

The Weekly Colonist.

MISCELLANEOUS.

I was the guest of the Comptroller-General of the Customs of England a couple of days, and was surprised to learn from him that a gentleman in Victoria, who lays claim to some position on Ward street, and in the Assembly, had been a clerk of my friend, but am happy to state that the Comptroller gave him an excellent character. The father of the Controller, having been a chief page, is living at least for 40 years, my friend consequently lived in the palace, and was, till he had grown up, very familiar with royal personages and proceedings. He had access to royal apartments of all kinds, and often, when a boy, the Gold Stick-in-Waiting would ask him to hold his stick while he danced. I had the satisfaction of attending a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, at which the projected expedition to the North Pole was discussed. Among the speakers were several admirals, and distinguished navigators, including Sir E. Belcher, Admiral Collinson (after whom a street is named in Victoria), Admirals Fitzroy &c., and Captain Richards, our bold Victorian favorite of the Plumper surveying ship. He is intoxicated with the prospect of new discoveries contiguous to the Pole. Belcher is anxious that Richards should command the expedition, and the latter is willing, I believe, to resign his post as hydrographer to the Admiralty in the event of his appointment. The Times is against the scheme, and whether Parliament will grant money for it remains to be seen. It is absurd to oppose any measure that can extend the boundaries of science or benefit the world.

I met Colonel Moody at Rochester, in Kent, some time ago. He informed me that he had an appointment as Commandant of Engineers for that district. So it is likely, I presume, to return to Vancouver Island.

VATOR.

NEWS from SOUTH AMERICA.

On this tour I picked up some information about a celebrated preacher in London who now has the largest congregation in the world. It is superfluous to say I mean Spurgeon. I took tea under the roof of the house where he became the subject of religious impressions, when assistant in a boarding school. While in Newmarket he delivered the first address he ever gave in public before a Sunday School. I spoke to some who heard it, and the leading feature it is remembered, by was its solemnity. His great religious instructor at this period was the cook of the school—an old, gruff, masculine looking woman, steeped up to the eyes in hyper-Calvinism. Her spiritual son has canonized her in one of his books—I believe "The Saint and the Saviour," by Spurgeon could never be prevailed upon to visit Newmarket since those early days. With his irrepressible tendency to put noses in holes, he calls the towns "beastly places," whether in allusion to the preponderance of horses; I leave you to determine.

OF NEWPORT—ISLE OF WIGHT.

I spent also a very pleasant time a few months since in the Isle of Wight, in a neighborhood well known to many of your readers—Newport. The most attractive object in that vicinity is of course Carisbrooke Castle. A window is shown here with a stanchion wanting. It formerly lighted the cell where King Charles I. was confined, while awaiting his trial with his Parliament. The Sovereign pushed his head through between two of the iron bars of the window, referred to in attempting his escape, but was unable to extricate himself again; so that the stanchion had to be forcibly removed. A bell is poised out in the town where His Majesty met parliamentary commissioners and negotiated the Bill of Rights.

VISIT TO THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

I ought not to omit to mention that I was conducted through the Bank of England by the kindness of a gentleman of influence. The most interesting part of the establishment, in my estimation, was not the building room, but the apartment devoted to the issuing of bank notes. It is well known that a note is never issued twice from the bank, but when returned is detained in that hole of a place just mentioned, which is lighted with gas all day and every day. It was shown the oldest note in the bank's safe date was 1669. Its value was £500 and it was divided into equal parts of proportionate value, which passed as entire notes now day. A £25 note was exhibited which had been out 111 years. Had it been out at a greater time at the rate of 5 per cent during the whole of that period it would have brought its possessor £1,000,000, held in my hand a note for £1,000,000, dated 1812, & it was estimated that £30,000,000 laid down upon another would reach nine miles high. £1,000,000 would reach about eight or ten feet higher than the monument. Notes used to be kept for ten years and then burnt in a great incense prepared on purpose. Now they are only kept for 7 years. Not the least interesting item of information received was that while the bank official who had charge of the precious documents referred to, was employed in destroying them, his father had been engaged in making them. Some of your readers may not be aware that a detachment of soldiers march into the Bank of England every evening regularly about 5 o'clock, and keep watch of the premises throughout the night.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The startling news of the Privy Council judgment in regard to Bishop Colenso, will have reached you ere this. The deep sympathy with your bishop and the clergy in the terrible shock this deliverance of the Lord Chancellor must have occasioned them. That sweeping decision maintains that a church in a colony, where a particular church is not established by the colonial legislature, is in the eye of the law precisely on a level with the minister of any other religious body. Any commission from the Queen is no worth the paper it is written upon, and should any clergyman refuse to obey his ecclesiastical superior, the latter has no course against the former in any court save the realm in the way of punishing his contumacy. What a lesson now is given to us on the recognition of that form of address known as "my lord." It was a misnomer before, as applied to a colonial bishop, or a lord in the House of Peers, but now like the term of signature that has obtained hitherto among colonial bishops, it would be simply ridiculous.

Chemicals, &c.

& BURBIDGES DRUGS.

TRADE MARK.
LONDON.

Prices Current of nearly 4000
Armenian and Photographic
Medicines, Surgical Instruments,
and Medical Sundries.

complete list ever published and
every month, **FREE OF ALL**

expenses. The market is invaluable to Chemists,
Surgeons, &c.

THE WAR WITH PARAGUAY.

The new organization in Uruguay has been firmly established. Mufoz, Alvario, and Cifuentes Urbez, the last chief of the "Blancos" in arms against the new government, started for England on April 19th. English papers of the 15th April reported that they had declined, but seem to have been induced to go.

A tendency to curtail the public expenditure at Montevideo, has brought more or less dissatisfaction upon civil and military employees.

Councillor Paraflos, who has managed affairs for the Brazilian government on the La Plata during the late difficulties, is among the number indicating dissatisfaction with the terms of the peace on the part of the government.

At present, and probably before long, there

the terms proposed by Flores, Jan. 18th, and accepted by Paraflos, Jan. 31st, are as follows:

1. An alliance between the Empire and the Oriental Republic to conduct the war against Paraguay.
2. Punishment for injuries inflicted upon Brazilians.
3. Restitution of those employed in these deserts.
4. Equalization of the reclamations of Brazilians with those of the citizens of other nations.
5. Maintenance of the treaties discarded by the "Blancos."

On the 19th of March, the vanguard of the naval force organized to assist in the operations against Paraguay, sailed from Montevideo for Paraná.

The entire Brazilian squadron in the La Plata consists of 18 vessels carrying 128 guns; this will be increased by a reinforcement of 7 vessels, making a fleet of 25 ships eight or nine of which are ironclads.

In Brazil the enlistment and organization of the troops was rapidly progressing. The greatest activity existed in military circles, a concentration of the allied armies was to be effected in the provinces of the Rio Grande. The forces operating against Paraguay are computed to be between 60,000 and 70,000 men. It is also intended to blockade Paraguay, and to ensure this the government of Argentina has given Brazilian vessels permission to cruise in her waters.

On the 5th of March, the National Congress of Paraguay was opened by a spirited and patriotic message from the President, Francisco S. Lopez, wherein he describes the dangers which threaten the nation, and declares it his determination to maintain the honor and integrity of the country. The Congress passed equally patriotic and determined resolutions.

Sixty thousand dollars was assigned by Congress annually to Lopez, and notwithstanding his repeated refusal to accept so great a sum, Congress would not withdraw the draw.

The President was authorized to follow up the war with Brazil, and if necessary, with the Argentine Republic; with the conduct of the latter State, Congress manifested much indignation. Provision for raising \$5,000,000 to meet the necessary expenses of the war was also made. The number of Brigadiers was increased from three to six, and of Generals from two to three. The army is in a satisfactory condition, and with much enthusiasm has continued to march as far as Cayubí without opposition.

CALIFORNIA ITEMS.

CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The birthday of Her Britannic Majesty was celebrated in this city on the 24th inst., by the natives of the British Isles, with more than usual eclat. A large party enjoyed themselves at the Union Club, Robins, and the Burns' Club invited their friends to a supper at Martin's Restaurant, Commercial street. The evening was spent in apolitical conviviality. The health of the Queen and the President of the United States, and the memory of the late President, were severally toasted, and responded to with much eloquence.

HEAVY FAILURE.—Attachment suits have been commenced against the house of Vonder Meulen, and Melville, wholesale liquor dealers, as follows: In the Twelfth District Court—R. Fuersten and Co; for \$2,622. In the Fifteenth District Court—Bank of California, \$5,000.; Falkner, Bell, and Co., \$1,000.; S. C. Harding, A. R. Baldwin and Co., \$740. In the Fourth District Court—Dochie Kelly, and Co., \$4,000.; Repson and Berton, \$13,885.24; James G. Carson, \$2,500.; J. R. Stewart and Co., \$831.57, amounting in all to \$34,578.11.

THE SHENANDOAH COMING TO THIS COAST.

The Panama Star and Herald of May 10th

has the following, from which it would appear

probable that the rebel cruiser Shenandoah

may visit this coast:

THE SHENANDOAH.

From the captain of an American ship

which was destroyed by the pirate Mal-

garro, has established his government in Bolivia. The new administration has issued to all the neighboring republics the usual circulars expressive of good will and earnest hopes that friendly relations may con-

tinue to be maintained between them and

Bolivia.

Particulars which have reached us in re-

gard to the capture of La Paz, prove it to

have been accomplished solely by the per-

sonal bravery and daring of Malgarro.

Bolzó was strongly fortified in La Paz. He had under him a large force. So despe-

rate seemed the position of his opponent, that all but ten or twelve faithful soldiers had deserted him. These were on the point of

abandoning a cause which they considered

ruined, when Malgarro presented himself before them and requested them before they

deserted to blow out his brains. This

strengthened their determination to abide the

result with him. Placing himself at their

head he rushed into the city—the guards fell

before the latter arrived at Melbourne

who reached here yesterday from Australia via Valparaiso; per steamer Chile we are

informed that the Shenandoah sailed from

Melbourne on 18th February. Her destina-

tion was not known, but it is generally be-

lieved she intends visiting this coast, and

would soon turn up in the neighborhood of

San Francisco.

We have received by the Chile files of Mel-

bourne papers to 3d March, but they do not

mention the date of the pirate left.

The Australasian, of February 24th, pub-

lishes a letter from Captain Waddell, in

which he states that he would be ready to

sail on 19th February, and also a despatch from Adelaide, dated February 20th, as fol-

lows:

"The news of the sailing of the Shenandoah

has caused some excitement amongst the

American shipping lying at the port."

THE WAR IN PARAGUAY.

The South American Overland News states that the war

between Brazil and Paraguay still continues.

The Empire is trying to punish that country

for its noble efforts in favor of Uruguay. Nu-

merous armies and strong fleets are being

sent to attack the small Republic.

Peru, which has resisted impotently

that invasion, is now

now involved in the same

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, June 6.

MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Victoria Agri-

cultural and Horticultural Society was held

yesterday in Messrs. Franklin's offices.

His Worship the Mayor, President of the Society,

occupied the chair.

Mr. Gorrie's residence was known to the

police. Sergeant Wilmer replied that Hanning

had been in Victoria two years, during which

time he had worked two months.

He was a

gambler, lived with half bread, and had left

the Sound owing to some stabbing difficulty.

The accused flatly denied the officer's state-

ment, and said he would make him prove

words. He could call several witnesses as

to character, and to show where he had work-

ed. Tom Lafont, stated that he knew the

accused had been barmen and cook, and

no young man would choose the latter occu-

pation if he was unwilling to work.

President Kenneth McKenzie, Esq., Oral

Vice-Presidents, A. B. Fry and D.

Leaven, Esq., Treasurer, Jas. Lowe, Esq.,

re-elected; Hon. Secretary, A. T. Wilson,

Esq., re-elected; A. C. Anderson, Thomas

Harris, Robert Anderson, Rev. G. T. Woods,

W. H. Franklyn and Robert Muir, Esq.,

were appointed to fill the place of those di-

rectors retiring by rotation.

The Secretary presented a financial state-

ment with the approval of the meeting, and showed

that the funds of the society are in a healthy

condition.

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY.

The quarterly meet-

ing of this Society was held last evening in

the police court.

Richard Lewis, President

in the chair.