

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle. Saturday, December 5, 1868.

It gives place this morning to a very able letter from a valued correspondent upon the subject of fertilizing the tracts of poor land on the island by the employment of guano. The value of guano in redeeming and bringing under cultivation waste and abandoned land in other countries is shown so clearly that we are really surprised the project was not broached before. There are hundreds of acres of land in this vicinity abandoned for farming purposes that might be brought into profitable use by the introduction of the Peruvian fertilizer which has wrought highly beneficial results in England by reclaiming impoverished land. A cargo of lumber might be carried to Peru and a return cargo of guano obtained which would sell well here. The venture is a safe one. Why not form a company to carry out the project? The experiment would cost very little; and there are ten chances in favor of its paying to one against.

We are sick and tired of having the parodies of the 'talent of Mr. Birch,' the ability of the late Colonial Secretary, the wonderful administrative capacity of the youthful administrator of the Government, flung into our ears by our Mainland cotemporaries and the Sunday News of this city—cries that are unaccompanied by a single statement of how, when or where he exhibited his talent, ability or administrative knowledge. Having carefully scanned the official career of this modern Solomon, who would appear from the often expressed opinions of our cotemporaries, to have carried all the wisdom of the Colony with him when he left, we positively declare that we have been unable to discover the slightest evidence of his fitness for the position (which, fortunately for the Colony, he has vacated), unless the record of sinful waste and extravagance, improvidence and luxurious indolence which he left behind are tokens of his capacity. Will our cotemporaries explain and state in what manner the Colony gained by the connection?

Monday, Nov 30. PRINCE ALFRED'S VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD.—English advices announce the departure on the 2nd inst. of H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, from Plymouth in Her Majesty's Galatea on a voyage around the world. The programme finally adopted by Prince Alfred for his trip is the following:—The Island of Madeira will be the first place touched at. From there he will visit the islands of Fayal and Ascension, and then make for the Cape of Good Hope, where he will remain some time, as the colony is preparing to receive him with great ceremony. From there he will set sail for Bombay, Ceylon, Trincomalee, Madras and Calcutta, which latter city will welcome his visit in all the magnificence of Oriental luxury and splendor. During the sojourn at Calcutta excursions will be made to all the most interesting spots in the interior. On leaving Calcutta the Galatea will touch at the island of Pulo-Penang (Prince of Wales Island), Singapore and Hong Kong. After visiting the principal ports of the Chinese empire calls will be made at Manila, the capital of the Philippine Islands, and finally at the ports of Japan. Sidney will be the next on the list, and considering the attempt made upon Prince Alfred's life by the assassin O'Farrell during his former visit to that city every nerve will be strained by the colony in order to effect the sad remembrance. New Zealand will follow, then the Sandwich Islands, Valparaiso and other ports of Chile, Lima, San Blas, San Francisco and other Californian ports, returning to England by way of Vancouver Island. The whole programme it is thought will occupy about two years.

MAINLAND ITEMS.—The steamer Orward only runs to Harrisonmouth now.... The explosion of the little steamer Sea Foam, at Burrard Inlet, was more serious than at first supposed, two passengers being seriously scalded. These cockle-shell boats, as well as larger craft, should all be inspected frequently, and the capabilities of their engineer inquired into and put to the test.... The Columbian, in a column leader, discourses alarmingly on the small-pox, which would appear (from the article) to be prevalent at New Westminster and vicinity. Frigid kills more than disease, and such articles, though interesting, are injudicious, as calculated to create a spread of the complaint.... The small-pox hospital at New Westminster was burned by order of the Board of Health. The local print from which we extract the information fails to state what became of the patients, leaving the impression that they were burned with the building.

THE MARSH-STONE TROUPE.—From a Shanghai paper of 26th October last, we find a flattering criticism upon this troupe. 'Beauty and the Beast' was the piece that elicited the commendation; and in the cast of characters the names of Miss Stone, Beauty, and Louise Arabot, whoever that may be, as Beast, stand foremost as favorites. Mrs Marsh, R G Marsh, his sister Nellie, Miss Yeomans, Messrs Stone and Caine, are all favorably mentioned—every one, in fact, except our old local favorite, Charles Clarke. The prospects of the company doing well are good. The same paper says 'we are convinced that if Mr Marsh continues to give us burlesques and farces in the style of those already presented, he will meet with no lack of support from the theatre-going community of Shanghai.' The report of Miss Yeoman's death is thus satisfactorily refuted.

NEW THEATRE.—At a large meeting held in Barkerville about a fortnight since, it was determined that a new and commodious Theatre, worthy the capital of our mining section should be built. Generous offers were made by different citizens of labor and material; and the building is to be 60 by 30. The construction is under the superintendence of Mr Howman, and a Building Committee of Messrs Blair, Grant and Thompson. A neat church has also been completed for the Rev Mr Derrick, (Methodist), and comfortably fitted up for the winter. This does not look as if Barkerville, according to the usual predictions of the oracles, was not going to rise from her ashes better than ever.

NAVAL.—Commander Forster, late of H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, on this station, and well and favorably known to our citizens, has been promoted to the rank of Post-Captain. Dr Walsh, Staff-Surgeon, has been appointed to the Zetland. H. M. S. Dryad, Commander O'Leary (the inventor of the flashing-light signal), is on her way here to take the place of H. M. S. Mutine, ordered home. H. M. S. Charybdis, from Australia, is shortly expected to take the place of H. M. S. Malacca, also ordered home.

THE GRAND TRUNK ROAD.—The belief gains strength daily, that the Grand Trunk Railway is to sell its line east of Quebec to the Intercolonial Railway, so as to form a Governmental line from Halifax to Quebec, some four hundred miles of which are still to be built. \$20,000,000 have been raised in Canadian debentures on favorable terms in England, the Imperial Government guaranteeing \$15,000,000 of four per cent., which are now worth eight per cent. premium on the London Stock Exchange.

ARRIVED.—The steamship Continental, Capt Matzger, arrived at Esquimaux at 10 o'clock yesterday, having left San Francisco on the afternoon of the 25th inst. She brings the mail, a good freight of merchandise, but only ten passengers. The Continental was detained a couple of hours outside of the lighthouse in conformity with the new regulations of the Board of Health. There were no cases of sickness on board.

GRAND AGE.—Capt Thurbush, who was on duty as guard over Napoleon at St Helena, is still living in New York, at the age of 103. Mr Lovell of Danetable New Hampshire, died recently at the age of 120. This latter gentleman had two competitors, Wm Perkins of Newmarket, who died at 116, and Robert Macklin, of Wakefield, at 115. These cases of longevity are authenticated.

FEVER.—Capt Frain, of the steamer Fly, was fined last week by the magistrates of New Westminster for incautiously allowing an Indian sick of the small-pox to leave his vessel and go at large. The Indian was afterwards taken to the hospital and carefully treated, but the disease had got too great a hold upon him and he died.

SISTERS OF ST ANN.—A notice in the Government Gazette of Saturday states that Her Majesty's Principal Secretary for the Colonies has been unable to advise Her Majesty to sanction the Ordinance to incorporate the Society of the Sisters of Saint Ann, of Victoria, British Columbia, for Educational purposes. The objections are not stated.

THE following significant paragraph appears as a cable despatch in the New York Herald of Nov 24.—London, Nov 2, 1868.—The British Government declines to recognize the rights claimed by the Hudson Bay Company in the territory between Canada and the Pacific coast.

CLERICAL.—Rev Wm Aitkin, of London, arrived by the Continental from San Francisco yesterday. Mr Aitkin, who is represented as a gentleman of ability, takes pastoral charge of the Pandora street Presbyterian church.

BURIED INLET.—The ships Knowsley and Leonore were to leave San Francisco in the course of a week to load with lumber at Moody & Co's Mills for Callao and Valparaiso. Each vessel has ordered 500,000 feet.

PARTS OF Bastion and Government streets are ready in part of installing. A load of two of stones dropped in time near some of the pits and holes might prevent the occurrence of serious accidents and have the city much exposed at a future day.

SKOONKA.—The arrival of the Continental is likely to be a blessing to smokers. Frank Campbell is in the field with a splendid assortment of cigars, and more to follow in a few days.

YESTERDAY'S steamer brought a Canadian file to the 24th October, having been delayed at Victoria Post-office.—British Columbian. Which were delayed—the files or the steamer?

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer G S Wright arrived from Nanaimo yesterday. She reports the ship Atalanta loaded but still there, and the arrival of the Shooting Star, eight days out from San Francisco.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster on Saturday evening with some seventy passengers and a large amount of gold in private hands.

ARRIVED AT LAST.—The new Steam Fire Engine for the Tiger Co. is on board the Continental. It is intended to give it a trial as soon as possible.

GOOD TIME.—Mrs. Kent, of Stowbridge, Massachusetts, at the advanced age of 81, recently walked fifteen miles in five hours and a-half.

BY-AND-BY GUANO, ANTI-XE HUT

VICTORIA DISTRICT, Nov 20, 1868. EDITOR COLONIST.—The few remarks which I am about to jot down and for the insertion of which I request your indulgence, would appear to lead to the conclusion that Peruvian guano might be imported to this colony with unquestionable profit to the Victoria merchant, and that its introduction here would equally benefit the British Columbian land owner and farmer. For many years the extraordinary fertilizing properties of guano have been known to Europe, America and the West India Islands. On this point, for the information of such of your readers as may have given no attention to the subject, I shall quote in substance a few authorities: "3 or 4 wt. of guano per acre is a good dressing and has the same effect has 10 loads of good rich farm yard manure. [Farm Mag. Vol 4, p 339.] The benefit of its application to land extends over an entire rotation of 4 years, during which period it ought with good management to produce annually two or three times its own value in grain or vegetables. [Johnson's Ag. Chem. p 233-236] 200 lbs fertilizes an acre. [Trans. Am. Inst. Agr. p 220.] 1 lb. of guano to the soil will supply it with as much ammonia as is contained in 24 lbs of well rotted farm manure. [Seymour's Ag. Chem. p 185] 2 or 3 wt per acre is a powerful manure. [Farm Almanac, p 63.] By experiments made by Mr Fleming of Barrohan, 3 cwt of guano without other manure gave 187 tons potatoes and 6 cwt with 20 bushels of wood ashes, gave 32 tons of yellow turnips. The importation of guano to Great Britain since 1841, has increased 100 fold and is now estimated at 250,000 tons annually, which at \$60 per ton amounts to \$15,000,000. Companies have been formed and made fortunes by importing it into England and the United States, and clipper ships have been built to carry it from Jarvis and Baker Islands to the United States, where it sells at \$36 per ton. Guano from Chincha Islands and coast of Peru has been proved to be immeasurably superior to that from Saladanah Bay, Bolivia, Iohaboo or the Falkland Islands. It is duty free in England, the United States and this colony. In England it is even free of all Road Tolls, and so it should be here.

Now, let us inquire, do any special causes exist which would render the introduction of guano to British Columbia a failure, altho' attended with so much profit to all concerned when imported to England. The following considerations will tend to reverse any such supposition: 1st. The circumstances which attend farming here and in England are not widely different, whether we consider soil, climate or price of production. The following prices of produce are reproduced from a late English paper, and do not appear to vary very much from our own, viz: Wheat.....\$2 94 per 100 lbs, Barley.....2 54 do Oats.....1 25 do Flour.....4 00 do Hay.....22 50@30 00 per ton Beef.....17 00 @ 100 lbs @ car Also the higher rents in England are counterbalanced by the higher rates of labor here. 2nd. London town dung from stables and out-houses, is delivered on board the barges at 25 cents per ton and from this and similar sources manure can be obtained in unlimited quantities on any farm in England at an average cost of \$1 75 per ton. [Jour. R A S Vol IV, p 541.] And when their facilities in this direction owing to roads, railways and canals be borne in mind, and that farmers here cannot get manure to buy at any price, as there is not a supply more than sufficient for two or three market gar-

dens, it must be admitted that England requires guano less than we do.

3rd. Again, their perfect system of rotating crops, stall feeding, and eating off turnips with sheep, render them tolerably independent of artificial manures, whereas here, owing to the improvidence which must attend the first settlement of a Colony, nearly all the lands in cultivation, within a radii of several miles of the town of British Columbia, have for years back undergone a steady deterioration amounting to many places to utter exhaustion of the soil; for example: around Victoria may be seen in every direction from the Oakland Estate to the plains of Colwood, land which originally cost perhaps \$40 per acre to clear, and afterwards produced successive crops of luxuriant vegetation, now utterly abandoned to grasshoppers and borrel, fences prostrated and homesteads empty. Now, let landowners ask themselves what would be the value of these unproductive lands if guano were procurable here at a moderate figure, and let farmers, if they own such, compare the cost of reclaiming such lands through the agency of guano with that of clearing fresh ground at a known cost of \$25 and \$50 or more per acre, and it will readily appear that the facts of labor being dearer here than in England, and the lands above described cheaper, (being utterly un-saleable if they won't grow anything) lead to the conclusion that if guano is a desideratum in England, it is indispensable here.

Again, how many produce wagons do we not see from Cedar Hill or South Saanich return unavoidsly empty, the distance to haul ordinary manure, if they got it for nothing, would be too great. How different if at a moderate cost they could carry 50 pounds of guano, equivalent as I have shown to one ton of farm manure.

Bear in mind also that we are only one third the distance from Peru that England is, that we have no Cape Horn to contend with, and that instead of the baffling tempest of the Atlantic, ours are the tradewinds of the Pacific, which ought to occasion a remarkable difference in price in favor of this place.

Lastly, would a vessel from here have to go down in ballast? Do the forests on the higher slopes of the Anades supply their building material, or is lumber needed there in consequence of the recent calamity? or have Peruvians any other want which a vessel laden here could supply? A Liverpool paper mentions four vessels from thence to guano stations, ballasted with gypsum to mix with the guano. Do vessels usually go from England to Peru in ballast? No.

But I think enough has been advanced to justify if not to stimulate some of our established merchants to consider and inform the farmers, gardeners and landowners at what prices guano can be delivered at the ports of British Columbia.

Queen Isabella's Latest Residence in Spain.—The Members of the Royal Family and their Appearance.

(San Sebastian September 25) correspondence of London News. St Sebastian looked particularly gay as I entered it from the railway. Flags are flying everywhere and several triumphal arches are erected in honor both of the Queen's residence here and of the Emperor's visit last week. It is a noble watering place; the bays and rocks are magnificent; the sea, of darkest blue, rolls in huge waves, which break in clouds of whitest foam upon the yellow sand; in every respect, for surrounding scenery, cool air and charming walks—it is superior to Biarritz. I found the hotel, the Parada Real, excellent in every respect—quite as clean, comfortable and well furnished as the hotels in the neighboring French watering-places. As I was walking along the beautiful promenade which forms a crescent along the bay I perceived a large body of sentries before a house of no great pretensions, which formed the corner of an uncompleted terrace. I soon discovered that this was the present residence of her most Catholic Majesty Isabella II—a great change from the vast Escorial, or the magnificent palace which she occupies at Madrid. It is a mean, three storied house, with a row of windows in each story, and somewhat resembling a lodging-house or second rate hotel. There is a court or garden in front of it; the road alone separates it from the sea. A number of the royal servants, in their handsome liveries, were standing on the steps, and a crowd was gradually collecting in front. Soon five carriages, four of which were each drawn by six magnificent mules, the other by two, and accompanied by several ostlers, drove slowly up to the door; so I had little doubt that the royal family were going out for a drive this fine afternoon, and that I should have a good opportunity of seeing them. Mean while several very shabby hack carriages drove up to the door, from which gentlemen in cooked hats and unexceptionable black coats and white cravats descended, and were ushered into the palace—if it may be called—to have interviews with the sovereign. Officers, too, were constantly passing to and fro. The royal funkies, in long dark blue coats, crimson facings and scarlet stockings, walked away the time, as all Spaniards do, smoking their cigarettes, almost in the presence of royalty.

At last the drums began to beat and the standard bearers raised their colors, the footmen were all on the alert, and the Prince of the Asturias—a plain, sickly looking boy of eleven, though he did not look more than eight or nine—appeared on the steps, accompanied by his tutor, I suppose, and entered one of the carriages. He was shortly after followed by three Infantas, rather plain looking children, of from nine to four years

of age, simply dressed in white, who, with two governesses, occupied the next carriage. Two unattractive looking ladies, one of whom was by many mistaken for the Queen, next followed. Measurably quite a crowd had assembled of all classes and nations—French, English, German, Basque and Spanish; they were allowed to keep quite close to the carriages, the soldiers not interfering to push them back. Her most Catholic Majesty is notoriously unpopulair; she kept her carriage waiting at least an hour and a-half, and till long after the rest of the royal party had driven away. At last she appeared accompanied by her husband and her uncle, Don Sebastian. The drums beat of course, and the soldiers presented arms. The foreign portion of the crowd respectfully raised their hats, but not a cheer was raised, or any mark of sympathy shown for her Majesty—indeed, a few hisses were distinctly heard.

The Queen is a stout, portly looking woman of about forty. She has a pleasant, goodnatureed face, and was conversing affably with those around her; her countenance and manner certainly betrayed no anxiety as to her own future, or that of her country. She has a remarkably sweet, rolling walk. The King, her husband, who repeatedly bowed to the crowd, is a quiet, gentlemanly looking man, of not very intellectual appearance. However, he does not in his countenance betray that imbecility of which he is accused. The Queen gave more a sort of familiar nod to the crowd than a bow. Don Sebastian, her uncle, in whose house she is staying, sat in the carriage opposite to her Majesty. He is a venerable and particularly pleasant looking gentleman.

HOW CITIZENS ARE MADE IN NEW YORK CITY.

The New York Herald gives the following humorous description of how foreigners are naturalized in New York city:—A frowsy Irishman, accompanied by a couple of Dutchmen as sponsors, appear before Judge McQuinn and ask to be admitted to citizenship. 'How long have you been in the country?' demanded his Honor. 'Nine year, an' a little over, yer Honor.' 'How old are you?' 'Twenty-six, surr.' 'Very well,' continued the Judge, turning to the sponsors, 'do you know this man to be moral, and that he has resided, &c.?' 'Yaw, Shudge; I know der moon. Der name is Timothy O'Drigger, and he avy think trick vicky adraight,' responded Hans. 'Come this way,' cried a clerk, and Timothy O'Drigger, escorted by his German sponsors, with whom he cordially fraternizes, approaches a desk. 'Hold up your hand,' continues the clerk, and 'Timothy' in wonder, or stupified by the peremptory manner of the interrogator, who has a great deal of business on hand, takes the oath of allegiance, administered as follows:—'You swear to support the constitution of the United States and take this paper to room eleven City Hall—over the way, there—and have it recorded.' 'Faith an' I will!' is the response, and Timothy thence the presence in a hurry, a full blown citizen, to have the stamp affixed to his paper and the record certified. Five minutes later and Timothy, with his friends, is 'staidin' his first thrate' as a 'fellow-citizen,' and an hour subsequent is shouting for 'Bismarck an' Blair an' Minister John Hoffman, as decent a candidate for office as iver kim from the old country itself, avy if he be a Docterman, be jabers! I've mind that now, an' it's Timothy O'Drigger see it!

Notice of Removal.

VICTORIA NURSERY

SEED ESTABLISHMENT.

MITCHELL & JOHNSTON, PROPRIETORS.

The Seed Business of the Firm is REMOVED to the OCCIDENTAL BUILDING, Corner of Government and Fort Streets.

M. & J. are now opening a Fine Parcel of Seeds, just arrived at the 'A. S. Stephens'—Export from England—of the following description:—

GLOVES, GRASSES, TREFLOIL, &c.

Including—Red Cow Grass, Alsike and Dutch Clovers, Permanent Pasture, Fine Lawn Mixture, Perennial Rye, Italian Rye, Cocks Foot or Orchard, Dogs Tail, Sweet Vernal and other Fine Grasses, Lucerne, Rape, &c.

TIMOTHY SEED

They have just harvested in splendid Condition their principal Stock of Farm and Garden Seeds.

VICTORIA NURSERY

Seed Establishment.

MITCHELL & JOHNSTON

beg to inform the public they can supply any quantity of carefully selected.

Fruit Trees,

OF ALL KINDS, Standard Roses, RHUBARB, ASPARAGUS, SEAKALE, &c.

AT THE LOWEST REMUNERATIVE PRICES. Also, a Large Quantity of Hawthorn for Hedges.

Victoria Nursery, Oct. 6th, 1868. oct 6m 4k.

BY ROYAL COMMAND JOSEPH GILLOTT'S STEEL PENS.

Sold by all Dealers throughout the World.

Paris Exhibition 1867. SAUCES, JAMS, C. & C. BLACKWELL, LONDON. ESTY'S TABLE. RAUD. GOROUS IMPRISONMENT. GOROUS IMPRISONMENT. BROTHERS. JUDSON'S Simple Dyes for People. JUDSON & SON'S SIMPLE DYES. ICE AGENCY. NUTTALL.