

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 15, 1864.

FIREMEN'S DEMONSTRATION.

The Victoria Fire Department Thursday presented a farewell address to His Excellency, Sir James Douglas, in anticipation of his leaving the colony to-day. The procession formed at the Hook and Ladder Truck-house, at 12-30 p. m., and after marching round by Wharf and Yates streets, preceded by their fine brass band, under the able leadership of Mr. Maguire, they proceeded along government street to the government buildings, where the firemen formed a semi-circle in front of the main entrance. His Excellency having made his appearance on the platform, the band greeted him with "God Save the Queen." A detachment, consisting of Messrs. J. C. Keenan, Chief Engineer; S. B. Abbott, Assistant-Engineer; H. Thain, Foreman of Union Hook and Ladder Company; J. S. Drummond, Foreman of Deluge Company, No. 1; S. L. Kelly, Foreman of Tiger Company, No. 2; J. A. McCrea, Charles Gowan, John Dickson, J. Malowanski and J. N. Thain, then stepped forward from the ranks, and the Chief-Engineer read the following:

FAREWELL ADDRESS.

To His Excellency Sir James Douglas, K. C. B.: May it please your Excellency—We, the members of the Fire Department of Victoria, Vancouver Island, who consider that this valuable institution owes its existence to your Excellency, under whose fostering care it has attained its actual respectable and efficient condition, would think ourselves deficient in common gratitude, did we not, before your Excellency's retirement from office, make a public acknowledgement of the promptitude with which all the reasonable requirements of the Department under our charge have been attended to of the courtesy which our officers have ever received at your hands, and of the paternal interest your Excellency has ever displayed in the welfare of an institution, of which a gentleman possessed of your sagacity could not fail to perceive the importance. Thanks to a kind Providence, our services, thus far, have been but little needed, and we pray that this young and interesting city, which has reached its present proud position under your Excellency's auspices, may be long spared from that devouring element, which, in a case of great emergency, if it ever should be our painful task to be called upon we trust that provided as we are, we shall be enabled to render efficient service, and to convince the inhabitants in general, that they as well as ourselves, are laid under obligations to your Excellency for the wise and prudent precautions taken by you to avoid the progress of an enemy which has so often committed its fearful ravages in a neighboring country, and by whom we know not at what time we may be assailed. With the assurance that a retrospect of our relation with your Excellency is and will long be a source of pleasure to us, and with best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and family,

We have the honor to be,
Your Excellency's
Devoted and obedient servants,
JOHN KEENAN,
Chief Engineer V.F.D.,
J. A. McCrea, C. M. Wallace, J. S. Drummond,
Charles Gowan, William Wilson,
Philip Hall, S. L. Kelly, John Dickson—
Committee on behalf of the Fire Department.

The Chief Engineer then handed the address, which was beautifully engrossed and illuminated, into the hands of the Colonial Secretary, and His Excellency made the following reply: "Gentlemen of the Fire Department: I feel greatly obliged for this mark of respect you have shown me; by the kind address and for the flattering manner in which you allude to my public services. In alluding to these services you are pleased to thank me for being a friend to the Victoria Fire Department; and I always have been a friend and supporter of the Department, and I am glad to say now that I have no reason to withdraw that confidence and support. You have ever been ready to rush to the rescue of the lives and property of your fellow citizens. I am highly gratified to know that the Fire Department has formed under my administration. Continue, my friends, to do as you have done, and you will always receive my esteem and the gratitude of the public.

Three hearty cheers and a "tiger" were then given for His Excellency, and three for Lady Douglas, the band playing "Rule Britannia." The procession then moved to the residence of Mayor Harris, and giving him three cheers, which were suitably responded to by His Worship. The whole affair passed off in the most orderly and creditable manner and reflects honor on the Fire Department. We may mention that the address, which was beautifully executed and ornamented, was the work of Mr. Rhynd, the organist of St. John's Church.

GRAND BANQUET TO SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.

The grand Banquet given by the citizens of Victoria to His Excellency Sir James Douglas, K. C. B., on the occasion of his retiring from the government of the colony, took place Thursday in the Theatre, and was a glorious and brilliant affair. The Theatre was most elegantly decorated by Mons. Diard of the Colonial Hotel who had the entire management of all the arrangements under the supervision of the Committee, and it is but due to that excellent purveyor to say that nothing was wanting to ensure the comfort and enjoyment of the guests.

The entire building was boarded level with the stage, and a handsome table spread the whole length. At the end of the stage, behind the chairman, was a large cartoon of the Royal Arms, supported by two smaller cartoons, and national flags. Overhead were festoons of evergreens and artificial flowers; on either side of the proscenium were cartoons of the American Arms; the dress-circle was also chastely festooned, and decorated overhead with flags of various nations.

His Excellency entered the room a few minutes after the hour named, and shortly before seven, at a signal from the chair, at least 200 persons took their seats. The chair was filled by Alfred Waddington, Esq., on whose right sat Sir James Douglas, His Honor Chief-Justice Begbie, B. C., Captain Hardings, R. N., Hon. W. A. G. Young, Colonial Secretary, &c., and on the left, Thomas Harris, Esq., Mayor, His Honor Chief-Justice Cameron, Dr. Helmcken, Speaker of the House of Assembly, &c.

Grace having been said, the dinner was served, and lasted until about 9 o'clock. During the repast, the dress-circle and boxes were filled with ladies, and the proceedings were enlivened by the admirable performances of an excellent band, under the skillful direction of Messrs. Palmer, Sandrie and Allen.

As soon as the table was cleared, the chairman proposed the "Queen" and "the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family," which toasts were received with unbounded demonstrations of loyalty.

Mr. Waddington proposed in a humorous and happy speech the toast of "His Excellency the Governor, the guest of the evening."

Dr. Evans, in presenting the address spoke in a very felicitous manner, alluding to his position as a clergyman and saying that he was happy to know that he was not precluded from entering heartily into the demonstration they were now engaged in.

The reading of the address was received with hearty cheers, the band striking up "Auld Lang Syne."

His Excellency would beg to thank the company most cordially for this sincere expression of their good will. It was highly gratifying to him to see so hearty a demonstration of approval of the policy of his government, and to know that the community approved of his course during the long term of his protracted administration. This document is associated with the most gratifying recollections; it assured him of their sincere regard, and of their earnest wish to do honor to Her Gracious Majesty, whom he had the honor to represent. It assured him in language more eloquent than words that the community was prepared to support those great principles of free trade, of mining enterprise, and of the settlement of the country which his administration had endeavored to bring about. It assured him they would ever support those great principles of progress, and that they felt they were in the right course, and by persevering in that course, they would ultimately arrive at the summit of our wishes (applause). He felt that the community were disposed to place a higher value on his services than they deserved (loud cries of No, no). The progress was due rather to the efforts of their highly patriotic Legislature (applause). In closing his relations with this colony, he would ever retain a grateful recollection of this day's proceedings, and of the high honor conferred upon him, and in whatever part of the world he should spend the remainder of his days, he would ever rejoice to hear of the welfare and progress and prosperity of this colony. (Tremendous cheering.)

The Chairman briefly proposed the toast of "The Army and Navy."

Air—"Red, White and Blue."

Capt. Hardings replied for the Navy, in a few humorous remarks. The Navy had ever found in Victoria Island a friendly harbor, but he would say that the best way to keep them here would be to encourage "female immigration" (great laughter).

Loud calls being made for Lieut. Pender, that gentleman rose and briefly thanked the company for the honor they had done the service.

Col. Foster, M.P., responded for the army in a few well-timed remarks, which were received with much applause.

"The Legislative Council," was proposed by D. B. Ring, Esq., Vice Chairman.

Band—"A Victoria March."

Hon. Chief Justice Cameron, President of the Council, responded.

"The Legislative Assembly," was proposed by J. J. Southgate, Esq., coupling the toast with the name of Dr. Helmcken, the honorable Speaker of the House. These gentlemen had been selected by their fellow citizens to legislate for them, and although all their efforts may not have met with their approbation, they deserve the cordial approbation of the community for devoting their time and trouble to the duties of their position, (applause). Music by the band—"Cheer, boys, cheer!"

Dr. Helmcken responded in his usual lively manner. He would simply say that the House of Assembly had been engaged in a most important matter—they had been looking after their money for them, (hear, hear). They had also been looking after the Telegraph Bill (hear, hear). He could recollect the time when the only means of mail communication we had with England was by a canoe across Puget Sound, and that only 12 short hours ago. How much of the present progress was owing to the exertions of the Legislative Assembly was not for him to say, but he attributed in great measure the rapid progress of the colony to His Excellency. (Great applause.) It was His Excellency who instituted the policy which governed the country. (Hear, hear). Having been connected many years with the Legislative Assembly, he could always testify to the courtesy and urbanity of His Excellency. It was to his constant care, watchfulness and attention that the colony was in a position to pass the telegraph bill. (Great applause.)

"The Bench and the Bar" was proposed by Dr. Tolmie, M. P. The honorable gentleman said he did not mean bench and bar diggings (laughter), but the professional gentlemen of the Bench and Bar of Victoria. The honorable gentleman coupled with the bench the name of the honorable Chief Justice, who for ten years had assisted His Excellency in his arduous duties. As to the Bar, they called the best intellects from the whole country, and they deserve the commendation of us all (applause).

Music by the band—"The Cameronian March."

The Hon. Chief Justice Cameron responded. He felt grateful for the kind manner in which his friend Dr. Tolmie had alluded to him. He was honored in responding to the toast of the Bench—the Bar, he would leave to younger men. The Hon. gentleman alluded to the early period in which he had been called to the Bench in this colony, and to the arduous duties he had performed, representing half a dozen judges in one (great applause). He had done it he would leave it to the public to say, (immense applause).

Mr. Cary responded for the bar. He would say that he was despised by one half of Victoria, and feared by the other, (great laughter). For three years he had used his utmost endeavors to forward the interests of the colony; and he was sure that all would join him in the wish that should His Excellency return to this colony, he would see that it had progressed as fast as his heart could wish. He could only say that he would never wish to serve a kinder master than Sir James Douglas, (great applause).

Loud calls being made for Mr. Ring, that gentleman rose and said, although unprepared for any remarks, he would bear testimony to the ability and unswerving courage which had marked the administration of His Excellency Sir James Douglas. Gentlemen, what more do you want from me?—(great laughter).

"The Mayor of Victoria," by Dr. Dickson. He had great pleasure in bearing testimony to the earnest and honest manner in which the Mayor had filled the civic chair, (hear, hear). Although the Corporation was in that state which physicians call "atrophy," a new at would soon set them right he could not expect the maturity of manhood in so young a child (laughter). The Corporation was only a child eighteen months old (great laughter) and he must not expect too much from it. The Dr. sketched the rapid growth of the colony in an elaborate manner, amid uproarious mirth.

Band—"For he's a jolly good fellow," joined by the company.

Mayor Harris responded to the toast. He thanked the company for the handsome manner in which they had received the toast. He could look back to the five years ago, when he and many of his fellow citizens landed on what might be called a tent. Did they then expect to see a city such as we have now? It showed the wonders of the works of the Almighty (applause). This being the only British soil on this coast, we can boast of all the institutions of civilized countries (hear, hear). He hoped all his friends before him had grown as the colony had, and that our children and children's children would see the country flourish after us. When he saw a community like Victoria select a humble tradesman like himself as the first Mayor of the city, it was an heirloom for him and his children to carry down in ages yet to come (applause). He would ask when again would a community like this meet together to do honor to the distinguished gentleman whom we had now met to honor (applause). He thanked the company individually and respectively, and would drink each of their good health (great applause).

Mr. Selin Franklin was called on to propose the toast of "Our Sister Colony." He said that the connection of his Excellency with British Columbia would reflect even more honor on him than his connection with this colony. That colony was a wilderness six years ago, what some had called a howling wilderness, (laughter) and under the government of his Excellency we had seen its rivers thronged with steamers, and its wilds pierced with roads, and to which they had to thank his Excellency, and for this his name should echo through the mountains and over the valleys of the whole colony (applause). He would propose "Our Sister Colony," coupling it with the name of his Honor Judge Begbie—Toast drank with great applause.

Band—"There's a good time coming."

His Honor Judge Begbie responded. Although he had differed from His Excellency in many points of policy, he would still wish to part from him as friends. This gentleman went on for some time in a very rambling manner, amid considerable impatience exhibited by the audience.

"Our Foreign Residents" was proposed by D. B. Ring, Esq. The toast, said the proposer, embraced the civilized nations of Europe and America. (Great applause.) The presence of so many foreigners here to-night was the best tribute to their appreciation of the government and policy of our present respected Governor. [Applause.] National prejudices were disappearing fast before the progress of civilization, and the world was rapidly progressing, freed from their religious influences. He proposed with a proud pleasure "The Foreign Residents of Victoria." (Great applause.)

Band—"The Star Spangled Banner," "Partant Pour la Syrie" and "Deutscher Vaterland."

P. M. Backus, Esq., said, in responding to this sentiment he felt this the proudest day of his life (applause). He thought the audience would admit that the Americans had made good citizens (great applause). The Americans had come here to make what they are very fond of—"the almighty dollar," and thanks to the Governor and the Hudson Bay Company, they had made it. [Great applause and laughter.] He was astonished that so little had been said this evening of the mineral wealth of Vancouver Island. He would say that Victoria and Vancouver Island were the richest country in the world. [Great applause.] He would say that the wealth of old England to back us [uproarious laughter] we were bound to go ahead. Common sense was one of the greatest qualities in the world, and therefore Sir James Douglas was one of the greatest men in the world; for he had always shown that he had plenty of that quality. [Tremendous applause.]

W. A. G. Young, Esq., Colonial Secretary, begged to propose "The Commercial, Mining, and Agricultural Interests of the Colony."

He was sorry that this toast was placed so low on the list—this, one of the most important toasts of the whole evening. Although we had some croakers among us, we still had reason to feel that our progress was most satisfactory; our commerce was in a most flourishing state; our mines were so promising that shares of one of our companies were bought in San Francisco, in preference to Wabsee, (applause). As to the agricultural interests,

he was sorry he could not say much yet, but as soon as we had roads through the colony, our farmers would find an ample market in Victoria for all they could produce. The Hon. gentleman closed with a hearty tribute to our foreign residents, who had ever been ready to join in all enterprises to develop the country.

Mr. J. D. Walker responded, and alluded to the commercial progress this colony had made by the wise policy pursued by His Excellency the Governor. He referred to the benefits of the free port system, and that taking San Francisco as a stand point, Victoria would soon have ceased to exist, had it not been for her free port. Mr. Walker adverted briefly to the commercial position of the colony, and concluded by saying that as he had only a third of the toast to answer for, he would leave the rest in the hands of the gentlemen who were to follow.

Mr. C. B. Young next followed, and said it had been asked what Victoria did with out British Columbia, but he would ask what would British Columbia do without Victoria? (cheers). Mr. Young desecrated at length, upon the mining resources of both colonies; his speech, however, was inaudible at the rear of the hall.

Mr. A. C. Anderson responded for the agricultural interests.

Mr. J. G. Shepherd proposed the toast of "The Press." He alluded to the great power for good or for evil wielded by the Press, and dilated at some length upon the state of the Press in Victoria. We regret, however, that the speaker was not sufficiently audible to be understood.

Band—"Good St. Anthony."

Mr. Harris, of the Colonist, and Mr. Bell, of the Chronicle, replied.

Mr. Cruickshank, in a neat speech, proposed the health of the ladies in the course of which he quoted Scott's well-known lines: "Oh, woman, in our hours of ease, Uncertain, coy and hard to please, By the light quivering aspen made, When pain and anguish wring the brow, A ministering angel thou!"

Air—"There's a health to all good ladies." Mr. S. Franklin responded and said he did not know whether it was his good fortune or misfortune that he was invariably fixed upon to return thanks for the ladies. Mr. Franklin made some humorous and well timed hits.

Mr. Holbrook responded for the ladies of the sister colony, and in the course of his remarks said that he was opposed to union. [This produced roars of laughter.]

Chairman—What sort of union does the speaker allude to?

Mr. Holbrook endeavored, amid confusion, to explain, and made a very amusing speech. At his request, His Excellency and friends took leave of the company, the band playing the National Anthem.

The Theatre was empty very shortly after the departure of the guest of the evening.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARCHITECT

LATER FROM THE EAST.

Federal Defeat in Florida.

GRANT MADE LIEUT. GENERAL.

The bark Architect, Capt. Hoeg, arrived Thursday morning from San Francisco, after a fine run of nine days. She brings several passengers and a large and valuable cargo of merchandise, particulars of which are furnished in our commercial column.

We are indebted to Capt. Hoeg for copies of San Francisco papers of the 29th February, containing the following later despatches from the East:

The steamer Golden City left Panama on the 15th for San Francisco.

The New York Times says the steamer Fulton, from Port Royal, Wednesday last, brought information of sad reverses to our Florida expedition. We are unable to give details it says, because after the Fulton went out into the bay she was boarded by the Provost Marshal with orders from Gen. Gilmore to deprive passengers of all private letters in their possession. From passengers by the Fulton we are indebted for the following main facts of the battle on the afternoon of the 20th. Our troops, under Seymour, met the enemy 15,000 strong, fifteen miles beyond Jacksonville, and eight miles beyond Sanderson, on the line of the Jacksonville and Tallahassee Railroad. The battle was desperately fought during three hours, and at sunset our forces, overpowered by numbers, retired to Sanderson, taking with them the greater part of their wounded. Col. Fribery, of the Eighth United States, was left dead on the field. Col. Reed, a Hungarian officer, was mortally wounded. All the officers of Hamilton's battery were wounded. The Cosmopolitan arrived at Beaufort on Monday evening, with 240 wounded, Col. Reed being among them, who was living when the Fulton left on Wednesday. The enemy's loss is not known. They captured five guns. It is supposed that the troops were from Bragg's army. General Hardee himself was on the field, having come to Florida on a visit to his family. Our loss is variously estimated at from 500 to 1500.

The Herald's correspondence, dated off Mobile, to the 16th, says the Hartford, Farragut and six mortar schooners are with the fleet, and it is rumored they will engage Fort Gaines to-day. Deserters state that twenty thousand troops are in and around Mobile. Two iron-clads, the Tennessee and Nashville are in the harbor. The former mounts ten guns. Forty-five of the ragged leaders in the recent mutiny at Fort Morgan are under sentence of death. If executed, the feeling of horror among the people will seriously injure the rebel cause in Mobile.

The Herald's Matamoros letter of the 5th says Gen. Hartran is reorganizing his old divisions and procuring supplies for future contingencies.

A despatch dated Tannet Hill, Ga., says: Early yesterday morning, Generals Craft and Baird crossed Tunnel Hill Bridge with their commands, and marched through the gap in Rocky Falls Range, driving the rebels from the Cleveland road into Rocky Falls Valley, thus turning the strong position the enemy occupied on the road from Lower Tunnel Hill to Dalton. Marching back again along the Cleveland road, our troops descended into Rocky Falls Valley, from which they swept, carrying all before them, until they arrived near the line where the Cleveland

CALIFORNIA ITEMS.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN THE COW COUNTIES.—Passengers by the Overland Stages from Los Angeles report that the earthquake which gave San Francisco such a shaking up on Friday morning last, was felt strongly as far south at least as San Luis Obispo, and it was probably felt in a less degree of force as far down the coast as Santa Barbara.

DEAD STOCK.—So great a number of cattle are dying in the lower part of this State, that the cowboys, buzzards and coyotes are about lately fattening themselves to death. They will not eat anything now which has been dead over three hours, and go in for nothing but the choicest tit-bits at that. A gentleman who has just past over the route between Los Angeles and this city, says that he counted one hundred dead animals by the roadside, in a single hour's travel, near San Luis Obispo.

BOAT RACE.—A very large number of people congregated at the foot of Vallejo street yesterday noon to witness the boat race around Yerba Buena Island, between Thomas Kirby and H. C. Hoyt, for \$2500 apiece, or the round sum of \$5000. Hoyt won the race in 55 minutes and 30 seconds, beating Kirby by seven minutes.

A DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.—Last evening, about half-past five o'clock, officer Brant, while walking along Vallejo street, found a Frenchman who had opened the main blood-vessel in his left wrist with a surgeon's bistouri, causing a wound from which blood was flowing in a stream which had already run along the sidewalk a distance of twelve feet or more. Syncope was fast approaching, and in a few minutes more the assistance would have been too late. The man was unknown to the police, but a paper found on his person gives his address, and unmistakably indicates his intention to commit suicide: "D'OR GRANIER, Vallejo, No. 434. Je ne puis resister plus long temps a mes souffrances.—FR. GRANIER." The import of the above is substantially this: "I am no longer capable of my sufferings." The officer removed the unfortunate man to the County hospital, and in spite of the great loss of blood which had occurred before the discovery of his attempt at self-destruction, his life is not considered in any serious danger.

QUARTZ CRUSHER.—Yesterday we paid a visit to Messrs. Spratt and Kriemler's foundry, to take a look at the quartz-mill, which that enterprising firm have just completed. It will be seen by advertisement these gentlemen are now prepared to crush any quantity of quartz, and extract the gold contained therein, for a moderate compensation. They have all the apparatus required for the operation, and through their aid we will soon be able to ascertain the real value of the quartz mines of Goldstream. There is now in the mill, crushed ready for amalgamation, about three tons of quartz, from various companies; and soon being from the Maple Bay Co., Cowichan, half ton from the American Company, and a half ton from Williams Creek. The Maple Bay quartz is now in process of amalgamation, and the American and Williams Creek is ready for the process—the latter being intended for the Assay Office, New Westminster. The apparatus of the crushing mill is complete, from the stampers to the retort for separating the gold from the quicksand, and we may soon hope to hear favorable results from its operations. In passing through the Foundry we observed the cylinders for the steamer Alexandria being finished. They are the largest of the kind yet manufactured on the Pacific Coast, being 21 inches in diameter, and 4,200 lbs each in weight. The Foundry is capable of turning out castings of 8,000 lbs. weight, and with the boring tools now in operation, Mr. Spratt tells us he can turn out any cylinders in the fleet which may require the operation. The whole establishment is a credit to the colony, and deserves the liberal patronage of the community.

NATAL.—Capt. Jones, R. N., who arrived by the Brother Jonathan, has assumed command of H. M. S. Camelion. H. M. ships Topaze and Hecate, had both reached England in safety, and Captain Richards of the latter ship was comfortably installed in the Hydrographic Department. H. M. S. Tribune was hourly expected at Panama on February 2, and after remaining there a few days would sail for Victoria. There is no probability of her bringing the new Governor.