

The Weekly British Colonialist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, March 10 1868.

Additional dispatches from the East indicate that Congress is terribly in earnest in its onslaught upon the President. The House of Representatives (or Lower House) by a two-thirds vote has passed a resolution of impeachment, and the Senate (or Upper House) has referred the resolution to a Select Committee of seven to examine into the charges and report the result of the examination. The Lower House indicts the President on ex parte evidence. The Upper House may suspend from office, place the President under arrest, and hear testimony for and against his impeachment. The Senate is both judge and jury. A motion to expel the Chief Magistrate from office will require the sanction of two-thirds of the Senators present. Were all the States represented, there would be 72 members of the Senate; but deducting 20 members for the 10 States unrepresented, we have a total of 52 Senators—only some 15 of whom are Democrats or Conservative Republicans. Were all the States represented upon the basis of partial suffrage, as it existed before the Civil War, impeachment would be impossible, because the 20 seats now vacant would be occupied by political friends of the President, leaving the Senate a majority of only two votes, instead of a two-thirds majority as now. The cogent reason the Radicals have for declining to admit Southern Senators to seats is perfectly plain. The Impeachers really command a larger number of votes than they legally require to effect their object, and, unless wiser counsels should prevail, we regard the dismissal of Mr Johnson, so far as Congress can bring it about, as a foregone conclusion. We await with a feeling of much anxiety intelligence as to the result of this unprecedented action on the part of Congress.

On Sunday the 15th, a Cornish took the child into her some breakfast, and another's evidence, all the since was a little boiled day afternoon, the mother, coal or candles, went out and when she returned at the child, whom she had seen. Death soon followed. The dwelling, a two-roomed, quite devoid of furniture, of a bundle of straw and which were covered by For this miserable shelter weekly, and earned what being and charring—English

AGAINST SEWARD.—The says: Mr Seward's home recently set on fire, and by discovery by one of the or, the inmates would have d. chance of suffocation. the amiable organs of the demands to know why allowed to watch the doors of State. No rebel in that may possibly be true; ident that somebody else is n having it taken. We do atch in question costs the year; the burden, seem intolerable. If sees—Mr Seward from a violent or by fire, the country consent to have it doubled.

Mr Stephen Britt, labor-master of the port of recently by the upsetting labor. He was the last of six sons, every one of by drowning. This strange ally impressed the mind of g. Stephen, that he abandoned and relinquished (even harbor steam-turb, which age of.—English Paper.

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PRACTICAL JOKING.—Three young men o this city were summoned yesterday before Mr Pemberton to answer a charge of skylarking at the St. George Hotel, on Saturday evening last. The skylarking complained of consisted in piling chairs and sofas in positions where persons entering or leaving their rooms, in the dark would be apt to break their shins and skin their noses. Mr Bishop appeared to prosecute, and Mr Courtney to defend. One of the persons pleaded guilty and was ordered to appear for sentence on Wednesday; the charge against another was dismissed; and the case of the third, upon his own request, was laid over until Wednesday.

THE MARVIN-BANK CASE.—The argument for a new trial in the above case was concluded yesterday and judgment reserved, to be given in writing, which will probably be rendered in a day or two, as His Lordship remarked that his mind was made up in the case, but its importance demanded a written rather than a verbal judgment. In the course of the argument a proposition to fix the rate of interest at five per cent—the English rate—was accepted by Marvin's counsel but declined by the counsel for the Bank, whereupon the Court fixed the rate of interest at one per cent per month.

AN AMERICAN PREDICTION.—Henry Ward Beecher, who visited several of the cities of the Upper Provinces in November, says: "Beyond a question, Montreal is destined to become a great city. With the exception of New York, we do not know of another position on the continent which, in climate, inland connections, foreign relations, and local advantages for manufacturing, can compare with Montreal. If nature had set out to express her mind on purpose respecting the proper site for a large city, she could hardly have improved upon Montreal."

THE schooner Robert Cowan, towed by the Isabel, started for Burrard Inlet yesterday afternoon. She will partially load with lumber at Stamp's mills, and returning to this port will fill up with general merchandise for Honolulu, S. I.

CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM, Rev Mr Somerville and Lunay Franklin, Esq, have been selected to act as judges of the prize essay on the beauties of the scenery of Beacon Hill. The Chief Justice will award the prizes.

THE Isabel, having in tow the American ship Shooting Star, arrived from Nanaimo yesterday morning. The ship is laden with coal for San Francisco.

THE VOLUNTEERS, under the command of Capt. Pease, marched out last evening and presented a good appearance. They were preceded by their fine band.

H. M. S. Sparrowhawk returned from New Westminster via San Juan yesterday morning.

SILVER HUNTERS.—A number of men are engaged in prospecting the mountains in the vicinity of Cape Elfrater for silver lodes.

The ship Marmora's cargo is all out. She will load at Burrard Inlet for Shanghai.

THE RECIPROcity Treaty.—Importance of the Canadian Trade.

From a paper which Capt. Crowell, of the ship Simoda, has kindly given us, we learn that the American Minister to China, Mr Burlingame, who, with his wife and staff, were telegraphed by the Chinese at Hongkong, were rescued by Lieut Dunlop, of H. M. S. gunboat Dove, who, with a detachment of Marines and bluejackets, made a forced march of 25 miles, arriving in time to rescue the party and escort them to place of safety. The same paper says: "It is not amiss to allude here to the insignificant fact that lawless robbers took and plundered it will under the very shadow of the Imperial Capital." The Ambassador of China was almost captured by these wild flying bandits, and had to wait forty-eight hours ere he was freed, and yet he was only 45 miles from Peking and about the same distance from Tientsin.

OUR MILITARY ORGANIZATION.—The Spectator wants to know why it should cost two millions to send an expedition to Abyssinia and an equal sum to reinforce Canada a year or two ago? We keep up in India, at a cost of seventeen millions a year, an army of 250,000 men, supported, from the circumstances of the country, to be permanently ready for active service. We keep up, in the rest of the British empire, at a cost of £15,000,000, an army of 120,000 men, also supported, when necessity arises, to be available for duty. The cost of the departments in both countries—of ordnance, transport, commissariat, and so on—amounts to millions, which are supposed to be expended with a view to securing readiness for war. And, finally, we spend ten millions on a fleet, capable, as we all congratulate ourselves, on going anywhere and doing anything. In short, we spend altogether, forty-two millions, twice the French expenditure, upon inferior armaments, and then, when a mere section, a single legion as it were, of that force is required for active service, we have at once to spend millions more, in a frantic hurry, and under circumstances which compel us to raise the price of the things we want in half the markets of the world. Surely there is some grievous waste, some evidence of defective organization? Mobility is the first characteristic of efficient armies, and some of the British army never is mobile. We construct an infinite cost a delicate, steady, and experience shows, a very powerful engine, and then somehow have to pay almost its value for fuel and grease to get it in motion. There is transport, for example. We are always paying for transport at a rate which makes foreign shipowners pale with envy, and upsets the calculations of the best financiers, yet the transport of troops ought surely to be one of the duties of a navy, one of the fighting agencies supposed to be provided out of the £210,000,000, half the cost of the railway system, which we spend on armaments every five years.

A PRACTICAL JOKE.—Mrs Harrison Gray Otis, of Boston, a lady well known for her numerous acts of benevolence and charity, was made the victim of a practical joke, a large number of bogus invitations to a reception to be given at her residence. No 41 Mount Vernon Street, having been issued, and the street in front of her residence was several times blocked with carriages. But these were not the only people boxed. Innumerable orders were sent to artisans of all kinds—to plumbers, painters, carpenters, gas-fitters, etc.—to come and perform little jobs of repairing about the house—each job minutely specified in the order. Other orders were sent to druggists, flour dealers, grocers, etc, to bring stated quantities of their respective kinds of merchandise, to be delivered at stated times. Even the services of an undertaker were brought into requisition to lay out the body of a supposed dead child; and, in response to an advertisement in the Herald, members of the false tribe were brought to fill out the miscellaneous and variegated assortment. Detectives are now engaged in discovering the perpetrators of this strange hoax.

A "PROULIAR" OYSTER.—Oysters are universally eaten in New York. They certainly deserve the praise accorded to them, though most of them might be too nearly the size of nuts to be agreeable to the lover of the little Whitefish native. A somewhat peculiar story is told in reference to this particular, and, if the reader will pardon the vulgarity of it, it is worth repeating for its suggestive qualities. A Frenchman went into one of the oyster saloons for a dozen of oysters; he preferred the large ones, and swallowed eleven somewhat smaller than a cheese-plate, with much relish. As the bar-keeper handed him the twelfth, his eyes glistened at its magnificent proportions; for it far exceeded the largest of those already disposed of. "Bon bon, cest magnifique!" said he, rapturously; and making a prodigious effort, he succeeded in getting it down. The bar-keeper watched him anxiously, and seeing his success, exclaimed, "Wall, I guess you are the smartest feller I've seen here long while. Why, I had thirty persons here who tried to swallow that 'ere oyster, and every one of them was obliged to give it up as a bad job." The Frenchman's feelings may be imagined.

A PENDING AFFAIR OF HONOR AT WASHINGTON.—A duel is on the tapis here between a major general and an ex-captain of the Army of the Potomac. The difficulty originated at the opera on Monday evening in this way:—The captain referred to, who is noted for his gallantry and politeness, occupied a seat in the orchestra, and seeing in the private box a friend with whom he desired to speak he endeavored to pass out in the direction nearest the point he sought. On the same line of seats with the captain was the major general, at a distance of some three or four chairs from the end. The occupants of all the intermediate seats, with the exception of the major general, quietly arose to let the captain pass out. The man of two stars, however, was leaning against the row of seats in front, and showed no sign of moving aside. The captain said to him "general, please allow me to pass out for a moment." The major general answered, without moving, "This is not the way to pass, sir. You shall not get out this way. Go around the other way." "General," said the Captain, "I thought you were a gentleman. You are a general, and ought to be a gentleman, but you behave like a ruffian. Allow me to pass."

At this point a person in military uniform who was in company with the general remarked to the captain, "This is not the way, sir, in which to address a general." The captain replied, "My quarrel is with that man pointing to the general, and not with you. Allow me to pass, please, general." The general refused to budge, and the captain, seeing a number of ladies about, and unwilling to interrupt the performance by a row, restrained his indignation and passed out in an opposite direction.

It is said that the captain has since sent a challenge to the general, and proclaims that he will brand him in the newspapers if he refuses to receive it. The affair causes quite an excitement here, as the parties are both well known and have many friends in Washington. New York Herald Correspondent.

We learn from the Citizen that Mr. Howe is not a very violent impostor, that he has his doubts as to the probabilities of success in the appeal which would be made by petition and delegation to England, and that the Colonist.

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The Grand Trunk

(From the Toronto Globe.)

Captain Tyler, of the Royal Engineers, and Mr. Eberall, who were commissioned by the Grand Trunk directors to examine and report upon the condition of the railway, have made their report. Reference is made in it to the competition by land and water to which the line is subjected. After examining at some length the necessities that existed for a large outlay in maintenance and renewal, they estimate that when the line is in good working order, a saving of £115,000 a year in working expenses will be effected. From the use of peat fuel a saving of £40,000 a year is considered not impossible. They deprecate the expense of laying a third rail from Fort Erie to Sarnia, but recommend that the Detroit and Huron road be made a broad gauge, and that the Intercolonial bridge at Buffalo be constructed. The climate of Canada has been blamed over much for the failure of rails. The commissioners think that the material of which the rails were made was bad, and that the rails in use would not have been durable in any climate. Testimony is borne to the ability and honesty with which the line is managed by the Managing Director and his officers. The amount necessary to place the line in proper state is estimated at £500,000. But inasmuch as the Intercolonial railway may be expected to increase the traffic, a further expenditure of £114,000 would be a moderate amount to add for contingencies. A total expenditure of £900,000 might, therefore, be anticipated, to do justice to the property and to Canada.

The Commissioners think that the Government of Canada may now be fairly asked for further assistance to improve the credit of the Company. It seems, as it is, that further assistance from our Government is out of the question. Canada has already given the Company £3,111,500 sterling, besides affording every aid in the way of legislation. Directly or indirectly, our Government has sunk about \$30,000,000 in the enterprise, and if our country has been a gainer by the railway we have not shirked our share of the expenditure incurred. We suppose we have a sort of claim upon the Company in respect of the amount contributed by us, but we should not object to releasing the claim altogether and cutting connection with the concern now and forever.

SOME NEW ANECDOTES OF CHARLES LAMB.—Edmund Ollier, in his introductory chapter to a new English edition of the "Essays of Elia," gives, among others, these anecdotes of Lamb: "Lamb had a great partiality for the epithet 'damned,' and he got a 'droll' impression out of that odd stanza in Wordsworth's 'Peter Bell,' in which, after describing the reflection of the donkey's head in the stream, which so alarmed Peter, the poet asks: 'What a damned sight to see!' 'It is a party in a parlor, or a hall, and is yelling 'Cramm'd just as they are on earth we cram'd? Some sipping punch, some sipping tea, All silent—and all damn'd!'"

"One night, in going home from my father's house, Lamb observed a lighted parlor window in Berkeley street; Portman square, and an unmistakable party don't inside enjoying themselves after their kind. Wordsworth's lines at once recurred to him, and clinging to the area railings, he shook them and shrieked, 'You damned party in a parlor!' Mr. Proctor says that Lamb was almost respectful to Wordsworth; but there were times when he forgot this respect. I have heard Leigh Hunt relate that one evening, meeting Wordsworth at a friend's house, (Lamb) shook him by the nose, instead of by the hand, with this greeting, 'How d'ye do, old Lake Poet?' And recollect, in the year 1844, hearing Haydon, the artist, in that painting room of his where, two years later, he died by his own hand, tell a story of Wordsworth and Lamb, which, I believe, has appeared in print, but which is so good that it will bear repetition. There was a party at somebody's house, at which were several of the literary celebrities of the day. The guests also included a very pretentious gentleman, who intended to draw out Wordsworth by such questions as, 'What, sir, is your opinion of Milton?' The great man received these invitations to literary discourse with much coldness and a very lofty manner, bordering on disdain, until he discovered that his questioner held a post of great influence in the Stamp Office, with which Wordsworth himself was also connected, when, with that servility, which I am afraid belonged to the chief of the Lake School, after he had become a Tory, he exhibited the utmost deference to the foolish gentleman. Being annoyed at this, Lamb (who was a little excited with wine) roared out whenever the unfortunate man opened his lips, 'How diddle-diddle! my man John! I knowed a dog! Went to bed with his breeches on!'"

"Coleridge, who was also one of the party, endeavored to soothe him with his most honeyed accents. 'Now, Charles, don't Charles I really you know... But Charles was deaf to remonstrances, and the terrible chant of, 'Hey diddle-diddle! my man John! I knowed a dog! Went to bed with his breeches on!' rose louder and louder the more the foolish gentleman displayed his folly. At length James O'Hara Smith (I forget which went up to the disturbance of the evening) Lamb, and was wipet of water; I'm sure you'll accompany me—and we got 'hime out without more ado.'"

Very best CABINET Photo-call on BRADLEY & Montgomery street, San Francisco.