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Ways and Water.

As the chief commercial and maritime community, questions properly local to Victoria sometimes assume a colonial character and interest. It is obviously for the general good that there should be a commercial *entrepot* somewhere; and nature would appear to have indicated in a very clear and arbitrary manner that such relations shall Victoria bear to the rest of the colony, as well as to surrounding peoples—may we not say, to the Western World? Regarding this, then, as the natural commercial and maritime centre or capital, it at once becomes a matter of colonial interest that Victoria should be respectable, healthy, popular, attractive; seeing that it must, to a great extent, become the medium or gateway through which the colony shall attract shipping, trade, population. In order to this, two things would appear to be indispensable, and these desiderata constitute the caption under which we write. It may safely be taken for granted that no one will be disposed to dispute the proposition that good ways and water are essential to the prosperity of Victoria, and that she is destitute of both. One has not far to go for evidence on the former point. To leave Government and Fort streets is to flounder in the mud. In a pool across a road in the County Tipperary used to be stuck up a pole, having affixed to it a board, with this inscription: 'Take notice that when the water is over this board the road is impassable.' There are more than one of the public thoroughfares of this city where a similar inscription might not be considered out of place. At the beginning of more than one of our principal streets might the City Fathers, with great propriety, raise the inscription,

'If here you would travel,
Pray bring your own gravel.'

With the question of ways we of course include that of water-courses—general sewage, a more serious phase still, involving, as it does, convenience, comfort, health, life itself. And here, again, this community is in a sad plight. Wherever one turns stagnant pools and overflowing ditches, devoid of outlet, strike the eye, sometimes the nose. It must be perfectly clear that what is wanted most, nay, what is absolutely essential to a reasonable prospect of well-being is a thorough system of sewage for the whole city. Nor would the work be a difficult one, although it would, of course, involve a considerable outlay. No serious engineering difficulties present themselves. In fact, here again has nature been kind to Victoria, which possesses rare facilities for drainage. Without the slightest wish to disparage the efforts of the Municipal Council, we must be permitted to point out this fact: Work performed piecemeal, by the annual driblets of revenue placed at the disposal of the Council from ordinary Municipal sources is not work well done. Whether in street making or in drainage, it is of the utmost importance that there should be system. As it is, after the Council has striven most anxiously to do the best for the public, the expenditure on the streets and drains is miserable patchework—only one degree better than money thrown into the bottomless 'Pandora slough.' Turning from the question of mud to that of water—pure, wholesome water, it may be asserted without much fear of contradiction that good ways and a thorough system of sewage, however important in themselves, would be of little avail without a water supply. The human body, with its marvellous system of blood-vessels, conduits, canals, nerves, respiratory organs, if deprived of fresh air, what is it? So with a community—the body politic. Give it all else, but deprive it of that one simple and too little appreciated liquid called water, disease and death must supervene. The subject of a water supply for this city has already been so fully discussed that it will be quite unnecessary to occupy the attention of the reader with it here. In truth, the facts are palpably obvious, that it would seem to be quite sufficient to allude to them. The object of the present article is, therefore, to point out the remedy, or the most facile means of procuring the remedy, rather than to spend unnecessary words in demonstrating a proposition so self-evident. In order to establish and carry out a thorough system of gradients and sewage and place the city in possession of such streets and footpaths as appear to be demanded in the general interest, and in order to introduce an abundant and unfailing supply of good, wholesome water, a large expenditure would be indispensable; for it is clear that while the former cannot be well attained piecemeal, the latter cannot be attained good or bad in that way. Here, then, the subject comes to a focus—the real difficulty stares us in the face. How can so large a sum of money be obtained without involving the Municipality in annual interest and sinking-fund payments which would constitute a financial burden too heavy to be borne? In this way: Let the Dominion Government issue bonds bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, maturing in, say, fifty years, to be handed over to the local government on the credit of the city, for the purpose of raising the amount necessary to undertake and complete the works referred to. 'Oh!' says one, 'but you assume Confederation!' Unquestionably we do. Nor do we hesitate to say that without it Victoria must be deprived for many a long year of the outlet of foul water or the inlet of pure water. But, would the Dominion Government undertake this? There is no reason to doubt that it would, if asked in the proper time and way. Indeed, what we have suggested is almost word for word what has been promised to Newfoundland, in respect of the water works of St. John's. It will scarcely be necessary to point out the great advantages to Victoria of such an arrangement. To say nothing about the immediate benefits to trade from so large an expenditure, for the city to be placed in immediate possession of the desiderata alluded to, and that at no greater annual expense than is now involved in an abortive attempt at mere amelioration is, indeed, a consideration of profound importance. What is a tax of 5 per cent compared with improvements which would increase the value of property five hundred per cent? Even were that tax to be additional to the present, property owners should not hesitate. But it need not be additional. What is now being fruitlessly frittered away in an honest but futile attempt would amply suffice; and, then, we would enjoy the fruits from the first,—a consideration of no small moment.

Tuesday Jan 4

'Happy New Year!'

The following extract from the journal or diary of the late Archibald Campbell, who was lately murdered at Beecby Bay, by Indians, possesses interest at this season. The poor man's journal runs back many years. Some of the incidents of his life are told in verse, and not a few of the productions of his muse possess the 'true ring.' The extract we here give, though faulty in some respects, is meritorious:

The slow receding shadows of Old Time
Still lingerd in the vale;
With bursting grief his trembling hand,
Yet feebly swept the strings;
When lo! upon the distant hill,
A cherub bright proclaim'd
The New Born Year!
His golden locks wav'd in the breeze,
With dripping pearls hung
Across his shoulders, loosely flung,
His fleecy, mortal cloak;
An ensign in his hand he bore,
Inscrib'd on which was Man!
Another year rolls forth,
To add to those now gone;
Another step that brings man back,
To that repose from whence he came!
There Nature's hand with verdure gay,
Will deck the mound where rests his humble clay!
There will the wild flow'r wave,
In silent grandeur plum'd,
An emblem of the spirit gone
That once had animated dust!

DANGEROUS.—Richard Marks, a stranger, got tight on New Year's night, lost $101 at cards, drew a revolver, flourished it, and was taken to prison. Yesterday he was very sick, very sober and very penitent, and very willing to pay a fine of $25 and sail away in the Gussie Telfair in the afternoon.

ALPHA.

Victoria, Dec 29, 1869

ECCLESIASTICAL.—The pulpit of St. Andrew's (Presbyterian) Church, in this city, was occupied on Sunday evening by the Rev Mr McGregor, whose arrival in this colony has already been announced. The spacious edifice was filled in every part by an attentive and interested audience. The preacher selected for his text the words addressed by God, through the Prophet, to the people of Israel, as recorded in Ezekiel 18th and 31st: 'Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit.' From this passage he preached a discourse which was very impressive and eminently practical, and which was listened to with marked attention throughout, although, perhaps, open to the objection of being a little too long. We might venture such a remark, perhaps, without incurring the charge of being fastidious, when we say that the discourse was delivered in a monotonous manner, and in a tone of voice not the most agreeable to the ear. Mr McGregor's enunciation clear and his whole manner is pleasing and prepossessing. On Sunday evening a slight huskiness in his voice was perceptible; but that is doubtless a merely temporary condition, consequent upon a long voyage. As a public journalist solicitous that this Colony should become distinguished for that high moral tone, that 'righteousness which exalteth a people,' we have great pleasure in extending to Mr McGregor a cordial welcome; and we have no doubt he will prove a valuable acquisition in a literary, as well as in a religious point of view.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Last evening Mr George Pauncefort made his first appearance in this city in the *role* of Harry Jasper in the beautiful play of 'A Bachelor of Arts,' and created a most favorable impression. Indeed, we venture to say that no gentleman of Mr Pauncefort's profession has ever before succeeded in so rapidly ingratiating himself in popular favor. From beginning to end most absorbed attention was paid to the exquisite acting, broken only by an occasional burst of hearty applause when the audience could no longer control its emotion. At the end of each act Mr Pauncefort was called before the curtain and cheered, and at the close of the piece he responded in a neat speech. In the same piece Miss Carrie Carter appeared as Adolphus Thornton to great advantage, and Mr Barry played the character of Andrew Wylie admirably. The performance concluded with the 'Swiss Cottage,' in which Carrie Carter took the charming part of Lissete. Yielding to the earnest desire of a number of those present last evening, the management consented to repeat 'A Bachelors of Hats' this evening; to be followed with the glorious nautical drama of the 'Blackeyed Susan' Mr. Pauncefort appearing as William and Miss. Carter as Susan.

We congratulate Mr Pauncefort upon his brilliant success; we congratulate the public of Victoria in having so fine a histronic treat prepared for them; and we trust we shall be enabled, for the few days the company will remain with us, to congratulate the management upon a handsome pecuniary success.

THE WEATHER AND THE CLIMATE.—Exception has been taken to a figure of speech employed in our New Year's article, where Winter is represented as once more enclosing the dead Summer in its mantle of snow as in a shroud. The language, it will scarcely be necessary to say, was figurative and general—by no means framed with a view to its special adaptation to this exceptional and peculiarly favored part of the universe; yet we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity thus presented to refer to the fact that not only has the ground not yet been whitened with snow, but it has not been hardened by frost. Some idea of the extraordinary mildness of our climate may be gathered from the fact that not a few tables on New Year's Day were decorated with bouquets of beautiful flowers, fresh from the open gardens—such as roses, wall-flowers, violets and pansies, with all the fragrance of mid-summer about them. The climate is unquestionably a charming one; and the great wonder is that so few come here to enjoy it. It is, indeed, strange to think that, while those living on the Eastern rim of this continent have been 'snowed up' for weeks, not a blade of grass has yet been turned by Jack Frost in this salubrious region.

A MISSING MAN FOUND DROWNED.—On the day of the Crown Hotel fire at Esquimalt, a blue jacket belonging to the Cherybdis named John Lynch, who had assisted in preventing the spread of the flames, failed to return to his ship, and report for duty. About nine o'clock of the same night a civilian discovered Lynch lying asleep on the ground near the landing at Selleck's wharf. The next day he did not appear and the barbor near the landing was frequently dragged for his body, but without success. On last Sunday night at nine o'clock, more than a month after the disappearance of Lynch, the body of a man was found floating in the water near the landing. The body was identified by marks on the clothing—the features being entirely destroyed—as that of Lynch. The Coroner yesterday held an inquest, and a verdict of 'accidental death' was returned.

DEPARTURE OF THE GUSSIE TELFAIR.—The steamship Gussie Telfair, Capt Rogers, arrived on Saturday last from Puget Sound, bringing about 20 passengers, and sailed again yesterday at 4½ o'clock for Portland with 55 passengers. Among those on board were Mr and Mrs Chas Good and three children, D C Maunsell, C Pope and Col G P Foster. The remainder of the passengers were principally from ports on the Sound, where they have been waiting for some months the commencement of the North Pacific Railway.

THREE BEAUTIFUL PRIZES will be raffled at the Boomerang in a few days. The 1st is *Cassells' Family Bible*, 2 vols, illustrated by the great French artist, Gustav Doré; the 2d, *Dante's Inferno*, Cayley's translation, containing 50 full page illustrations by Doré; and the 3d, *Beautiful Women*, a series of photographs of English beauties, from paintings by Sir Joshua Rey olds, Gainsborough, Lawrence, Landseer and others. The illustrations in the Bible and Dante are most artistic and bring forcibly to the mind the artist's conception of various scenes he so grandly and skillfully depicts. The chances are 50, at $2 50 each.

THE New Year holiday was not observed at the Government offices; but the usual Saturday half-holiday was allowed. Government House received many callers on Monday, who met with a cordial reception.

Year calls seems to be growing in this colony—and a very pleasant custom it is.

RESIGNATION OF SIR W. E. LOGAN.—This eminent geologist, for long chief of the Geological Survey Staff of Canada, has resigned on account of the infirmities of age having, he conceives, incapacitated him for the active duties of his position. He has recommended as his successor, Mr. Selwyn, of the School of Mines, London, and of 17 years' practical experience in Australia. It is believed that Mr. Selwyn, who is said to be a highly competent man for the position, will be appointed.

VICTORIA LODGE I O O F.—At a meeting of this lodge last evening the following officers were duly installed by D D G M, J S Drummond: Thos P Mitchell, N G, Chas Heyward, V G, Jas D Robinson, R S, Edgar Fawcett, P S (re-elected), Thomas Golden, Treasurer (re-elected). Jos York, Warden, Wm Wolfe, R S N G, R J Hortoe, R S V G, J G Taylor, I G, S T Styles, R S S, Jas Gordon Vinter, Conductor, R Bothwick, L S N G, Thos Flewen L S V G, P J Hall, O G.

THE public will be gratified to learn that the condition of Governor Musgrave is in every respect favorable and that His Excellency's physicians confidently anticipate a rapid recovery. In four weeks, at furthest, it is expected the Legislative Council will be opened by the Governor in person.

THE Flying Squadron of five ships, due here in April from Japan, carries 2,800 officers and men. They consist of H. M. S Ships Liverpool, Barross, Endymion, Scylla, and Phebe. The Satellite, it is reported, will meet the squadron at this station and go home with it, while the Scylla will remain on this station. The Austrian fleet is expected to arrive about the same time with the squadron.

LORD RAINSFORD, accompanied by a friend and servant, arrived in this city on New Year's morning, having travelled through Canada, the Saskatchewan and Kootenai countries, down the Columbia river to Portland, and thence overland and by steamer to Victoria. They will start on their return to Portland to-day.

PEACE RIVER.—Dull business at the lumber mills on Puget Sound causes some of the mills to run half-time;—consequently, several hundred men are only half-employed and a strong feeling in favor of the new diggings on Peace River is already observed among them.

ESCAPADE.—Three sailors of H M S Sparrowhawk and a 'blue' marine were despatched in the life-boat from their ship to the shore, at 8½ o'clock on Saturday evening, to bring off an officer. They never reached the shore, and it is naturally conjectured that when once clear of the vessel they pulled away for the American side.

THE first week of January has been set apart by the Evangelical Alliance for prayer on stated subjects, and the Methodist body of this city will hold meetings in their church every evening during the present week, commencing at a quarter to 8 o'clock.

THE installation of the officers elect of Victoria Lodge, F & A M, will come off on Thursday. In the evening the brethren will be entertained at a banquet spread in Masonic Hall.

THE Puget Sound steamer Olympia arrived at 6½ o'clock last evening, bringing 50 passengers and a quantity of live stock. The news is not important.

THE B C & V I MILLS.—The sale of the B C & V I Mills has again been postponed to the 9th of February, when it will positively take place.

THE brig Coquette arrived from Moody's Mills, Burrard Inlet, yesterday morning. She has on board 280,000 feet of lumber for Callao.

GAZETTED.—Hons Helmcken and Carroll were gazetted yesterday as members of the Executive Council—'provisionally and until Her Majesty's pleasure shall be known.'

SOME ANXIETY is felt for the safety of the steamer Politkoffsky that sailed hence about ten days ago to tow around the wreck of the American bark M J Smith.

PARTICULARS of the accident at Bellingham Bay will be found under the telegraphic head.

H. M. S, CAMELEON, Commander Wm H Annesley, arrived at Honolulu Nov 22st, 32 days from Victoria.

ADVICE received by the Cape mail in England, state that 'it is the general opinion in the colony that Dr Livingstone is dead.'

THE installation of the officers elect of British Columbia Lodge, F & A M, will take place at Masonic Hall to-day at 12 o'clock.

MR. AND MRS. LALIEVEN'S Commercial and French Academy will be reopened to-day.

THE THEATRE.—During the engagement of Mr Pauncefort some may be secured at the box office to Victoria will leave about the 10th instant.

BURNING soot in a chimney on Government street, at 11 o'clock last night, caused an alarm.

Which is the Original Jacobs?

The Paris *Gaulois* is a shrewd observer of the common life of the streets. There are two shops just opposite one another in the Rue de Rivoli, the most fashionable shopping quarter, in which the same goods are sold. The one on its sign offers 'the only genuine product—beware of counterfeits.' The other declares—'every article that does not come from our house is a counterfeit.' Upon this the *Gaulois* finds two sausage dealers in a very different neighborhood, one of whom has painted on his glass window, over a pyramid of sausages:

'At ten cents a pound;
To pay more is to be robbed;'

while the other puts up his sausages into an obelisk and paints above it:

'At twelve cents a pound;
To pay less is to be poisoned?'

Robbed or poisoned—'You pays your money and you takes your choice.' But what if you experience both in either shop?

THE London *Times* of Nov 19th says:—An evening or two since, Mr E H Currie, a member of the Mansion-house Emigration Committee, related before a number of the working classes at the School-room, Bowlane, Poplar, what he had recently seen of the condition of those who had left the East end of London for Canada. He said he had visited Clifton, Canada West, and there met many emigrants from Poplar, and found that, having obtained employment, they were in comfortable circumstances. Thence he proceeded to Toronto and the surrounding district, where he met at least 100 families of those who had emigrated from East London. In this district he found emigrants comfortable and happy, who had come from Poplar, Limehouse, Shadwell, Wapping and Victoria Dock district. He had also visited the Free Grant district, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec, and the result of his personal investigation was that nearly the whole of the emigrants who had been aided by charitable societies were not merely employed, but by far the greater number of them were contented and happy. There was still an extensive demand for labor in Canada, and those who were prepared to bear a little hardship at first, and take whatever work offered, could not fail in a short time to obtain a home of their own. With a full conviction of the responsibility attached to such a statement, he was convinced, as an old resident of the East of London, that the days of prosperity for Poplar had gone by. He therefore urged every honest and industrious mechanic who could not see his way to a living here to emigrate to Canada.

A LONDON correspondent tells us that it is understood that the present Earl of Derby will not assume intimate relationship with the Conservative party, but will take his seat in the Upper House rather as an independent member. For this position his judicial temperament eminently fits him; and his Liberal tendencies would naturally render him unsuitable for a close connection with a party that looks favorably upon a resumption of its old oppose-all-advancement principles. The attitude the Tory party wish to regain, and talk seriously of throwing over Mr Disraeli in favor of Mr Gathorne Hardy. The latter gentleman is an especial pet of the old Tories, and has been rather pushed by the party for some years. It will be very doubtful, however, if the Conservative party can do otherwise than dwindle into an insignificant relict if deserted by Mr Disraeli; and it may be questioned whether the Tory members of the Lower House will throw their talented leader overboard, however much they may wish him at the bottom of the sea.

THE restaurants and cafes of Paris, it is stated, are 4,730 in number and employ 10,000 waiters. The number of visitors every evening amounts to 760,000 persons, and the annual receipts reach the sum of $24,000,000. The waiters in many of the large establishments receive no wages, but depend upon the fees paid by the visitors.

'Everything has its use' said a philosophical professor to his class. 'Of what use is a drunkard's fiery nose?' asked one of the pupils. 'It is a light house answered the professor 'to warn us of the little water that passed underneath it and reminds of the shoals of appetite on which we might otherwise be wrecked.'

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL will be reopened on Thursday the 20th inst.

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