

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, September 17, 1867.

The Ravine and the Drain.

From a murmuring brook on the picturesque banks of which strolled in "maiden meditation fancy free" and two-and-a-half point Hudson Bay blankets the dusky lass with her stalwart lad—from a romantic spot where "sweet nothings" were whispered into willing ears, and smoked salmon and dried clams were devoured by the stoical Siwash and his sympathetic clootchnan, the Johnson street ravine has degenerated into a receptacle for defunct members of the canine and feline families, decaying odds and ends and malarious soil. On the principle that "out of sight is out of mind," and forgetful of the romantic memory that clung so tenderly to the once fragrant locality, every offensive object too nasty to be tolerated in any other locality is hurled into the depths of the pellucid stream and left there to fester and corrode and rot. But, though lost to sight, the corrupt legends of animal and vegetable matter have not failed to appeal to at least one sense—that of smelling. Though out of the eye, they are ever present in the nose. Numerous have been the learned essays penned by local pundits, and the importance of adopting stringent hygienic measures to avert the awful effects resulting from the constant inhalation of carbonic gas upon the human system. Frequent have been the angry protestations of the half-strangled habitants against a continuance of this nosegay of nastiness. Successive Corporations have been appealed to and have undertaken to "deal with it kindly," but the nuisance has "followed them blindly" wherever they went, until at last they were compelled to acknowledge that the stench had more "power" than the Act of Incorporation conferred upon them, and they retired vanquished. But the Legislative Council last winter got angry. The members believed that the ravine had had its own way long enough, and in a fit of nauseous indignation they passed an Act conferring the necessary power on the Mayor and Council to remove all animate or inanimate nuisances. Under this Act the City Corporation have had the water-course opened and fine culverts built, and have issued an order for a box-drain to run the length and breadth of the ravine to be built at the expense of the lot owners—a drain sufficiently large to carry off all the water and sufficiently substantial to prevent vagrant dogs and cats from committing suicide by drowning, or decayed animal and vegetable matter from finding a lodgment therein. The culverts are completed; and there is just this one little difficulty operating against the construction of the drain: chicaman is scarce. In some instances the drain would cost more than the lots would bring under the hammer. The owners of real estate facing the stream of liquid mud have protested against the enforcement of the order, which they seem to regard with even less favor than they do the stench that threatens them with annihilation. They can stand the nuisance; because, as one of their number says, they are "used to it;" but they "can't stand the expense of a drain. The Mayor and the Sanitary Commission have considered their case and find that, like the times, it is "hard," and considering the state of the money market and the near approach of the cool weather, have relaxed so much of the order as relates to the construction of the expensive drain. They think a temporary affair will answer every purpose for the present, while they reserve the right to order a more substantial structure at some future period, and there is now reason for hoping that the nuisance, if not entirely abated, will be greatly modified, and the stream gradually restored to its pristine state of poetic cleanliness.

The Dominion Elections.

The Conservative or Government party of the Dominion of Canada appear to have gained a substantial victory in the recent elections in Ontario and Quebec for members of the House of Commons. The Toronto Leader (Conservative) claims 39 out of the 44 members returned. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are yet to be heard from. These figures may be somewhat exaggerated; but there is no doubt that the Reform party, which is headed by George Brown, has met with a very severe reverse—Brown himself being defeated for the Oxford Riding by a majority of 70. The discomfiture of the Reformers, however, in our opinion, is not attributable to the unpopularity of the cause. The public affairs of the Dominion require revising; but the Canadians desire to see the machinery of the new Confederacy, such as it is, in running order—to give the ministry a fair chance before turning them out of doors; and in their decision they have acted wisely. No party cry should have been raised during the late campaign; for it is quite evident that until the ministers had done something to call down popular censure

upon their heads they were entitled to at least a fair trial. To condemn them before they had announced their policy, or, in fact, even formed one, would be equivalent to hanging an innocent man upon the suspicion that he intended to perpetrate a crime.

Thursday, Sept. 12.

THE CASE OF SCHLESINGER.—In the police court, yesterday morning, the case of Charles B. Schlesinger, who is charged with uttering a forged check in the name of Henry Grunbaum, of this city, was called on. Mr Robert Bishop appeared to watch the case for Grunbaum Bros., and Mr Ring appeared for the defence. The check alleged to have been forged was produced in court, and the signature, when compared with that at the foot of other checks acknowledged by Henry Grunbaum to have been signed by him, showed great dissimilarity; the imitation, in fact, was very clumsy. From the evidence of Henry Grunbaum it would appear he always signed the checks of the firm in his own name, and that some days prior to the check being uttered, the accused told him he would be pleased to have his signature in a book so that he might have something to remember him by; Grunbaum complied by writing his name on the blank page of a book belonging to Schlesinger. The number of the alleged false check is 63,417, and the corresponding counterfoil has been abstracted from the check-book in the possession of the firm, while the numbers of the remaining checks and counterfoils remain undisturbed. The book was produced in court. The witness said that upon the very day on which the check was uttered Mr Julius Grunbaum (his brother) returned home from the bank and asked him if he had drawn a check for \$300? Witness replied "No," Schlesinger was in the room at the time, and while the brother was asking him about the check at the bank, vanished and witness did not see him afterwards until he was brought back upon a requisition from Washington Territory. Witness swore positively that he was not in the habit of signing blank checks, nor had he ever done so; he believed that Schlesinger tore check and counterfoil from the check-book while his (witness') attention was directed for a few moments to another department of the establishment. Mr Wilkinson, paying-teller of the Bank of British North America, deposed to cashing the check for the accused, and Julius Grunbaum corroborated the evidence of his brother. Mr Ring having cross-examined each witness, said that he would offer no evidence for the defence at this stage, and Mr Pemberton committed the accused for trial before the higher court. In default of bail Schlesinger was locked up.

UNCLE SAM'S LUST FOR TERRITORY.—The Lowell (Mass.) Courier, discoursing upon the rumor that the United States are about to purchase British Columbia, says: "It may not be amiss to ask whether it would be good policy to pay more money for land which we do not need, when we actually do need every dollar we can spare to satisfy the claims of our creditors. If it be true that Great Britain is willing to give us her possessions on the Pacific coast in exchange for our claims against her growing out of the affair of the Alabama, it may not be amiss to close a bargain, but the idea of parting with any more gold, all of which we need, for land which we do not need, is one we should never entertain for a moment. We have land enough now to satisfy the requirements of our population for the next century. No prudent, thrifty farmer would think of buying land and borrowing money to pay for it, when he had already upon his hands more acres than he could profitably cultivate."

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY Mr J. G. Shepherd, agent in this Colony for the Standard Life Assurance Company, has presented us with the last annual report of this old and well-known company, in which the following promising statement appears: The amount of assurances proposed during the year was £1,439,927 0 4, and the amount accepted (2013) policies, was £1,190,281 11 2; annual premiums on new policies £33,918 19 11; claims by death during the year, exclusive of bonus additions £314,376 3 10. The annual revenue at the 15th November was £675,267 6 8; accumulated fund invested in securities £3,700,005 14. The Governor of the Company is His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, K. G.; Deputy Governors—The Right Hon the Earl of Dalkeith, M. P., and the Right Hon the Earl of Stair, K. T.

RAPID PASSAGE.—A very fast passage was made by the Cunard steamer Cuba, on her last run out from Boston to Liverpool. She was off Roche's Point in eight days (deducting ten hours delay at Halifax waiting for longitude), her passage between Boston and Queenstown occupied just seven days and nineteen hours. She averaged over 317 miles per day. From Halifax to Roche's Point the run was done in six days and twenty hours, perhaps the fastest on record.

BURGALARY.—A dwelling house on Cormorant street, above Blanchard, was entered by thieves on Tuesday night and a large number of articles stolen.

THE NITRO-GLYCERINE EXPLOSION.—The important suit of the West India and Pacific Steamship Company vs. A. S. Williams and Guion, just tried in the Liverpool Court of Assizes, has resulted in a judgment for plaintiffs, with damages assessed at £1,300 sterling. This suit grew out of the nitro-glycerine explosion at Aspinwall, on the 3d of April, 1866, by which the steamship European, belonging to the plaintiffs, was totally destroyed while lying at the above named port. The explosion also resulted in the loss of six lives, including those of the captain and other officers of the steamer. The Caribbean, of the same line, also sustained serious damages. The ship was valued at \$40,000. The damage to the Caribbean was estimated at £10,000. The owners of several buildings on shore which were demolished, put in their claims for damages to a considerable amount additional. The underwriters declined to make good the losses, they threw the responsibility upon the owners of the European, upon the ground that they were culpable in carrying explosive material on the ship and below the deck. The plaintiffs in turn brought suit against Williams & Guion, as shippers of the nitro-glycerine, claiming that they were guilty of deception in shipping articles under the name of glonoin, a substance unknown to chemists or to the commerce, and this involved the plaintiffs in their great losses and liabilities. The defendants replied that they had acted in the matter only as forwarders; that the explosive material came to them from a Hamburg house, with instructions to forward to Bandmann, Wilson & Co., via plaintiffs' lines; that they were themselves deceived by the descriptive title, glonoin oil, in the manifest, and had no knowledge or suspicion of the dangerous character of the freight which thus passed through their hands in the usual course of business. The judgment rendered, it is understood, has definitely settled the fact that the plaintiffs are entitled to damages, but cannot recover their losses from the underwriters; but the question whether the defendants are ultimately liable, or whether the plaintiffs must look to the original shippers at Hamburg, goes to a higher tribunal for argument and decision.

DESERTION AND LARCENY.—Four sailors belonging to the British ship Nation's Hope, on Tuesday night stole one of the ship's boats and skeddaddled for the "other side." The fellows are said to be identical with the thieves who played a similar game successfully on the captain of the British ship Siam, some months ago. They were shipped at San Francisco on both occasions, and having received the advance money, bolted at the first opportunity. They appear to make a business of shipping in vessels and deserting with whatsoever they can lay their hands upon.

DEATH OF MR J. M. GREAVY.—A despatch from Soda Creek to Dr J. B. Haggan announces the death of Mr J. M. Greavy, of this city, at Galbraith's Station, on Monday last. The cause of death was "congestive cholera." Mr Greavy was a most exemplary young man, and was highly respected both here and at Cariboo. He was engineer of the up-river steamer Enterprise, and leaves a young wife and aged mother to mourn his untimely death, the intelligence of which has deeply moved his numerous friends here.

A NEW CAUSE FOR SHUTTING A CHURCH.—The Boston Transcript says: "The moths have succeeded in shutting up one of our most fashionable churches for the season. It seems that these troublesome little creatures have been multiplying in a new and elegant meeting-house on Boylston street (Dr Ganett's) until it has become necessary to close the house and strip it of all the upholstery in order to save it from utter ruin, to say nothing of the clothing of the attendants."

FOR MELBOURNE.—The ship Australind, Capt Barrack, will sail from the outer harbor on the 16th inst. for the above port. She will carry a limited number of passengers. Application for passage should be made to Capt Stamp, Agent, Wharf street.

THE OREGON.—A telegram was received by Mr Stewart from San Francisco yesterday announcing that the steamship Oregon was to sail last evening for Victoria via Portland, and that she will take in about 500 tons of coal at Nanaimo.

THE FIDELITER sailed from Portland for Victoria last evening.

THE ACTIVE arrived down on Tuesday.

Water Supply.

VICTORIA, Sept. 9, 1867.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—A letter signed "Aqua," urging the necessity of supplying Victoria with water, and proposing that it should be led by cast iron piping from Elk Lake, a distance of seven miles in a straight line, and the town thus supplied at a cost of \$100,000, appeared in a recent number of your paper. Assuming the estimate correct as far as it goes, it is otherwise insufficient; the pipes are small compared with the distance, and the discharge at Victoria would be insufficient unless supplied through a reservoir in the immediate vicinity of the town, and for which no provision is made in the estimate. But the method proposed is still more objectionable on general principles. Most of the money would be spent in the purchase of pipes in England, insurance, commission and freight. Had the writer, whose other remarks upon the subject are so well timed and appropriate, proposed to FUME the water, miner fashion, from any distant lake into a reservoir near Victoria, and there distribute it by

iron pipes, a method by which the money would at all events be spent in the country and which could be carried out with economy and despatch, this letter would not have been written. But even this latter plan would, I apprehend, cost too much to meet with that unanimous cooperation and hearty support of the people, just now, without which any proposal to effect the object, however desirable, must of course end in failure. I believe the reason that owners of property, the Corporation, Insurance Companies and the public generally, have as yet not stirred in the matter is because no plan has been suggested by which, at a moderate cost, water can be had in quantity sufficiently abundant to supply the city, deluge the streets, water the gardens, extinguish fires, and at the same time supply Esquimalt and the fleet. I am about to make a suggestion by which I think that at a moderate cost the above conditions could be satisfied, and Victoria and Esquimalt, with an outlay within the reach of their present inhabitants, be made the best watered towns on the Pacific coast.

By examining any general map of the country it will be noticed that the surplus water of seven lakes is discharged through the Colquitz and Deadman's rivers into the Portage Inlet. The connecting ravines are likewise the lines of springs fed by those lakes, of which any one can have proof by drinking fresh water below ordinary high water mark opposite Craigflower. Suppose a water-tight dam, 10 feet higher than ordinary spring tides, constructed at the Gorge or at the narrows below the Gorge, and the salt water at the head of the inlet thus cut off pumped out, the result, after the first winter rains, would be a deep and extensive fresh water lake, within a mile or so of Victoria, and about the same from Esquimalt. To obviate objection on the score of the mud-flat at head of the inlet, Deadman's river might be flumed into the lake, directly across the narrow peninsula at Craigflower, and the Colquitz river brought in by a narrow and short cutting above or below the Gorge and at right to the inlet; the mud flat might be then dammed and the bottom of the proposed lake cleaned out by curts, unless it could be dredged before the construction of the dam. A fresh water lake, 100 or even 200 acres in extent and 15 to 20 feet deep, might in this way be easily created.

Now suppose for present purposes 100,000 gallons a day required for Victoria only, and the area of the proposed lake to be 5,000,000 superficial feet, the daily supply would not diminish it more than 1-20th inch, and allowing 1/4th inch for evaporation per day and a trifle for leakage, and supposing no rain to fall for several months, the lake would not fall more than 1 foot per month.

The surface of the lake could not be much below the level of the town, but a 10 horse power engine would be more than double the power theoretically required to supply 100,000 gallons in 12 hours, raised to a height of 100 feet; and supposing the duty of the engine to be half what is now usual, or 25 M. lbs., raised 1 foot high by 1 cwt. coal, 4 cwt. of coal per day would be sufficient to do the work. The same engine would be used in the first instance to pump the salt water out.

The work would be principally executed in the summer, and the lake would fill up in winter from the natural discharge of the rivers mentioned, caused by the overflow of seven lakes, and from the fresh water springs which must exist in the bed of the inlet. \$10,000 would probably construct the lake, as nature has already done most of the work, and the total estimate would probably not exceed \$50,000.

The details of distribution I leave untouched; as these would not vary much, whatever plan might be adopted. A small service reservoir at a high level would I presume be required, so that in case of fire, water at an extraordinary pressure might be instantaneously obtained, and hose attached directly to any of the numerous fire plugs in the pipes, thus obviating the necessity of fire engines, wherever the pipes were laid; the ordinary town supply being obtained by simply filling a sufficiency of pipes once a day, direct from the engine pump, a check valve preventing its return.

A question may arise whether the engines of the dredger might not be used for the above purposes temporarily, without impairing their efficiency for the purpose for which they were originally intended and to which they will doubtless be ultimately applied, and the cost of maintaining the dredger in perfect repair for a year or two assumed by the Corporation, to the saving of Colonial funds.

It is possible, that by a close examination of the valley of the Colquitz river, some natural depression might be found where, by damming, a sufficiently extensive reservoir could be made at a higher level, which would be preferable; but I doubt that it is practicable.

At all events, it seems probable that if in this matter we endeavour to improve upon what nature has already done for us, and take example by some elderly beaver instead of from Appius Claudius, we shall succeed better than by attempting, in our present financial condition, to carry water directly across country from a lake 7 miles distant. The plan thus roughly indicated, if on a closer examination adopted, is one that might be carried out by degrees, for instance: the dredging, the construction of a dam, the putting of a 10 or 12 horse-power engine and pump, would not be anything very alarming, but in that case the first thing to be attended to, would be, for obvious reasons, to stop all timber cutting on the banks of the proposed fresh water lake. J. D. PEMBERTON.

The Awful Flood in New South Wales.

Dates from Sydney are to the 1st of July. Sydney papers are filled with doleful accounts of the terrible floods, storms of wind and rain that visited the colony during the month of June. The record is truly dismal, shocking and distressing, not only to those who feel an interest in the prosperity of the colonies, but to all who have a regard for humanity. The weather was bad in the beginning of June on the coast, and continued so up to the 9th, when it culminated in a tremendous storm, better described as a hurricane, which lasted four days without abatement of its fury. The flood that inundated the country is stated to have been more terrible and devastating than any that has visited the colony since the first white man set his foot on the soil. Its results have been most desolating, making whole families homeless, destroying life and property to an enormous extent. The following extract from the Sydney Empire of July 1st will convey to our readers some idea of the ravages of the flood—an event that will be long remembered in New South Wales:

Great fear was entertained in the city of Sydney that the low-lying lands of the country, most exposed to floods by reason of the numerous water courses falling through them, and the narrowness and circuitous course of the outlet to the sea, would be inundated; but no one expected that this was the beginning of the most disastrous flood that had ever occurred in New South Wales, and that the sympathies of the people of the country would be taxed to a degree beyond anything that had ever been previously known. Yet so it has proved. On Friday, the 21st of June, accounts reached Sydney which startled and alarmed the whole of the inhabitants, and which, unhappily, proved to be true. The whole of the valley of the Hawkesbury river had been flooded to a height unknown and unrecorded by the oldest inhabitant or by history. The town of Windsor was surrounded by water, and so sudden had been the rush of the flood from the high lands, in consequence of the previous saturation of the ground, the farmers and their families had to flee for their lives, abandoning all they possessed to the raging waters. The incidents that occurred were most shocking. In one case, a farmer sat upon the roof of his house with his family for twenty hours holding his youngest child in his arms until the infant died from the effects of cold and exposure, for the rain was still pouring down in torrents, and the whole of the surrounding land was one wide sea of water. The father then had to throw his dead child into the flood and take up another in the hope of preserving it. On Saturday morning, the 22d, the house gave way and was swept down with the flood, drowning the mother and nine other children. The father and four others were saved by the boats which had been sent off to rescue these unfortunate sufferers. By this time the whole of the valley was inundated and the fertile district of Richmond presented the appearance of a great lake. Fears were felt that the town of Windsor itself, where at this time some thousands of persons were congregated, would be involved in the general devastation, but happily this did not occur. The flood was so sudden and so overwhelming that all means of escape seemed to be cut off, and many families, some consisting of weak mothers and young children suffering from severe illness, had to remain for hours on the roofs of their houses during the severest weather that has ever been known on this coast, until succor could be given.

Another account says the late flood has exceeded in its devastation all previous floods in New South Wales on record. The valleys of the Hawkesbury, Hunter and other rivers have been submerged. Many lives have been lost, and many more would have been sacrificed but for the prompt despatch of boats from Sydney by the Government, and a large amount of property has been destroyed. Hundreds of families have been left destitute and their condition is most deplorable. The people and the Government are combining to raise funds for the relief of the sufferers. Many houses, bridges and public works have been swept away, and numbers of cattle drowned. The shipping on the coast has not escaped without sustaining considerable injuries. From the earnestness with which the movement for relief is taken up, it is believed that a great calamity will be alleviated. It will take a long time for the inhabitants to recover their losses.

The Lanfester Fund.

EDITORS COLONIST.—Will you kindly publish, for the satisfaction of those who are interested, the following note of the money collected and expended for Frederick Lanfester:

Table with columns: COLLECTED, EXPENDED. Rows include: Mr McKieley, Mr Heil, Mr Levey, Mr Higgins, Board of Lanfester, for 17 days, Board of Nurse, Wages of Nurse for 17 days, Fruit, etc., during illness, Medicines, dressings, &c., per Physician, Washing bedclothes.

This leaves a balance of \$4 50, which can stand as my own subscription.

T. SOMERVILLE.

THE ALEXANDRA arrived from New Westminster at 1 o'clock this morning.

Tuesday, September 17, 1867.

Free Education.

The friends of Education with a feeling of deep regret Governor has declined further appropriation for the purpose of Free Schools. The reason assigned for an extraordinary expenditure in another quarter; reason will, we believe, in the hostility of certain to any educational system not admit of the instilling peculiar dogmas into the young. We need not great magis of the people to the introduction of a such as that proposed for the one now in force. voice has been heard. It is nearly unanimous sectarian Free Schools error, by pursuing a calculated to undermine that system, is increasing popularity and inflicting injury on the Colony. Mr Jessop in the city, of Mr Burr in Victoria, 155 pupils in the Close these institutions and at least one-half of will be cut off from Education. In the Naamio there are 230 who would be turned if the free system were more than half of whom in the language of a late public meeting, "diana" in a moral point the course of a previous showed that the grat the Is and was not all but that it was inequity sidered in connection of scholars in attendance with the number attend the Island. We also was a full more glaring that out of the \$600 only \$2500 were available pensely of education 31st of March last. I been swallowed up in indebtedness of the when the Board came facts before the Execut asked why they did not with the teachers? with men and women at best are but one starvation rates! "O those who have to honor of the Board, scarcely find a single place willing to trust pay him for the need, while they are acting philanthropists toward generation of the Colon almost tempted to slip error, in view of our filence has not compounded underworked and over Why, indeed, has he in the matter of his own is far beyond any sum afford or ought to pay begins at home." Let furnish a practical pecuniary sacrifice he make in the cause of and we will be bound dollar he may remit to remit two. The Board have battled manfully vation of the system. frequent meetings, several deputations to Excellency and require The answer is before more money will be Grouse Creek war, source of expense, we be defrayed from from any other fund School fund, is made "starving the minds and denying them the Education. The re yesterday by the B one, under the circ they could pass. It seen in what spirit th will be met by an utive, who seems deter the system by the process of starvation.