

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING.

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THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

The English papers still continue to teem with accounts of and comments on the recent elections. So far, we have not received the final results beyond the meagre telegraphic statement published a little time ago, giving the Government twenty-three of a gain. The Irish and Scotch elections, up to the latest date, were Liberal in their tendency. Dublin, to the astonishment of everybody, returned a Liberal, in the person of Mr. Pim, a Quaker, and one of the principal merchants in Ireland. In every part of the country but Ulster the Liberals have been gaining ground. The late House of Commons had no law officer of the Crown from Ireland, with the exception during a little time of Mr. O'Hagan who represented Treasuries; but now, according to the *Times* correspondent, the Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, and Law Adviser will all have seats. Four of the principal members of the Irish Bar—Dawson, Sullivan, Barry, and Armstrong—have been returned by Liberal majorities, ousting the Conservatives. These four will thus be equal as the *Times* correspondent says to eight votes on a division. "But this does not imply all the gain to the Government secured by these successes. They are all foremost men at the bar, men of great ability, bringing an amount of debating power which will make them worth twenty ordinary members. In fact there never was a Parliament since the passing of the Emancipation Act in which the Irish Government stood so well, or was so strong, as it will be in the next." In Ulster, however, as we have already stated, the Conservatives could not be displaced, principally owing to the organized orange mobs and landlord intimidation. In Belfast the mob-power, on account probably of the recent legislative enactment with regard to the replacing of the police by the constabulary not having come into force, showed itself as great as ever, and seven hundred Liberal votes were deterred by its outrages from approaching the polls. Lord John Hay, the Liberal candidate, was assaulted twice and his life at one time endangered. At the close of the election, an extraordinary scene took place. While the Mayor went into an ante-room to scrutinize the poll-books, the mob in the Court-house voted one of their number into the chair. This gentleman after enjoining on all present the necessity of keeping order called upon one of the "Orange brethren" to sing a song—a request which was at once complied with; and for two hours the Court House walls resounded with orange ditties of the most classical description. The Irish elections this time it would appear were in their violence very little ahead of all of the contests in England. Altogether, however, in both Ireland and England the scenes were disgraceful, and might well make one doubt the genuineness of the civilization of the United Kingdom. The *Times*, in a cynical humor, refers to the election outrages as an evidence that the masses have something even more than a voice in the Government of the country; but if there is anything that really affords more than another argument in favor of an extension of the suffrage it is the very fact to which the *Times* so sarcastically alludes. Give men the franchise and they will drop the stone and bludgeon—give them vote by ballot and they will cease to be bribed or coerced. The ruthless mob that terrifies constituencies and destroys property is merely political helplessness taking its revenge. There is no greater educator, say the soundest political economists, than the exercise of political rights.

RETURN OF H. M. S. CLIO.

Found—Lost in the Woods—Severe Earthquake—Indian Wedding, &c.
H. M. S. Clio returned on Saturday at noon from the West coast, having on board Capt. Torrens and his prospecting party, consisting of Charles Molloy, Collin Rankin, W. V. Brown, James Spencer, John Mitchell and John Woolcott. The Clio left Barclay Sound on Friday afternoon, and put into Neah Bay until daylight. Left the latter place at daybreak and arrived at Esquimalt at 12 o'clock.

LOST IN THE WOODS.

The Clio had been put to Friendly Cove, Nootka Sound, in search of Capt. Torrens and party. Boats were despatched in different directions, but without success, and learning from the chief of the Mowichits that a party of seven white men had gone south in a boat, they searched in Beluge Cove, but did not find them there, and proceeded to Barclay Sound, where they found the party who had camped on a small island at the mouth of the Sound, being unable to weather Cape Beale in their boat. The Clio passed the island without seeing the camp, and went up to the Alborzi Mills, the party followed her and were received on board on Thursday afternoon. The Clio then went down the canal and anchored near Ship Island, a very heavy S. E. gale blowing.

THE SEARCH FOR GOLD.

Capt. Torrens and party bring back satisfactory news as to the auriferous nature of the country they prospect. A full report will be submitted to government, and in the meantime it is only necessary to state that the party feel so well satisfied with the prospects they obtained on the Muehlat river, which empties into Guyana Arm in Nootka Sound, that they purpose proceeding there in the spring to mine. They ascended the river a distance, including windings, of about thirty-five miles, prospecting superficially here and there, but not thoroughly, and find-

ing encouraging prospects of one to two ounces to the pan in flat gold. The river is in places about forty yards wide, but abounds in cascades, through which the water rushes with too great velocity to allow of canoe travel. About twenty miles up the four Indians who packed provisions returned, objecting to go further on account of some superstition they entertained about an evil spirit "Sikim" (Sikim means "dark" (half Indian half duck) who they believed would pick the eyes out of all Indians who ventured to approach the head waters. The party remained for two days at this spot in consequence of heavy rains. On the third day they proceeded on and found a large fork coming from the north-west. Some of the party prospected a little on this fork, finding good colors of coarse gold. Two others, Brown and Rankin, ascended the right fork of the main stream, about twenty or thirty miles, taking however very little provisions with them. They found large boulders and

commenced one of the noisiest and most maniacal harangues that was ever heard. All appeared to be trying their utmost to drown one another's voices. This was the bridegroom, a stalwart, well-built, rascal in primitive attire (delicately forbidding a description), marched into the camp with a confident jaunt, air, and submitted himself to the inspection of the assembled tribe. Having (to use a horticultural phrase) received the honorary certificate, the bargain was subsequently concluded, blankets were palmed off, and in the morning the happy pair departed to enjoy their honeymoon.

When the party were encamped 12 miles up the river, they experienced the shock of the earthquake which was felt here about two weeks ago. The party were mostly asleep and were startled out of their slumbers by a violent trembling of the earth similar to the feeling experienced on board a screw steamer under full steam. The party felt some alarm, not realizing at the moment what it was, and the scene that ensued was hardly calculated to allay their fears. Trees began to fall and crash in every direction, and rocks were heard to roll down the slopes of the mountains. The four Indians were greatly terrified; they seized hold of fire-brands and rushed backwards and forwards shouting "mamook pooh" (shoot) as the *Keeleye Tybe* (the Devil) was coming up with the spirits of all the departed Indians, and it was their rash that caused the shock and the noise. The shock lasted over a minute, and was succeeded by two lesser shocks. It was at least ten minutes before the Indians could be sufficiently quieted to lie down. Near the mouth of the river, where the mountains are high and precipitous, some immense slides (containing probably millions of tons) came down, tearing trees and everything before them, and causing a noise described by Mitchell, who remained at the camp, as awfully grand.

SCENE AT AN INDIAN WEDDING.

At the Muehlat village our informants witnessed a scene that almost baffles description, and needs the pen of a Charles Dickens to do it justice. A Siwash gentleman from a neighboring tribe had concluded the purchase of a bride from the Muehlat, and the marriage ceremonial was conducted something in this wise. About a dozen canoes appeared approaching the village in line, in which were a number of males bedecked in the most comically grotesque fashion that it is possible to conceive. Their faces were painted in the most fantastic colors and patterns, and the majority of them were completely smothered in feathers and down. At the bow of each canoe was an Indian in recumbent attitude, with his head peering over the prow, fashioned and painted to represent a huge winged serpent. These reptiles as the canoes approached tossed their heads from side to side, rolled their eyes, and made a peculiar hissing noise. The rest stood upright in pairs beating time on the side of their canoes with their paddles. Meanwhile the Muehlat would not condescend to notice the arrival of their facetious friends. The party having landed two of the number, went down on all fours and covered with white blankets, commenced prancing up and down the bank presenting a most ludicrous appearance. A delegation from the Muehlat then deigned to appear, and halting within speaking distance,

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THE RED-ROCK DAMAGED.

The Cameron Co. wrought night and day during the flood to stay the progress of the water which broke through their ground. It is to their exertions and their exertions almost unaided that the Cameron, Tinker, Dead Broke, Raby, Rankin, Prince of Wales, &c., claims are indebted for escaping utter ruin. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the Cameron Co., whilst it is a painful duty to me to find fault with other interested parties for not lending a helping hand.

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DR. D. BROWN DESERVES MUCH CREDIT.

Dr. D. Brown deserves much credit for his unrelenting exertions in assisting the Cameron Company of which he is a useful member. He was for twenty-four hours together on foot, so I am told. This affords me an opportunity of stating that there is no man more generally esteemed on the creek than Dr. Brown. He is looked upon as a most skillful surgeon. In fact there is scarcely any surgical operation performed in the creek where he is not called in: it is he who attended Mr. Thompson, who had his skull so badly fractured some three weeks ago (while working in the Enterprise shaft). The patient is fast recovering under his care and kind treatment.

THE NEWS WE RECEIVE FROM LOWEE CREEK.

The news we receive from Lowee Creek is also of a most disheartening character. There, too, everything has been swept away by the infuriated element. All kind of work has entirely ceased, and it is a matter of doubt whether it will be resumed this season or not. It is reported that the tailings in the Chittenden claim have accumulated to a height of ten feet.

TWO OR THREE COMPANIES ARE YET WORKING.

Two or three companies are yet working on the bank of the creek above the canon and the following below on the side hill, viz., Aurora, Saw-mill, Yellow/Virgin, Ryan, Forest Rose, and perhaps one or two more. The Morning Star Co. are busily engaged repairing the head of their flume, which was carried away. Most likely they will be ready to resume operations in the course of the day. The other companies seem to keep pretty still. The California Co. (Steele's old claim) lost \$600 by their sluices being carried away. As the creek raised all of a sudden, and most unexpectedly, on the night of the fourth, they had no time to clean their sluice boxes.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Latest from Cariboo.

Our Cariboo advices are to the 7th inst. News from the creek will be found in our correspondent's letter.

LETTER FROM CARIBOO.

[From our own Correspondent.]

I regret to state that the sad forebodings of my previous letter have been realized to a fearful extent. All the claims on the bed of the creek, from the canon down were flooded on the night of the fourth instant. This disaster (I cannot call it anything else) has thrown out of employment five or six hundred hardy miners and changed times here from bad to worse. The ground has caved in several places on the line of the old drifts from the surface down to the bed-rock. For two days we could see two large streams of water running on the creek, the one on the surface of the ground, the other on the bed rock through the old drifts and tunnels. The damage caused by the latter is indeed very great, and many a miner is now sick at heart.

THE BED-ROCK DAMAGED.

The bed-rock drain which has cost over \$200, to construct, has been in the Cameron Co. and is now owned by two most respectable young men, Mr. R. Brown and John Adair. It is a great loss to these two gentlemen who have invested all they own in this gigantic enterprise. It is utterly impossible at present to ascertain the amount of damage sustained by the injured parties.

ON THE NIGHT OF MONDAY LAST THE WATER

rose to such a height that it broke through into more than one-half of the houses in Camerontown. Still no property of any consequence was destroyed, as all valuables had been removed in time.

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clearing away the rubbish from their flooded houses. The weather has turned cold and snowy. The high peaks of Bald Mountain are wrapped this morning in a white sheet of snow. Everything seems to portend that the winter is near at hand.

THE POST OFFICE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM

Richfield to Barkerville. A motor car will be placed, and Barkerville Express is to follow in the course of a week or so. Nothing is then will be left in the once flourishing city of Richfield but the Court and Jail, the lawyers, half-a-dozen streetkeepers and whiskey dealers, and a dozen of the canine tribe that are seen straggling through the deserted street night and day, having probably nothing better to do—*Sic transit gloria mundi!*

SELECTED AT MANICAGO, TO THE VALUE OF

\$13,000. The thieves got off with their booty, and immediately called on a friend of the opening of the court on Friday morning, Constance Kent was brought up and formally charged with the wilful murder of Francis Saville Kent. She pleaded guilty, and persisted in the plea. The judge, in passing sentence, said: "Whether Her Majesty, with whom alone rests the prerogative of mercy, may be advised to commute the sentence, on account of your youth at the time the murder was committed, and the removal of suspicion from others by your confession, is a question it would be presumptuous in me to answer."

The prisoner was calm, except when the judge broke down, then she sobbed hysterically. Her counsel said he wished to say on behalf of the prisoner, that she desired to remove suspicion from her father and friends, and that she was not driven to the act from unkind treatment at home.

A TELEGRAM FROM GENEVA OF JULY 19TH

says:—The *Journal de Geneve* of 19th publishes intelligence respecting a fatal accident to the party of English tourists on their descent of Mont Cervin, of the Matterhorn, on the 14th inst. The party consisted of five persons, who performed the ascent successfully. While making the descent, however, one of them made a false step and fell, drawing two others of the party and the guide after him. All four immediately rolled down the side of the mountain, and were killed.

THE ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH BETWEEN

Harrow and Eton came off on the 15th July, and resulted in the former winning in one innings, with 51 runs to spare.

ANOTHER REPORT FROM BUTTE.

By the arrival of H. M. S. Clio yesterday from the west coast, the government have received another report from Butte, dated Friendly Cove, Nootka Sound, Sept. 1st, from which we have been courteously permitted to make the following condensed extracts:—After leaving Clayoquot Sound, Butte prospected a river flowing into Herbert Arm, finding good flats of land along its banks, numerous signs of elk, but no gold. The same result followed from an exploration of other streams flowing into Shelter Arm. On the 24th ult., the schooner Surprise arrived, and says Butte, "I received the startling intelligence that all the miners had left Barkerville, pronouncing the report as a pack of lies. I then informed Hancock and Forgie of what had occurred, but they still stated as before; this perplexed me sadly. After holding a consultation with Capt. Francis, who had known had the reputation of being a good prospector, I came to the conclusion to send Hancock back with Capt. Francis to Bark River to the place they had obtained their original prospects. They descended Bark River to the spot where Hancock and Forgie had prospected, and Capt. Francis gives it as his opinion that he has no doubt that they obtained the gold from the number of pans reported, but that they greatly over-estimated the average of the dirt. Captain Francis wished several pans, averaging a little over one cent to the pan. He thinks that would be the average of what he saw, although a great deal more can be obtained in different places, for instance at one of the places where Hancock and Forgie prospected, very good wages might be made. One thing greatly surprised him, that considering the great number of miners that ascended the river, so few places were prospected, and that tools were lying round in every direction apparently never having been used. It appears that the most of the men who came on the river went too high up, and missed where the gold was not, as one place where Hancock and Forgie obtained one of the prospects was entirely missed. Butte concludes his report by stating his intention to spend the month of October in exploring round Nootka Sound, including a large lake, thought by the report of the Indians to be 50 miles long. Evening Post.

THE NEXT STEAMER.—Doubts exist about

the next steamer. The agents say they have not as yet been notified that the usual trips are to be discontinued, they therefore expect the next, in her usual course. Officers on board the Orizaba stated that they did not expect to revisit this port.

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