

BRITISH COLONIST-SUPPLEMENT.

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EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

The most important item of European news which came by the last mail, is probably the announcement that the English Government had ordered immediate equipments for 30,000 troops. Coupled with this is the continued fruitless character of the Conference, which meets apparently only to dispute, and disputes only to adjourn. Another meeting of this diplomatic body had been appointed for the 15th of May; but one of the usual hitches intervened, and the assembling was still further postponed to the 8th of June. It is stated that England is determined to adhere to her proposition laid down, that the line of demarcation should be drawn at the Danneberg. It is very evident, however, this will not be accepted by the Germans, who are still busily engaged in making the unfortunate Danes north of this line, as miserable as any unscrupulous conqueror can well accomplish. Added to other outrages, exactions of the most barbarous character have been enforced by the Prussian commander, and only modified recently by the indignant tones of the rest of Europe. In the meantime Earl Russell has become the butt in the House of Lords for every liberty-loving Peer to launch his sarcasms and his political scorn. He is the target for the indignation of the press, and has become the most unpopular public man that the English Cabinet has contained for many years. Lord Palmerston's gout acts as a defence for that statesman, tending, as it does, to mollify the bitterness of public opinion. But it is evident that the Danish affairs are rapidly bringing about a political crisis that will leave these aged politicians "high and dry" on the sandy beach of court influence. Palmerston sympathizes with the Danes as he did with the Poles, and denounces the Germans with as much vehemence in the one case as he did the Russians in the other, but here his sympathy ends. There is a kind of disreputable hypocrisy in all this that is mortifying to the pride of every honest Englishman. It is the Aminadab Sleekism introduced into national policy. So long as it costs nothing but words, Messrs. Palmerston, Russell, & Co. are brave even to temerity, and pathetic even to tears; but when action is demanded of them they turn with a truly Aminadab whine and regret that "it's not in their line." The effect of this dastardly course will be to place England in a dangerous as well as humiliating position. In the event of the failure of the Conference—an occurrence which we firmly believe has already taken place—Denmark proposes to leave her pseudo-friends and depend on the justice of her enemies—to offer herself, fleet and all, as a member of the German Federation. The equally desperate proposition of accepting a Russian protectorate is spoken of at Copenhagen. On the other hand the demands of the Germans are consistent with their long-restrained ambition. They want, or at least Prussia does, a naval greatness. Four propositions, according to the London press, having this tendency, are to be insisted on. 1.—Complete indemnification for the expenses of the war and for the captured vessels. 2.—Total separation from the Duchies, which must have an independent Government and be incorporated in the German Confederation. 3.—Kiel, Rendsburg, and Alsen to be Federal forts and fortresses. 4.—The ruler over the Duchies to be under the special protection of a German power (Prussia). No wonder that, under all the above circumstances, the English people are indignant at the conduct of the Cabinet, and the English press with scarcely an exception, becoming furious at the disgraceful temporising. The House of Commons, in response to this feeling, must do something, and as cheering is an easy way to befriended Denmark, the members indulge in the task lastly, when any sentiment is uttered that favors the Danish cause. It is, we must confess, rather a childish way to counteract the insidious policy of the Ministry; but such as it is, it must be the absence of anything better, be acceptable, more especially as it has undoubtedly, in giving the evidence of a strong Danish feeling in the House, forced the Cabinet into the waltz-like order alluded to above.

Probably the most exciting topic which has lately engaged Europe is the campaign of General Grant. The London press teems, day after day, with articles upon the subject. The battles of the Wilderness are commented upon with generally an impartial spirit. Grant is allowed to be, by every critic, the greatest general the North has yet produced, and the armies of both North and South are deservedly praised for their remarkable endurance. Speaking of the five days' battles, the London Times remarks: "It would not be impossible to match the results of any one day's battle with stories from the wars of the Old World, but

never we should think, in the history of man, were five such battles as these compressed into six successive days. Neither army numbered apparently above one hundred thousand men, and of these every man seems to have been engaged in every battle." Who, after reading the famous article in the Times after the battle of Bull Run, would have ever expected to find such an acknowledgment as this in the short space of three years. The Times, however, is not willing to concede much to Grant over Lee, and although giving the former credit for a determined and bold dog tenacity, questions the results of his victories. In alluding to Grant's position after the above battles, the London paper says "He will perhaps renew his attack upon Lee, but if he ever reaches Richmond with an army of military success." The New York World makes merry over this prediction of the Times, and says "As General Grant has accomplished that feat, perhaps the Times can think of some other military miracle for him to perform." The London Telegraph also bears tribute to the dogged determination of the Northern General. "Never" it says "have soldiers behaved more gallantly than these late leaders of the North. Of sluggishness, half-heartedness, indecision, their leader was intolerant to the men who pleaded that their term of service had expired, and that they wished to quit the field, he grimly answered that if they left the ranks, legally or illegally, he would shoot them down like dogs." The Daily News says: "Even the brilliancy of Lee's achievements does not surpass the masterly skill with which Grant has arranged the combined movement of troops from the frontier of Georgia to the banks of the Potomac." All this presents a startling contrast to the opinions entertained but a few years ago of American prowess. The race it was commonly said had degenerated, and a Yankee was a lank, dyspeptic something, that stood in rather short gaudy trousers, with a long coat, extensive shirt collar, and a hat which rested on the back of the neck. The idea of such a specimen of humanity ever becoming a soldier was preposterous in the extreme. If it wanted anything else to show how utterly unfit was the race to achieve military renown,—there was the crushing fact that America was a Republic. Since the days of Rome and Greece republics could not fight. Napoleon, in his early career might have damaged the proverb somewhat; but even he laughed at the military efforts of "a nation of shopkeepers." Military prowess has been generally presumed to be under the monopoly of the absolute monarchy. The limited kingdom, which might be awarded a share of the glory occasionally, but below this military greatness could not possibly descend. Even in England there is still a superstition that nothing but an aristocracy can successfully carry armies into the field. The battles of the Wilderness are, however, opening the European mind. Austerlitz and Waterloo are no more incomparable. Solferino and Magenta have ceased to become military wonders. Grant with his motley legions of Yankee, Irish, African and German, and Lee with that race of Southern who have been stigmatised as wanting in physique, even more than the degenerate Yankees, have added new and perhaps greater names to the illustrious catalogue of hard-fought fields.

NATURALISED SUBJECTS IN THE COLONIES.

A recent despatch from the Colonial Office to the Governor of New Brunswick, relative to aliens that have become naturalised in the colonies, appears to have taken many people by surprise. His Grace of Newcastle states in his despatch that foreigners who have taken the oath of allegiance to the British provinces, have rights and privileges of British subjects only while they are in the province in which they are naturalised. The difference between a British subject belonging to one of the provinces, and a British subject in England is not defined by the despatch; but from the manner in which the document is phrased, it is quite clear that, in the estimation of the powers that be, there is some very great difference. This decision can scarcely be construed into a grievance for British colonists. Those who have had the misfortune to be born outside the pale of the British constitution, but who subsequently sought shelter and protection within its encircling arms, will do well to remain within the limits of the land of their adoption, as it would seem certain, in the event of any such getting into trouble abroad, Her Majesty's government do not intend to trouble their heads about them. This announcement has we are inclined to think, been made to the governors of all the British North American colonies, and can be looked at in no light other than a wise precaution, on the part of the Home Government, in view of the competition which may be expected to grow out of the existing unhappy state of affairs on this continent. The number of individuals whose position is affected by this somewhat strange, and certainly unexpected official declaration, must amount to many thousands.

AN OLD OFFENDER.

We learn that Robert Williamson, the colored man who was apprehended over a year ago on a charge of murder at Saanich, and narrowly escaped capital punishment, has been again figuring at Seattle, W. T. His brutal nature this time found vent upon an unfortunate Chinaman, whom he cruelly beat with a club, and having been arrested he eluded the vigilance of the authorities & escaped to the woods. He was, however, re-taken, tried, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$30 with 30 days' imprisonment.

THE NEW ADMIRAL.

Admiral the Hon. J. Denman, who has been appointed to the command of this station in the room of Admiral Kingome, is expected to arrive here about the end of this month. H. M. S. Devastation is now waiting for him at Panama.

FIREMEN'S DEPUTATION.

A deputation from the Fire Department consisting of the Chief Engineer, President of the Board of Delegates, Treasurer V. F. D., and Foremen of each company, waited by invitation, Thursday, on His Excellency the Governor at 1 p. m. His Excellency questioned the Deputation as to the proprietorship of the various engines and apparatus in the possession of the Department, and expressed his surprise at the mixed state of affairs. He also enquired into the nature and extent of the appropriations made for the support of the Department, and stated that the Town Corporation in a city was the proper body to take charge of the department and vote monies for its sustenance. The expiration of the lease of the ground on which the Hook and Ladder Company building stands, which expires in November next, was brought to His Excellency's notice. Foreman Thain mentioned that Mr. Dallas, late Governor of the Island, had verbally promised the promoters of this civic company that he would give them a more suitable site than that on which the building now stands, and gave them in the interim the use of the present site at a nominal rental of one dollar per annum.

His Excellency said he knew nothing about the Hudson Bay Company here, and how could it be expected that he should, when the House of Assembly had been 5 or 6 months considering in session matters connected with the Company, and even they knew nothing; he was acquainted with Sir Edmund Head, the Governor-General of the Hudson Bay Company in London, and knew him to be an honorable and upright man, and added that he would lay the matter before him, and did not doubt that it would receive his favorable consideration. He regretted that the Government had no land to place at the disposal of the Fire Department to obviate the necessity of paying high ground rent for the Deluge and L'Yger Engine houses. He gave it as his opinion that the different agencies of the Fire Insurance Companies established here should contribute towards the support of the Fire Department, and thought the plan adopted in the Provinces, of levying a house tax, and a tax on the premiums received by the Insurance Companies was a good one, and should be adopted here.

THE CARIBOO MAILS.

Editor BRITISH COLONIST.—I was in a recent number of the *Columbian*, that the editor of that New Westminster paper congratulates the authorities on their magnificent postal system, quoting the number of letters sent by one mail, and comparing it favorably with the number sent under the old regime. He appears to be blind to the fact, that a service tri-monthly to this part of the country, is far behind the time, and of no real use to the business community. In these days of fast travel, when a regular line of communication twice a week is kept up between Victoria and Queen's, it does seem preposterous, that William Creek, a point at which far the largest number of inhabitants in British Columbia are located, should be deprived of the benefit of this semi-weekly communication so far as their correspondence is concerned. The trading community had a right to expect that the Government would not be behind private enterprise in giving us the speediest communication between this point and Victoria, but in this they are again disappointed. Although the postage on letters is at a figure that cannot be complained of, yet the length of time which elapses between the arrival of each mail renders the system of comparatively little service to the business community, and leaves room for the mail contractor to charge \$1 for letters sent out between the mails. This savors much of a "job," to pay \$3000 for a mail service, and then allow the contractor to get \$5 postages from those who need more frequent communication. What is the boasted purity of purpose the *Columbian* was such a stickler for when it boistered abuse on the old system, that it now helps out one which is not a whit better save that the rates are lower. Besides this, I learn that the regularity of the mails depends on the California steamers, so that in the event of the loss or delay of such steamer, we are kept out of our local business correspondence. Surely this can be remedied. Why not have a mail twice a week during the business season? The semi-weekly communication is as complete from Victoria to Queen's as it is possible to be, and would be but a trifling matter to have a mail dispatched from Queen's to this point on the arrival of each steamer from Soda Creek.

I trust you will give this matter a helping hand, as it is one of considerable importance to the trade between your city and ours.

THE FRASER FISHERIES.

Fishing is going on briskly in Fraser river; salmon are becoming more plentiful and are being taken pretty freely.

ENGLISH SUMMARY.

A very unpleasant telegram from India reached London on Monday last. The Government of India has been irritated by incessant incursions from Bhoon, an independent semi-Tartar State, north of Bengal, occupying a enormous plateau which stretches back to an unknown distance from the hills west of Upper Assam. The Hon. Ashley Eden, an able doctrinaire civilian, lately Secretary to the Local Government, was sent to arrange matters, and after a journey across hills 18,000 feet high, and nearly losing his life in the snow, reached Poomukh, the capital, on or about 9th March. Here the ruler flung him into prison, and compelled him to sign a treaty ceding British Assam! At least so the telegram says, and though Mr. Eden is not the sort of man to be compelled to sign anything, still the possibility for a man to give public signs of weakness and yet not be at the actual point of death. We are assured that the Emperor Napoleon has forwarded to Cardinal Antonelli an assurance that in the event of a vacancy in the Chair his troops will continue to protect the deliberations of the Conclave.

The correspondent of the *Times* in Denmark, a man not likely to be prepossessed in favor of Austria, bears testimony to the excellent behavior of the Austrian troops. General Gablenz refused to allow the statue of the Kappre Land Soldat, near Fredericia, to be destroyed, and the Austrians, it appears, pay for all they take. The Danes feel the difference keenly, and express no hatred against the Austrians. The truth is, we imagine, that the Austrian army is governed by gentlemen, and that the Italian and Hungarian regiments, having no national feeling to gratify against the peasantry, are really more conciliatory. The Danes feel the England the conduct of the Austrians hardly excites so much feeling as that of Prussia. One expects a Hapsburg to act violently; to apply the laws of war harshly, and to claim dominions by conquest, but the Prussians were supposed to be becoming civilized.

Mr. Winna, an American gentleman, is having a yacht built for him in the Thames which is to create a perfect revolution in shipbuilding. She is built of pure steel, in the shape of a cigar, the cylinder being 256 ft. long, with a diameter of 16 ft. at the broadest part, and nothing but two funnels, a short keel, and a little bit of the cylinder will appear out of water. She is to be driven by three cylinder engines, and a shaft with screws at each end, and it is believed that the engines can be so worked with safety as to yield 2,500 horse power. The architect expects a speed of twenty-six or thirty miles per hour. To get it Mr. Winna should carry out George Stephenson's suggestion, and electro-plate his vessel. She is to be launched with her steam up in August.

New Zealand.—General Cameron has made amazing progress in New Zealand. He has now a line of posts from Raglan or Whangaroa on the west to Taunanga on the east, and all his enemies north of this line have been either annihilated or expelled, and his head-quarters—it is believed for the winter—are at Awamutu, a place about eighty miles in a direct line from Auckland (of which about fifty are through conquered country), lying between the Waikato, and the tributary or western branch, the Waipa. He has taken two very strong posts, Pihikiko and Paterangi, since the last intelligence, and has had several engagements, in which Sir Henry Havelock has distinguished himself. The Bishop of New Zealand has, it is said, left General Cameron's camp in disgust, because the General will not permit him to go to an interview between himself and the enemy, trying to get up a peace before the Maories have been brought to an unconditional submission. The Bishop is a good man, but no other man has done so much either to cause or to prolong this unhappy contest.—*London Spectator*.

Rumors are rife of coming Ministerial changes in France. The *Moniteur* formally denies them, and they are therefore probably correct. The best authenticated seems to be that M. de Persigny is to return to power, to what his master once more towards a *regime* of sheer force.—*Spectator*.

England has been at war for some eighteen months without knowing it. The King of Ashantee, it would seem, made a raid into the country called the British Protectorate, a vast tract on Cape Coast, inhabited by tribes friendly to British rule. Mr. Richard Pine, Governor of Cape Coast, accordingly determined to punish the King, and sent two black regiments from the West Indies to capture his capital. The King did not resist, but the climate is telling heavily in his favor, and 200 out of 400 men have been struck down with fever or dysentery, while out of 19 officers 15 have been invalided. The capital is not captured, and it seems not improbable that the whole force will withdraw away, while the expense, owing to the difficulty of transporting food, is estimated at £1,000 a day. Nobody, not even Mr. Cardwell, seems to know anything particular about the matter.

Mr. Stansfeld was on May 17th presented by his constituents with a piece of plate, value three hundred guineas, as an expression of their esteem and confidence. In his reply, Mr. Stansfeld made a popular and

telling defence of his own conduct in not deserting his friend Mazzini, paid a high tribute to Lord Palmerston's courage and generosity in supporting him, and then proceeded to defend the recent action of the Government.

THE BENTINCK ARM TRAGEDY.

The Finding of the Murdered Men—The State of their Bodies.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

Bentinck Arm, July 9, 1864.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir,—H. M. S. Sutlej being about to leave immediately for Victoria, I seize the opportunity to send you a few additional particulars about the unhappy men who were so cruelly murdered by the Indians on the Bentinck Arm Trail. The bodies of the three men, McDonald, McDougall and Higgins, were found by the volunteers who accompanied His Excellency the Governor Seymour, at the scene of the massacre, about 10 miles beyond Nanconton Lake. They were frightfully mutilated and disfigured by the bloody thirsty murderers, and also by the wolves, who had been bating on their unburied corpses. The body of Alex. McDonald was pierced with balls and a large knife had been driven completely through his head. His face and breast were also very much disfigured by the wolves, and his clothes torn by those ravenous animals. The corpses of Peter McDougall and Clifford Higgins were found in the very spot where they were last seen by Chas. Farquharson, one of the survivors. McDougall's body was riddled with balls, one passing through both thighs and one through the shoulder; both of the bodies were also torn and mutilated by the wolves. One of the murderers has been taken prisoner by Mr. Moss and others, and when brought before Farquharson he was at once identified as one of the villains who attacked the packers near Nanconton Lake. He was placed on board the Sutlej for safe keeping and will be sent down to Victoria. The flagship also conveys to your city Mrs. Hamilton, son, and daughter, who had so narrow an escape from the murdering savages. Mr. Hamilton eagerly embraced the opportunity of sending his wife and children from this isolated part of the globe to a place of safety. He requests me to express through your paper his sincere gratitude to Admiral Kingome for the kindness shown to his family in enabling them to escape from their desolate home. As for myself I intend to remain here and take the fortune which Heaven may send me; I cannot leave my property on which I have expended so much hard labor without seeing what will become of it.

I had a visit from Admiral Kingome at New Aberdeen, and he expressed himself highly pleased with the appearance of everything, admiring the crops, and the magnificent scenery along the banks of the stream. Mrs. Hamilton brings down with her a quantity of choice furs which escaped the ravages of the Indians.

A. H. WALLACE,
Custom House Officer,
Bentinck Arm.

ONE DAY LATER.

The Oregonian of the 12th inst., has the following dispatch from San Francisco:

SAN FRANCISCO, July 11.—No news from the East.
Private telegrams of Saturday quote gold at 261 and higher.
Several more stage robberies have occurred recently, and Wells, Fargo & Co. have made a requisition on Gen. McDowell for military protection of the express over the Washoe line, and soldiers have been sent to Lake Bigler, for that purpose. The *Protestor* Martial has information tending strongly to the suspicion that an organized band of two or three hundred highwaymen exists in the Southern counties, and that an arrest was made at San Jose of a party suspected of being cognate of their party.
Legal tender sales to-day, 42 cash; 41, seller five days; 39½, seller 30.
MARKETS.—Flour, \$8 75; wheat, active at \$2 75, and \$3 for extra choice; barley, old, \$3 42½ @ \$3 47½; new, \$3 25 @ \$3 37½; oats from \$3; hay, new, \$26 @ \$32 50; new potatoes scarce, 3½.
Overland line down east of Salt Lake.

PORTLAND ITEMS.

[From the "Oregonian" of the 12th.]

FREIGHT IN WAGONS.—The water in the Willamette river has become so low that all the steamboats above the Falls have been compelled to lie up. As a consequence those who failed to get their supply of goods by steamer, avail themselves of the slow process of freighting in wagons. We observed some twenty teams leave the city yesterday evening loaded for Eugene, Corvallis and other points up the Valley.

PRINTING OFFICE FOR ASTORIA.—The press and fixtures of the late *Daily Union*, in this city, were shipped in Astoria yesterday morning on the steamer John H. Couch, where we understand it will be used in the publication of a Weekly, under the supervision of J. N. Gale, Esq.

THROUGH TELEGRAM.—Last evening Portland communicated with San Francisco, direct, and it is the first instance in which we have been able to communicate farther than Marysville. The distance to San Francisco, by the course of the line, is over 800 miles.

THE FLORIDA.—The *Passenger Star & Herald*, of June 3rd, says: "The commander of the steamer Tamar, which arrived at Astoria on the 23rd, reports having seen the Florida on the South-east end of Jamaica, whilst on his way from St. Thomas. The Florida pursued the Tamar for some distance, but on making out the flag gave up the chase."