

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, August 20, 1867.

The Alabama Claims.

We have always been of opinion that England was morally if not legally responsible for the damage done by that sea-monster, the Alabama. The ship was built from the subscriptions of two hundred and ninety leading merchants of Liverpool. No secret was made of the fact that she was intended to prey upon the commerce of the United States. The progress of the work of constructing her was daily chronicled in the papers; her launch was attended with eclat, and she was christened the "290," in compliment to the number of subscribers to the fund from which she was built. Repeated remonstrances were made by the American Consul at Liverpool and subsequently by the American Minister to the Court of St. James. The remonstrances were laid before the Palmerston Ministry and referred to the Attorney General for his opinion; but that officer, unfortunately, was taken ill on the very day the complaint reached him, and did not recover from the attack until after the "290" had got clear off to sea, where she received her armament and was rechristened the "Alabama." The duty of the law officers of the Crown was to have seized the ship until the Attorney General had recovered his health; but no steps towards her seizure were taken, and after she had made her escape she could not be brought back. That Government possessed the power necessary to arrest and hold the Alabama is shown by its subsequent action with regard to Laird's rams, which were seized in the Mersey and sold, either by the Crown or by Laird, to the Turkish Government, and are doing service to-day off the Isle of Crete. The damage wrought by the Alabama to American shipping is estimated at \$32,000,000; and had not a lucky broadside from an American cruiser sent her to the bottom, it is probable she would have inflicted still greater injury to the commerce of a friendly power. The Palmerston Ministry sympathized with the Confederate States in their struggle for liberty; but they did not manifest their sympathy in the manly, straightforward manner that the Derby Ministry would have done. They would not see the infractions of the law until it was too late to prevent them. Then they opened their eyes, and set about locking the door of the stable after the steed had been ridden off. For its willful shortsightedness the British Government has got to pay, and the illness of the Attorney General has cost the nation \$32,000,000! The whole matter has been laid before Parliament for its decision, and we believe the balance remaining after deducting a few million dollars of loss inflicted by Fenians on Canadians, will be paid. Policy (to say nothing of the dictates of common justice) demands that a precedent which may come to us with startling earnestness ere long should not be established when it is within the power of the Imperial Government to prevent it.

"Can such Things be?"

The telegraph brings us an account of the "famous victory" obtained by the representative of Her Majesty over the band of men who had taken forcible possession of the Grouse Creek Flume Company's ground. It seems His Excellency requested an interview with one of the principal men of the Canadian Company. The request was granted, and the Governor informed him that he would "grant a new trial" if the eight men who had been guilty of a contempt of Court would first surrender themselves. With the tempting bait of a re-hearing (which meant, also, a full amnesty for past acts) dangling before their eyes, the gallant eight surrendered. They were taken before the Gold Commissioner, who sentenced each to three months' imprisonment, and then granted them an appeal to the Supreme Court. After sentence, they were ordered to prison. One only consented to go. The remaining seven refused, point-blank. No effort was made by either the Commissioner or the Governor to enforce the sentence; but at last the refractory seven were induced to enter the cells, with the understanding that their cases would be submitted to His Excellency for the exercise of his clemency. In reality, they were coaxed into jail; and then the Governor was "graciously pleased," upon the petition of the inhabitants of Richfield, to remit the term of the sentence to two days' confinement. The claim has been placed in the hands of the Government officers, pending the result of the new trial. But what has become of the gold already taken out is not stated. Governor Seymour's visit has resulted in a miserable mockery of justice. In the first place, he lowered his position when he com-

promised with lawbreakers. Secondly, he granted a new trial when he had no more power to do so than the Tycoon of Japan. Thirdly, the Gold Commissioner could not legally grant an appeal in a case of contempt, the only mode by which the men could come before the higher Court being on a writ of habeas corpus; and in the fourth place, his Excellency in remitting the sentences (before the abstracted treasure had been given up) when he must have been well aware the culprits had been coaxed into prison, has afforded an evidence of imbecility of which we hardly thought even him capable. No wonder he made such hot haste to leave the diggings behind him. He is doubtless as heartily ashamed of the share he has had in this, to say the least, undignified and illegal transaction, as the country is ashamed of him and his acts.

Thursday, August 15th.

PRESENTATION.—A meeting of the congregation of St. Paul's, Esquimaux, took place in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening last (Mr. Spark, Churchwarden, in the chair) for the purpose of presenting the Rev. A. C. Garrett, Rector, with a purse of \$223, subscribed by his parishioners as a substantial mark of their esteem and respect. The chairman made a few remarks expressive of the regard entertained by all the members of Mr. Garrett's flock for their pastor. The reverend gentleman returned thanks in an eloquent and feeling address, in the course of which he said that while generally friends rallied around one in the time of prosperity, in his case they had been "friends in need," and by their generosity had relieved him of the anxiety consequent upon the heavy expenses incurred during his late severe illness. The reverend gentleman was much moved, and his remarks were frequently applauded. Mr. Williams, Churchwarden, stated that in every instance the subscription to the purse had been made freely and with great cordiality. We observe with satisfaction this evidence of the high appreciation in which Mr. Garrett's labors are held by those who are directly interested in his ministrations; and hope that he will soon be fully restored to health and enabled to once more occupy the sphere of usefulness he has so long and ably filled.

A MYSTERY.—The body of the colored man found in the quarry-cabin on Salt Spring Island, a few days ago, bears marks of violence. He was apparently shot to death by some unknown person. The body was found concealed under the flooring, with about six inches of earth shovelled upon it. A person visiting the cabin detected a strong stench, and upon raising a board in the floor saw the body. An inquest will be held by Mr. Morley, J.P. The man's name is unknown; but he is believed to have been engaged with another colored man in stealing logs lately, and is thought to have been surprised while carrying the carcasses of and shot dead by the owner. Some days before the discovery of the body an attempt was made to burn the cabin by the Indians say an unknown white man, who was accompanied by a Black dog. The flames were discovered in time to prevent the total destruction of the cabin. Perhaps the incendiary was the murderer who sought by firing the building to effectually hide his crime.

THE ACCIDENT AT COMOX.—By an arrival yesterday we learn the names of the two men who were drowned off Point Lazo, Comox, on the 1st inst., by the swamping of a canoe in which they were proceeding to Cape Mudge. They were William Tod and Sydney Reynolds. The former has a brother who resides in town, and the latter formerly delivered the Colonist in the suburbs of the city, and was quite a young man. Everything in the canoe, except some flour, which was washed ashore, was lost. The accident occurred through the canoe being swamped in the surf. The body of Tod was found and buried in the cemetery. Mr. Christopher Morley, who was in the canoe at the time and was the only one saved, arrived in town yesterday, and says the documents connected with the inquest will arrive to-day.

THE CONGO MINSTRELS.—This troupe gave an excellent performance last evening. We cannot call to mind when we have laughed so heartily as at the drollettes of Graham, the "Bones" of the troupe. O'Neill's "Quintessence of Old Virginia" was capital, and the "Stump Speech" of Graham drew down the house. Mr. Sprague, who is the best dancer we have seen here, danced a Highland Fling and a Sailor's Hornpipe in a faultless manner. Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Black, Mr. Smith and Miss Jenny were all well received. We hope the troupe will play again.

OPENING OF NEW SING VERBIN HALL.—On Wednesday evening last, the Germania Sing Verein will open their new hall with a grand soiree. A fine band has been engaged for the occasion, and the price of tickets (including supper) has been fixed at \$3. The Germanians are noted for the success that has always attended their parties and soirees, and a glance at the names of the Committee convinces us that the forthcoming affair will be no exception to the rule.

FINED.—George Booth was yesterday brought before Mr. Pemberton and fined \$30, with the alternative of six months' imprisonment. The fine was paid. No proceedings were taken on the charge of contempt of court, the prisoner having been confined for that offence 24 hours in jail.

THE CROPS.—We learn that the crops at Cowichan, Comox and Salt Spring Island promise an abundant yield. The grain looks splendid, and the vegetable crop will be heavier than ever before.

ANOTHER CHANGE.—We learn that the California, Oregon and Mexican Steamship Company have ordered, by telegraph, their boats to discharge at Brodick's wharf for the future.

THE ALEXANDRA.—This steamer was delayed last night at San Juan Island, where she took on board 100 head of live stock.

BARON.—In noticing the parties summoned to appear before the Mayor the name of L. Lowenberg appeared instead of that of A. De Cosmos.

DRILL.—The Hook and Ladder Company went out for drill last evening, and displayed considerable agility by the manner in which they scaled the St. Nicholas.

FREEMEN'S ELECTION.—Two or three candidates are likely to come forward for the position of Chief Engineer, and the contest may prove very interesting.

THE Bianchi Opera Troupe, now at Portland, are expected to arrive here in a few days.

NORTHERN IMMIGRANTS.—A large number of canoes, filled with Queen Charlotte Island Indians, en route to Victoria, arrived at Nanaimo on Tuesday.

Admission of British Columbia into the Confederation of Canada.

LETTER II.

MESSENGERS.—In my last communication addressed to you upon this subject, I expressed my letter with the observation that the attraction and feeling in favor of our incorporation into the Confederate Government of Canada, proceeded rather from the demerits of our present Government than from any inherent advantages of Confederation. From the disposition to acquiesce in the remark that any change from our present position would be for the better—that we could not be worse governed—that Confederacy may be an improvement, and that at any rate it would be well to try the experiment. There cannot be a question but that this loose style of reasoning amongst a community full of doubts and uncertainties as to their stay amongst us, has by many been considered sufficiently near the mark to warrant decision upon this matter; and that from such an imperfect, thoughtless and illogical way of thinking is largely built up the feeling in favor of Confederation. I feel that in noticing the existence of this kind of feeling in favor of Confederation known is done, and that I need not humiliate myself by stopping to deal with such fallacious and flimsy argumentation. If it is desirable for us to be a part of the Canadian Confederacy, the advantages must be based upon its own merits, that for us must be the test of its excellence; the worthlessness of our own arrangements being in the meantime put altogether out of consideration. If Confederation is not good in itself no bad government of Canada is much. At this stage of my observations I take the opportunity of observing that had we been satisfactorily governed, this proposed alliance with the remote Government of Canada would never have been dreamt of. That the expression of feeling in favor of it arises from the Canadian element being active, and from other portions of the community being passive and not taking the trouble to offer opposition. One of the chief temptations to the Canadian element to accept of Confederation is the boon of cheap or cheaper government; that we are to get a first-rate business man from Canada, one who knows how to govern a new country, at about a quarter of the salary paid for our present Governor. That our present amount of indebtedness is to be taken over by the Confederate Government, and that notwithstanding our large obligations and their supposed small indebtedness a general average would be made, and that we of British Columbia should be governed at the same cheap rate per head as the Canadian community. Our attention is glowingly directed to what a fine thing it would be for us to discover that with Confederation our Fourteen Hundred Thousand amount of indebtedness was swept away and the repayment of it by absorption with Canada so spread over that we should never feel it. These are some of the tempting inducements offered forward in favor of Confederacy and as inducements for us to join it. Though upon what grounds those who thus address us, and how far they are justified in doing so, we are kept in the dark. I think it just possible that the only foundation for these impressions is that the "wish is father to the thought." For my part I am illiterate enough to indulge in wholesale scepticism upon the whole of the averments. What I find fault with in regard to this Confederate business is that there has been a prima facie feeling in favor of Union—a disposition to entertain a most favorable opinion of the terms of admission and the advantages that would flow from it without any reality to warrant it. That we have jumped at conclusions—that our conduct in regard to this matter has been puerile and unworthy of us—and that we have laid ourselves out as a bait for ridicule to anyone so disposed to take advantage of our weakness there should for one moment be entertained the opinion that we could make so good a bargain, financially, in entering into partnership with our Canadian brethren, I am at a loss to conceive. Why they should receive us upon equal terms of partnership when our indebtedness per head is so much greater, and then afterwards sit at the same easy rate of taxation as their own people, is beyond my comprehension. I should be very distrustful there was something coming afterwards that would well recompense them for such a parent liberality. I think the Canadianas, with their well known shrewdness, would be the last people on earth that would make such a one-sided bargain. The next thing figuring on the Confederation programme is the great financial advantage resulting from the difference of salary paid to a Confederate Governor in contrast to the salary now paid. But then if we save in the one way we lose in the other, for Confederation would saddle us with the cost of maintaining our representatives in the Federal Parliament, and with it the charge of mileage for travelling expenses for these gentlemen; and, of all things in connection with this Confederate proposition I know of nothing more repugnant to my feelings than this feature of the Confederacy. I should always feel that the \$12,000 or \$15,000 cost in the payment of these representatives was paid for the purpose of providing easy, comfortable berths for scheming politicians, and would be much better spent in local improvements. In fine, I dispose of all the supposed benefits resulting from Confederacy in the establishment of cheap government, and the facility of paying off our present obligations as entirely

within our power, and our present relations with Great Britain, if there was only manifested a disposition to put our shoulders to the wheel and be determined to accomplish it. If we are going to wake up and go in for such a radical change as Confederation implies, let us be well assured that all the advantages arising from cheap and efficient Government can be quite as well secured to us from the old country, if we are in earnest, and will take the trouble to enquire in clear and explicit terms the arrangements we desire, and that we need not trouble our Canadian friends upon the matter. But there are other advantages which Confederation would confer upon us, which I am bound to take notice of. In the event of our alliance with Canada the Red River settlement is to become portion of the new Dominion of Canada, and communication by rail or wagon road is to bring us of British Columbia in comparatively close proximity to our new Government, and the imagination is filled with raptures of admiration at the wonderful benefits that will be showered down in consequence. Where the money is to come from to accomplish all these wonderful things, nothing is said. One would imagine that a population of four millions, with indebtedness approximating to one hundred millions of dollars, would in the meantime have ample enough to engage their attention without any allusion to the great benefits that would accrue to us at this end of the Confederacy, when these gigantic schemes were consummated. If these great undertakings were begun to-morrow, what benefit would it be to this distant part from the scene of action. All the money circulated in the colonization of the Red River settlement and the opening up of communication, with us of British Columbia, would be spent amongst our new Confederate connections. The only part reserved for us in the transaction would be the proud gratification of contributing, through the medium of Federal taxation, towards the expenses incurred. The people of Canada, in the meantime, are in no position to ask us to be one of them, and we are in no position to accept it, the proposition is altogether premature. Many years must pass away, and much must be accomplished before we can profitably entertain the project of Union in Government with Canada. The house, so to speak, is not ready for our reception. Nay, even the road to it in the meantime is inaccessible. If the vision of a magnificent and glorious future would be enough for us, this Confederate project would amply satisfy and meet our requirements; but, unfortunately, men are too practical to be satisfied with anything so ethereal. To give consent now for Confederation, and to be extatic over the forthcoming glories of it, to hear the busy tramp of marching from Canada westward, filling up the tremendous chasm between them and us with towns and villages, and cultivation, and a teeming population, with a great trunk railroad, diffusing all the benefits of cultivation, and we of British Columbia sharing in the advantages of it, is what I should denominate as a "Fool's Paradise." Until better informed, I am distinctly opposed to our forming part of the new Dominion of Canada. This Confederate dish has been often served up to the public in an inviting manner, and nicely garnished; but notwithstanding this, I have no appetite or relish for it, but put it away from me as being "neither fish, nor flesh, nor very good red herring."

PUBLICOLA.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 5.—From Saturday night at 10 o'clock, to the same hour last night, 31 sailing vessels of different classes came into the harbor. Marine reporters say it exceeds any previous list of arrivals within a like period of time since San Francisco was constituted an American port of entry.

The steamer Contra Costa on her return trip yesterday evening, while near Point Isabel, saw a schooner jibe suddenly as if her helm had been left without a steersman, and immediately something like a man's head was seen in the water near her. The captain of the steamer made for the schooner and found her to be the Jayhawk and to be deserted. The object in the water proved to be the only man belonging to her, who had either fallen overboard or been accidentally struck by the boom. He was picked up and taken on board the steamer, but died of exhaustion before he reached the town.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 6.—The nomination for Governor to fill the place made vacant by the declination of Gen. Bidwell on the Republican State ticket, has been tendered to Caleb T. Fay, and by him accepted.

Yesterday afternoon a suit was commenced in the District Court, by the county of Santa Clara against Peter Donohue, C. B. Polhemus and H. E. Newhall, to recover the sum of \$231,746. Plaintiff alleges that it was permitted by an Act of the Legislature to subscribe for 2,000 shares stock in the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad Company; that it sold a portion of the stock to Defendants, who agreed to redeem \$200,000 of its bonds and pay the interest thereon, the county retaining a lien upon it for security, and that the defendants have wholly failed to fulfill the contract. Plaintiff therefore claims judgment of foreclosure of the lien for the sale of the stock and whatever balance of the debt the stock may not pay.

The steamer Resaca is infected with yellow fever and has been anchored near Saucelito. No communication with the shore is permitted.

Private telegrams quote gold in New York this morning at 140 1/2, lending at 109 1/2 and 109 1/2.

Legal tenders are in moderate demand at 72 buying, 72 1/2 selling. The packet mail steamship Great Republic arrived here this morning in a pas-

sage of 75 days from New York via Panama. This vessel is new, one of the finest of her class. She will sail for Yokohama and Hong Kong on the 30 of September. Her consort, the China, sailed from New York for this port on July 29th.

VIRGINIA CITY, Aug 5.—The miners of the Savage and Chollar Potosi mines, have struck for \$4 per day. The superintendents of both mines have agreed to pay \$4 a day to most of them and discharged the rest. There is no danger of any trouble.

A telegram on the bulletin board of the Merchant's Exchange, states there were 68 cases of yellow fever and 18 deaths on board the U. S. steamer Resaca on the way up from Panama. The officers were all well. The memoranda of the Resaca states that there were 68 cases of Panama fever and 17 deaths on the vessel on the voyage to this port. Shortly after the Resaca came to anchor the surgeon came ashore and reported the condition of the vessel to the port physician. There are 16 cases of genuine yellow fever now on board.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer Montana, Capt. Sutton, passed the Monterey lighthouse about 4:15 this afternoon. A dense fog was then settling. At 9 o'clock commenced sounding and blew the steam whistle from that time every five minutes, and continued to take soundings and blow the steam whistle during the night, going about six or seven knots. At three o'clock this morning the Captain judged that he was between the Farrallones and the bar. The sounding and courses agreeing, the Captain then changed the ship's course and made direct, as he supposed, for the bar. The sounding gave 22 fathoms at 3:10, and the course was continued N.N.E., supposing himself to be about 14 miles from land. At 3:40, without any intimation of danger, the vessel struck. The fog at this time was so dense that the officers could not see the ship's length. All the officers were on deck, and most of them forward on the lookout. The vessel was going about six knots when she struck, and there was no violent shock. The engines were immediately reversed and ported at full speed, but without effect, as her nose was about two feet higher than it should have been, the tide gradually fell away, leaving her lying easily; water borne aft, though fast forward. Capt. Sutton immediately gave orders to clear the boats, ready for lowering. The crew behaved with the utmost coolness, and the passengers and troops showed no unnecessary alarm, and offered their assistance. The pumps were immediately tried, and it was found that the ship was making no water. Repeated trials were made until she arrived at the wharf, and always with the same result. At 5 o'clock the weather cleared a little, sufficient to allow the captain to discover his position, and he immediately sent away the gig, in charge of the 2nd officer, accompanied by the baggage-master and a boat's crew of four men, to San Francisco for assistance. He also got out a heavy stream anchor astern, with a ten inch hawser, to keep the ship from swinging broadside on the reef and to assist in drawing off the vessel as the tide rose. Shortly after five the captain discovered the schooner Golden Rule, and sent a boat to her to request the captain to anchor close to the ship, and to carry out anchor and orders necessary. About 8 o'clock, the tide having risen, the captain took a heavy strain on the hawser, sent all the passengers and troops aft, and put on full steam. The ship got off gradually, the operation taking about 20 minutes. She was afloat at 8:15 a.m. carrying away the hawser at the moment she cleared the rock. She arrived at the wharf at 11 o'clock.

Canada.

MONTREAL, July 30.—A serious riot occurred on the Grand Trunk Railroad at Hyacinth yesterday. A gang of rowdies assaulted the party, and the military were called out and fired upon the rowdies, killing one and injuring several.

MONTREAL, July 31.—The volunteers, for firing into the crowd at St. Hyacinth, are severely censured by the papers. The officers completely lost their presence of mind.

Central and South America.

Several severe shocks of earthquake had occurred at Salvador. Chile is excited over a rumor that the Spanish fleet is again in the Pacific. The declaration of the Minister that the Government would merely act on the defence, caused great dissatisfaction. Additional arrangements are preparing at Callao for their reception. 27 vessels, with 2,200 tons guano from Chichua Islands, had arrived in June. The 4th of July was celebrated at Callao. The Government has conceded to the United States permission to keep on shore deposits for the United States fleet. The Peruvian Constitution will be promulgated July 28th the anniversary of Peruvian independence.

LITTLE "MAMA" was discussing the great hereafter with her mamma, when the following discussion ensued:

Mama—"Mama, will you go to heaven when you die?"
Mamma—"Yes, I hope so, child."
Mama—"Well, mamma, I hope I'll go too, or you'll be lonesome."
Mamma—"I hope your papa will go too."
Mama—"Oh no, papa can't go; he can't leave the store."

We regret to announce the death of Quow Daddy, King of Aquapim, West Africa. He was a man and a brother, and lunched off cold missionary, when his season, with great regularity.

By Electric T

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BR

YALE, August 12th—stage, with treasure, arrived evening. There are 000 in town for the Victo

Europe.

[BY CABLE.]

LONDON, August 6th—ations which have been g between the English and A ernments in relation to t claims have terminated nounced determination of ley, Minister of Foreign submit the whole matter t at this session. It is Derby Government wot averse to the plan whi hinted at of settling throa a cession of British Am tory, if outstanding claim subjects against the Unit not prove sufficient. Th freely commented on by t the desire generally expre settlement should be im possible in view of the im European war.

LONDON, August 6—Th was last night passed by Lords with important a raising the suffrage qualif providing for a system representation. It is belie House of Commons will reur in these amendments, peers will be compelled bill substantially as it w to them.

BERLIN, August 7—The man Parliament will me August. The King's spee for with great anxiety, a pected to vindicate the po sition in her new compli France.

LONDON, August 6—A ceived at the Foreign Offi Merriweather, British Agent at Aden, states that had reached him that Maj British Consul at Moscow British subjects who havr imprisoned for some years by dore of Abyssinia, have released by him, a formida having rendered him fearf oned invasion by a British

LONDON, August 7—A Berlin state that the ut is being manifested in for war, which are being ward. The French Cha which had been rejected sian Government, is being board of experienced Prus and it is believed that it v duced to some extent in t.

LONDON, August 6—T ment has announced that new postal arrangement United States bids for a trans-Atlantic mails will from parties of any nation the same price the prefer given to British ships.

BERLIN, August 7—A co Liberals from States of the man Confederation has be Stuttgart, union strongly necessity of union with oo of the union of the North.

LONDON, August 9—Aft ing debate in the House of last evening, in which speakers on both sides to the amendments proposo form bill by the House of r rejected, with the excepti providing for the repres minorities, which is in su plan proposed by Mr Mill.

The City of Hamburg to sign the treaty of milit with Prussia.

PARIS, Aug. 7—The ne loan has been offered in th it is thought will succee amount of idle capital is v ment.

The French squadron, sent to the Island of Crete off nearly 1500 refugees of war are conflicting, a party seems to have made gress. The Cretians mar termination not to yield recently received importa Greece.

WASHINGTON, July 29th destitution in the South ceased.

CHARLESTON, August 2—has removed the police of Sumter for maltreatment and has appointed two one white policemen to them.

NASHVILLE, August 10—gation of Radicals are elec gress. The Radicals ma sweep of both branches of lature. Many negroes wer for voting the Radical tier all immediately given em the Quartermaster's depa