

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, December 25 1866.

The Capital.

It is asserted that Governor Seymour will endeavour to permanently locate the capital of the Colony at New Westminster. It is added that the courts will be transferred to the mainland shortly, and that the treasury and other public offices have orders to follow. These reports may be idle gossip; or they may be as true as Gospel. But whether they be true or false, it is certain that every argument ingenuity can invent—every inducement an impoverished community can hold out—every artifice experienced political tricksters can devise—will be employed to retain the seat of Government at the Town of Stumps. New Westminster possesses many disadvantages as a capital, the principal of which are its inaccessibility at all seasons of the year, its want of proper buildings for the accommodation of the public officers, and its remoteness from the centre of commerce. For all practical purposes, so far as Victoria interests are concerned, the capital might as well be at Yale or Lytton, as at New Westminster; and so far as Cariboo is interested, if outside of Cariboo district, its most desirable location would be Victoria. The latter city possesses great advantages over any other for the temporary location of the seat of Government: It is situated at the head of ocean navigation, is easily reached at all seasons from the mainland or abroad, it has a milder and more equable climate than New Westminster, and is consequently never "frozen in," and is provided with buildings ready-made to the hands of the officials, not to mention the \$50,000 gubernatorial residence. As a strong argument in favor of Union, it was said that it was better to have one strong Colony working in harmony, than to encourage two weak communities in tearing each other to pieces by pulling different ways at once. The same argument might with equal force be advanced when recommending the temporary establishment of the capital at this place, and should Governor Seymour carry out the resolve it is said he has made, he would stand exactly in the position of a man who, instead of expending his capital in the erection of one good building, exhausts his energy and means in laying the foundations of half-a-dozen. Here we have buildings and property belonging to the Colony, worth \$300,000 all of which must be abandoned, and an equal amount expended in the erection of similar establishments at New Westminster. Are we to abandon these buildings, and this property, and prepare for the imposition of additional taxes to purchase and erect others; to have our Courts placed beyond the reach of a poor man, be his cause ever so righteous; to be compelled to travel sixty miles to consult a map of the country lands; to charter a special steamer to carry us to New Westminster every time we may seek information or advice on pressing business? We do not ask our people if they will submit to these things. Unconditional Union has placed it out of their power to more than object. We cannot send representatives to the Council who by their votes will exercise a whole some check upon governmental expenditure; but our representatives can remonstrate and act as the medium through which our grievances will be stated and our wants made known, even if they are not attended to. It may be urged that the removal of the capital to Victoria would as seriously incommode New Westminster as its existence at the latter place now affects Victoria; but as Governments are supposed to act so as to confer the greatest amount of good upon the greatest number, it will be seen that where one person would be inconvenienced by the change, five would be benefited at Victoria, that being the relative pro-

portion of population in the two places. In an article on this and other important subjects, given in another column, the Hon. Mr Pemberton argues forcibly in favor of the temporary establishment of the Capital at Victoria; but while he admits the superior claims of Lytton and Yale to the seat of Government as a permanency, he shows the inhabitants of those towns that the time has not arrived when the capital can be removed to either with a due regard for the proper discharge of the public service. There can be no doubt that eventually the capital must go to one of the two places named; but to establish it there now would be as improper as to continue it at New Westminster.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 1866.

BIG BEND.—The Walla Walla Statesman says: Mr Oppenheimer, just down from Colville, furnishes us the following in relation to the Big Bend mines. The last season has been particularly unfavorable to mining operations, and hence results are less favorable than was expected. On French Creek, which is regarded as the richest locality yet struck, it is estimated that \$100,000 was taken out in the course of the summer. McCullough's Creek, it is thought, yielded an equal amount. Mining was carried on in a number of other creeks, but with what results is not known. It is fair to estimate the total yield of the mines for the season just closed at \$250,000. From 80 to 90 persons will winter at Big Bend. Many of these are confident that with another and more favorable season, these mines will show a large yield of gold. Messrs Ferguson & Co. have a large stock of goods at the mines. The Hudson Bay Company also have a trading post at Big Bend.

INFLUENZA and kindred diseases were very prevalent at the Sandwich Islands at latest dates, and among the natives had almost become epidemic. The Hawaiians, unlike the Anglo-Saxons, have no recuperative qualities to fall back upon; while the foreigner, in nine cases out of ten, safely weathers the attack of such diseases as the influenza, with its concomitant chills and fever, the native quickly succumbs to sickness, more especially to such a prostrating, blue-devil sickness as this, loses all energy, gives up hope, concludes in his own mind that he is going to die, and when a native comes to the conclusion that he is to die, he will die, and no balm in Gilead can save him.

THE WORKING CLASSES IN ENGLAND.—In yesterday's editorial the returns of wages in Ireland should have been £64,100,000 in lieu of £418,000,000, which it was stated was the total of the United Kingdom. Again, at the end, the total return of the United Kingdom was in the same manner accidentally inserted as the estimate of property and income tax from Ireland, which should have been £23,100,000 in lieu of £326,775,501. Slips and oversights of this description will sometimes occur in spite of the utmost care, and none knows this better than the booby who writes to the Telegraph to refute what bears its own relation on the face of it.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.—The Superintendent of Education informs us that the half-yearly examinations before the Christmas holidays will take place as follows: Victoria District School on Thursday, at 9 a.m.; Central School, Boys, on Friday morning, at the same hour; at Esquimalt, Craigflower, Lake District, Cowichan, on Friday morning; and at South Saanich on Friday, at 1.30. The clergy of all denominations are particularly requested to attend, as well as all those who take an interest in free education. The schools will re-open on Monday, the 7th of January.

WESLEYAN METHODIST TEA-MEETING.—Everyone with a dollar to spare will do well to invest in a ticket and attend in the basement of the Wesleyan Church this evening. The ladies, the choir, and all concerned, are preparing to entertain their guests most hospitably, and to make the evening of the most cheerful and enjoyable character. Such opportunities are rare, and all who wish to retain their love for the amenities of life—and subserving a good cause withal—will not fail to value our recommendation.

A NOVEL ROYAL RECEPTION.—Queen Emma held a general reception on the afternoon of Nov. 21st, at Honolulu, and the levee was announced by advertisement as follows:—General Reception.—Queen Emma, in celebration of her safe return from her visit to Europe and America, will hold a grand general reception, at her residence corner of Nuuanu and Beretama streets, on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 21st, between the hours of four and six o'clock. Says Ceremony.

THE WIRES went down yesterday after a few private messages came through, and we are consequently without our usual report.

MOUNT HOOD.—A gentleman who came down from Salem, last evening says that Mt Hood was plainly seen from that place on Tuesday, sending up a column of vapory smoke, which frequently puffed upward somewhat like the regular discharges of steam from an exhaust pipe. This lasted from 11 a.m. till near dark, when the dense clouds which settled upon the valley obscured the mountain totally.—Oregonian.

FOR IX.—The bark Washington, Captain Hoag, put into Esquimalt yesterday afternoon for sails. The vessel sprung a leak on her way from Port Orchard to San Francisco, and had to put back and discharge half her cargo. She was making 800 strokes an hour with a double crew manning the pumps. The ship Mackay left Royal Roads yesterday and also put into Esquimalt.

CONTRADICTED.—A Washington dispatch of the 5th inst., says that Bingham of Ohio emphatically denies the truth of the statement which has been extensively published that he was preparing articles of impeachment against the President on the ground of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln. He never had such an idea.

HIGH TIDE.—The water in the harbour rose to a greater height yesterday morning than we have known it to attain for a period of six years and a half. The lower wharf of the Hudson Bay Company was partially covered with water; and there were nineteen feet of water on the bar.

FROM PUGET SOUND.—The Eliza Anderson and Josie McNear steamers arrived yesterday from ports on Puget Sound, bringing passengers and live stock. The McNear landed a number of head of cattle at Port Ludlow, W.T. We are indebted to the officers of both vessels for the usual favors.

WITHDRAWN.—In the suit of Bank of British North America v. Mitchell, to recover possession of the plant on which the Evening Telegraph is printed, the record was withdrawn. It is understood that the case will be settled out of Court.

DEATH OF A CALIFORNIA PIONEER.—Charles F. Jobson, one of the proprietors and founders of the Morning Call, died at his residence in San Francisco, at the age of 48 years. Mr Jobson was a native of Philadelphia, and a pioneer of California.

RETURN OF THE GOVERNOR.—Governor Seymour returned yesterday afternoon on the Sparrowhawk from the East coast. His Excellency and Mrs Seymour we understand will proceed to New Westminster on Saturday.

The steamer Enterprise left for New Westminster last night at 9 o'clock. Judge Brew who accompanied His Excellency to the East Coast was on board, also Dr Evans, Messrs Robertson, Dickinson, Pooley and about 15 others.

SWEETING CHANGES.—We understand that the Government officials will leave on Friday for New Westminster, where some sweeping changes will be inaugurated. At present none can tell who's who.

THE ACTIVE had not arrived up to the time of our going to press. The severe blow of yesterday must have given her considerable trouble.

The Hon. C. Kapsaken, a distinguished Chief, died at Honolulu on the 13th ult.

Eben Johnson has commenced suit against the proprietors of the Bulletin, to recover \$15,000 damages for libel.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL it is said will meet early in January.

Our Political Situation.

Messrs EDITORS.—Owing to the circumstance that the polling places for District No. 2 were so far asunder, I had not the advantage that the city members had of meeting a majority of my constituents, and shall therefore feel much obliged by your inserting their information the following opinions, which I entertain on questions which it is probable will occupy the earliest attention of the Council.

Never since I first landed on this Island have the prospects of the Colony appeared to me so bright as at the present time, founded as they are upon the important political changes that have recently taken place. Union we have, I for one regard the unconditional resolutions by which we obtained it as the most sensible document that ever emanated from the Assembly. Inadequate representation can be far more easily corrected than separation from British Columbia. But, I am further of opinion that another Union not in the gift of Her Majesty's Government—Union among ourselves is quite as much required.

Who does not now regret the tone of personality which too often discolored the debates upon questions which time has shown to be unimportant? Who does not now regard the Hudson's Bay Company as the main prop of a tottering structure? Or who so obtuse as not to detect a tribunal of appeal if necessity for it should arise in the strong parliamentary influence of that gigantic association? Who, now, is not proud of the Bishop we have amongst us, of the example he sets us, and the improvements he creates? Failure sternly points to the necessity of united action, and the cultivation of charity among ourselves; let the veil of oblivion be sung over the past.

Revision of the tariff, I regard as the most important duty in store for the first Council. The principle of adjustment ought I think to be twofold, 1st.—For the protection of home

industries of every description, and 2nd.—for the raising of a revenue from imported general merchandise. Far from increasing the price of farm and garden produce, of lumber and coal to the consumer; the effect of the first, owing to the increased competition engendered will be to make all the necessities of life cheaper. If asked then, why protect what is dear enough at present? my reply is, to insure to the producer a certain market, and as a vehicle to effect settlement in the country. With regard to duties of the second class mentioned, I presume they should be as light as the financial requirements of the country will admit of, but upon this point I am not prepared to offer an opinion without consulting the city members, who are better informed upon the subject than I am.

As to what town should be the seat of government, many reasons can be urged to fix it at Victoria. Too much stress has been laid on the Governor's letters from Paris. These letters, it should be recollected, were written upon a hypothesis which ceases to exist, and since the circumstances that produced them are entirely changed, may fairly be regarded as so much a waste paper. They are only valuable as an evidence of no ordinary capacity for business on the part of the distinguished writer, and of his earnest advocacy of what in his individual opinion were the interests of the portion of the people over which he was then Governor. Under the altered circumstances of the case, it may reasonably be conjectured, that a Governor would be, to a great extent, influenced by the unlettered opinion of his Council, and would approve of the course that appeared most conducive to the interests of the country at large. Our views on this subject ought, therefore, first to be laid before the Council, and our appeal unto Caesar held in reserve.

The towns which may be supposed to compete to become the Vice Regal Residence and Seat of Government would be Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster and Yale. Lytton is too far removed from existing centres of population to be included at present.

Now, if the Bute Inlet route to the North-east mines should become a success, and because for some time to come extensive traffic via the Fraser to Big Bend, is very problematical, the towns on the Lower Fraser, without agricultural lands in their neighborhood to fall back upon, would be depopulated.

Again, suppose the Hudson's Bay Company, wishing to sell town lots at Langley, were to run their steamers there, passing New Westminster by, or were to connect without stopping, with river steamers running to Yale, New Westminster would be to Yale what Astoria is to Portland, and the head of river navigation would become the principal depot of the Lower Fraser.

Victoria as the head of ocean navigation, backed by extensive tracts of farming land, boasting the best port of the North Pacific, the station of Her Majesty's fleet, is certain to grow. Nanaimo, with its admirable harbour, and inexhaustible coal is certain to increase. Yale from its position must always be an important town: expectation may reasonably point to Hope, as well, on account of its magnificent site, as from the probability of its becoming at a future day the terminus of a road to the Atlantic. But with the possibility of the occurrence of all or any of the unfavorable contingencies alluded to above; what guarantee can be given of the permanence of New Westminster? But Victoria has other claims besides those mentioned. Its public offices are built—a great consideration to tax payers; in the event of international dangers, the Vice-Admiral would be with the fleet; despatches would never be ice-bound; tempered by the sea breezes its climate is the most agreeable on the coast; but, what occurs to me as the strongest argument of all in its favor with reference to the interests of the Colony at large is this: As yet, the wealth of the country is in its minerals, and after a summer of toil, the miner looks forward to a winter of pleasures. How few remain to winter in any of the other towns I have mentioned!

The golden harvest is reaped by Portland or San Francisco; is it therefore not clearly desirable to strain every effort to build up the only town in the Colony which appears to have sufficient natural advantages or attractions to detain them. If to improve Yale, Douglas, Lytton, Richfield, or Camerontown, the Sacramento and Stocktons of the country, expenditure were needed, and the finances of the country were in a condition to admit of it, I would deem it both my duty and interest to vote for such in Council, but if further attempt shall be made at the cost of the miner and trader to achieve impossibilities at New Westminster, a peal of remonstrance will ring throughout over-taxed British Columbia. Session after session the bitter contest will be revived; the home authorities will be agitated through every conceivable channel; and the errors of past Legislation will involve a source of discord—a loss of money and a waste of time!

Several other topics I intended to have touched upon, but feel that I have already to apologize for thus trespassing upon your space.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. D. PEMBERTON.

NICHOLSON PAVEMENT.—This is, according to the Builder, an American invention. It consists in first placing a bed of plank, well covered with bitumen or pitch for a foundation. Upon this is placed vertically or endwise, sawed sections of plank about 4 inches wide and 8 inches long, set transversely over across the street, with intermediate strips of board 1 inch thick and 4 inches wide, which serve to separate the blocks, leaving places or grooves about 4 inches deep and 1 inch wide which are filled with coarse gravel and the whole thoroughly saturated and covered with the bituminous preparation. The gravel is then beaten in compactly and re-saturated, and the whole covered with a finer gravel or sand, which completes the process, forming a smooth and arched roadway raised at the margins so as to form a shallow waterway or gutter. It costs four dollars per square yard. It is easy for animals and almost noiseless, and stands, it is said, much wear and tear.

GOLD FROM COSTA RICA.—A cargo of gold dust has arrived in Paris from Costa Rica. It is said to consist of about 1,000 pounds of pure gold, and several specimens of mineral. The latter have been sent for analysis to the Mining School in Paris. This is the first result of the efforts of a French company to which ten gold mines have been conceded by Dr Castro, the new President of Costa Rica. The director of this company is the French General, named Gallener, who has obtained the Emperor's permission to take foreign service, and now holds rank as General of Engineers under Dr Castro. The French papers speak of this concession as likely "considerably to augment French influence among the republics of Central America, and to restore the lustre of the French name, which, it must be confessed, has been somewhat diminished since our intervention in Mexico."

Humorous Newspaper Paragraphs.

Of course none but a western paper could have given the following notice of the death of a prominent citizen: "He was the father of eleven sons, five of whom married five sisters. He had 189 grandchildren; and at his funeral two weeks ago last Sabbath, two horses were stung to death by bees, and another came very near losing his life by the same."

Another paper in the same locality gives, as below, a wholesome specimen of an honest obituary—something really uncommon:

"He came to his death by too frequently nibbling at the essence of the still-worm, which some placed him in a non-traveling condition. He lay out the night previous to his death near a cotton gin in this place, and was found too late on the following morning for medical aid to be of much importance in staying his breath. He has been a regular tippler for the last half century."

A paragraph published in the Foxtown Fusilier betrays, perhaps, a little professional jealousy, but serves as an oblique and advertisement:

"Postscript.—We stop the press, with pleasure, to announce the decease of our contemporary, Mr Shaggs, editor of the Foxtown Flash. He has now gone to another and better world. Success to him. Persons who have taken the Flash will find the Fusilier a good paper."

A fictitious notice of death sent to the editor of the Worcester (Mass.) Spy, is thus served up quite daintily, and made to answer a double purpose:

"If Pratt was really dead, we should be very happy to write his obituary for nothing; but as we are quite certain he is alive, and may see these lines, we would respectfully suggest to him that he has an unsettled account at this office, and that if he has any serious intention of dying, it may ease his conscience a little, in the last hour, to know that he has paid the printer."

Obituary notices may be occasionally gratifying to survivors, but I have rarely known them to have been of much consequence to the subjects themselves. The Circleville (Ohio) Journal, however, thought otherwise when, as an inducement to certain of its friends, it stated that all subscribers paying in advance will be entitled to a first rate obituary notice in case of death."

Another Western paper chronicling the lamentable occurrence of a steging, attached to a church, being blown down, and fatally injuring a workman, very feelingly said:

"We are happy to state that over 20 persons were suddenly brought to the ground safe, and one man, Mr Wilkins, had his neck broke. Mr. W. was an estimable young man and the father of a good many children, besides a large farm well stocked. He was fatally injured."

Upon yet another paper the pressure of death appears to have been heavy, the editor printing the notice in one of his issues, "Several deaths unavoidably deferred."

THE "MOUNTAIN AND THE GIRONDES."—As the perils of France increased, Charlotte Corday recognized the prudence, but not the patriotism of men who emigrated, and who, like her brother, went and waited at Coblenz. At the execution of the King she "shuddered" (as she wrote to Mlle. Rose de Foyot) "with horror and indignation," almost despaired of the commonwealth, the leading men of which sought by such means to establish their power. Her frankness started some of her more discreet friends, to the monition of one of whom she answered, "One can die but once! but what fortifies me in our present perils is that no one will lose by losing me. Besides, I have never valued my life but by the good use that might be made of it. The idea of sacrificing herself in some plishing some act by which her country might be saved seems to have taken possession of her mind at an early period. Her heart was altogether with the Girondins, and she did not affect to conceal her detestation of the Mountain and the Marat. To a young friend who once found her in tears and asked her why she wept, Charlotte Corday replied, "I weep over the misfortunes of my country, of my relatives, and my friends." As long as Marat lives there will be no security for the friends of law and humanity."

JOHN BROWN.—It appears that Aberdeen-shire in particular, and all persons who take a proper interest in the affairs of the Court, have been very much agitated of late by a rumour that "John Brown, the Queen's favourite Highland attendant, had been suspended from his position." This does not really mean that the Royal favourite had been hanged—it is only a way we journalists have of saying "discharged from service," when we do not wish to injure the susceptibilities of an important functionary by applying to them the language of the servants' hall. We are happy to give additional currency to the statement that there is no foundation whatever for the disquieting rumour. It has been contradicted on "the best and undoubted authority," and we receive with pleasure the assurance that "at no time has John Brown been dismissed or suspended from the situation he now holds as a personal attendant upon the Queen; and that he owes his rise and promotion to his exemplary conduct and the conscientious discharge of his duty during a period of fifteen years."—Pall Mall Gazette.