# The Weckly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 21, 1865.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 6, 1865. TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, SIR,—Most of the good people of Vancouver-Island and British Columbia have, at some time or other, visited this busy hive of commerce and enormous wealth. Coming from the North one is no less forcibly impressed with the bustle and confusion which the arrival of the steamer at the wharf occasions than with the forest of shipping stretching than with the forest of shipping stretching out in one long unbroken curve, and the panorama of buildings extending almost as far as the eye can reach, all giving assurance that the metropolis of the Pacific, with her 112,000 inhabitants, is fully intent upon maintaining a position far ahead of all her competitors. The appearance, situation, pleasurance advantages and deswheels of the situation. sures, advantages and drawbacks of the city are all subjects upon which I might enlarge, but I suspect most of your readers will not care to hear my opinion of the sandhills and sand, nor of the enterprising efforts made to overcome natural disadvantages. Montgomery street is worthy of notice, but those who have not seen this handsome show street must be familiar with it from the repeated descriptions given of it. Seal rock. Cliff and Ocean houses, the drive on the sands, and the scramble on the road for the lead to avoid the dust are all old themes. I will, therefore, fancy myself an old resident and take a HOTELS AND HOTEL LIFE.

There was an old adage in the States much in vogue formerly, when speaking of a man's qualifications, "he's a smart man, but he can't keep a hotel." If one is to accept this criterion as Gospel there must be several very smart men in the city. Four princely hotels have been erected within the same number of years that will compare favorably with the most celebrated establishments in New York. It would be invidious to mention any one of them in particular as they are all well conducted and all crowded from basement to roof. Hotel life is one of the peculiar phases of American society in most of the large Atlantic towns, but in this city, owing to the enormous cost and inconvenience connected with housekeeping, the advantages which they afford are perhaps more universally availed of by private families than in any other place. Although there is very much to be said in their favor as far as luxury is concerned, they partake too much of the character of living in glass houses, at least to our English notions, and for a permanent residence are but a poor substitute for the cherished home and fireside.

The San Franciscans are essentially pleasure-loving people, and patronize the theatren freely, whether there is anything worth seeing or not. It is a matter of no small astonishment that amongst so large a population there should be such a comparative scarcity of good actors. The Keans, of course formed a bailliant exception and course, formed a brilliant exception, and were patronized night after night by over-flowing houses; indeed the whole city was Kean mad fo. a time, so much so that it was difficult to secure seats even a week in ad-• vance; but since their departure there has been a great blank on the theatrical boards, and, with the exception of Miss Matilda Heron, who is now playing at Maguire's, the bills offer a very poor array of talent.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

From theatres, one's thoughts naturally enough wander to fires; and perhaps in no other city in the Union is the fire department so well organized, or so well supported by the public. In truth, the good people here have sufficient reasons to encourage the volunteer system liberally. The fearful con-Sagrations of former times taught a bitter son to thousands, who saw the accumulated wealth of years snatched from before their eyes in as many minutes. Happily there is but little cause for alarm now-a-days the companies are so numerous, and the steam engines used so effective that a fire hasn't a ghost of a chance when they once come into play. A fire alarm telegraph has lately been erected, with communications to all the engine houses, which gives immediate intelligence of the locality and character of the fire, so that the confusion which often existed formerly is now very much medified. THE WAR AND ITS EFFECTS.

The civil war raging in the Southern States seems to be very little felt on the Pacific coast; indeed, if it were not for the high tariff new in force, and the news that is fashed daily over the wires from the East, it would be difficult to believe that the nation was engaged in a desolating warfare with its own kindred. There are hundreds, perhaps own kindred. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Southerners living here whose sympathies are of course in favour of the South, and known to be so; but by a sort of tacit understanding among their acquaintances of Northern birth, political opinions are carefully avoided in their intercourse with each other, and all is apparent harmony on the surface. Underneath, however, lies a deep and bitter spirit of resentment, which must be strongly roused as the guns from Alontraz thunder forth, week after week, tidings of victory over their nearest and dearest friends. There seems to be a general belief friends. There seems to be a general belief, which grows stronger every day, that the present summer will end the strife between North and South, and inaugurate a new war with some foreign power—perhaps with France, perhaps with England—it matters little which, but in any case it is to be the means of uniting all the discordant political elements to one common sentiment, of estab-lishing the much-vaunted Monroe doctrine over Mexico, and spreading the dominion of the stars and stripes from Mexico to

IDAG OF TREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS. O .. In spite of the party feeling which revolutions are sure to engender to a greater or less extent, foreigners as a rule are treated with toleration, to say the least, and in many cases with hearty good will. Englishmen especially, provided they bring with them the requisite oredentials, are freely admitted into society, and receive on all sides the hospiwhich has become so proverbial of this between New Westmitister and the Rocke

pian winters that one is inclined to consider kind welcome. the oft recurrence of wet foggy days as a sort of swindle on the part of the heavens not at all bargained for. Notwithstanding the unin high spirits over their anticipated crops, at \$7.50 per ton. The Company also insure which give promise of an abundant yield, the bark for \$17,000, and supply her with

THE NORTHERN STAMPEDE. The spring emigration for the northern per ton. mines has now fairly commenced; every steamer for Portland goes out black with livering freight, mostly bound for Idaho and Kootenay; indeed so great is the traffic belowing that the boats for Victoria will only brought hefore Mr. Pemberton, and the run at irregular intervals for some time to

THE KOOTENAT TRAFFIC. It is to be hoped that the good people in British Columbia are fully alive to the importance of opening up a good road in time for the return emigration in the Fall, for it is certain that their irrepressible neighbors will exert themselves to the utmost to keep body. The decused was remanded for one the line of travel through their own territory. day, as the woman is in a critical state. the line of travel through their own territory.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, March 14. SALT SPRING ISLAND MAIL .- Mr. Dennes member for the district of Salt Spring and Chemainus, had an interview yesterday with His Excellency the Governor, at three p.m. accompanied by Mr. Mallandaine and Mr. Begg, who has just returned from the island, and presented a petition trom the settlers praying for an alteration in the system of delivering the letters at present adopted. The Fideliter, it appears, only calls on the inside of the island, and the petitioners, who reside on the north side, or Begg's settlement, are almost entirely cut off from mail facilities. His Excellency promised to attend to the request now again brought before him for postal facilities, premising that he was convinced of the extreme importance of regular communication as facilitating settles

FROM OLYMPIA.—The gunboat Forward, Lieutenant Commander Lascelles, returned yesterday from a visit to Puget Sound, having on board Mr. C. W. Wallace, of the firm of Dickson, Campbell & Co., who was called over to Port Gamble and Olympia to adjust ago by Indians on Which y Island, and whose the trouble in which the unfortunate ship skull was procured from the Askahs Indians Manufacturers of Chemical. Pharmaceutical and Photographical Preparations. lengthened sojourn in the Sound. Mr. Walland sent to his friends.

lace brought Olympia papers of Saturday, with telegraphic intelligence from San Francisco to the 11th, but containing nothing adohusetts in going out of the harbor yesterday ditional from the East of any moment.

meeting of the Deluge Engine Company, The hawser got in between her stern post meeting of the Deluge Engine Company, held last evening, the following gentlemen were duly elected to fill the offices for the ensuing year:—Foreman, Archibald Dods; the anchors and cables left by the dredger in the channel impede the navigation of the COLEMAN ST. William Allatt; Secretary, C. J. Pidwell; harbor. Assistant Secretary, William Nichols; Treasurer, Jacob Sehl; Standing Committee Messrs. Nichols, Stewart and McDonald; Delegate, John Dickson.

UNFORTUNATE.-The scow Matilda, on her way to Burrard's Inlet with a cargo of provisions, &c., for Mr. Moody, of the Burrard's Inlet saw-mills, struck on a rock off Cadboro Bay, on Saturday night, and became a wreck!
She had a large hole knocked in her bottom;
and now lies full of water. It is feared that her cargo will be a total loss, and much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Moody, who has only recently bought the mills, and was about to commence operations.

ADDRESS TO THE BISHOP OF COLUMBIA. A congratulatory address was presented yesterday to the Rev. Dr. Hills, Lord Bishop of Columbia, by the Clergy of the Episcopal church in this colony, and the joint committees of Christ and St. John's churches. The deputation proceeded to his Lordship's Company's service, has gone as pilot on the residence, where the address was read, and a steamer Shubrick, on her trip to Sitka, and suitable reply made, thanking the gentlemen intermediate points. for their cordial welcome. their ad bloods

MAN Lost .- A colored man, in the emout into the woods with his rifle last Tuesday in search of game, and has not since returned. It is feared that he has lost himself or met with some other mishap, and parties have since been on the search for him, but as yet without success. In such that ,950

His Excellency Prince Matsukoff, Governor of Sitka, arrived yesterday from Europe by the U. S. S. Shubrick, en route to the Russian Possessions, and sol work

WITHDRAWN .-- A Government notice appresent. Mining licenses and records are to be effected at the Colonial Secretary's office.

Wednesday, March 15. ADDRESS FROM THE CHEIR OF CHRIST CHURCH.—A deputation from the choir of Christ Church waited upon Bishop Hills last evening, and welcomed the return of His Lordship to the diocese with his lady by pre-senting a congratulatory address. The Bishop received the deputation with his characteristic urbanity, and expressed himself greatly pleased with the progress and efficiency of the choir, complimenting the members on their perseverance and zeal, and adding that during his tour in England he had heard no better music than he had listened to in Christ Ohurch. His Lordship then explained how important a feature the choral service had

During the past season has been unusually wet and cold, and has provoked many growls from the large number of people who come to San Francisco for the purpose of enjoying a mild climate during the winter months. So much has been said in praise of the Californian winters that one is inclined to consider

HIGH FREIGHTS .- The bark Golden Gate pitious state of the weather, the Spring Mining Company to carry a cargo of coal from trade is opening up briskly, the farmers are their mine at Clallam Bay to San Francisco and the expectations of a prosperous year extra moorings during her stay at the mine. seem to be conceded on all sides. We understand that the Vancouver Coal Co. offered the Golden Gate a charter at \$6 00

FOR THE ASSIZES .- The half-breed Lazar evidence of the injured woman having been taken, the prisoner was committed for trial.

Assault.-A man named S. M. Myers was charged yesterday, in the Police Court with violently assaulting a klootchman named Mary, by kicking her about the head and

Thursday, March 16. SUPREME COURT .- The case of Yong Sam and others charged with gambling, was argued before the Chief Justice yesterday. Mr. Ring, counsel for the defendants, moved for a prohibition to issue to restrain the magistrate from proceeding further in the case, on the ground that he was proceeding on a mis-interpretation of the statute, and referred to a case in East's Q. B. Report's to show that that alone was a ground of prohibition. The Attorney General, on behalf of Mr. Pemberton, opposed the application, and His Honor thought this was a matter to come up before him in a writ of habeas corpus, and accordingly a rule for such writ was applied for, and will come up for argument on Tuesday next, His Honor declining to grant the prohibition

MASONIC .- The remains of the late W. S. Ebey which arrived by the last trip of the steamer Sierra Nevada, were conveyed to the Eliza Anderson yesterday for Port Townsend. A large number of the members of Victoria and Vancouver Lodges followed the hearse to the steamer, the flags of which were at Frigate Bird has become involved during her in Russian America by the late Capt. Dodd

merning got foul of a cable belonging to the FIREMEN'S ELECTION .- At the regular ancher of the dredger which lies on the bar.

> FOR THE NORTH-The H. B. Co.'s steamer Labouchere will sail this morning on a trading voyage to the Northwest Coast of British Columbia and the Russian Possessions, going by way of New Westminster to obtain her clearance. She will not return pefore June. and 1

> DONATION-The library of the Mechanics Literary Institute has received the following donation of books from C. H. Vereydhen, Esq :- Hume's History of England, complete, 21 volumes; Coleman's European Agriculture, two volumes; the Poems of Crabbe, Heber and Pollock.

REMANDED .- S. M. Myers, charged with riolently assaulting an Indian girl was again brought up in the Police Court, yesterday and remanded for further enquiry stanger

Captain Swanson, of the Hudson's Bay

FORT RUPERT, COAL - We have seen some of the coal from this mine in use. It burns ployment of Mr. Bailey, Saanich Road, went as brilliantly as English cannel coal, emits great heat, is free from smell, and produces we are sure, from His Ex. des on ro eltil

The Provincial Secretary of Canada has sent a communication to the Government passport agent at Hamilton, to the effect that it is not desirable to issue passports in the future to any but natural born British subects. ST. PATRICE S' HATE.

A Canadian who bought a ticket on the Grand Trunk Railroad to go to Montreal and return, the ticket specifying "good for this day and to-morrow," being one day late in WITHDRAWN.—A Government notice appears elsewhere of the withdrawal of the refused to pay his fare a second time, where-resident magistrate at Leech river for the \$100 damages.

A Madrid paper says: "The project of the immigration of 1,000,000 of Irish to Spain, with the view of there settling, assumes each

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HOUSI

House met sent, Messrs. Tolmie, Dicki

Mr. Dennes day next he w Excellency the andine exeat re 1861, to 1st M ber of such wri charged.

The resolution Ways and Mean imported into t adoption of the Mr, Burnaby resolutions on the \$4 on cattle as Mr. M'Clure of the whole res a recommittal tax of \$4 on ca Mr. Franklin He thought we sible in the pres (hear, hear,) an views on this gr The motion fo

Noes - De Carswell, and The House bill, Mr. Denne Clause 86, p taining what re improvements, perty for such i Clause 87, improvements

Ayes-Tolmi

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House met sent-Mesers. Tolmie, Dicks ane and Denn Mr. DeCo with a petition of the inhabit House to imp mported into wagon or care headed by Th sluded a rarge The petition

The House nd Means, Mr Mr. Helmck ove at a fut hether by w

per thousan