

Agricultural Matters.

We dwell yesterday on the general process made in our agricultural districts; but the subject is one of such paramount importance to the future well being and prosperity of the people of this Colony that we feel justified in recurring to the subject. "Give a dog a bad name and hang him," is a quaint old saying that may apply to our case. People abroad hear of our magnificent climate, our great natural resources, our splendid harbors, magnificent scenery, our fisheries and so forth, and the desire to emigrate to such a favored spot seizes them. They hear of the enormous yield of the gold fields of Cariboo, but are warned of the uncertainty of the gold digger's life, and are told it is the few and not the many who realize a fortune at it. The would-be emigrant then naturally enquires what there is of a permanent nature in the country to sustain an increasing population in the event of the failure of the mines? What are the inducements to the emigrant to settle upon its shores? What his prospects of employment? In fine, what are the agricultural advantages of the country? and he is then told that it possesses none, and, that nearly all the produce required for consumption is imported from the American side. A sensible man immediately comes to the conclusion that no country can prosper that depends solely upon the ephemeral sustenance of its gold mines, that at the best the adventurers who make their living by mining are an erratic set, who, if successful, return with their treasure to their homes, and if unfortunate wend their way to other mining districts. They are not Colonists, and with occasional exceptions have no desire or intention to settle down and make the country their home. Such men, though they may for the time contribute to the advancement of the country cannot build it up—something more real and enduring is requisite. Commerce can only flourish so long as there is a demand, and that demand is regulated by population; population by employment. Manufactures in a young country where labor is necessarily high and living dear, are out of the question. If there is no field then for the husbandman to work upon to better his own condition and that of his neighbour by making the necessities of life cheap and plentiful and keeping the money paid for supplies in the country, both population and commerce will become limited to the supply of the mines and will fall away when they give out. Thus are a useful class of people deterred from coming hither and the progress of the country arrested. We showed yesterday the fallacy of the belief that Vancouver Island offered no profitable field to the agriculturist. That, in point of fact, there are not only large tracts of land of marvelous fertility in the new settled portions of the Island, but that those who have braved the hardships and deprivations of a pioneer settler's life are now on the high road to a comfortable competency. These are not idle words; the returns from the settlements show the progress made, and a personal visit will confirm the opinion they convey of substantial prosperity. The abundant yield in grain crops renders that branch of industry especially remunerative—one hundred bushels and upwards to the acre being nothing uncommon. Stock raising too is now engaging the attention of our farmers, and promises lucrative returns, while some settlers are going extensively into the dairy line. Careful computation has shown that every cow in the fall should be worth \$100 per annum to her owner. While fresh butter commands 62½ cents per pound in this market, cured hams and bacon, from 18 to 37½ cents per pound; and beef, mutton, and grain continue in steady demand, farmers who have the means of sending their goods to market need never complain. In British Columbia the progress of agriculture is no less marked. At all the

ranches in the upper country, on the highway to the mines, the acreage under cultivation this year exhibits a great increase over the preceding year. In the Lillooet district, the yield of grain this season is roughly estimated at 700,000 pounds, and with a flour mill at hand the district should henceforth be self-supporting. On the Lower Fraser the settlers appear to be equally prosperous. According to returns published in the *Columbian* the quantity of land taken up in the two rural settlements of Chilliwack and Sumass amount at present to 4800 acres; land under cultivation, 653 acres; quantity of hay cut this season, 818 tons; ditto grain, 12,770 bushels; potatoes dug, 5200 bushels; ditto turnips, 2800 bushels; number of cattle, 744 head; poultry, 1207; hogs, 425. This divided among about twenty-four settlers, several of whom have only been at work for one year, shows what can be accomplished in the sister Colony. With all these evidences around us then, we have no hesitation in pronouncing the pursuit of agriculture as the most substantially productive branch of employment in these Colonies, and if prudently directed, all who engage in it must sooner or later reap a full harvest.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, Sept. 21st, 1866.

**A MANIAC'S DEATH.**—Mrs F. Fernsworth, age about 25 years and the mother of three children, the youngest about three months old, was recently sent to our county poor farm, by the overseer of the poor of Woodstock township. She had been found in the woods naked, a raving maniac. After being in the poor house a short time, she took a seat on the porch, when a kitten coming by she seized it by the neck with one hand and deliberately tore out its eyes. Soon after she killed an old cat in the same manner, and then ran after one of Mr Austin's little children, with a similar intent undoubtedly, but the screams of the child brought it timely assistance. She was then locked up in one of the rooms of the house, but managed to get out, having torn off every shred of her clothing. A room was prepared by nailing up the window and doors with strong bars but she made her escape from this also; and upon being put back would throw herself headforemost against the door and walls of the room, and tear up her bed and clothing. Manacles and a straight jacket were then placed upon her, and the floor of her room covered to the depth of a foot or more with straw, but she continued to throw herself against the walls and chimney, and would also scrape the straw from the floor, and springing up light down on her head and shoulders. Once or twice a dose of morphine was given her, causing her to sleep several hours, but she would wake up as wild as ever. Finally, on Wednesday afternoon after striking her head against the door, she was heard to make a singular moaning noise, and on entering her room she was found gasping her last, with the blood oozing from her mouth and nostrils. Her head and entire body, it was found while being prepared for burial, were black with bruises, and her head beaten to a jelly. She resided near Crooked creek, above Ripley, and her insanity is attributable to domestic infelicity. She is said to have been a very handsome woman.—*Schuyler (Ill.) Citizen.*

**CITY COUNCIL.**—This body met last evening, His Worship the Mayor in the Chair. Permission was granted the Gas Company to lay service pipes in Broad and Store streets. . . . J. Schl was granted permission to erect a wooden awning at the corner of Broughton and Government streets. . . . Two communications were read from the Colonial Secretary—one stating that there were no funds at the disposal of the Municipality; and the other directing attention to the dangerous state of the bridges across Victoria Arm. The Council adopted a resolution stating that as the bridges referred to were not laid down in the schedule of the Incorporation Act, and as there are no funds at the disposal of the Council, they are unable to make any repairs to the bridges. . . . A communication from the Secretary of the Fire Department, asking for an appropriation of funds necessary to maintain that institution, was read, and the clerk instructed to inform the Department that the subject would receive the immediate attention of the Council. . . . The Council then went into Committee on the question of raising a Municipal revenue and enforcing the by-law of the 28th March, 1863, relating to taxation. The Committee reported progress, and the Council adjourned until next Monday evening.

**STRANGE ELOPEMENT.**—A young scamp in Michigan recently eloped with his step-mother and \$800 in greenbacks belonging to his father.

**"GONE FROM OUR GAZE!"**—The unfortunate John Butts has at last left our shores, and is now "rocked in the cradle of the deep" on his way towards the Celestial Empire—he and two other bums having signed articles and sailed on the ship Rodoma, for China, on Wednesday last. Before leaving the Barracks John took an affectionate and tearful leave of his fellow-prisoners and the jailor. He gave the former some good advice for moral guidance when their terms of service should expire, and presented each with a copy of the *Evening Telegraph*—a journal he has contributed to bring into favour as waste paper with the Chinese laundrymen for their "washee," and the Greek fishermen for their "feesh." To the jailor he presented his thanks and a copy of a "Treatise on the Goose," saying that he was going to "carve" out a new reputation in the land of pig-tails and chow-chow. On the way to the wharf the expatriated man wept freely; but upon getting into the boat he seemed to regain his cheerfulness and ventured on the following conundrum: "Why am I like a message sent through the Atlantic Cable?" The crowd "walked off" immediately, and Butts gave the answer as follows: "Because I am despatched across the ocean by *Telegraph*." Overcome either by his emotions or the huge intellectual effort of which he had been guilty, the poor wretch then sank down in the bow of the boat and was lost to view. Adieu! poor houseless, homeless vagrant. Your offences against society have been many, and your punishment often severe; but God created you for some wise purpose, and you may yet become a shining light in the national councils of the land of Confucius.

**COLLISION IN THE STRAITS.**—The English ship Belmont, Huller master, which sailed from the outer harbour for Toulon, France, on Wednesday afternoon, came into collision the same night with an unknown vessel, in the Straits of Fuca, off Sooke Harbor, and sustained serious damage. The stranger must have been cut down to the water's edge as part of her deck-load was seen floating by the Belmont after the vessels had separated. The Belmont struck the other just about the foremast, carrying away her own bowsprit and springing her foremast. The fog was very dense at the time and the stranger was lost sight of almost immediately. The Belmont was worked into Beechy Bay, where it was found that she was not making water and the Captain came on to Victoria in a canoe for assistance. We learn that H. M. S. Scout will be dispatched by Admiral Denman to the spot this morning. There is some reason for supposing that the strange vessel was the ship Rodoma, laden with spars and lumber for China, which also sailed from the outer harbor on Wednesday.

**A ONE-SIDED "POWER."**—The best local joke we have heard lately is of a fellow who went to China leaving with a friend here a power-of-attorney. The friend accepted the trust and had actually paid out several hundred dollars of his own funds on the absentee's account before he discovered that the power-of-attorney was like the handle of a jug—all on one side. It only authorized him to pay all the other's debts; but did not empower him to receive a single dollar on behalf of the absentee. As a matter of course, the debtors refuse to pay, and the creditors who have been paid decline to refund.

**PROMENADE CONCERT.**—On Tuesday afternoon next a Promenade Concert will be given at Government House, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and family, Admiral and Mrs Denman, and the officers of H. M. ships. The band of the flagship *Sutley* and the band of the Volunteer Rifle Corps, with others, will appear. Tickets have been placed at the low figure of \$1; and the proceeds will be devoted to the benefit of the band of the Rifle Corps, a most worthy object. We hope that every encouragement will be extended by citizens generally.

**VICTORIA LODGE GOOD TEMPLARS.**—On Wednesday evening a lodge of Good Templars was organized in this city by the Rev Mr McDougal, and the following officers were elected:—Geo Robinson, W C T; David Spencer, W S and S D; Thomas Martin, R H G; Wm Morrison, P W T C; C A Fenton, I G; George Marsh, W F S; Wm R Moore, O G; Noah Shakespeare, W M; Robt Williams, W T; Eliza Shakespeare, W V T; V E Robinson, L H S; Arthur Browning, W C. The Lodge numbers twenty members.

**THE UNION DESPATCH.**—We understand that a despatch has been received from the Colonial Office acknowledging receipt of the House Resolutions of 16th June, forwarded by telegraph, also of the Governor's telegram following the same, intimating that the memorial had been forwarded accompanied by the Secretary of State until the arrival of the memorial with the Governor's remarks, so that the \$187 expended on the telegram was so much money thrown away.

**THE ACTIVE** reached San Francisco on Wednesday noon—3½ days from Victoria.

**ASSAULT.**—Samuel Barlow charged Wilson Baranski yesterday in the Police Court, with assaulting him. Mr Copland appeared for the complainant and Mr Bishop for the accused. It appeared from the evidence that the accused became enraged about a debt due to him by the complainant, and also in respect of a coat which he had lost, and taking the law into his own hands assaulted Barlow. He was fined \$10 or 14 days imprisonment.

**IN GOOD ORDER.**—The Royal Tar's cargo is turning out in admirable order. None of the packages are in the least stained, and there will not be one dollar of reclamation. The Royal Tar takes her name from our Sailor Prince—Alfred. She is a new vessel equal in every respect to the Eastern Chie or Evelyn Wood.

**A GOOD EXAMPLE.**—We are told that Mr Norris has forbidden the sale henceforth of poisonous drugs in his store excepting under the direction of a duly qualified physician or druggist. It will be well if this custom is observed in every case.

**CAPT. STAMP.**—This gentleman, who represented Esquimalt District in the last Legislative Assembly, has received a numerous requisition from the very best men in the Lillooet (B. C.) District, to allow himself to be put in nomination for the Council of that Colony. The Lillooeters have shown their wisdom. They could not find a better representative than the Captain.

**ROWING MATCH.**—A rowing match for \$50 aside has been arranged for next Saturday four weeks between J. Eden and J. Harman. The contestants will row from the Gorge to James Bay Bridge, in the two small boats belonging to Lachapelle.

**YALE ELECTION.**—The election of a member to serve in the B. C. Council took place yesterday and resulted, no doubt, in the return of Mr Wallace—there being no other candidate.

A Martyr to Science.

[From the London Telegraph.]

Many a veteran may sometimes lose heart, many a young recruit of science may faint and fall upon the way; and though on such a march no protracted halt can be permitted, yet surely we may sometimes pause for a while if only to bury our dead and to borrow from the contemplation of their lives a source of strength and comfort for the morrow. No death has lately been recorded which from one point of view is deeply pathetic, more solemnly deplorable from another more noble or heroic—than that of Mr Joseph Toynebee. A gentleman of high accomplishments and of distinguished skill, he has suddenly been called from the scene of his labours to receive their rich reward. The story of his end is short and simple, and it gives us a picture, slight but touching and suggestive, of the life that is led in London by many a workingman of science. On Saturday, after a busy morning, Mr Toynebee took his lunch, and went to his sofa for that brief mid-day sleep which many men who labour much with their brains find necessary. A patient, however, called, and he was roused; another followed; and then, telling his servant not to disturb him again, the philosopher devoted himself to a task in which he felt a peculiar interest. He had long been making experiments, especially on the ear; and now, shutting out ordinary patients and their guineas, he proceeded with his researches. The hours went by, until at length his servant became uneasy, and re-entered the room. The man, finding his master lying on the couch, with a piece of cotton wool over his nose and mouth, fancied at first that he was asleep. There was a strange look, however, about the face as he bent over it; and of a sudden its meaning flashed across him. Doctors were called; they tried artificial respiration and other means of restoring life; but their efforts were in vain. Toynebee was dead; and no soldier ever fell upon the field of battle of whom it could be said more emphatically that he died in action and faithful of his duty. There were papers beside him, on a pile of chairs; and his watch was also placed on one of them. The first slip was a memorandum of experiment: "The effect of inhalation of the vapour of chloroform on singing in the ears, so as to be forced to the tympanum, either by being taken in by the breath through a towel or a sponge, producing a beneficial sensation of warmth. The second paper related to an experiment on 'The effect of chloroform combined with hydrocyanic acid.'"

The effect of that experiment on Mr Toynebee himself was death; and it will be easy enough for bigots to point a moral by what they may not scruple to call his presumption or temerity. It is to be feared also, that his untimely end may have a tendency to strengthen that ignorant dread of new scientific agencies which is still so common even amongst persons who ought to rise above it. To us, sorrowfully as we may contemplate the story, it has yet no terrors. It reminds us, indeed, of the necessity for extreme caution in all experiments that may affect the life of man; but it has nothing that should dishearten or dismay. Nor will we speak of Toynebee's career as wasted because it has been interrupted so abruptly. It was rich in services to science and humanity; its record is bright and pure. A gallant soldier is missing from our ranks; but we are the richer by a noble memory. And to us, at least, there is a profound consolation in the thought that he who was laboring to avert pain from others passed painless himself from our confused and troubled sphere of existence into another, where, we doubt not, the soul will breathe a purer and serener air. We could wish that he had lived to see the full fruition of his work, but we refuse to despair of its accomplishment. The zealous search, the eager quest, will be resumed. Already we have, in chloroform, an agent which abolishes

pain, so to speak, by depressing the sense and functions of vitality beneath it; but we are sanguine enough to believe that agencies still more potent, still more beneficent, for a like purpose have yet to be revealed, and it is no secret that of late local anesthesia has been produced to such a degree that the patient, retaining his consciousness, can watch the surgeon's knife as it cuts to cure, and yet be without the slightest sensation of physical suffering. We stand, let us still continue to believe, upon the very brink of a great discovery that will do more to relieve the bodily anguish of humanity than anything of which the older surgeons ever dreamed. No one will grudge the chorus of acclamation that will salute the destined discoverer, but surely we err not when we prophesy that, even amidst the triumph of success achieved, there will be a warm recollection of him who gave his own life in the brave effort to attain it. Let the Victor of Science have his glory; but let us not forget that ere the victor could conquer the martyr had to die. The laurel wreath will be all the nobler when we twine within it some leaves of the memorial palm.

**FATAL ACCIDENT TO THREE ENGLISH LADIES IN SWITZERLAND.**—The following particulars have been published of a fatal accident to three English ladies in Switzerland.—The last tourist season in Switzerland closed with a heavy list of ill-fated but intrepid travellers. This season opens no less ominously. The daring mountaineers last year were the sufferers; this year the first victims have been ladies. Already three ladies have lost their lives in Switzerland, on the road between Ragatz and the baths of Pfeifers. This road is about two miles in length and follows the course of the Tamina river through one of the grandest and most remarkable gorges in Switzerland. It rises from fifteen to thirty-five feet above the bed of the river, which it often overhangs, and is in most places unprotected by wall or barrier. The Tamina is a wildly rushing, turbulent river, varying from three to five feet in depth. On the 3d of July, three ladies, unaccompanied by a gentleman, arrived at Ragatz by train about two p.m. They were: Mrs. Dellys, wife of Professor Dellys, of Heidelberg University; Miss Hollywood, of Bath Lodge, Ballycastle, Ireland, and her niece, Miss Walker, of the same place. They went at once to the Hotel Ragatz, where they dined, and then ordered a carriage to take them to the baths of Pfeifers. This was a one-horse vehicle, provided by the proprietor of the hotel and driven by a man called Mogg, who is said to have had several years experience as a driver on this road. They reached the baths in safety, were shown all the curiosities of the place, and started on the return journey a little before six o'clock. They had got about a quarter of a mile on their way back when their pleasure trip came to its fatal termination. They were going at a trot down an incline where the road is quite unprotected on the river side, when the horse (although an old one), seeming to have taken fright unaccountably at something, made a sudden turn toward the precipice. The driver half leaped and was half thrown from the box on the road, and when he recovered himself he was horrified to find that the horse, carriage and its occupants had been precipitated into the Tamina, a fall of thirty feet. The river was swollen at the time to the depth of four or five feet, and flowed so rapidly that at this spot the strongest man could scarcely keep his legs; so the unfortunate ladies were carried off in its resistless current and were never afterwards seen alive. There were few witnesses of the melancholy occurrence. A carriage, in which sat one English lady, followed at a distance of about fifty yards. The coachman of this seems (like the driver of the unfortunate ladies) to have been so overcome by terror as to be unable to render any assistance. Indeed, he says he did not see the ladies after the fall, but only heard their cries. He drove forward to Ragatz for help, which came, but too late. Miss Hollywood's body was first recovered, three-quarters of an hour after the accident, three hundred yards below the spot, but life was extinct. Mrs Dellys was found two days later lower down, but Miss Walker's corpse still remains unfound, though every effort has been used and a large reward offered for its recovery. Mrs Dellys and Miss Hollywood were buried side by side in Ragatz on the 7th of July.

The Mail Service.

**EDITORS COLONIST & CHRONICLE.**—With reference to the notice in your paper of yesterday morning, mentioning that in consequence of the non-fulfilment of the service by the Active on her last trip, the Government were about to annul the mail contract, I would beg to inform you, that as neither the Government nor the naval authorities are aware of any mail matter having been left behind at San Francisco by the Active, your informant is in error when he makes such an assertion.

The mails on the way by H. M. S. Sparrowhawk are doubtless those of the 2d August via the West Indies, and of the 4th via New York, the former are known to have arrived at San Francisco on the 12th inst., four days after the sailing of the Active.

CHARLES W. WALLACE,  
Agent for mail steamer Active.

The whole population of the Colony of Liberia, Africa, is estimated at 74,000, of whom 14,000 are said to be civilized. There were 1220 votes polled at the last election. The exports last year amounted to \$500,000; the imports to \$420,000. The principal articles of export are sugar, copper and palm oil.

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXTRAORDINARY.**—A man named Jones and his little son were killed at Piqua, Ohio, by a stroke of lightning. Perfect photographs of the trees under which they were standing at the time were imprinted on their bodies.

Why is a drunkard hesitating to sign the pledge like a skeptical Hindu? Because he doubts whether to give up the jug—or not.

Mrs John Bigler, of Beaver, Ohio, wears a widow's weeds at the age of twelve. Her baby has seen half a summer.

The roof of the Michigan Central Railroad station in Detroit will cover 30,000 square feet, or over seven acres.

Canadian Politics.

Canada is in a state of po ment just now over two ver tant measures: the Confede the North American Provi the imposition of a "s Tariff on imported goods a internal tax on whiskey m within the Provincial bor Government, which is stror federate in its political com awaiting with anxiety the the Confederation scheme Provinces, and its adoptio Imperial Parliament, bef the compact that will unlonial patches of the Brit from the Atlantic Ocean River, and eventually, we tend its provisions from oca so as to embrace the Pacifi The agitation of the Tariff of this juncture is regarded a bad taste by the Anti-Adm party—of which Mr Georg the acknowledged leader. ernment—which is led by the Finance Minister—is rated for the step it has tak troy that almost perfect f trade with which the Cana favored during the days of procity Treaty, and for uns commerce of the country when a great and sweepi change is on the tapis. Th which has followed the ir of these measures has affor tious cabal an opportuni moot the project of annexi vinces to the United Stat proposition meets with asl there as here, and after an existence the authors wil that oblivion from which n ever have been allowed. In dealing with a propos the Confederationists sho all the measures of the Co Ministry, the Toronto Glob is the duty of the Reform continue their opposition t is bad in the policy of the G The anxiety to keep the p istry in power till Confed realized must not lead R sanction their extravagant tionable schemes. It was sary at any stage of the Co contest to do evil that g come, and there is not the for such a policy at this proceedings. Reformers a the measures of the Govern their merits, and treat ingly. It is too much to form members should sup sures which not a single R stitueny in the country tity." This is sound reas advice honestly given. V lieved in bowing down i dience to the behests of When a party is honest a should be supported; but comes corrupt, it should overboard and abandoned thinking men. The Admi all powerful in Parliame measures are carried witho and by large majorities. whatever may be the resul federation, we regard the the Tariff Bill as a forgone

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Saturday, Sept

**THE ACCIDENT TO THE "BELMONT."**—The ship Belmont was towed into E about yesterday by I. M. S. found that her jib-boom, bows water, were carried away by The hull is uninjured. Capt the vessels were in mid-chann windward at the time they coll when he first saw the stranger apparently a bark,) he was only distant. The shock was very stranger hailed the Belmont and promptly; but the vessels lost other almost immediately owing fog. An absurd story, to the Belmont struck on the headl trance of Beechy Bay instead with another vessel, was circula What became of the stranger, but it is hoped that she got harbour, as nothing in the sh was observed by the Scout.