

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1865.

NO. 3.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

(Sundays Excepted, AT VICTORIA, V.)

TERMS:

One Year, (in advance).....\$10 00
Six Months, do.....6 00
Three Months, do.....3 50
Single Copies.....10 cents.
Subscribers in Victoria will be supplied by the carriers for 25 cents a week.

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Published every Tuesday morning.

One Year, (in advance).....\$6 00
Six Months, do.....4 00
Three Months, do.....2 50
Single copies.....25 cents.

AGENTS.

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EUROPEAN TOPICS.

Our English newspaper dates by the Act are up to September 28. The principal topics of discussion are still the cholera and the cattle disease. The latter, it would appear, has spread among the sheep, and has intensified the feeling of alarm which was first created by the introduction of what has been called the *rinderpest*. "The gloomy prospects," says the *Times*, "which are opened to us by such intelligence, are but too evident. If this fatal malady ravages at the same moment both our oxen and our sheep, we must look forward to little less than a famine of animal food. If we had been spared one of our great meat staples, we might have endured the temporary injury of the other; but if both are simultaneously damaged, the consequences may be most lamentable. A disease, indeed, among the sheep would have a far more direct result on the supply of meat than the cattle plague, as we lately understood it. It was the cows which were principally affected, and the supply of beef was not immediately dependent upon them. But if a whole flock of sheep or lambs may be indiscriminately ravaged the supply of mutton must be instantly contracted. It must be added too that under such circumstances it will be necessary to use the strictest measures of precaution in order to prevent the sale of diseased meat. Moreover, if sheep may be affected by this disease, why may not pigs? and thus every article of animal food may be at once thrown under suspicion."

At a time when the United Kingdom is threatened with the most dreaded of all human epidemics, this calamitous destruction of a description of food which is only second to bread in its general use and nutrition, will undoubtedly have a baneful effect on public health, and facilitate the inroads of fatal epidemics. So far, however, we are glad to see that the cholera has not proved itself so rapid or so deadly in its progress in England as it did in times past, thanks to the greatly improved sanitary condition of the large towns and cities; but we cannot tell how long this comparative immunity will last. In France the disease is decreasing, owing to the vigor with which the municipal and Imperial authorities met the epidemic. In Toulon, where it had raged very violently, it is showing signs of exhaustion. Taking a lesson from the effect of the great conflagration in Constantinople, the citizens lit fires in the streets. A journal called the *Toulois* speaking of the proceedings says:—"Those fires are a distraction to the mind, and serve to strengthen the courage of the inhabitants. They are, however, badly carried out, and those persons who light the fires, supposing that it is the smoke which purifies the air, throw water wetted fuel, or old shoes, on the burning piles, with the idea of creating as much smoke as possible. The result is that the narrow streets are filled with a heavy and suffocating atmosphere, which penetrates the apartments, to the great inconvenience of even people in good health, but of invalids especially, several of whom have been made much worse in consequence." The newspaper in question calls upon the authorities to regulate this mischievous state of affairs, and also to suppress what is almost equally injurious to invalids—the firing off of crackers, which has become a very general mode of testifying the relief and gratification of the inhabitants at the gradual departure of the disease.

While speaking of French journals, it may not be uninteresting to give the ideas of some of the prominent Parisian editors on the Fenian movement, and the efforts made by the English Government to suppress it. Paulin Limayrac, of the *Constitutionnel*, in alluding to the recent seizure of the paper called the *Irish People*, says:—"This military execution, which violently breaks an impor-

tant organ of Irish publicity, would be a grave fact anywhere; in England, where the freedom of the press is looked upon as the palladium of all liberties, it is almost an event. It is, however, remarkable that so arbitrary a measure does not give rise on the other side of the channel to the least protest, and that it is accepted by public opinion with patriotic resignation." The *Constitutionnel* says that it does "not seek the puerile satisfaction of catching a great people in contradiction with itself. At the first appearance of danger our neighbors, with the eminent practical spirit that characterises them, quickly put aside theories and principles; they attended to what was most urgent, they struck, they punished, they stifled the spark to prevent conflagration." This language, however, bears with it a quiet rebuke to those English journals that denounced the Federal authorities when they were suppressing seditious publications, not in a time of profound peace, but in the very middle of insurrection. The *Debats*, on Fenianism, says: "We do not believe this movement can have serious consequences, for several reasons—first, because the English Government disposes of sufficient forces to repress it; afterwards because it is a movement proceeding from without; and lastly and especially, because the priests are not with it."

The news received in England from India gives us a rather deplorable picture of the Bhootan expedition. Great mortality existed among the troops, and they were all being rapidly recalled from the unhealthy posts in the Dooras. No further operations were to take place until the cold season, when another invasion of the Bhootan territory will take place. The force will consist of 7000 men, 1000 of whom are to be Europeans. A slight insurrection had broken out at Bhowalpoor, and a second one at Shreenggur, in Castmere. Another opening is about to be afforded by India to the students of English colleges. Six appointments in the Educational department are to be made by the Secretary of State from the Universities—one to receive £900 a year and at the end of four years to receive £1200, and the others to receive £600 the first year and £900 the fourth. The important line of railway between Calcutta and Delhi is to be opened through traffic on the 15th September. Business affairs in India were, on the whole, on a prosperous footing.

FROM PORT ANGELOS.

On Sunday last this place was visited by a severe storm, or rather swell of the sea, from the eastward, unaccompanied with wind. It was manifestly the effect of a storm above, where it must have been heavily blowing the night previous. It very soon commenced its work of destruction, sweeping away first one and then another of the cribs of Mr. Allingham's new wharf, until nothing of it was left, but one of the outer piers. Some of the floating timbers from the wharf struck the jetty opposite the Custom House and made a breach through it. Mr. Allingham's jetty was left unharmed. The creek rose rapidly from the previous rains, and being backed up by the high tide made still higher by the swell, inundated the larger portion of the town site situated on the beach. Our friend Frank Tucker had a narrow escape by the upsetting of the Custom House boat in the surf, which fell over him, but fortunately did not strike him. Frank owns that he was scared, and began to think it was good bye to poor Frank. His escape was almost a miracle. We were about to say we hope he may live to have many happy returns of the same, but that is not what we mean—we hope he may never be compelled to run such a risk again.

The destruction of the wharf is a severe loss, for it had become quite a convenience, especially on steamer days. The English bark *Aden*, which sailed from this port on Tuesday last, was the same evening holed on her beam ends in a squall off Cape Flattery.

FIRE.

A more serious affair than the flood occurred last night—the destruction of the new house of Mrs. Victor Smith by fire. The inmates barely escaped with their lives, saving nothing but their night clothes. This morning not a vestige of the house is left, it being utterly reduced to ashes. The fire, it is believed, resulted from an imperfect construction of the foundation of the chimney. Port Angeles, Nov. 23, 1865.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE REV. A. DOOLAN AT FORT SIMPSON.

This gentleman came near receiving his *coup de grace* from the hands of a drunken Siwash the other day at Fort Simpson. It appears that as he was superintending the landing of some goods from a canoe he was suddenly attacked by an Indian, who snapped his gun twice at him, and the reverend father being unprovided with a weapon wherewith to retaliate, had to make the best use he could of his legs to reach the Fort, which he eventually did, but not before the infuriated savage had succeeded in discharging his musket at him, though happily without effect. An officer of the Fort, who was standing outside the gates and saw the whole affair, administered such a castigation to Mr. Siwash, that it will be long, if ever, he has the power to attempt such a crime again.—*Nanaimo Gazette*.

TELEGRAPHIC.

By the arrival of the steamer *Active* from Portland we have files of the *Oregonian* as late as *Friday* last, but owing to the damage caused by the recent storms, the following were the only items of eastern news received:

Gen. Logan appointed Minister to Mexico—Texas Affairs—Death of Preston King Confirmed.

The President has appointed General John A. Logan, of Illinois, Minister, and Adam M. Browning, of Tennessee, Secretary of Legation to the Republic of Mexico. Gen. Logan is well known as a strong and earnest friend of the Liberal cause of the country. Governor Hamilton, of Texas, writes to the President that he expects to call a State Convention in December. The intelligence of the death of Hon. Preston King has occasioned much regret in official circles.

From Mexico.

The *Tribune's* correspondent at El Paso, under date of October 30th, says: "The Government of President Juarez is strengthening every day by the addition of the population that inhabit the surrounding villages, who seem disposed to assist him in every way they can, and by giving a regular organization to the various branches of his administration. He will remain at El Paso for some time. Marshal Bazaine, desirous to avoid complications with our Government, has given express orders to the officers of his command not to let any detachment of French troops approach the Rio Grande."

CALIFORNIA.

SHOCKING SUICIDE.—William D. Palmer, truckman for the National Mills on Market street, committed suicide soon after 12 M. yesterday, by shooting himself through the heart with a pistol, in his room at his brothers' residence, on the southeast corner of Fremont and Polson streets. Deceased was a native of Massachusetts, aged about 26 years and unmarried.—*Alta*.

CHARGED WITH STEALING A VESSEL.—Captain Sherman, of the schooner *L. B. Hastings*, was arrested last night, and his vessel seized under the following alleged circumstances: It seems that a man named Miller holds a mortgage on the schooner, and was under the impression that the captain was endeavoring to put to sea with her, as he had been dodging by the islands in the bay for some days. Yesterday he received information that the schooner was pointing towards the heads, and the *Shubrick* went to intercept her. Captain Sherman was charged with stealing the vessel.—*Bulletin*.

Manager Wheatleigh has managed to run Boucault's play of "Arrah-na-Pogue" for 50 consecutive nights, the greatest run any piece has ever had in San Francisco.

CANADA.

According to the *Toronto Leader*, Earl Grey's despatch of 1849, intimating that if necessary the whole force of the Empire would be used to maintain British supremacy in Canada, did not more effectually smother the annexationist sentiment of that day than the return of prosperity has now. It is a singular freak of trade that the United States are willing to pay 40 cents a bushel more for wheat than it is worth in England. The *Leader* concludes that the Americans will, under any circumstances, be purchasers of Canadian cattle for a year or two to come, whether the reciprocity treaty be renewed or not.

The *Montreal Herald* protests strongly against the much discussed plan of Confederation and fortification in Canada, and says of it, with a warm argument for a peace and industrial policy: "Thus then the expenditure of millions upon the proposed road through the frozen barrens north of Lake Superior, instead of through the fat valleys of the Mississippi and Red River valleys, without natural traffic stands upon Confederation as in the Hindoo cosmogony the world stands upon a tortoise. When we shall have done all this, and without war incurred a war debt—when we shall have otherwise decreased the comparative attractions of the country by compelling a large portion of our people into profitless military service, while the Americans shall have returned to their old policy of keeping up an infinitesimal military force—we may probably feel ourselves as safe as Denmark, or as independent as Belgium, which, with a larger number of mounted guns to the square mile, and a larger number of soldiers per thousand of population than any other country, besides the understood protection of all Europe in her favor, fears to resist the will of France when Louis Napoleon gives her the insulting order to drive Victor Hugo or Mr. Rugeand out of her territory. On the other hand, we have the policy of peaceful internal development as an industrial people, intending no evil to others, and though conscious that we are not and cannot be as strong as our neighbors, confident that we are no more likely to be harassed on that account than a small man is likely to be knocked down because he is standing by the side of a big one."

CANADA WINE.—It is stated that 1200 gallons of wine were made last year by one establishment at Cooksville, a village near Toronto. The present year the same manufacturers expect to make 40,000 gallons.

ENGLISH CAPITAL.—The *Boston Journal* says English capitalists have invested £600,000 in Colorado mining lands, and their agents and employees are en route to develop the same. The claims are principally in Russell and Tiall Run Districts, and their recent purchase has been the Seaton Lode of 10,000 feet, for which they paid £100,000 alone.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer *Enterprise* arrived on Saturday with 73 passengers, and from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in private hands. The news from the upper country is unimportant. The *Columbian* has the following:—

From Mr. Eddy, who arrived on Thursday morning, we have obtained the following items: Mr. Eddy left Lake La Hache on Wednesday morning. There had been a snow storm on Tuesday and the snow lay to a depth of 3 or 4 inches. There was a heavy snow storm at Clinton on Saturday. The stage reached Lytton on Sunday, much difficulty having been experienced in getting through, owing to the wretched state of the roads. In some places the horses fell in the ruts and the passengers had to lift the coach out. On both sides of the Thompson bad slides had taken place. News reached Lytton on Monday that the road, 2 miles below Nicomin; was all washed away, with the exception of a narrow path. Rain had been falling in torrents, from Saturday night to Monday morning. From Lytton to Yale most of the breaks in the road had been repaired and travelling was tolerable. The stream had to be forded at Boston Bar, two bents of the Anderson bridge having been carried away by the freshet. Mr. Eddy speaks in terms of the highest praise respecting the management of the stage line under these difficult circumstances.

YALE, Nov. 24.—The road is entirely gone near Nicomin; had to start stage passengers from Lytton on horseback. On the up trip of the stage, it was taken to pieces and carried over a slide three hundred feet long, near Whitehall House. They are working day and night repairing the road. The stage stock is about being taken off. There are two stages above to come down.

BRIDGE RIVER MINES.

The following interesting letter is published in yesterday's *Columbian*:—

LILLOOET, Nov. 14th, 1865.
SIR,—In my letter of the 27th ult. I expressed my intention of going to Bridge River in company with Mr. Landers and Mr. Cadwallader, whose services I secured.

We left Lillooet on the 29th ult., and reached Tyaughton Creek on Saturday, the 4th ult., the trip occupying six days, one day having been passed in camp, owing to the inclemency of the weather. The entire distance from the mouth of Bridge River to Tyaughton Creek, as computed by Mr. Landers is 46 or 47 miles, which, I think very nearly approaches correctness. Mr. Landers also made what I conceive to be a very accurate plan of the river.

The travelling from the north fork about fourteen miles from the mouth, through the canon for about eight or nine miles, is very bad, owing to the absence of anything like a good trail. Of course nothing but Indian trails exist, and these are unlike what are known as "Indian Trails" on the banks of the Fraser River. On Bridge River these are simply deer trails, which have been used by the Indians in quest of game and with no view to the abridgment of distance.

On nearly the entire line of travel good feed for animals may be found, and plenty of water, for where there are no creeks the river is easily accessible.

There are many pieces of open land along the river, and one very large one adjoining Tyaughton Creek, fit for cultivation. The latter is already taken up.

Mr. Cadwallader and Mr. Landers prospected for some distance up Tyaughton Creek, and found gold in paying quantities in every pan. Ten miles further up this creek, Mr. Jamieson found gold of the same kind; while about 30 miles up the same creek, called Gallagher's Creek in my letter of the 15th Sept., I found gold of a precisely similar character, and in paying quantities—facts which lead me, I think not unreasonably, to infer that good paying diggings exist here for distance of 30 miles up this creek alone.

The advantages offered here are that the distance from Lillooet is inconsiderable, and that men can get work without expense or delay, as the gold is found near the surface, no attempt having been made to ascertain what exists at a greater depth than eighteen inches. Sluicing, with the use of quicksilver, ought to produce from \$10 to \$15 to the hand per day.

Beyond this point we found it unadvisable to proceed at so late a period of the year.

I may here remark that a party of Chinese are fluming a portion of the river, about thirteen miles from Lillooet, a costly piece of work; on the opposite side from them a Chinese company are sluicing on an extensive scale; considerable numbers of Chinese are at work at intervals along the lower part of the river. I enclose a specimen of gold (valued at \$3), procured

from a Chinaman in the Canyon which is not more than half the result of about three hours' work.

Several white men have recently left Lillooet to commence work in the canyons; and on our way down we met a party going up the river in a boat to winter at Gun Creek, with about 1700 lbs. of provisions with them.

We returned by a mountain trail via Seaton Lake, which, owing to the lateness of the "fall," had then no snow on it, but which is never open for travel, even in ordinary years, till the end of May.

I have the honor, etc.
(Signed) A. C. ELLIOTT,
To the Hon. Colonial Secretary.

OUR NORTHERN GOLD FIELDS.

(From the *Nanaimo Gazette*.)

To the courtesy of a correspondent at Fort Simpson, we are indebted for the following valuable information concerning the gold fields of Skeena and Stekin:—Mr. Shaff, whom I know very well, and on whose veracity I can implicitly rely, has just returned from Stekin, after a residence of nearly four years, winter and summer. He gives a good account of the prolific character of these diggings—in fact the gold dust we have purchased from him tells for itself. He has been down three times for supplies since I have been here. He now returns with a large supply of provisions to pass the ensuing winter. Even the Indians who came down with him had their ounces of the precious metal, and spent it freely, purchasing what articles they required for their winter's consumption. Mr. Shaff also reports the mineral resources of the surrounding country to be very great. Gold, silver, copper, coal, and platinum are known to exist in large quantities in that vicinity. There is one spot on the north forks where he got out seventy dollars' worth in one day, when the water was very low; but owing to the river rising, as well as to the scarcity of provisions, he had to leave the locality for a time. He now returns with a supply of edibles, quicksilver, &c. Both Stekin and the Skeena diggings could be worked to great advantage by steady enterprising men. The gold that we have been receiving from the Skeena is a bright orange in color, and appears to be remarkably fine in quality. On the Stekin River there are two kinds of gold, both of considerable fineness. Last year there were only two feet of snow fell in the Stekin district, but in severe winters the fall exceeds eight feet, and the mercury descends below the bulb. Game of every description exists in the vicinity: bears, reindeer, mountain sheep, goats, etc., and the streams are well stocked with salmon and trout. Potatoes and other garden vegetables grow well on the banks of the river. On the Naas River, small diggings have been worked, but nothing of consequence has been found; it requires to be properly prospected. Skeena River, which falls into Port Eslington, is a large stream navigable for powerful steamers at some stages of the water as far as Kitchillas, some 60 miles from its mouth. In 1863, Henry Goss discovered gold on the upper portion of the river and took out \$100 in 11 days; since that time Sebastopol and a party of canny Scots were working seven miles above the Kitchillas and averaged \$5 per day to the hand. There is no doubt but rich diggings are to be found on this stream, but like all other gold-fields, it requires time and money to develop them. The Skeena is fed by numerous small streams which take their rise in swamps, &c., in the neighborhood of Babine Lake. A great portion of its course is through a fine open country, in which game is abundant. Coal and Plumbago have been found in the mountains, and several small veins of copper ore are known to exist.

THE FENIAN CRUISER HOAX.—A dispatch from Dublin says: Very considerable excitement was caused here on Saturday by the receipt of a telegram, plausibly announcing that a Fenian cruiser or private had overhauled an American vessel. It was to this effect: "LIVERPOOL, Saturday, Sept. 30th.—The American ship *Hannah*, from Cardenas, has arrived here. On the 15th instant, in latitude 50 deg. 55 min., longitude, 27 deg. 16 min., she was overhauled by a large screw steamer, heavily armed and full of men. The steamer showed the Fenian colors, and a green flag, with the harp in the centre." Later, however, the following telegram allayed all feeling on the subject, and will serve as a caution to parties against allowing themselves to be similarly treated on another occasion. "The story of the *Hannah* having been overhauled by a cruiser carrying the Fenian flag is a hoax."

EBENEZER WESLEYAN CHURCH.—The anniversary sermons commemorative of the opening of this place of worship were preached last Sunday by the Rev. A. Browning, of Victoria, and the Rev. Mr. Jamieson, of New Westminster, to attentive and numerous congregations.—*Nanaimo Gazette*.

GOODS!

"MELA,"

Arrivals.

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in Racks, Inkstands, and
Weights, Cash and
Desks, Cases and Folders;
Backgammon and Crib-
bage; Dominoes; Dice,
and Office Scales; Ivory
and Cases; Ivory Paper
and Office Scales; Ma-
terials; Porcelain Slates;
Spring Tape Measures;
Ladies' Companions; In-

of the following

& Envelopes!

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Eber's Lead Pencils;
Tud's, Faber's Drawing
Copying Ink; Faber's
ld's Carmine; Rodger's
Scissors; Windsor &
d Oil Colors; Mann's
Scrap Books; Rock-
Letter Files; Exhibition
Drawing Paper, Trac-
Endless and Mounted
Mogul Playing Cards;
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Blotting Paper.

Newspaper Files; Law;

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CARSWELL.

CLONE."

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PSCAC, GINGER,

CATED LOZENGES

Murray's MAGNESIA;

ERS, POMADES,

and PERFUMES!

KEY & CO.,

DRUGGISTS,

TES STREET, VICTORIA

PISCO.

W DRINK!

THE

N HOTEL.

cc23

LMORE,

Yates street, wishes

tends and the public

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sell his entire stock

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to close the business

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ROVAL.

THOMAS,

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FROM THE PREMISES

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Kriemler

ND BRASS

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RIA, V. I.

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