

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, July 9, 1867.

Lynch Law.

As a rule, we are not an admirer of Vigilance Committees. Yet there have been occasions, when the law has been openly set at defiance through the cowardice or connivance of its administrators, that a rising of the people has produced a wholesome moral effect. To one of the Western American States, we believe, attaches the credit of having first instituted a code, known as Lynch Law, for the speedy trial and punishment of criminals. The country at the time was infested with murderers, gamblers and horse thieves, and the culprits were either in collusion with the authorities or the officers were afraid to do their duty. At any rate, whatever might have been the cause, the outrages continued for years, and none of the offenders had been brought to justice, when the patience of the citizens was exhausted, and one day, under the leadership of a bold spirit named Lynch, they rose and hanged all the bad characters they could find. The way the fellows were tried and executed was simple enough. A jury of twelve men was empaneled, and Mr Lynch sat as judge. The duty of the jury was to convict the prisoner; that of the judge, to sentence him to be hanged; and the duty of judge, jury and populace (so that all might be equally involved) was to lay their hands on a rope and run the villain up to a tree-branch. This summary mode of disposing of evildoers soon rid the locality of desperadoes, and the example was soon followed in other States with beneficial results. The code has obtained a world-wide reputation under the appellation of "Lynch Law," in honor of the first "judge." Its operations have been confined principally to the American States and territories. Very few instances of the administration of Lynch Law have occurred on British ground. Here, in British Columbia, in 1858, the California miners who first rushed to Fraser River destroyed several Indian villages and killed some of the inhabitants. That affair, more properly speaking, was a "war" in which the red man was the aggressor; and the only real case of lynching (previous to yesterday) we remember to have heard of in the Colony was where a number of miners hung an old Indian, near Lillooet, early in 1859, for stealing. The Kootenay case (to which brief allusion is made by telegraph) seems to have been a terrible affair. One account claims that Gaggin, the Magistrate, was poisoned by the desperado; but this is doubtful, as it is well known that the deceased gentleman had lain at the point of death for some weeks. That the constable of the district was shot and killed is undoubtedly correct. The murderer then appears to have made for the Boundary Line, to which he was pursued by the infuriated miners and killed. Ardent believers in law and order may deprecate the infliction of summary punishment by an unauthorised body; but we conceive that the executioners of the wretch Brown showed by the course they adopted a proper and just appreciation of the law. The magistrate was dead. Who was to issue a warrant? The constable was shot. Who was to pursue the assassin? Clearly, with the representatives of the law power of the Government lying dead before them, the right, the duty of the people was to prevent the flight of the evil-doer. They had to choose between the escape of the murderer and his summary punishment. Aware that he was guilty of a capital offence in the eyes of the law, and well knowing that if he crossed the line he was sure from pursuit, they decided to shoot him down. Paradoxical as the assertion may appear, when the miners took the law into their own hands and executed the criminal, they showed a high appreciation of that law and upheld its majesty.

The Legal Amalgamation Bill Inoperative.

During the last sitting of the Legislative Council an Ordinance was passed to the effect that Barristers should be allowed to act as Attorneys and Attorneys as Barristers after the 1st day of July instant. His Lordship the Chief Justice yesterday decided that this Ordinance does not apply to Vancouver Island. This decision—the correctness of which cannot be questioned—is most unfortunate for the interests of the Islanders; and it is a matter for extreme regret that the Legislature, when engaged in framing the statute to provide for the amalgamation of the professions, did so in a bungling manner. We had hoped that with the dawn of this month the antiquated system that compels a man to employ two lawyers to do the work of one would be abolished; and that those other relics of antiquity—

horsehair wigs and bombazine gowns—were destined soon to go out of fashion. We shall now have to await, it seems, the next meeting of the Legislative Council, when, we trust, this evil—this great public wrong—will be redressed, and Barristers and Attorneys be placed on precisely the same footing.

From Victoria to Metlakatlah with some Account of the Mission there.

H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, with Governor Seymour on board, left Esquimalt June 7th, arriving on the evening of the 9th. Very few Indians were left in the village, the majority being up Knight Inlet, engaged in Eulachon fishing. Next morning got underway and arrived off Bella Bella the same evening. This village is situated on a small island in Lama Passage, and consists of about 9 huts, containing about 200 of a population. The men appeared robust and well made, especially the chief, a young man about twenty-four; the women were bare across the face. They have slightly flattened heads (the women alone flatten the heads), broad faces and rather fair, ruddy complexion. We saw for the first time in this country an Albino, a woman with fair, ruddy complexion, white hair and reddish eyes, and on inquiring of the chief as to her genealogy, he told us she was "Sitkum." The situation of the village on an island of about an acre in extent, where there is neither wood nor water, is rather peculiar, but chosen many years ago as a place of defence. Here was observed, among some of the old, extensive scars on the arms, the result of the custom of titing, during their medicine orgies, when the candidates in their frenzy are supposed to be inspired, and it is considered a matter of religious duty to offer them an arm to gnaw, such scars being highly honorable. Another peculiarity of the death is that it prevails on the occasion of the death of a chief—a practice that is disabowelled, the cavities filled with cedar bark, and then conveyed to a cavern on the opposite shore, where it is deposited. The chief came off in the evening, bringing with him a collection of curious masks, rattles, &c.; these he carefully brought on deck, and would not exhibit except on the after part of the ship, hid from the sight of the canoes. On some of them the carving was very well executed. One of his whistles was decidedly ingenious, consisting of a tube fitted into the neck of a bladder, which being compressed in the hand, gave out musical notes. On shore they appeared to have a plentiful supply of the necessities of life, as numerous deer, beaver, halibut, were seen in their houses. We left Bella Bella next morning (12th) and anchored the same evening at Looe Inlet, situated in Greenville Channel, a snug anchorage, the inlet running up about three miles, where a river falls in. Here some of our party who went on shore saw numerous tiny glittering specks in the sand, brought down by the river, and fancied they had discovered valuable diggings. The specimens brought on board, however, turned out to be only iron pyrites. Next day (13th), we proceeded, passing the surveying steamer Alexandra in Lawson harbor, and arrived in the forenoon in Metlakatlah roads. The voyage from Fort Rupert was through a succession of sheltered channels, the ocean swell being only felt for about 30 miles, in passing between Cape Scott and the entrance of Fitzhugh Sound. The rest was inland navigation, intricate, but perhaps the smoothest in the Pacific. Many of the archipelagoes passed through were of surpassingly beautiful, the scenery being almost of a highland character, the shores wooded close to the water's edge, numerous canals resembling a succession of inland lakes, dotted with many beautiful islets; the scenery everywhere varying in shade and outline, and consisting of open glades and gently sloping activities, at others, of snow clad peaks and mountains, cleft by deep ravines, down whose sides thundered impetuous mountain torrents; while now and again a glimpse was caught of the snow clad Cascade range. In passing along there might be seen occasionally a long avenue cleared in the forest from the top to the bottom of the mountains; the result of some devastating snow avalanche; perhaps in some instances proceeding from distant glaciers. Metlakatlah is situated on the coast, about the middle of the western side of the Chympean peninsula. This peninsula, inhabited by the Chympean tribe, is about 40 miles long by 20 broad and is washed on three sides by Chatham Sound, Port Esquimaux and Work's Canal. The Mission of Metlakatlah is situated on a little bay protected by several small islands; the village being built on a triangular piece of land jutting out into the bay. The church, and Mr Duncan's missionary's house are situated at the apex, whilst two rows of houses occupy the sides. Governor Seymour landed to inspect the place, and was received by Mr Duncan, supported by 18 constables dressed in artillery uniform as a guard of honor, and the whole population, amounting to about 400. They all sang in a very spirited manner "God Save the Queen." The Governor afterwards walked round the village and inspected the site of the proposed saw mill, which is about to be erected on a stream at the end of the village. We found great improvements had taken place since our last visit a year ago. Four or five acres have been cleared behind the village and are intended to form a public park and the site of a new church; the road in front of the houses has been widened and the bank strengthened by palisades, where it was falling in, while on the beach a platform has been constructed to haul up canoes, and a pier where a schooner can come alongside and land her cargo at any stage of the tide. Numerous new houses have been run up, which are an improvement on the older ones, having rooms at each end boarded off for the different families, retaining the central apartment with fire in the middle. The older houses, although externally built after European fashion with doors, glass windows and shingled roofs, had no separate apartments. The interior of the houses were all very clean and neat, many of them

very tasteful in their furniture, cheap prints, matting, mirrors, easy chairs, and other civilized surroundings being common. There are about 32 houses, each accommodating a family and their collateral relations. The population numbers about 600. Many of these are relations, who although still heathens, have followed their christian relations to whom they have been attached, and no doubt ultimately will be gathered into the christian fold. In the meantime they conform to the regulations of the place. About 100 of the population are catechumens, and 300 more are desirous of becoming so. They all look intelligent, wear English clothing and are clean and comfortable in appearance. His Excellency after visiting the village and going to several of the houses, inspected the store which Mr Duncan keeps for the benefit of the Mission, to which the Indians bring their skins and other produce to be exchanged for European articles. The store is well stored with a great variety of articles, clothing, blankets, groceries, tobacco, cutlery, including iron and steel collars, Eau de Cologne, kid gloves, &c. A large quantity of valuable furs, received in barter are also to be seen, consisting of mink, marten, sea otter, bear, ermine, seal, salmon, &c. The Governor then adjourned to the church, an octagonal building capable of holding about 500, which on the occasion was nearly full. He was accompanied by Mr Duncan, Captain Porcher, R. N., Lieut Kitson, R. M. A., and Dr Comrie, R. N. His Excellency addressed the Indians, stating that it afforded him much pleasure to meet them in their own homes, and to see the progress they were making in the arts of the white man, and told them that what was good for the white man was also beneficial for them. He hoped they would continue to persevere in their well doing, and they might depend on having his protection, but if on the other hand, they misconducted themselves, the same punishment would be awarded to them as to whitemen. He should always be glad to hear of them through Mr Duncan, and he hoped at some future period to visit them again. In answer to this, several of the chiefs spoke. They said they were as yet weak and required protection; that they had numerous enemies; that they were like the eggs that a bird took care of; that they were very grateful to the Governor for his promised support and for his coming so far to see them; they also begged him to use his influence to stop the potlaches amongst the neighboring tribes, which they believed to be the great source of vice, so much so, that even Indians would prostitute their own children in order to acquire property to give away for the purpose of display, and that doing away with the potlaches would be a great leverage to raise the Indians. The Governor in reply stated that he said no doubt although they were young and weak as a people they had advanced considerably towards an equality with the whites. They worshipped the same God, believed in the same creed, had houses constructed after the English fashion, a store, good roads, and a sawmill. That he hoped to hear of advancement, and trusted to have a favorable account of them from Mr Duncan. Afterwards, the Governor went to the schoolroom, and heard some songs sung by the girls, and fourteen of whom reside in the house under Mr Duncan's supervision, and manage all the household economy. They vary in age from 12 to 16, and after this initiation in house-keeping are eagerly sought after in marriage by the young men of the place. Mr Duncan receives all the suitors, listens to their proposals and generally arranges their love affairs. They sang several Chympean songs, one of which, to the tune of "Home, sweet home," was very pretty; and also a variety of English songs, including "Obedient in duty winning applause," "Battermate and Daisies," "Tell me now, gold," Mr Duncan accompanied them on the harmonium and concertina. The copy-books were afterwards inspected, the style of calligraphy being very good. They also read in English distinctly and intelligently. Altogether, the impressions formed of Mr Duncan's training were very favorable, and the results in the case of these pupils would bear comparison with any of the more advanced young ladies' schools in Victoria, while in neatness, appearance and general deportment they were equally ladylike. Mr Duncan also carries on a day school, at which about 90 pupils attend. This room is hung round with maps, illustrations, &c., and has quite an academical appearance, containing globes, electric machines, &c., while outside, is a series of gymnastic appliances, swings, bars, &c. The community is composed chiefly of young persons, 200 being under 20 years of age, while about one hundred are under ten. The history of the rise and progress of this Mission is a most interesting one. Mr Duncan, to whose exertions the present state of things is owing, was educated at the missionary college of Highbury, and arrived in this country in 1857. Almost immediately after his arrival he proceeded to Fort Simpson, the village of the Chympeans, situated at the northern end of the peninsula. Here he labored for five years, but finding the presence of the Fort and other influences against his progress, he in 1862 removed to Metlakatlah, a Government Reserve, and the old home of the Chympeans before Fort Simpson was built thirty years ago. When he left Fort Simpson only fifty accompanied him, now there are six hundred. The secret of his success has been owing to a thorough acquaintance with the language, and carrying out civilization hand in hand with evangelization. One aid was the establishment of a store. Out of the profits of the store, a sawmill costing about \$1800, and a church about \$5000, are to be built; and all public works are paid from this source. A carpenter's and blacksmith's shop, a factory for making soap of Eulachon oil, and also a bakery are in progress. The management of this community rests with a Council of fifteen, selected out of the settlers, under Mr Duncan. For the public works, such as keeping up of equivalent to \$3, is required annually of each inhabitant. Numerous gardens exist in front of the houses, in addition to which each individual has a plot of ground allotted to him on the numerous islets in front. In these

plots, potatoes, onions, cabbages, turnips, carrots, &c., are grown to such an extent that the neighboring tribes come here to trade. For their convenience a market house is about to be erected. A schooner, manned and commanded by those belonging to the mission, makes passages up and down the coast for the purpose of trade. Mr Duncan has also lately published a pamphlet in Chympean, containing the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and a selection of Scriptural passages, the first attempt at printed Indian language on this side of the Rocky Mountains. Great credit is due to Mr Duncan for his efforts, in spite of the numerous difficulties he has had to contend with; he is the right stuff of which missionaries are made—active, cheerful, energetic, possessed of great tact and good nature. He has succeeded in combining industrial training with religious instruction, and laid the foundation of a system which we hope will remain sufficiently long to mature, more especially, as the results will entirely depend on the bringing up of the younger members, to whom in all probability we must look for the perpetuation of the Indian race on this coast. We have entered into a lengthened history of this mission because Mr Duncan's aims have been misrepresented by jealous rival traders, each skin traded here being looked upon as so much loss to them. He has also brought down upon him a host of slanders from the active part he has taken in stopping the Indian liquor traffic on the coast. It may be mentioned, that on this occasion five hogheads of villainous stuff denominated whisky, were broken up and their contents poured out upon the beach. This had been taken, some weeks previously by Mr Duncan's forces from a schooner engaged in the nefarious traffic, and when poured out, tainted the air for a considerable distance. A fine of \$400 had been imposed on the proprietor, which the Governor generously handed over to Mr Duncan for the benefit of the Mission. In the evening the Governor returned on board, a fleet of canoes escorting him, and next morning left for Fort Simpson.

Thursday, July 4.

THE INCENDIARIES OF DEADMAN'S ISLAND.—Two young men, named Peter Scully and Hebbard, are charged with setting fire to the Indian burying-ground on Deadman's Island on Sunday last. Scully was arrested at the house of his mother and underwent a partial examination yesterday. Hebbard has disappeared, and it is feared, has gone to the American side. Scully, it is understood, lays the blame on his associate, and acknowledges several parties in boats were passing the island about the time the flames broke out, and one man saw a young man go under a bush and immediately after ran out and leap into a boat, in which another young man was seated, and row away. The flames sprang up immediately afterwards from the bush under which the young man was seen. Scully is remanded for three days. It is a fact worthy of remark that when the country swarmed with rough characters in '59 and '62, not a man of the natives by disturbing their dead; and it is truly lamentable that the less turbulent times of '67 should have witnessed an act of Vandalism so horrible as the wilful destruction of a burying-ground.

THE WASHBURNE LEDGE.—The Cariboo Sentinel of the 17th gives an encouraging notice of the working of this lead, and states that the strata would not be in running order until the week after that date. A private letter received here by the last mail corroborates the information furnished by the Sentinel, and entertains expectations of the most satisfactory results from the operations of the strata. Though there is nothing definite in this, it is pleasing to learn that the enterprise of the Washburne company has met with the most encouraging indications of the worth of their labor, from the commencement of the work up to the present time. The returns to be made by means of this strata are anxiously looked for by all who view the future of the colony through the golden mirror of Cariboo. If the quartz prove generally as rich as is shown by present prospects, the day must not be far distant when the clatter of quartz mills and the hissing of steam will be heard in every direction. Examiner.

FOURTH OF JULY.—To-day is the 91st anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence. Ninety-one years ago the thirteen colonies threw off their allegiance to the British Crown, and ratified a declaration of liberty by their own blood, and by the blood of their independence was acknowledged by Great Britain. The Americans have much to be proud of. They have founded a great and prosperous nation upon the principles of self-government; have outstripped in greatness and prosperity most of the older nations of the world, and are still "marching on" to victories yet more glorious than any of the past. As members of the great Anglo-Saxon family, Britons ought to be and are proud of the grand achievements of their own flesh and blood, the offspring of a common mother, and by none in this colony will the day be more religiously observed than by Englishmen.

THE EXAMINATION at the Victoria District School came off yesterday as announced, and was largely attended, there being 91 children on the list, almost all of whom were present. The examination, in the course of which the progress of the scholars was well ascertained, was conducted by the Superintendent, and only ended at half-past three p.m. Without extending to the higher branches of education, they were most thorough, well grounded and satisfactory, and in accordance with the increasing popularity of the school. Indeed, the schoolroom is by far too small for the present number of children. Among the visitors we remarked Mr Aleton, Mr C. B. Young (who took part in the examination), Dr Powell, Chairman of the Board of Education, and several of the parents, besides a few ladies.

A BREAK IN THE WAGON ROAD.—Eighteen miles above Yale the high stage of the Fraser has caused a "break" in the wagon road for some distance. A few hundred dollars will repair the damage. In the meantime, the irrepressible Barnard has placed wagons on each side of the "break" and passengers will be conveyed as usual with only the few minutes detention required in changing vehicles.

DISSENTION; THEFT AND RECOVERY.—Yesterday morning a party of deserters belonging to H. M. S. Malacca, lying in Esquimalt harbor, seized a plunger belonging to Mr Rabson of Esquimalt, and sailed out of the harbor for the American side. Rabson hearing of his loss mustered his friends and pursued the thieves in a row boat, overtaking them near Albert Head. Being called on to surrender the sailors refused, when two or three shots were fired at them from the row boat, whereupon they headed for shore, stranded the plunger, and made off into the woods. An armed boat sent after the fugitives later in the day failed to discover their hiding places.

RACES AT BEACON HILL TO-DAY.—The following entries have been made for the races to take place this day over the Beacon Hill course. Independence Cup, 1st race, R. Wilson's bay mare "Flora"; J. W. Williams' bay horse "Baby"; J. Vaughan's bay mare "Jealousy"; J. Parker's bay mare "Fanny." For the Pony race: A. Mayer's gray mare "Georgiana"; G. Richardson's gray horse "Bully"; R. Potter's bay pony "Duck." It is believed there will be a good days sport, and all patrons of the turf are expected to attend. First race at 1 1/2 o'clock.

CREDIT, GENTLEMEN.—The attention of the New Westminster papers is called to the fact that they have failed (no doubt inadvertently) in their last few issues to give the Colonist credit for telegraphic despatches. The only journals in the colony that now take telegrams are the British Colonist and the Cariboo Sentinel; and it is hoped that papers copying those despatches will not forget to state the source from whence they derive them.

FROM UP RIVER.—The steamer Onward returned yesterday without completing the trip to Yale, the driftwood at Emery's Bar rendering the passage unsafe. Passengers and light freight were forwarded to Yale by canoe. At Chilliwack and Sumas the water was higher than at any time since the settlements were made, and at Hope 22 feet above low water mark. The Onward brought down some produce and stock from Langley and Sumas.—Examiner.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—By the resignation of Mr Keenan as Chief Engineer, Mr Burnes, Assistant Engineer, becomes acting chief, and will summon to his assistance in case of fire the foreman of the first company that reaches the scene of conflagration. The companies in a few days, we learn, will parade in full uniform with their apparatus, for the purpose of paying their respects to the Mayor and City Council, who are ready to meet the demands of the Department for pecuniary aid. The institution, we are glad to hear, is in a very flourishing state.

THE RIFLE MATCH.—The following members have been selected by competition to represent the Victoria Volunteer Ten at the forthcoming match at New Westminster: Pearce, Turner, Vinter, Long, Allstop, Bowden, John Wilson, Newbury, Soar and Homfray. Unavoidable changes in the list may occur. The match will take place in about ten days.

MAGUIRE'S BAND PIC-NIC.—The picnic at Cadoro Bay to-day will, no doubt, prove a highly successful affair. The band will discourse delightful music during the day. Dancing platforms have been arranged for the accommodation of the guests. Mr Harcourt delivers a patriotic address in honor of American Independence, commencing at 1 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS AT THE PIC-NIC GROUND.—There will not be the slightest necessity for families or others to burden themselves with baskets of eatables and drinkables, as Mr E. C. Holden, of the St George Hotel, will have every requisite for their comfort, of the best description, on the ground, and will serve them by the plate at restaurant rates.

THE IDAHO FOR VICTORIA.—The steamer Idaho will take the place of the Active, leaving San Francisco for Victoria tomorrow, and sailing for San Francisco via Portland on the 11th. The Idaho is a propeller of some 1200 tons and will, it is supposed, come into the harbor alongside of Merchant Wharf.

THE DEATH OF MR. GAGGIN.—The telegraph announces the death of Mr. J. Bowles Gaggin, magistrate of Kootenay District. Mr. Gaggin was a native of Ireland, and a favorite with all classes on the mainland. He had been in ill health for some years, and was to have been relieved by Mr. Cox, who is now on his way across the mountains to Kootenay.

FOR SIRKA.—We learn that not in the least discouraged by the futile efforts previously made in that direction, the California, Oregon and Mexico Steamship Company design despatching a steamer from San Francisco via Victoria about the 1st of August.

BOAT RACE.—A boat race between the plungers Lady Franklin and Jack Shephard, will come off to-day for \$250 a side. The boats will sail from the Hudson Bay Company's wharf to Albert Head and back to the place of starting.

THE ZEALOUS.—A telegram from San Francisco states that the Zealous, with Admiral Hastings on board, will not leave San Francisco until the 5th, (to-morrow). She may be looked for here on Monday or Tuesday next.

NO PAPER.—In order to pay proper respect to the day that so many of our fellow citizens will honor by a suspension of business, no paper will appear from this office to-morrow.

THE FLOUR MILL.—A supply of wheat having been received per Crosby yesterday, from Oregon, in addition to some wheat of colonial produce, the flour mill of Gowen & Lanmeister will commence to grind at an early day next week.

FROM PORTLAND.—The schooner A. Crosby, Perkins, arrived yesterday morning from Portland with a cargo of produce, particulars of which have appeared in yesterday's paper. She brought four passengers.

THE rapid decay of New Westminster has caused the Bank of British Columbia to withdraw their agency from that place and the office will be closed on the 31st inst.