall in about three weeks ago. Other pieces have since followed this one. Every few minutes a new crack shows itself; at first as broad as a piece of thread, it becomes gradually broader and broader, and one piece of the mountain rapidly follows another. At present a very large surface is in motion to the depth of perhaps more than a thousand feet. A river and all the brooks which flowed down the mountain have disappeared in the cracks; paths which were formerly nearly level have been separated into little pieces, of which some are twenty feet higher than the next one. The whole [illegible] covered with large forests, there is now scarcely a single tree on it in its natural position. They have been wrenched out of the earth and thrown away in all directions, some of them lying with their roots in the air and their heads in the cracks in the mountain."

MAN AS AN ARTICLE OF FOOD.—It was formerly supposed that the relish with which certain savage tribes ate their enemies arose from the gratification of the passion of revenge. Within the last few years, however, it has been clearly shown that some of the barbarian man-eaters are really fond of human flesh for its own sake—that they enjoy it as a civilized epicure enjoys turtle soup or venison. Your Feejee Islander now thinks the greatest praise he can bestow upon any edible is to say it is 'as tender as a dead man.' The Feejeans have plenty of provisions; but they consider 'long pig'—their pleasant name for human flesh—much finer than pork, beef or mutton.

A modern traveler tells us that one of these chiefs—the head man of Raki-Raki—is said, in the course of his luxurious life, to have eaten nine hundred persons! It is also stated that your Feejean, as a rule, relishes his 'long pig' most when it has been roasted alive! The New Zealanders, on the other hand, do not consider man's flesh as a delicacy, but eat dead heroes and 'wise men' (whether they have been friends or enemies makes no difference), with the idea that they imbibe the valor and intellectual qualities of the deceased, during the process. The 'noble savage' of Terra del Fuego never eats any of his own people, except when other meat is remarkably scarce, although always ready 'to take in' the ship-wrecked stranger. In severe winters, if we are to believe Admiral Fitzroy, the Terra del Fuegons, 'when they can obtain no other food, take the oldest woman of their party, hold her head over a thick smoke made by burning green wood, and, pinching her throat, choke her;' after which she is served up to her friends.

The barbarians, on being asked why they did not eat their dogs instead of their old ladiee, naively answered that their dogs caught otters, but their venerable grandmothers and aunts did not. Probably a majority of even the lowest order of savages prefers fish and yams to human flesh; but it is nevertheless true that there are several tribes in Australasia, Africa, and the South Sea Islands that actually hanker after it. There is some consolation, however, in the assurance given us by travelers, that most of these anthropophagi prefer colored individuals to Caucasians as table luxuries. This fact is certainly encouraging to the missionary interest; but then there are indiscriminate feeders among savages as well as among the civilized races, so that now and then a missionary suffers.

A Marquis in Trouble.

The Marquis of Westmeath has a friend, a 'leading Orangeman,' who frequents the strangers' gallery of the House of Lords, which is immediately above the gallery in which the reporters sit. On the occasion of the second reading of the Bill for the repeal of the Declaration against Transubstantiation, Lord Westmeath had given notice of a question, and was about to speak, when his leading Orange friend, whose name is Harper, being in the gallery, overheard one reporter say to another, 'I see that d——d old idiot, the Marquis of Westmeath has a long notice on the books for this evening, but I'll take care not to give a word of what he says.' Subsequently, the same individual observed in a loud voice, evidently intended for the occupants of the reporters' gallery, 'What a pity it is that there is no one to send this confounded old idiot to a lunatic asylum.' These remarks Mr. Harper reported to Lord Westmeath, and his lordship brought them under the notice of the House of Lords as constituting a breach of privilege. But their lordships received the aggrieved nobleman's complaint with 'roars of laughter,' and after ventilating his anger at considerable length he was at last induced to sit down and allow the House to proceed to more serious business.

WHEN you feel a cough or bronchial affection creeping on the lungs, take AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL, and cure it before it becomes incurable.