

The Weekly 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 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, pleasures, 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 glance at

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.

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.

Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, the Spring trade is opening up briskly, the farmers are in high spirits over their anticipated crops, which give promise of an abundant yield, and the expectations of a prosperous year seem to be conceded on all sides.

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

THE KOOTENAY 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 the line of travel through their own territory.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. Tuesday, March 14. SALT SPRING ISLAND MAIL.—Mr. Denness 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 from the settlers praying for an alteration in the system of delivering the letters at present adopted.

FROM OLYMPIA.—The gubcoat 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 the trouble in which the unfortunate ship Frigate Bird has become involved during her lengthened sojourn in the Sound.

FIRMEN'S ELECTION.—At the regular 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; 1st Assistant, George Daseh; 2d Assistant, William Allatt; Secretary, C. J. Piddell; 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 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 committee of Christ and St. John's churches. The deputation proceeded to his Lordship's residence, where the address was read, and a suitable reply made, thanking the gentlemen for their cordial welcome.

MAN LOST.—A colored man, in the employment of Mr. Bailey, Saneish Road, went out 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 TOWN.—M. Pelitz, Private Secretary to His Excellency Prince Matakoff, Governor of Sitka, arrived yesterday from Europe by the U. S. S. Shubrick, en route to the Russian Possessions.

High Praises.—The bark Golden Gate has been chartered by the Fuca Straits Coal Mining Company to carry a cargo of coal from their mine at Clallam Bay to San Francisco, at \$7.50 per ton.

FOR THE ASSIZES.—The half-breed Lazar, charged with shooting and maiming an Indian woman at Sooke, was yesterday again brought before Mr. Pemberton, and the 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 body. The accused was remanded for one day, as the woman is in a critical state.

SUPREME COURT.—The case of Yung Sam and others charged with gambling, was argued before the Chief Justice yesterday. Mr. King, 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 misinterpretation of the statute, and referred to a case in East's Q. B. Reports to show that that alone was a ground of prohibition.

MASONIC.—The remains of the late W. S. Ebej, 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 half mast. Deceased was a son of the late Colonel Ebej, who was killed about six years ago by Indians on Whidby Island, and whose skull was procured from the Alaska Indians in Russian America by the late Capt. Dodd and sent to his friends.

CAUGHT BY A CABLE.—The bark Massachusetts is going out of the harbor yesterday morning got foul of a cable belonging to the anchor of the dredger which lies on the bar. The hawser got in between her stern post and rudder, and held her fast for three hours with all sail set, to the intense disgust of the pilot and her captain. The pilots say that the anchor and cables left by the dredger in the channel impede the navigation of the harbor.

FOR THE NORTH.—The H. B. Co.'s steamer "Labourer" 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 before June.

DONATION.—The library of the Mechanics' Literary Institute has received the following donation of books from C. H. Verreyden, Esq.:—Home'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 violently assaulting an Indian girl, was again brought up in the Police Court yesterday, and remanded for further enquiry.

FOR THE NORTH.—The Hudson's Bay Company's service, has gone as pilot on the steamer Shubrick, on her trip to Sitka, and intermediate points.

PRIZE MEDAL. Crinolines and Corsets. The only Prize Medal for excellence of workmanship and new combinations in STAYS, CRINOLINES, AND CORSETS, was awarded to

A. SALOMONS, 35, OLD CHANGE, LONDON. The Cardinup Patent Jupon Collapses at the slightest pressure, and resumes its shape when the pressure is removed.

NEW PATENT HAZARDON CORSET (self-adjusting). Obtained a Prize Medal and is the very best Stay ever invented. Castle's Patent Ventilating Corset, Invaluable for the Ball Room, Equine Exercises, and Warm Climates.

THE BEST REMEDY FOR INDIGESTION, &c. CAMOMILE PILLS ARE confidently recommended as a simple but certain remedy for Indigestion.

Indigestion & Stomachic Weakness. T. MORSON & SON, Wholesale and Export Druggists, Manufacturers of the famous PINKETTES, are enabled to offer the purest and surest substitute for the Gastric Juice.

PURE DRUGS, CHEMICALS, &c. BURGOYNE & BURRIDGES, EXPORT DRUGGISTS, COLEMAN ST., LONDON.

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BENSON'S WATCHES & CLOCKS. WAGON AND CLOCK MAKER, BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT, TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Opinions of the London Press upon Benson's Great Clock and Watches in the Exhibition, 1862. "A sample of English clock-work on a large scale, the works of which are probably the finest in the world, has never been seen in this country."

Table of watch prices: Patent Lever, Jewelled, £5 2s. 6d. to £12 10s. 6d. Gold Cases, Open Face, £11 10s. to £21 10s.

BENSON'S INDIAN WATCH.—A first-class London made Lever, Compensation-balance, adjusted to hot climates. Silver Cases, Open Face, £11 10s. to £21 10s.

AMMUNITION. Double Waterproof Central Fire Caps. Felt Waddings to prevent the leading of Guns, Wire Cartridges for Killing Game, &c.

ELEY'S AMMUNITION. Sporting or Military Purposes. Double Waterproof Central Fire Caps. Felt Waddings to prevent the leading of Guns, Wire Cartridges for Killing Game, &c.

PROTECTION FROM FIRE. Patent Special Safety Matches. Wax Vesta and Clara Light. LIGHT ONLY ON THE BOX.

WHITECHAPEL ROAD, LONDON, E. Any One can use Them. A basin of water is all that is required to produce the most brilliant and fashionable colours on

Judson's Simple Dyes. These Dyes will give you the most beautiful and permanent colours, by the use of

W.H. & Co., Wholesale Depot—12a, Coleman St., London.

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