

Semi Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, September 22, 1869

Work for 1870.

No sooner has Parliament, concluded one session than the work of another is marked out by the ever vigilant press. The great achievement of the session recently ended was the passage of the bill for leveling down Irish ecclesiastical exorbitances. Although not the only measure of the session, it was indeed work enough for a session. Although never regarded as a finality of legislation in extinguishment of Irish grievances, there can be no doubt that the measure has been accepted with an unhopful for amount of grace and gratitude, and it is producing an abundance of good fruit to the glory of Gladstone and the prospective satisfaction and happiness of every reasonable Irishman. The fact that the Catholic Bishops have ordered prayers to be said for the recovery of the author forms the best reply to the perille predictions of the enemies of the measure. Indeed the spirit in which the new condition of things has been met by both parties has astonished everyone, and not least the friends and promoters of the bill, and cannot fail to be most gratifying to Gladstone, who may now be said to be the most popular man of the day, and of any day. It would appear to be quite settled that the great measure of next session will be one which will level down Ireland's agrarian exorbitances, a work, if possible, surrounded by greater difficulties than those which beset the Church bill, a work in view of which every good subject may well pray for the complete restoration to health of perhaps the only man living capable of successfully undertaking it. The land question, next to that of the Church, some think before it, underlies Irish unrest; and should Gladstone be as successful in finding a solution for the former evil as he was in providing one for the latter he will indeed, have served his country as few men have done. At present Gladstone is lying weary if not sick at Walmer, and nobody has any idea what the land bill is to be; so that debate is premature. There would appear, however, to be a general impression that Gladstone knows all and can do all, and in this sort of blind faith the national mind appears disposed to "rest and be thankful." Already occupying a height of popular favor beyond which advance is impossible, the difficulties of Gladstone's position are increased by the popular belief not only that he can do great things successfully, but that he can do impossibilities. Another subject has been marked out for legislation next session, one which is by no means free from difficulty. We allude to the necessity for the establishment of a uniform marriage law for Great Britain and Ireland. A glance at the anomalous condition of affairs in respect of the interesting subject of legalizing matrimonial alliances in the United Kingdom cannot but excite wonder that legislation should have been so long delayed. Indeed it is only when the matter crops out in some such great scandal as the famous Xelverton case that public suspicion is at all excited. In England there are virtually two systems, and within the Established Church, for two different classes of society, while there is a third for Nonconformists, who must needs celebrate the ordinance in the presence of a civil registrar. In Ireland the case is worse; there is one law for the Episcopalians, another—and the loosest of all except that of Scotland—for the Roman Catholics, a third for the Presbyterians, who have a special law of their own, and a fourth system for all the other religious denominations. Turning to Scotland, we find a still more extraordinary condition of matrimonial affairs. North of the Tweed matrimony is emphatically made easy. There, besides other anomalies, a simple written promise followed by cohabitation still constitutes legal marriage; nay, even though there be no writing, if John, the coachman, and Jean, the chambermaid, in presence of George, the butler, and Maggy, the nursery-maid, mutually agree to be man and wife, the engagement is as binding as though the knot had been tied by publication of bans and priestly offices, even although it should not be followed

by cohabitation. This is only equalled by the more primitive ceremony of "jumping over the broomstick," or that which prevailed amongst the North American Indians on the other side of the Continent, wherein the Indian gave the squaw the leg of a deer, and she gave him an ear of corn, whereupon they became man and wife thenceforward. It is scarcely surprising that, in view of such a condition of things, the country should desire legislation. There is a third measure which will, in all probability, be earnestly taken up next session, and which scarcely involves less difficulty than those already mentioned, viz, an Educational Bill for Ireland. The Government stands pledged only to deal with the first two, but there is little doubt that the last mentioned measure will be dealt with in a session so largely occupied with Irish affairs.

A New Fire Extinguisher has been invented. It is simply water impregnated with carbonic acid. The water is passed through a chamber of chemicals, and is said to evolve the carbonic in consequence only when it mingles with the fire. Tar barrels and crude petroleum, which create a very obstinate fire, are subdued in from one to two minutes. As these are inventions that can be applied to the engines now in common use, as the water, in fact, which any ordinary engine now throws upon a fire, can be passed with ease through a chamber of chemicals that will impart to every drop a ten-thousand-fold increased extinguishing power, these new petitioners for the public favor merit more than the usual cursory consideration. There is a practical look about both that inspires interest. So let the Fire King tremble! His throne is in danger. Science has got him on the hip at last, and Science is a wrestler of no mean capacity, when it gets the hold it is in search of.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt. Swanson, returned from New Westminster at 5 o'clock last evening, bringing about a score of passengers and upwards of 150 barrels of cranberries. The annual picnic of the Hyack Fire Company took place on Friday, the party going to Derby on the steamer Lilloet, kindly placed at their disposal by Capt. Fleming. The weather was auspicious, and the affair passed off pleasantly. A meeting of those interested in the Rifle Volunteer question was held on Wednesday evening, at which Messrs. J. T. Scott, H. V. Edmonds, and E. Brown were appointed a committee to confer with the officers and members of the Companies.

THE MEETING AT NANAIMO.—On Monday evening, 18th inst., a Tea Meeting was held in the Institute Hall, Nanaimo, at which Capt. Spalding presided. After tea, the Rev. Mr. Garrett delivered an able, eloquent and impressive address, which was loudly and deservedly applauded. The address was followed by a pianoforte solo played by Mrs. Spalding, songs from Mrs. Jones, Messrs. Bate and Taylor, and a duet finely rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Garrett. Messrs. Bate, Holden and Parker played several fine pieces during the evening. The proceeds of the tea meeting (over \$100) go towards plastering the large room of the Institute, which is about 60x35 feet. The ladies deserve praise for the action they took in providing and serving the Tea, and the success of the entertainment is all credited to them.

EVER WELCOME Blackwood and the London Quarterly, thanks to Hibben & Co., are again before us. The monthly visitor, in addition to the "continued" stories, has an article on "The Lords and Commis" which everybody should read, giving, as it does, a vivid and complete view of the attitude of the two estates with more direct reference to the great Irish questions. The Quarterly has a paper entitled "The truth about Ireland," although characterized by the usual ability displayed in its columns, there is in the paper a marked leaning towards the Lords. The conclusion arrived at—one from which we must dissent—is that "the real difficulty in governing and pacifying Ireland lies in the fact that we live under a constitutional regime."

THE ISLAND OF MONTECRISTO.—This island, situated in the Mediterranean, between the Islands of Corsica and Elba, made so famous by Alexander Dumas in his popular romance, "Count Monte Cristo," has been purchased by the Italian Government from an Englishman by the name of Watson Taylor for one hundred thousand francs. In former years the Island of Montecristo was the retreat of the monks of St. Basil, and later on of the hermits of the order of the Camaldolens. At other times it became also the refuge of pirates. The Italian Government, by its acquisition, intends to convert it into an agricultural colony.

THE Sir James Douglas arrived from Comox, Nanaimo and way ports last evening bringing 30 passengers and a large freight. Among the passengers were Miss Denny, Mrs. Hewlings and Mr. Gaston. The ship Cowper has gone to sea.

Insurance.

It is not many years since to insure one's house was thought to indicate a want of trust in Providence, while to insure one's life was mortal sin! Now we find the great bulk of the intelligently provided doing both. It is of the very first moment that the public should have presented to them sound and reliable Insurance Companies; and, for a new and remote Colony, we may well congratulate this community upon the fact that there is represented, and most worthily represented, in its midst, several of the very best and most substantial institutions of the kind to be found in the old world and the new. It is of the Royal Insurance Company of that we would speak at present. We have before us the report of the annual meeting, held on the 6th ultimo, from which it may not be altogether out of place to glean a few facts which may prove useful to intending insurers. The Royal, as many of our readers doubtless know, embraces the two departments of fire and life insurance. The report before us covers the year 1868. During the year the fire premiums received by the company amounted to £475,572 12s 3d; while the fire losses during the same period amounted to £299,901 17s 7d thus showing a gain to the Company during the year of £175,670, equal to about \$878,350. Turning to the Life Department, the result of the year's operations have been still more satisfactory. The following tabular statement will speak for itself:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 1,500 New Policies, Renewal Premiums, and Interest from Investment.

The results for the year have enabled the Directors to recommend a dividend of three shillings per share, and a bonus of four shillings per share, free of Income Tax, a result more favorable than that of former years. It would appear from the tenor of the report, as well as from the facts and figures exhibited therein, that, by the exercise of the most rigid economy in the management, and the utmost vigilance and caution as to the nature of risks, the Royal Insurance Company is making steady and well assured progress. The Company is well represented in this city by Messrs. Sprout & Co., Wharf Street.

Presentation of Testimonial to Miss Weller

At Esquimalt, by the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of that place on Friday, 17th inst.

The congregation met in Yates' Hall, as usual, to practice the hymns for the following Sabbath. After practice the Rev. T. Somerville took the Chair and made a few remarks on the approaching departure of Miss Weller for England. He then introduced Mr. Wilby, who read the annexed letter and presented the articles therein mentioned to Miss Weller:

ESQUIMALT, V.I., Sept. 17, 1869. To Miss Weller, Esquimalt.—As Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Presbyterian Church at Esquimalt, I beg leave to inform you that the congregation of said church have desired me to express to you their thanks for the assiduity with which you have for over a year discharged the duties of Organist at our church, and teacher at our Sunday School, duties self-imposed, and services rendered gratuitously, with ability and attention. They have also desired me to present you with the articles accompanying this letter, viz, a butter cooler and knife, cake-tray and sugar-basin. These please accept as a token of respect from a number of your well-wishers, who regret that they will so soon lose your estimable company and services.

Wishing you a safe voyage home, and a prosperous and happy life, and that God may watch over and protect you to continue your useful career. I have the honor to subscribe myself your esteemed friend and well-wisher, HENRY EDW. WILBY.

Mr. Somerville then delivered a most impressive speech, which drew tears from many present. He dwelt on the harmony and friendship that had sprung up in the congregation, now about to lose one of its most active members; on the benefits which frequently accrue not only to children taught in Sabbath Schools, but to those who aid in the good work of teaching them; saying, also, that but few at her age could boast of receiving so well-merited a testimonial, etc.

Mr. George Weller, father of the recipient, returned thanks for her as follows: "On behalf of my daughter, I beg to return my very sincere thanks for the handsome testimonial that you have been pleased to present to her this evening. I am sure that these very beautiful articles will be treasured by her with a kind and affectionate remembrance of those with whom she has been associated in connection with

this Church, and I trust you will pardon me for observing that this unexpected mark of esteem on your part, has not been merited, by my daughter for the trifling services she has rendered, in connection with this Church and Sunday School. These services I can assure you she has looked upon not as a task, but as a work of love, and I assure I am only expressing her own feelings by saying that I hope those services may continue to be rendered by more able hands. In conclusion I again return you my very sincere and grateful thanks for your kindness on this occasion, and for the high esteem in which my daughter is held by you.

The butter-cooler bore the following inscription—"Presented to Miss Weller as a token of respect, by the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church at Esquimalt, September, 1869." Other articles in the shape of silver spoons, pin-cushions, bookmarks, etc., were also presented to the same lady by members of the congregation. The plate presented was purchased at Mr. Jamieson's, Government street, who also engraved the inscription in a very artistic manner.

DEPARTURE OF THE ACTIVE.—The steamship Active got off at 5 1/2 o'clock last evening, carrying 40 passengers, 148 tons of freight and 150 tons of coal. Among the passengers were our old friend, Gustav Sastro, Reg., wife and family, who leave us to pay a long visit to the Golden State. Eighty-eight tons of cranberries from New Westminster were among the freight shipped.

THE CRUCIS TROUPE.—Like the Arabs, have silently folded their tent, and will ship today for Honolulu. A number of recruits have sailed from San Francisco and will join the troupe at the Islands.

H. M. S. Satchell sailed at 6:15 o'clock yesterday morning for Mazatlan, Mexico.

The Byron Scandal.

NEW YORK, Aug. 30, 1869. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.—In your paper of this morning I find the following statement, copied from the Louisville Courier-Journal, in regard to Mrs. Stowe's recent article on Lord Byron:

"Dana and Bonner fairly bared with spleen. Dana because he didn't invent the Byron scandal, and Bonner because he didn't get it for the Ledger. 'Damnation!' cried Bonner, when he first got an inkling of it; 'Why didn't she fetch to me? Why, I'd have paid her a cool \$6,000 for it.' This is not only a falsehood, but it is a falsehood which no one at all acquainted with me could ever have invented. Whatever I might have thought about Mrs. Stowe's article, it would have been quite contrary to my habit of speech to characterize it by the word 'Damnation'; but this I must say, that a million of dollars could not have induced me to print that gross and indecent article in the Ledger, no matter what the publishers of the Atlantic Monthly were willing to do. Few women have evinced so much talent as Mrs. Stowe. I have myself purchased articles from her for which I have cheerfully paid her a high price; but they were very different articles from the one under consideration. And I do not believe that any true friend who was himself in his right mind could have advised her to sell for any sum that morbid, terrible and unnatural hallucination about Lord Byron. For her sake I sincerely and deeply regret that she has done it. I know of no article published in my lifetime calculated to exert a more injurious and demoralizing influence on the rising generation, and for this reason I wish everybody to know that nothing would have tempted me to publish it. ROBERT BONNER.

Referring to Bonner's letter the San Francisco Herald says: "Mr. Robert Bonner has disavowed remarks attributed to him, expressive of chagrin at not securing for the Ledger the publication of Mrs. Stowe's horrid flash article on the Lord and Lady Byron trouble—and he says no sum could have induced him to publish an article so indecent, so depraved and so calculated to fatally vitiate the morals of the rising generation. Nor man nor woman has ever published any more infamous piece of licentious sensationalism, and it is a pity there is no law by which the nasty old hag who has thrust the suggestive horror before the pure eyes of innocent young people can be reached and punished. We wish that for one day, in her regard, the old days of New England could be revived, and that the obscene old creature could be plentiously and ignominiously ducked before all the people for a shocking and depraved old rascal!"

New Life!

When the mind and body are tired by over-exertion, or by long study, a bath in which has been mixed a half-bottle of RUSSELL'S LAXATIVE FLORIDA WATER, will re-invigorate the physical powers, and impart a delightful buoyancy and clearness to the mind. Beware of the pernicious counterfeits; always ask for the Florida Water prepared by the sole proprietors, Laxman & Kemp, New York.

A Strange Story from Berlin.

A Berlin correspondent relates the following: Some time ago a bride couple were standing before the altar to be married. Unfortunately for them the officiating clergyman had heard that the young people would in a few weeks have again to request his services at the baptismal font. In the speech with which, according to custom he opened the ceremony, he allowed himself to allude to the prospective event. Then, becoming heated with his theme, he took upon himself to enact the representative of an avenging Deity, reprimanded the weeping bride and wound up by baring her ears. Against this terrible affront the bridegroom remonstrated with wonderful meekness. His one object being to be married and by marriage repair the past, he said a few words to the priest and requested him to proceed. Amid the tears of the ladies and the rage of the gentlemen present the rite was accomplished. On arriving at home the bride became ill and the following day was delivered of a dead child. The thing got wind and was discussed in the public press, though of course those immediately concerned would have preferred to keep it a secret. Upon this the pugilistic clergyman at once wrote to a Conservative paper declaring the whole story a lie and not even condescending to explain how it was that such an extraordinary invention could have been fabricated at his expense. At this juncture the young husband, a music master, finding concealment out of the question, resolved upon having the only satisfaction possible, and brought an action against the self-alleged innocent. At the hearing of the case eleven persons took their oath that the blow had been given. Unheeding their depositions, the clergyman persisted in his denial, and as his sole defence, referred the Judges to the evidence of his own conscience and God's knowledge of his inward thoughts. The Court in pursuance of the ordinary rules affecting the testimony of witnesses left his conscience alone and sentenced his body to three months' imprisonment; at the same time the favor of 'extenuating circumstances' being accorded him, he was allowed the option of going to jail or paying a fine of 300 thalers. But no sentence of an earthly judge could shake him. He knew too well his own worth, appealed for a reversion of the sentence to a higher Court, and in the meantime appeared again in the pulpit to justify himself before his congregation. The ecclesiastical authorities did not interfere. It had been generally expected they would have suspended him from office, pending the final decision of the case; but no such degree was issued and in this unsettled state the matter remains to this day.

ANOTHER VERSION OF THE BYRON CASE

—The New York Nation, after discrediting Mrs. Stowe's story, because of its inconsistency in making Lady Byron an accessory, by knowledge, of Byron's alleged crime, goes on to say:—"But there is another version of the story which, while it does not change the central inquiry, is most honorable to Lady Byron's character and memory, and we feel sure will be ultimately established as the true one. We were told the main facts of this history something more than ten years ago, and this is how it was told to us: At whatever time the incestuous connection between Byron and his sister may have begun, Lady Byron knew nothing of it, as we heard the story, until after the birth of her child. Sometime after that event, probably about the beginning of January, 1816, Byron told her of the intrigue, saying that he had never loved any other woman than the partner of his guilt. She, naturally supposed it to be a delusion of insanity; and it was under this impression that she consulted Doctor Baillie about him, which is one of his main charges against her in his letters and in 'Don Juan.' It was while under this belief that she wrote the playful letter to Byron, after leaving him, which is also one of the counts in the indictment against her. After reaching Kirkby Mallory, her father's house, she had certain proofs of the truth of what her husband had told her, and from which time she left him forever.

CANAL FOR UNITING THE NORTH SEA WITH THE BALTIC.

The project for uniting the North Sea with the Baltic by a canal, which will enable vessels to avoid the passage either by the Belt or the Sound, is revived. The proposed canal will commence at Kiel, cross Holstein, and terminate at Bransbulte, on the right bank of the Elbe, just before it enters the North Sea. The merchants of Bremen and Hamburg have offered to co-operate in the execution of this work, but the Russian Government has decided on executing it on its own responsibility.

Words of Weight for Wives and Mothers.

The superiority of RUSSELL'S STOMACH BITTERS over all other tonics and correctives, as a remedy for dyspepsia, biliousness, nervous affections, and all complaints of the visceral organs, and as a preventive of malarious disorders, is proverbial; but perhaps it is not so generally known that the ingredients of this famous Bitter are of a most powerful and most beneficial influence in that numerous and distressing class of ailments, of which so many thousands of delicate women are the patient, uncomplaining victims. The special trouble of the sex, commencing with the dawn of womanhood, and extending over a period of from thirty to thirty-five years, are as readily and certainly relieved by the operation of this admirable vegetable preparation, as any of the complaints common to both sexes, for which it is recommended as a specific. The attention of mothers is invited to its balsamic effect in those peculiar cases of functional irregularity and irritation, which when neglected or mis-treated, destroy the health and shorten the lives of so many invalids. There is no need for the powerful and dangerous drugs too often resorted to in such cases. The mild tonic and restorative action of the BITTERS is all the assistance that nature requires in its struggle to overcome the difficulty, and the vast amount of suffering would be spared to the sex, if they placed implicit faith in this wholesome vegetable invigorant, corrective, and nerve, and discarded the pernicious nostrums advertised by ignorant and mercenary charlatans.

Semi Weekly

Friday, 8

European Ma

The Emperor of done everybody wh By a decree of Aug, persons under sentence, press offenses, combination laws, or strict the right of meers of both branches decrees took instant, threw open its door offending journalists awarded back to and Geneva, while had been condemned came forth and return in peace. The performed royal fun time; Napoleon, bei his fete in the midst ry family at Chalons thirteen years of ag to have presided with ity and propriety, ing from a sort of tion of crosses, and well satisfied with the troops at the re or evidently aims a clear mind to reg light of a great St the training of the direction; and it is plays his part with er's dignity and long time; however sceptre has descende and the temper of not appear to be a result now than It has been sugges the best of motives excuse for the ecce of Edinburgh in Au in the alleged fac Highness was told Melbourne, that he colony, and that m ed to pay his exp people will without believe the Prince country so princely would not be expect for anything, not and jeweller's bills. ness, meanwhile, w to have been less u Zealand. Indeed, ing from that col entirely different na more serious, view possible results. I visit of the Prince v Maori chiefs—frie hostile—as of great destined, in fact, to ment of the unhapp still distract the cold were disappointed. The Prince threw a opportunity, sacrificed position to the gew of a gay and frivolous excitement of the ob of the racecourse, a of the ball-room at the chief place. chiefs he appears to simply an occasion f The loquacity of overcame the patie and he had not the his impatience. H an interpreter, to speeches, as he had This was too much native Princes, an and Anglo-Saxons, ter disgust! This of the Prince, at the within a few miles lay, the Colonist's hand-to-hand fight natives who had bu their homes, has cre feeling among all visit from which the were expected, has One really cannot Prince Alfred is pe home without being keeper. The news fr the disposition of bot modate themselves tical condition, con gratifying nature. everywhere exhort