

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, December 26, 1868

Two years and a half have elapsed since the inhabitants of the Isle of Candia, or Crete, rose in arms against Turkish rule, and for a time the war was waged with terrible vigor on the side of the insurrectionists, assisted by Greek subjects, whose movements were connived at by their Government with the object of restoring the island to its ancient position as a dependency of the Grecian Empire. Armed steamers, carrying the Greek flag and laden with supplies of all kinds, visited the island with impunity and contributed to prolong a struggle which, but for their interference would have been speedily suppressed. In a struggle between the Moslem and the Christian, the sympathies of all Christendom must rest with the latter; but the Cretan contest from the first appeared as utterly hopeless, and the design of the revolutionists and their abettors—to involve Russia and eventually all Europe in war by reopening the Eastern Question—so plainly manifest, that the moral support of Europe was readily accorded the Turks. The object of Greece being an entirely selfish one, so long as it was not her own people who were put to the sword or reduced to abject misery and starvation, nor her own fair lands that were scorched and seamed and desolated by the rush of contending armies, she was well content to annually yield a certain sum to be used ostensibly in "aiding the spread of the Gospel," but really to assist the Cretans in their desperate struggle to throw off the Turkish yoke. At first the Turks exhibited great imbecility in their operations, and for upwards of a year the rebels whipped every army sent against them. Even the renowned Omar Pasha, who acquired great distinction by his dash and bravery during the Crimean war, was outgeneraled and forced to retire discomfited from the island. But for twelve months past, the Turks have put forth greater exertions, and have succeeded in breaking the back of the insurrection and reducing the rebels to a few predatory bands, infesting the mountainous districts. To these bands the Greeks continue to extend the same aid and comfort as when the whole island was in revolt. Deprived of the assistance of the Greeks, the Turkish Government has dismissed the Greek Minister, and diplomatic relations between the countries are suspended. The policy of Turkey (it has been asserted in despatches previously received), is approved by all the Great Powers, including Russia, who have witnessed passively the struggle, and have become convinced that the cause of the Cretans is hopeless, and the course of the Greek the very worst that could be pursued in the interest of humanity. Whether the Greeks will ultimately yield a compliance to the demand of Turkey after the extreme step taken by the latter, it is impossible to conjecture, but should they decide for war, a long and bloody struggle, which may eventually light up a general European conflagration—must result.

Monday, Dec 21.
The fine fore and aft schooner Clara Light, Capt Mitchell, consigned to Millard & Beechey, arrived yesterday from San Francisco. She has about 225 tons of goods. The Clara Light met with westerly winds on leaving the Golden Gate, by which she was driven south of her point of departure after being five days out; so made the passage in 12 days in all, so that she has only occupied about seven days to this port, a remarkably quick trip. She passed several vessels bound north, but did not ascertain their names.

The new steam fire engine for the Tiger Company was put together and thoroughly tested on Saturday. After being perfectly adjusted by Mr F J Brumwell, who appeared to be quite conversant with the nature of the machine, a fire was lighted and in about eight minutes afterwards the engine was ready for work. Pressure equal to 250 lbs may be produced on this engine, but of course such a pressure will never be required here. For instance, with 120 lbs of steam, two streams of water were thrown about 140 feet, whilst an 80 lb pressure threw a single stream 200 feet. We congratulate the citizens of Victoria on the acquisition of so valuable an addition to our means of extinguishing fires. We would strongly recommend, however, that a competent person be employed to attend to the engine when in use, as we remember the fearful accident that occurred in New York where nine persons were killed by the explosion of a similar machine, and, as was afterwards proved, entirely owing to the incompetency of the man in charge. This engine will throw four streams if necessary, and seems to be a remarkably well finished piece of workman's ship.

PARTICULARS of the last horrible murder on the East coast have come to hand. The deceased was named Giles Curtis, and his partner (Howard Estes), was absent at Ochoz when the foul deed was committed. Upon his return to the cabin, he found his gun standing outside the cabin, and on entering saw Curtis, wetting in his blood, which had flowed from a gunshot wound in his temple, and from a horrible gash in his throat, made with a butcher's knife, which lay all bloody on the table. The perpetrators are believed to have been Indians, who must have been alarmed at some noise and fled before they had time to plunder the premises. An inquest, held by Mr Morley, J P, resulted in the return of a verdict of death from wounds inflicted by some party or parties unknown. Deceased was a young man of the highest respectability, and had settled down on the Island for the purpose of farming.

ANOTHER EXPORT.—A San Francisco paper, recently received, contains a long and pertinent article upon the merits of the Oulshan Oil, giving at the same time many valid reasons for its entire superiority to the use of Cod Liver Oil. This conclusion is arrived at from professional articles written in the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal, and other communications to the London Pharmaceutical Journal. The San Francisco writer makes one mistake in his notice which is rather amusing. While boasting of the discovery of another resource of the Pacific coast, he adds—the world may have gone to California for one of the great modern medicaments. He ought in justice to have said the world must go to British Columbia for this great boon.

We have pleasure in calling attention to the sale of Plated Ware, Watches, Clocks, China, Furs, Shawls, &c, at Messrs J P Davies & Co's Sale Room, tomorrow. For variety and choice character of the goods, we have not seen anything superior in the city. The plated ware is particularly fine in pattern and finish. The choice Shawls are very neat, and will doubtless meet with a ready sale. A visit to Messrs Davies' sale room would be fully repaid in the gratification afforded by a view of the goods. The ladies are particularly recommended to call.

An advertisement appears in the San Francisco papers of the 15th inst, calling for one hundred persons to act as watchmen over infected houses. New-comers from the East suffer severely from the disease. Owing to their ignorance of the infected localities they frequently rent houses in which the previous inmates died, and the disease is thus communicated to them. The small-pox has become quite fatal to children of late.

A City Supervisor of San Francisco was recently assailed in his chair by a citizen named Col Simes, who entered the room and spat in the Supervisor's face. The Colonel was heavily fined, when a friend of his at once took up the quarrel and challenged the Supervisor to mortal combat. The Supervisor accepted the challenge, when the Colonel's friend backed out, alleging that his business was in such a state that his efforts would suffer were he to fall!

ARRIVAL OF THE CONTINENTAL.—The Steamship Continental, Captain Melsger, from San Francisco, Dec 16th, arrived at 11 a.m. yesterday; but owing to the strict quarantine regulations, the mails and express were not sent on shore until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. One case of small pox (a lady) was reported on board. The ship will probably be fumigated to-day and allowed to discharge cargo.

The steamship Active, Captain Scholl, arrived last night from Portland, bringing a large freight and 40 passengers. She reports the G S Wright off the bar bound in. She met with strong head winds during the trip.

The three masted schooner James Townsend, Capt Yessen, 9 days from San Francisco, arrived yesterday on her way to Stamp's Mill, Burrard Inlet, for a cargo of lumber for San Francisco.

The Government Gazette of Saturday last announces the selection of Edgar Dowdney, Esq, to represent the Kootenay District in the Legislative Council.

HOLIDAYS.—Thursday, Friday and Saturday, of this week, and Thursday, the 31st inst, and the 1st and 2nd of January, 1869, will be observed as holidays at the Public Offices.

We are indebted to Mr R V Thorn, Wells Fargo & Co's gentlemanly Messenger for files of late papers.

Union and Tariff.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I dare say you would consider it interfering with the liberty of the subject, and the press also, to say that the different questions which affect us should not be discussed in your columns; yet I am of opinion that all agitation on the Free Port subject will do more harm than good. The sooner all concerned can get themselves to believe that the Free Port is dead and gone the better. The property holders of Victoria do not wish to see the Real Estate Tax inaugurated again, in fact they would not sanction such a thing for a moment. Give Union and Tariff a fair chance, and let neither the Government or the legislature be tempted to interfere with our present, fiscal system without some stronger grounds for so doing than can be shown at present. Let our policy be firm but elastic, and commerce restricted as little as possible. When confidence is being restored, trade established on a firmer footing, and agriculture being more generally entered into, is the whole structure to be dashed to pieces by ruthless politicians? Surely we have been tempest tossed, and on the political rock long enough. Do I oh, do I ye restless spirits, give us some rest, and a little breathing time to consider our position. Nothing is more injurious to a country than to be changing its policy continually, especially the mode of raising a revenue; commercial men never know what to provide for.

The very name of Free Port paralyses the agricultural interests. Many of the poor farmers imagined that if a subject is discussed in the newspapers that the thing is to be done at once, it is admitted on all sides that since the union of the Colonies the farming interests on the Island has made great progress—and is being cleared, fenced and cultivated, which before was considered worthless—and why slip so much industry in the bud? It is true that many of our farmers bought their lands when we had a Free Port, but look at their discontent so soon as they had any produce to sell. As coming to town they generally found the market overstocked with American stuff, leaving them no option but to dispose of their produce at ruinous prices. At present they are satisfied. I do not advocate a high protective tariff—it would only raise revenue sufficient to meet our requirements, and reduce the duties on many articles.

At present I would reduce the duty on flour alone—although it is a notorious fact that you get as much bread and meat for a dollar now as you did in the palm days of the Free Port. I should think that our importers would prefer the present system to the old, although they require more capital to carry on their business. Goods now command a fair price—the consumption may be less, but the profits are more. No glut in the market now—no goods sacrificed at auction as formerly. Our retail traders must rely on the quality of their goods, and not on a Free Port for their foreign custom, and to that as much as anything is to be attributed their former success. Let Free Trade and others have patience. A year or two will see us a prosperous Colony. Under our present policy different industries will spring into existence, and the voice of content will be heard in our land. Reciprocity, except in a few articles, must be looked upon in the same light as a Free Port.

AN OLD SETTLER.

The Runaway ship.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—We regret that we are compelled to take notice of a communication signed 'Muir Brothers,' in your paper of to-day, but which we feel confident was written by some person interested in making the wrong appear right.

We will not trouble you with a detailed statement of the whole case, but a more false and untruthful concoction never appeared in the columns of any paper.

We will only refer to a few points. In the first place it is untrue that Mr Drake understood that the damages of \$2000 claimed by Messrs Muir were nominal, for we offered on behalf of Captain Morton, on the 20th of October, to deposit the amount of Messrs Muir's claims, \$1564, to await a trial, if they would abandon their claim for damages; how comes it that Messrs Muir made an affidavit that they had sustained damages to the

amount of \$2000, and now say it was only nominal? We never, after the 20th Oct, offered to deposit any money at all. If the arbitration could have been arranged according to the desire of Captain Morton's Attorney-in-fact on a fair basis, the deposit, if required, would have been made by him.

It is equally untrue that Mr Drake always held a Power of Attorney and could have settled at any time, for a settlement beyond \$1564 was contrary to Capt Morton's instructions.

It is untrue that on the 31st of October Mr Drake was negotiating with the Muirs to deposit the draft for \$400, and then, as they insisted, got 3 men to go to Sooke and get the ship off, for after the arbitration was finally agreed upon it was sent down to Esquimalt to the care of a gentleman who was in Capt Morton's confidence and the reply was that Capt Morton had left the country the day before.

We further beg to correct your very erroneous correspondence on the subject of the trial. Capt Morton was unrepresented, and of course a one-sided arrangement of this sort is always open to dispute.

We should not notice Messrs Muir's letter now if it were not for the false statements, perversion of facts and shameless falsehoods which abound in it, the peculiar ideas held by Messrs Muir on the subject of truth are perhaps not their own, but are loaned them by the owners of the cargo, perhaps for the purpose of making the public believe that the prosecution of a Master of a British ship in a British port is right and honorable, and that a capias for a fancy amount of more than double the claim is a fine mercantile way of settling a disputed account in which the difference at the outset was not more than \$200.

Your correspondent carefully excludes all reference to Capt Morton's claims for demurrage and closes his letter by an appeal at misericordium. They say they are satisfied with the result; we candidly say we are not and we trust that the Captain will refer the whole of the proceedings in this case to the Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool.

In conclusion we beg to say that if Capt Morton had taken steps to get his ship clear we should have been indulged with another case similar to those which have brought discredit on our port.

DRAKE, JACKSON AND AICKMAN.
19th Dec. 1868.

Self-Reliance.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I have read the letters inserted in your columns over the signatures of Self-Reliance. In the last letter, this statement is contained, that to insure prosperity in a country 'the Government and the people must work together for the common good' &c.

In this I quite agree with him, and if the Government should evince the slightest disposition to consult the welfare of the people rather than its own ease and comfort a better state of things would probably exist.

Upon a future occasion I shall for the interest of the public lay before it all the correspondence relative to a contract made in good faith with the Government, and by it broken. On the present occasion however, I shall content myself by merely advertising to the fact that when it refuses redress for flagrant and willful breaches of agreement entered into with it, no remedy is afforded in our Court of Justice as the law at present stands; the Government when wronged has the right (and a very proper one) of compelling performance of a contract made with it, but this right is denied to the other side. Individuals are therefore obliged to trust solely to the honor of the Government for the fulfilment of its agreements; what this glorious privilege is worth I shall hereafter show. Our Legislature should if possible cure this glaring defect. Even in the matter of ordinary correspondence with the Government, however urgent your business may be, should you obtain attention within three or four months you may consider yourself as highly favored. If this is studying the public good, then the government certainly deserve all praise.

A VICTIM.

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ST-1860-X.

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IT KILLS INSTANTLY.

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Or any other complaint requiring an external application.

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Wharf street, Victoria, B. C., 1868.

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GOVERNOR SEYMOUR before the Council taken as a whole, for common sense excellency means a liberal policy inaugurated here upon public good, and to sectionalism or petty every Government most important claim the one which redeems the liberal pledge of Excellency's arrival charge of the Union the concession is not asked, we still rely victory over official long and severe struggle the fault of the people they fail to secure during the coming depends, of course, to be selected to act to the Government should know something to which they have and of the proofs they are and will be after all, the question it necessarily involves sides; and no great can be fairly fought obtain well-known perfectly characterised they profess, as v themselves, to struggle—not much in it is made towards the elect, instead of select their leaders and for the approval of Judiciary remains muddle as before.

has been disallowed Government and the out no hope of an in of the two Chief Ju vided for elsewhere. dicial work can be gentleman without justine Judge, it was a retiring pension to that would be less salary—and thus r unfortunate and a which they are pl slorenly wording of the Speech attacks the of imposing royalties leases upon Crown that clogs the pro our mineral and getting capital. evil is promised measure. It will welcome. The quee is to be submitted His Excellency ad right that he shou sel upon a policy the whole Colon which would quic every interest, and our industrial p prosperity that no scarcely a realizing to the Speech, the eration remains the settlement of claims to the No but his Excellen there is no Englis rejoices to see a val his own flag, exte lantic to the Pacifi union with our tra has come to be r circles with a feel of the repugnan exhibited a year a require no better approach of the scheme for the oc British North Ame pire. The propoiti ings' Bank under appears to us abso objectionable feat A Savings' Bank