

Tuesday, March 24 1868.

Steps should be taken early in the coming session of the Legislative Council to assimilate the systems of education in this Colony. On the Mainland there is denominational education—a system which, no doubt, answered very well when the world was emerging from a state of barbarism—at a time when Sunday schools were unknown and Bibles being scarce it was found necessary to mix up with a limited amount of secular knowledge a certain amount of information upon theological subjects; but in this advanced age, when every household contains a copy of the Holy Writ and Sabbath schools abound, we hold that the necessity for investing the secular teacher with the character of a theological preceptor has passed away. In England denominational instruction is becoming unpopular. It has been ascertained that nothing tends more to keep alive the fires of discord, to turn friend against friend, and to sever family ties, than the perpetuation of a system of education which teaches the Jew to hate the Christian and the Christian to hate the members of every creed save his own. As the most bloody and relentless wars are those waged for religious ends, so the most bitter feuds have sprung from the same cause. We do not, of course, desire to be understood as wishing to cast a slur upon religious education per se. On the contrary, we have the highest respect for religion and its teachers. But we are an uncompromising opponent of State aid being extended to any system of education that intermingles religious with secular instruction. "Every tub should stand on its own bottom," so, also, should every religious sect. If religious education is demanded for the young of any particular body, let them have it; but let it be understood that they are to look for no aid from the Colonial revenue. Free Secular Education—such as we have on the Island—is the only system that should be aided by the Government of any country. The Free School system after four years' trial here, has been found to work well. There has not been a single complaint made to the Board of Education of the inefficiency of the schools or the teachers. The children have progressed favorably in their studies; most earnest watchfulness has been exercised over their morals; and the expense of carrying on the institution has been inconsiderable. Had Government devoted \$6,000, (as it promised it would devote), to the support of the Island schools, the amount would only have averaged some \$15 per scholar. This sum would have discharged every liability. On the mainland \$4,000—or an average of \$50 per pupil—was reserved for the purposes of instruction upon the denominational plan. These facts prove that the Free School system is by far the least expensive of the two, while in point of efficiency it compares most favorably with denominational education. In the Mother Country, at the present moment, statesmen are agitating not only for free secular education but for compulsory education, too. This would compel every parent to send his children under a certain age to some school, after the Prussian plan. There is a strong probability of a bill of the kind becoming law during the present session; and it seems strange, at a time when England is striving to set aside antiquated rules and laws, that in this young Colony there should be found a party who are "moving heaven and earth" to rivet upon our limbs chains the people from whom we sprang are preparing to cast off. The Colony demands enlightened and liberal legislation on this point? Shall the demand be made in vain?

Bankruptcy Court. [Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham.] WEDNESDAY, March 18, 1868. Re C. B. Brown—The bankrupt came up for his first examination. No creditors were present or represented. First examination passed pro forma.

An Unrejected Poem.

The following poem was picked up in the vicinity of the News Office. Its author evidently possesses the electric spark of genius. Although we do not understand many of the telegraphic expressions we have no doubt that their full meaning will flash upon the minds of the readers. Unfortunately we could not decipher the signature: TO THE LOAD-STONES OF MY LIFE. My dearest love, when last you paid Your telegraphic bill, The touch of thy soft hand, gave me A strong electric thrill. A spark flashed from thy beaming eye, Thy voice with music vocal; I thought how great a bliss, if I Could have thee for my local. And when through hours of toil I've bent, How sweet a boon 'twould be, To have both of my instrument, And of thy heart, the key— Should Cupid's current e'er grow weak, [I say it without flattery,] 'Td turn me to the rosy cheek, And just renew my battery. 'Till tell thee how we'd work it— With hand in hand and lip to lip, We would complete Love's circuit. Then murmuring soft nonsense o'er, And quaffing glorious kisses sweet, Quick versed in telegraphic lore, You'd whisper, "Love, repeat!" At last when asked by surprised priest To honor, love, obey, 'Td be content to hear the lip Those magic words, O. K. Then all the joys of married life Would cluster round us thick; With credit at the grocery shops, We'd always "go on tick." Thy temper mild, and never naughty, Bright as the sky, though blue it be, We'd ne'er be troubled [like De Sauty] With broken continuity. And when kind fate should grant at last A tiny, helpless, tender son, No more of earthly bliss would ask Thy loving *****

Supreme Court.

[Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham.] WEDNESDAY, March 18, 1868. Trowie vs Strachan—Mr Wood, on behalf of the plaintiff, moved for a rule nisi to set aside the award made by the umpire appointed by the arbitrators, on the following grounds: 1. That the award was written by the clerk of the attorney for the defendant. 2. That the umpire had exceeded the authority vested in him by the submission, and various other minor objections. Rule nisi granted, to be argued by counsel on Friday.

DRAMATIO—We understand that the last steamer brought from San Francisco some new plays for the Dramatic Association, among which was Tom Taylor's edition of Miss Braddon's sensation novel "Henry Dunbar." This piece was produced at the Olympia in London in the winter of 1865, and had a great run. The Amateur Committee have lent this drama to Mr. M. W. Anderson, who, we hear, takes a benefit at the Theatre next week, when he will be assisted, by amateurs of this town, and also by other novel talent, of which rumor speaks in high terms. We expect to be able to give more particulars in a day or two.

TEXT.—Richard Williams (a sailor) was brought before the Police Court yesterday on a charge of stealing \$4 37 from William Conner, a sailor belonging to H. M. S. Zealous. The charge was supported by the accused's confession to the officer at the time of his arrest. The accused denied all knowledge of the act of being drunk as well as the sailor who lost his money. The prisoner was remanded for one day.

ARRIVAL OF THE BARK ZEPHYR.—The American bark Zephyr, Capt. Snow, 10 days from San Francisco, consigned to Millard & Beedy, arrived yesterday morning. The Captain reports heavy weather during the trip. The bark has on board about 550 tons of general merchandise, and will discharge this morning on the Hudson Bay Company's wharf. Some French chemists have discovered a way of increasing the lighting power of gas sixfold—viz: by putting in the flame a small cylinder of magnesia. The value of the discovery, in regard to economy, will be understood when it is stated that it effects a saving of five-sixths of the present cost.

Cross Actions.—Before the Police Court yesterday, two native Belgierents appeared mutually accusing each other of assault, and battery; the charges were equally sustained but the battery of "Billy" appearing to be more effective than that of Jack, the former was fined \$10 and the latter \$5. It is confidently asserted at New Westminster that the Governor's speech will settle the Capital question in favor of Victoria. A tardy act of justice.

CAPT. FLEMING informs us that he has been stationed at different points of the ice blockade on the Fraser river, and will receive telegraphic news at the earliest moment of a break up, when the steamer Lillock will leave Victoria for Yale direct.

It may not be generally known that reports to Government House have been going on for several days, and that it will be furnished for the reception of the Governor and Mrs. Seymour immediately after the adjournment of the Legislative Council.

THE American Government are about to establish military stations at different points along the coast of Alaska. Tongas is to have a garrison to which Dr. Chismore, formerly of the telegraph service in this Colony, will be attached.

REFORM IN CANADA.—An order in Council has been passed abolishing the half-holiday on Saturdays in the public departments, and establishing office hours from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.—Montreal Gazette.

Tax Collector sailed for Sitka via Nainina yesterday at 7 o'clock. Mr. Hensley, formerly in the Hudson Bay Company's service, is mate and Pilot of the California.

Tax Enterprise will sail for New Westminster at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. She will carry up the Island members of the Legislative Council.

Tax Fraser River steamer Onward will start for Yale on Saturday. She will carry blasting powder with her to blow up the ice.

Tax American bark Zephyr has been chartered to proceed to Moody's Mills, Barrard Inlet, and take in a cargo of lumber for San Francisco.

DRUNK.—Jimmy and "Kitty," a male and female of the "Sogish" tribe of aborigines were each fined one dollar for excessive indulgence in ardent spirits.

A PATIENT name Edward Gleimington, died at the Hospital yesterday. His age was 40, and he was sent to the Hospital from Olympia, W. T.

THERE was a rumor afloat yesterday that the duties on certain articles are to be raised. Considerable tobacco went out of bond in consequence.

Beacon Hill. [Edited before the Mechanics' Institute, Victoria, V.T. on a Friday evening, March 24th, 1868.] You kind and gentle Muse, pardon my intrusion; It may be vile intrusion, or else disordered brain, But this glorious situation, combined with insubordination, to console a laborer so to his business, inspire me, her praises to explain.

In summer when the flowers bedeck these arboring bowers, And sweet refreshing showers regulate the verdant plains; When Lambskins they are sporting and small birds they are courting, and Nymphs the fields resorting, where walks the love sick swain.

Near to these nice plantations I roved for recreation, and the little feathered warblers to the monarchs of the waters. All in their order denote some station for to fill. I view these lovely borders with their mansions bright in order, and harbors might adorn ancient elms of renown; Bridges in rotation, erected in their station, To forward communication to Victoria's fair town.

I cast my glance upon the ocean, with her rugged crest in motion, Yielding with devotion to nature's stern will; Where I view the pebbles dancing, by the foaming billows prancing, And the sea birds keen advancing to exercise their skill.

Reposing at my ease I sketch Fowl and Boss Bays, They withstand the shocks of earthquake and thunders, Nor the lightning's sparkling glance on their dignity advanced. None but the power that rends the rock asunder. Nor need I ask the Arm, from whom she stole the charm, That takes the tribes in swarms on our Sovereign's natal day.

Nor the fierce and angry Gorge from the day of the great King equal by the raging of the sea. You can scarcely equal by the raging of the sea. On my right I can descry, 'neath a blue and purple sky, Cadboro, the queen of recreation; When prosperity shall reign on this Island once again.

She'll be worthy of a higher appellation. 'Tis down the glades among I scan the Harris Pond, Where the swains invite their lovers out skating, With their ruddy cheeks so nice as they glide along the ice, And fondly clasp each other in their meeting. On my left by an angled nook lies the golden vale of Sooke;

Her ranks they appear in hoary grandeur, Extending by nature's laws to advance some glorious cause, Leaves the stranger in ecstasy to wonder. There's an object tests my sight like a rainbow in the night, And downwards winds its flight amidst the mountains; Where I once had quenched, when the sun did on me burst, 'Tis no other than the Goldstream crystal fountains.

I should have returned grateful thanks to her coy and pleasant banks, For when that I drank I fell to slumber; I was aroused by a knock from some distant bell or clock, But what the hour was, my memory slips the number. In spite a No-East breeze, I view peering midst the trees Both Homes of our Legislature, Which are sure to catch the eye of every passer by As the pump and the pride of the nation.

O, dear Muse! for thy sweet sake, let us flee to Langford Lake; But it gladdens the amorous maid when her heart is sore, Where we'll view the prattling rill and the primrose on the hill, And waters that are still as babies sleeping. By a lengthened observation I behold the hill of Cedar, Twin sister to Mount Tolmie, you may view from Beach road. Where a hobbleman may ride with his lady, side by side, And the hackney boys are shouting, "Come on, ladies, all aboard!"

When I dwell upon Mount Cedar, I challenge other nations Has been frequently in our pages, their customs and their claims; But for Victoria and Mount Cedar you cannot find an equal. From Africa to Egypt, and from that to the Apennines. See her monument of light to guide the mariner at night, And attentive to the light, though at intervals seems to glow; But it gladdens the amorous maid when her heart is sore, As she watches the light, being waves when her love is homeward bound.

The close to James' Bay, the Douglas mansion is raised, As worthy of praise though it were standing for ages; For in truth it may be said, he exceeded the present Fred, Kennedy, or Birch, the hawk of the sages. 'Twas in the Douglas reign, Victoria related to fame, Flattered by a stream of tide of emigration; But now she's abating low, and I dread will long be so; 'Twill prove her overthrow if we don't get Confederation.

Her maids her walks adorning are with modest blushes found; Maidens of rare prudence, and noble, honored students. 'Tis a magnificent the judgments of her colleges around. Her benevolent institutions are exempt from all pollution; There's no grade of their execution but we dare to expose. The bird and the tame, the gray and the tame, All in a train, taste the sweets of her repose. Distribution deems it meet we thank our Admiral and Fleet.

'Necessity on her knees says their want would be ply; That had they not been here, to all it must appear, 'As Indian and a spear were the emblems of our city. So new my theme 'twould be the Muse's gentle string, To tune or to sing to her beauty's deity, 'That when we meet again I hope to catch a flame From a stream of her magic fire.' THOMAS CONLON, Feb. 22nd, 1868.

The Volunteer Rifle Corps. Editor "Colonist"—In answer to your correspondent of yesterday, I beg to inform "Curiosity" that the Volunteers are at their post at the sound of the bugle, that during the Fenian excitement different members of the Corps have done their duty as special constables at night, when your correspondent was enjoying his warm bed. Rain or blow we have had of us had our turn as night watchmen and some of us have been out three and four times.

Our Corps is ready to do duty as a body when called upon, and if we have been quiet in our movements it is owing to the necessity for seeing without being seen. Trusting that Mr Curiosity will enroll himself as a member of our Corps on Monday evening next.

I remain yours, VOLUNTEER.

The Volunteers. Editor "Colonist"—Please allow me to answer "Curiosity's" question, which appeared in your yesterday's issue. I would wish to remind him that it is generally the case that "the more smoke there is the less fire," and that the silent forces are the most powerful and never-failing. However, I consider that as the Corps has frequently and never in vain appealed to the citizens of Victoria for assistance, it is a perfectly fair question, and as such ought to be as fairly answered without the Corps coming under the imputation of blowing its own trumpet, although that seems partly what "Curiosity" wishes it to do. I think that Mr Pemberton and Sergeant Bowden will corroborate the statement that the special constables have, for the most part, been furnished from the ranks of the Volunteer Corps; most of the members having been already on duty twice, and some of them as often as four times. As we were not wanted in the field with all the pomp and noise of military display, we have been anxious to prove ourselves of as much use as possible, and therefore have been quietly content to do our duty in a humble and less ostentatious form.

A FULL PRIVATE. When, Oh When? Editor "Colonist"—Curiosity has put his nose out of doors after dark. The Fenians must have scented him badly, or he would have seen the Victoria Rifle Volunteers, on duty like men the last two weeks, nightly with many others.

CURIO. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Surpassing Excellence.—This medicine is composed from the finest balsams obtainable from the vegetable kingdom Unlike mineral or mercurial preparations, Holloway's Pills are perfectly innocent, and may be safely taken by children and the most delicate females. The nerves, and all who have lost hope and energy through long-continued affliction should have their attention drawn to the many cures of such cases which have been gradually accomplished by these Pills, and gratefully acknowledged by most flattering testimonials. They secure a long, a healthy, and a happy life. In all derangements of the digestion arising from the stomach, liver, or bowels, the salutary power of these purifying Pills is especially observable; they stimulate sluggish and regulate disordered functions.

Canadian News Items.

A very painful case of seduction and abortion has been brought to light in Montreal. An officer of the 60th Rifles became acquainted with a handsome young lady, daughter of a prominent citizen of London, and, as he had exchanged from his regiment and was going to volunteer in the Abyssinian expedition, the girl accompanied him to Montreal. They have been stopping at a boarding house in the city, where he passed her off as his cousin. Medicine to procure an abortion was administered to the poor girl, and her life is despaired of. The affair causes much sensation. The Telegraph says the case is only one of a number of victims.

Michael Bailey died in Buffalo recently. He was Irish by birth, and fought in the American war. His name was more familiar to Canadians as a colonel under O'Neill in the Fenian invasion of 1866 at Fort Erie, where he was seriously wounded across the breast by a rifle ball, fired by one of the Welland Field Battery from the Post office.

Hon. Mr. Day, ex-judge of the Superior Court of Lower Canada, has been appointed arbitrator by the Government of Quebec to settle disputes between that Province and Ontario about the division of the debt. It is said that the Dominion Government will appoint an American as the third arbitrator.

Mr. Oliver, M. P. P. for South Oxford, in the Ontario legislature, has introduced a very useful bill on the subject of the manufacture of cheese, and to prevent the selling of bad milk or cream to companies engaged in this business. It was said during the incidental debate that the manufacture of cheese in Ontario is only second in importance to the great lumber trade now carried on.

In response to a statement in the Detroit Post, that one thousand young men in that city are without employment, Mr. John Northwood, of Chatham, writes to the Post that they can all be provided with work by crossing over into the Dominion, cutting cordwood at five shillings gold per cord. He will take one hundred workmen, as they come, and others in his vicinity will engage a like number.

From the New York papers we learn that an army of tailors, hatters, and clerks, is out of employment in the great metropolis of America. From the shipyards nearly all the men have been discharged. There is little doing at the machine and boiler shops. Barges and towboats are clustered in occupied slips, having nothing to do. It is not much better in other large cities. Young Canadians are too prone to rush "off to the States," thinking it a very El Dorado. We advise them to stay at home. Only a fortnight since we received a letter from a young man in California, a former resident of London township, in which he bitterly regrets exchanging comfort for hard work and poor pay. The farmer boys of Canada, he remarks, should think twice before venturing upon wild-goose expeditions over the world.—London (Ont.) Advertiser.

It is given out that Gov. Belleau, of Quebec, and Gov. Doyle, of Nova Scotia, have been confirmed as permanent governors—to hold office, of course, for the regular term of five years. It was understood from the first that Sir Narcisse Belleau was appointed with the intention that he should hold office for a full term, but Gen. Doyle was, we think, appointed only as a provisional governor. His confirmation for a full term is, perhaps, due to the peculiar state of affairs in Nova Scotia. It would be impossible to select a prominent public man from any of the Provinces whose appointment would be satisfactorily received in Nova Scotia. It would not do to give the position to an anti-Unionist, or one whose sympathies too much with the Nova Scotia anti-Unionists, and no Unionist politician in the Dominion would be well received by the anti-Union party in that Province. If such a man were not positively ill treated, he would be regarded with so much distrust that all chance of his being useful in the position would be destroyed. Gen. Doyle is unconnected with our internal politics, and has so far succeeded in keeping free from party entanglements. He is probably more acceptable to the Nova Scotians than any other man whom the Government of the Dominion could appoint without playing false to the Union. We are inclined to think, therefore, that Gen. Doyle's appointment, though a deviation from a rule which will undoubtedly prevail respecting the governorships is a judicious one. Colonial aspirants can wait.

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