Semi Weekly British Colonist.

Saturday, November 20, 1869

Confederation in the Hands of Its Enemies.

'Three more guns! She must be *very* drunk,' writes Horace Walpole, who is interrupted at intervals by a wild she-neighbor's firing an old rusty blunderbuss out at her window, by way of scaring imaginary conspirators. People do not get drunk now; but when imaginary conspirators are about some people fire off wonderful guns. We have waded through the two columns of 'facts and figures' presented to the public through the medium of this journal by a certain local medical authority; and that is more, we venture to think, than can be truthfully affirmed by ten per cent. of our readers. 'There is nothing,' said Canning, 'so fallacious as figures except facts.' We were never so profoundly impressed with the force of the paradox as now. The looseness in dealing with figures and the bold misuse of facts displayed in the letters alluded to comprise the features for which the labored and flatulent production is chiefly remarkable. We will not commit the indiscretion of asking the reader to follow us through the labyrinthian maze of distorted facts and manipulated figures; but we will conduct by a shorter road to a more satisfactory conclusion. The original or charter provinces forming the Dominion of Canada are Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In what is called the 'Quebec Scheme,' the basis of union of these four provinces was agreed upon, and was subsequently embodied in the Act of Union. But it was never intended that the union of these four provinces should be the alpha and omega of Confederation. It was from the first designed to embrace the whole of British North America. There were other provinces and territories which, while they were not parties to the 'Quebec Scheme,' were designed ultimately to come into the union. It was necessary, therefore, that provision should be made in the Organic Act for the admission of these, and as it was clear that conditions fair and acceptable to any one of the four charter Provinces might neither be fair nor acceptable to those outlying ones, the contingency was fully provided for by Section 146 a section which, although frequently quoted, we venture to reproduce here, with the hope that it may be read to better purpose than appears to have been the case with some:

'It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, on Addresses from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, and from the Houses of the respective Legislatures of the Colonies or Provinces of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, to admit those Colonies or Provinces, or any of them into the Union, and on Address from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada to admit Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory or either of them, into the Union, on such Terms and Conditions in each case as are in the Addresses expressed, and as the Queen thinks fit to approve, subject to the Provisions of this Act; and the Provisions of any Order in Council in that Behalf shall have effect as if they had been enacted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.'

The above section provides for the admission of this colony; and it will be observed that, in entering the Dominion, British Columbia has no more to do with the conditions agreed upon between the charter provinces than with the man in the moon. There are certain constitutional principles which must, as a matter of necessity, apply to whatever territory may come into the Union; but in so far as the assumption of our debt, and the amounts to be granted in the various forms of subsidy and allowance are concerned, these are matters of mutual agreement, to which the people of this colony are now invited and urged to become a party, while yet the opportunity offers; and we cannot help thinking that the time and labor bestowed in building up two columns of 'facts and figures' upon false premises, would have been more usefully and patriotically employed in impressing the colonists with the importance of timely and united effort in securing the most favorable terms that can possibly be obtained. We frankly admit that the terms which were accepted by the charter provinces would be unfavorable, in fact wholly inapplicable to British Columbia. But no intelligent Confederationist ever dreamed of asking or accepting them. Everybody was, in fact, presumed to know that this colony had nothing to do with these terms; and the painfully labored effort of our esteemed correspondent to prove that they would not be beneficial to this colony is, therefore, utterly and lamentably in vain,—just so much time and 'midnight oil' wasted. The effort of the Doctor reminds us of Cuvier's comment on somebody's definition of a crab as a fish that walks backwards, that, 'with the exception that a crab is not a fish, and that it does not walk backwards, the description is admirable.' One more remark, and we have done with a subject which, after all, had probably better have been disposed of in half a dozen lines. The customs tariff of the Dominion forms one of those constitutional and essentially Federal measures which *must* in its application be co-estensive with the Dominion itself. It may, therefore, be as well to expose an attempt to create misapprehension, and consequent prejudice. The colonists are told that 'each person in British Columbia pays $12, per annum to the customs, but in the provinces only $3 50,' and they are invited to believe that this glaring inequality will be perpetuated under Confederation, whereas it is one of the strongest arguments in favor of the Canadian tariff that it will at once obliterate such inequalities, by relieving us of a heavy load of present taxation. We might go on *ad infinitum*, and expose the extraordinary use that has been made of facts and figures, in order to mislead unreflecting persons, but what has already been said must suffice. How much more patriotic and wise, we merely remark in conclusion, for all parties to unite in securing, under the provisions of the above quoted section of the Union Act, such terms as will be most conducive to the general wellbeing.

Wednesday Nov 17.

The Langford Lake Mystery.

The following evidence was adduced on Monday, and the prisoner Patrick Fowler, committed to await the action of the Grand Jury:

Arthur Peatt, sen., testified that Fowler told him that during the time Butch was away he heard the crack of a rifle. Heard Fowler's statement at the inquest, which differed from his statement to me.

A. H. Peatt swore that he heard Fowler say Butch went away with Baker, and that after they had been gone an hour he heard the report of a gun.

Henry Kibblewaite testified that about the first of October Fowler told him he never lost sight of Butch the day on which Baker passed along the road. Never saw Fowler with a gun or pistol.

Legh Harnett swore that Fowler told him that Baker went on alone and that Butch in a short time walked away in the direction Baker had gone and was away a considerable time. Fowler added that Butch had no gun and that he (Fowler) heard no shot fired. Fowler was under the influence of liquor when he made the statement. He is a kind, hospitable man.

R. J. McDonnell deposed that prisoner told him he was thankful Butch was with him cutting a tree when Baker passed along.

Wm Millington—Was told by Fowler that Butch went to the Plains (Langford's) with him and that he was not out of his sight at all. Have known Fowler as a good man.

Aaron White—Bought Fowler's house and farm three weeks after the inquest; he said he wanted to go to his wife and family on the other side. I have a good opinion of Fowler.

Mr. Theakston, Mr. Thos. A. Williamson and officer McMillan, were examined as to the inquest and the finding of the jury.

Mechanics' Literary Institute.—A very pleasant entertainment was arranged by the committee last evening. The attendance, considering the desperate state of the weather, was large and much satisfaction was manifested by the audience. Mr. Palmer presided at the piano and performed several operatic selections with correctness and taste, after which Mr. Brodie, R. N., was introduced by Mr Franklin, President of the Institute, and favored the audience with a reading from Ingoldsby's Legends — 'The Execution'—a serio-comic piece, which was vigorously applauded. Mrs Geo Beckingham sang in a sweet soprano the Crusader's Hymn, 'Partant pour la Syrie,' and was encored. The same lady subsequently gave a cavatina from 'La Favorita,' and in response to an enthusiastic and prolonged encore repeated the cavatina. Mr. Brodie then read a humorous selection which was so highly relished by the audience that they called the gentleman before the curtain and applauded him to the echo. Mr Brodie's manner is self-possessed and vivacious; just the style that would do justice to a humorous selection from Dickens. Two quartettes were sang by Mrs. Attwood and Messrs. Wilson, Jenkinson and Fox. Mrs. Attwood's voice is a soprano of exquisite sweetness, blending with the male voices, created a pleasing sensation. The quartettes were encored. Mr. Redfern sang a solo with excellent judgment, and was loudly encored. The entertainment, after a vote of thanks had been carried by acclamation, concluded with the National Anthem.

The reported barratry by the crew of the schooner Petaluma, in running away with the vessel from Esquimalt, is claimed to be incorrect. The captain was in town when word was brought up that the crew had weighed anchor, set all sail and were running out to sea. The captain procured a boat and started out to intercept the schooner, which he succeeded in doing. The sailors declared that they were bringing the vessel round to Victoria harbor; but as they had received no orders to move her, their course is suspicious, to say the least. The schooner, a little 20-tonner, altogether too small for sea-going purposes, is now at anchor near the Beaver.

Wesleyan Tea Meeting.—The Annual Tea Meeting of the Wesleyan Church will be held in St. Nicholas Hall to-morrow evening. Several speakers will address the meeting, and a choir composed of volunteers from the various churches in the city will be in attendance. Tea will be served at 7 o'clock; and to judge by previous "teas" arranged by the same Church Society, a very pleasant reunion may be anticipated.

Revenue and Expenditure.—In the Government *Gazette* is published an abstract statement of revenue and expenditure for the United Colony during last year. The estimated revenue was $576,000, the estimated expenditure $572,553. The actual revenue was $584 008, the actual expenditure $485,-729. The principal item, of course, is the Customs revenue which, however with the Port and Harbor dues, only makes $381,475, being $31,475 in excess of the estimates and $111,473 in excess of the previous year. Perhaps the least agreeable feature of these returns is to be found in the three items of miners' certificates, mining receipts, general, and licences, which fell below the estimates $4,470, $5,244 and $14,622 respectively, making a total deficit in these three items alone of nearly twenty-five thousand dollars. This fact unmistakably indicates a diminution in the mining population and of the interests dependent thereon. In view of these circumstances we are not surprised to find a falling of in the Postage receipts amounting to $2,247 and a considerable deficiency in Court receipts. The principal items of overdraft are: Governor $127,97, Colonial Secretary $660 12, Commissioner Lands and Works $164 55, Postoffice $1,295 80, Attorney General $499 82, High Sheriff $500. The principal underdrafts are: Crown officers and others, salaries, $5,254 46. Customs, salaries, $975 80. Police, salaries, $1,137 62. Gold Commissioners, salaries, $5,399 37. The practical financial result to the colony is that $86,823 82 less was expended during the year 1868 than the amounts provided by Acts for the service of the year. Looking at the matter in a general light, the returns just published cannot be said to be of an unsatisfactory character, and we are bound to admit that they indicate a carefulness and economy in handling the public revenue of the colony, creditable to those having the control.

City Council.—This body met last evening, His Worship the Mayor in the Chair, and Councillors McKay, Gerow, Russell Allsop, Carey and Walker, present. The rules of order were gone through, amended and adopted, and the revision of the Pound Ordinance deferred until 2 o'clock to-day, when the accounts will also be audited. The Council were still in session at 10 o'clock last night.

In San Francisco the keepers of the thieving saloons drug drunken men with a teaspoonful of snuff, dexterously dropped into a glass of beer. The nicotine renders the victim unconscious, and after stripping him the villians lay him down naked, as a moral lesson to passers by, in front of a rival establishment. The proprietors of a saloon called by the suggestive name of 'The Thunderbolt' are in custody on suspicion of causing the death by this means of an Italian who had wandered into their den in search of lightning.

The completion of the Pacific Railroad 'smashed' the markets formerly supplied by the Oregon woollen mills with their fabric. The dear labor of the coast cannot compete with the products of the cheaper labor of the East and the increased facilities for transportation. So the mills are all about to close until *Chinese labor* can be substituted for white. Of course, a Chinaman, having fewer wants and no family to support, can underbid in the labor market a white man.

The telegram announcing the destruction of Christ Church Cathedral was recieved in London on Sunday, 3d. Oct.—less 1 an two days after the occurrence. The Bishop has been very successful in obtaining material aid for the Church in this colony and has already remitted £1000 for disbursements.

Local Brevities.—A large oak tree has been blown across the road leading to Beacon Hill Park.... A hay wagon, while being drawn along Yates street, yesterday, was upset by the sou'easter.... No Chinese or Indian vote will be recorded at the district election, yet any other class of three months resident in the district may vote.... The Police Court was a dreary blank yesterday.

Hudson Bay Co. vs. L. Dodson.—This case occupied the County Court all day yesterday. A mass of evidence having been adduced, Mr Bishop, for the defendant, addressed the Court, followed by Mr Drake, for the plaintiffs. Judgment reserved till Thursday.

The New Admiral.—The Lords of the Admiralty have selected Captain Francis A. Hume to proceed as Flag Captain to Rear-Admiral Arthur Farquhar, who has been appointed Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the Pacific station.

Sooke Trail.—A gentleman who came over Sooke Trail on Monday pronounces it almost impassible for man and utterly so for beasts. Our item, it seems, was wrong.

Auction.—At 11 o'clock to-day Mr. Lumley Franklin will sell a large assortment of glassware, chairs, axes, wallpaper, cutlery, hardware, etc, all recently imported.

Put Back.—The Wilson G. Hunt and the steamer Fly, bound out, had to put back yesterday—the Sou' easter striking them square in the teeth.

About thirty Chinamen, having in their possession from $500 to $5000 in gold, sailed on the Active for the Flowery Kingdom.

Another Sou' easter yesterday and more wrecks, we fear.

European Summary.

Our European papers are to the 16th of October. At Rome preparations for the approaching Council are actively being carried on, and already numerous ecclesiastics have arrived. Valuable presents in money and goods have been sent to the Pope from various parts of the world to enable him to offer hospitality to the assembled prelates. The deaths of Earl St. Maur (only son of the Duke of Summerset,) Lord Cranstoun, Lord Dynevor, and Mr. R. W. Grey, one of the Commissioners of Customs, have been announced. Mr. J. P. Heywood, a banker of Manchester, and active supporter of the Liberal party in Lancashire, has declined Mr. Gladstone's offer of a peerage. Mr. Young, the Solicitor-General for Scotland, has been appointed Lord Advocate, in succession to Mr. Moncrieff, who has accepted the office of Lord Justice Clerk. The Parliamentary vacancy caused by Mr. Moncrieff's promotion to the Bench promises to give occasion for a contest, Mr. J. S. Mill being put forward by a portion of the constituency. The appointment of Dr. Temple as Bishop of Exeter has prevoked remonstances from many of the clergy of that diocese. A married man of the name of Hinson, a carpenter, who had deserted his wife, and has been living for five years with a woman of an education very superior to his, Maria Death, suspected that a neighbor of the name of Boyd, a man of profigate habits, also married and also living with a woman who was not his wife, was attempting to seduce Maria Death. On the 14th Oct. he went from home, giving out that he should not return till Wednesday, but returned in the course of the morning, and found Maria Death absent in London and Boyd also absent there. He waited for their return; they came together, and seemed to have spent the morning together at various public-houses. Hinson knocked Boyd down at the railway station, half persuaded, half dragged Maria Death home, shot her through the heart with a loaded gun which he always kept in his house just as she was entering the door, and then knocked her about the head with the stuck of the gun. He then went to Boyd's house, broke in the door with the stock, knocked him down at the stable, and knocked out his brains,—afterwards making a feeble attempt to destroy himself which did not succeed. He has been, of course, committed to Newgate on a charge of willful murder. A very big jewel has been found in Australia, which was half believed to be a diamond—a thing nearly as large as a turkey's egg, weighing some 900 carats, 3,600 grains,—or five times the weight of the Koh-i-a-Noor. The last telegram to Melbourne from the diamond diggings announced that it was, however, believed to be only crystallized quartz; but it had been deposited in the Mint at Sydney for safe-ty, and its authenticity as a jewel had not been disproved. A murder of an old man of 75 by an older man of 81 is not a common event. Such a murder, however, took place at Whitton, near Hounslow, England, and was followed by the suicide of the murderer, who blew his own heart out. The quarrel was a common and trivial one; the murderer being a tenant of his victim's and having in his cups mortgaged his landlord, from whom he had received notice to quit. On the previous Friday the landlord, Mr. Kyezor, and the tenant, Mr. Green, had had a public quarrel. All Saturday and Sunday the latter brooded over it, got some horse-pistols in readiness, met his victim on Monday morning in his early walk, and shot him in the abdomen, returning home immediately to destroy himself. Mr. Kyezor, who was much respected, died within a few hours of his wound. Green's wife, who was evidently very much afraid of him, said he had had a slight sunstroke two years ago, and a fall on his head two months ago, which the coroner's jury made the excuse for finding that he committed the suicide in a state of temporary insanity. London Bridge is choked with the traffic on it, and the City Council has been considering and rejecting all manner of expensive proposals for widening it. Foot passengers especially suffer. They are often in danger, and as Mr. M'George pointed out, the balustrades being solid, the bridge is a dust-trap in good weather, and a ditch in bad. The *Spectator* asks, will the *Builder* tell us if there is any final reason why a bridge like London Bridge should not have a second story put on it—a wooden bridge like a railway crossing, supported on iron pillars let into the buttresses, and reserved for pedestrians? No work in water would be necessary for that, and cabs would gain the space now occupied by the trottoirs. *Must* such a second story be too ugly for human endurance? The London *Spectator* says that Lord Granville has written a remarkable despatch to the Governor of New Zealand, wherein he peremptorily declines to allow the retention of the 18th Regiment; and confesses that his object in weakening the colony is to compel it to make peace with the Maoris, acknowledge their independence, and restore the confiscated land. As Lord Granville is bold enough to assert that the policy which he wishes to see reversed is one *'which the Home Government have always regarded as 'pregnant with danger,'* we quote the following passage in a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle to Sir George Grey, dated November 26, 1863, in which after reciting the plan of the Government of New Zealand for the confiscation of some rebels' land in the Waikato, and its distribution to settlers on a sort of military tenure, he goes on:—'*I do not disapprove of the principle of the measure.* I think that any body of natives which takes up arms against Her Majesty on such quarrels as are alleged by the Waikator, may properly be punished by a confiscation of a large part of their common property. I think that the lands thus acquired may properly be employed in meeting the expenses of carrying on the war, nor do I see any objection to using them as sites for military settlements.' In another despatch the Duke especially warned the Government against making peace too soon, till the natives are fully convinced they are worsted. The Home Government have regarded the policy which they now wish to reverse, as 'pregnant with danger,' not precisely *always*, but only since it became expedient to pick a quarrel with the colony.

Our San Francisco Letter.

San Francisco, Oct. 24th, 1869.

Editor British Colonist:—With the approach of winter things are beginning to assume a more lively appearance again here, and the returning confidence on the part of the principal merchants and manufacturers is making its influence duly felt on the trade of the city; the money market getting easier every day offering renewed facilities in business transactions, and traders in consequence are fast recovering their long suspended animation. Building has taken a fresh start and the increasing demand for lumber has had the effect of steadying the price at a figure something below the ruinously high one of last fall, but still sufficient to be reassuring to mill owners. The rains have fairly commenced, and really—despite the slush and mud underfoot—we accept them as a decided relief to the alternate heat and cold, the wind and the everlasting dust of the dry weather. They came so suddenly, however, that large quantities of grain were caught out and damaged in consequence. The farmers are up and doing, the early rain having enabled them to commence plowing sometime sooner than usual.

The Mechanic's Fair will close in about a week, when a grand Carnival Ball will wind up a very successful exhibition—I mean successful only in point of attendance and money receipts. In other respects I'm afraid I must pronounce it a failure. What particular good there can be in a big display of cheese and bacon, pickles and sauces, with huge placards posted over them to indicate where said articles can be procured genuine and cheap, I for one cannot see. The one exception, perhaps, to the rule of commonplaces was the Pullman Palace Car, which was on exhibition for a few days and formed during that time the chief attraction of the Fair.

During the past week Deery, the great billiard player, has been displaying his wonderful skill with the cue, and really the style in which he handles it is something calculated to astonish the weak minded. Little, the champion of the Pacific coast, has engaged him in play a few times, but, poor fellow! the score he makes against Deery is very little indeed—so little that it shows him little better than a novice at the game. But though it cannot in truth be said that he is only a little inferior to his opponent, it can very correctly be asserted that he is Little inferior to Deery.

The drama of Tennyson's beautiful poem 'Enoch Arden' has had a successful run at the California Theatre. It had the good fortune to be well rendered by an admirable company of players, at whose head were Mr Adams and Miss Melville. The Alhambra is closed. The nude drama having played itself out for awhile here, the proprietor of that not very popular place of amusement has been obliged to take a holiday; but no doubt his fertile brain will be able to present something attractive to the playgoing public in a short time.

I am glad your fine freestone has found so much favor in the eyes of the American Government. Its superiority is undoubted and I should not be at all surprised if its use in the Mint building were the means of introducing it as a common article of import in the San Francisco market. The granite now in use for building purposes is such wretched stuff and so incapable of being worked with any degree of niceness that it seems to me it would not be difficult to supplant it with an article so far ahead of it in every way possible. So poor is the article nature has provided for the use of the inhabitants of this city that a company has been got up to manufacture stone out of the superabundance of sand, so heavily deposited everywhere found. I doubt, however, if they will be able to turn out an article approaching in quality that which may be had ready made on Newcastle Island, British Columbia. Find another article or two like your freestone that can be turned into necessaries for San Franciscans, and you will set yourselves on your legs again better than the discovery of a new gold mine of fabulous wealth could do it.

It is said that the Rev. A. C. Garrett has been appointed to the Rectorship of St James Church, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Evgan. I have not heard anything lately that has afforded me more pleasure than this appointment. I have done a great deal of prospecting among the churches since I came down and have hitherto been quite unable to make up my mind to 'locate.' I can promise Mr. Garrett a success in his undertaking beyond anything he can possibly hope for. Besides having in an extraordinary degree just the peculiar talent that suits an American congregation, by which he will quickly win popularity, he will I am sure, fix at once the large floating population of whilom Victorians, with all of whom he is of course a prime favorite. I can promise him a hearty reception and true British welcome at the hands of a host of his old and ardent admirers.

Many an honest sigh went up when the news reached us that the old church on the Hill had been destroyed with all its well remembered associations. Remove a few more of the time honored landmarks and you will fairly frighten all the old friends of the place from returning to visit its desolation. How black, and bare, and barren looking must now be the Hill. I can almost, as I write, fancy I hear the wind sweeping wildly over the ashes of the sacred edifice, but as in broken gusts it's plaintive wail, its sighs and moans seem to go up to heaven as a mournful dirge over the grave of the dead past, I recover myself with the exclamation, Alas! alas! it was, and now is not.

It is pleasant news to the many Victorians who are sojourning in this strange land that your energetic new Governor has given fresh impetus to life in British Columbia. God grant he may be as the rising sun of returning prosperity to you; let it once be shown that it is so, and, amid the crowd that will hasten eagerly back to the dear old place, the last will not be

VANCOUVER.