

There is something melancholy in fallen greatness—in the sight of a dethroned king. Charles I. raised as he was, drew down sympathy from those who were to be his executioners. We dare say the blind Samson met with pity from even some of the Philistines; and we know that Napoleon, on St. Helena, was the recipient of almost a world's commiseration.

On resolution 10—Dr. Helmcken opposed. He said this was the old tale; if the indenture be cancelled we will pay the Civil List, if not, we can't! He had already said that up to 1863 the House of Assembly never considered the Crowns Lands, and he would show that even in 1864 the House entertained the same opinion. In the Civil List resolutions sent home, but 3 months ago, it was stated that the colony could not pay the Civil List proposed because the Crowns Lands were worthless; not a word about the towns site being Crown Lands, and he would show that even in 1864 the House entertained the same opinion. In the Civil List resolutions sent home, but 3 months ago, it was stated that the colony could not pay the Civil List proposed because the Crowns Lands were worthless; not a word about the towns site being Crown Lands, and he would show that even in 1864 the House entertained the same opinion.

Dr. Helmcken maintained that this would be the inevitable effect. We had no data whatever to make the statement affirmed in the resolution, and he would therefore move that those words be struck out. Dr. Tolmie asked the hon. members opposite to answer him fairly and squarely this question: what did the Duke of Newcastle mean by Crowns Lands? could he consider the lands already given or decided away as Crowns Lands? He would leave this question in its nakedness before the hon. gentlemen opposite.

A pause having occurred Dr. Tolmie asked—Is nobody going to answer my question? Then it's unanswerable; and hon. gentlemen only stultify themselves by passing such a resolution. Mr. Franklin said, all the answer necessary to answer the argument, was that the Colony did not accept the views of the Duke of Newcastle on this point.

Dr. Tolmie moved that the whole clause be struck out. Dr. Helmcken's amendment was put and lost. Dr. Helmcken, Tolmie, Franklin, Nos. DeCosmos, Trimble, Duncan, Carswell, Denness. The original resolution was then passed. On resolution 11, recommending the appointment of a Colonial Commission. Dr. Tolmie opposed, on the ground that it was prejudicial, either one side or the other. He would not expect justice here in this matter. Dr. Helmcken said no grounds whatever had been shown for the appointment of such a commission. If it was a commission appointed to find out facts, why was it not appointed to the most dangerous transaction. For 6 months the Crown Lands Committee had sat in their secret chamber and tried to find out fraud, and notwithstanding the ill feeling known to exist against the Hudson Bay Co., not one single instance of fraud was found. Yet so prejudiced was this committee with the idea that fraud must exist, that they were still of that opinion and why did they thus believe? Because these men of integrity and honor stated that they could not believe the evidence taken before the committee because the witnesses had not been examined on oath. Because the witnesses were not forced to swear, therefore they hid what evidence of fraud they might be possessed of. As to the expense of a commission, he presumed every member would have to be paid, and judging from the time the committee took, the commission would take a still longer time, indeed, he believed that the time occupied would depend on the amount paid per diem to the members. And he further believed, that upon the amount paid per diem, would depend whether they found fraud to exist or not. He firmly believed that the sole purpose of this commission was to find out frauds whether they existed or not.

Mr. DeCosmos—No, no, no! Dr. Helmcken would move in amendment the insertion of the words, that your Excellency recommended, with the consent of the House, the appointment of a Crown Commission? Dr. Tolmie said he would not vote on this motion, but he believed that this was the fairest way to do. He would only say, before going, that he had taken an open and straight forward course in this matter, and he believed a year hence he would be sustained by the colony.

Mr. DeCosmos emphatically denied that any members of the Crown Lands Committee were actuated by such feelings as had been attributed by the hon. Speaker. He could not consent to such a proposition as that of the hon. Speaker, which virtually affirmed that there were no honorable men in the country to whom such a commission could be intrusted. Dr. Helmcken said he had no intention to insult any portion of the inhabitants of this colony, but he believed that every person in the community was too prejudiced to do justice in this matter. But he would re-affirm that the intention of this commission was to find fraud on the Hudson Bay Company. In serving the Hudson Bay Company—he meant the Hudson Bay Company of England—he served a company who were incapable of committing a fraud, and he felt himself disgraced in sitting in a House where such charges could be made. (Order, order.) Dr. Helmcken's amendment was rejected, and the resolution carried. Dr. Helmcken moved that the Committee rise and report. Carried after some discussion. The House then adjourned till Monday.

STEAMER BUILDING.—The two stern-wheel steamers being built at Usalady for Messrs. Donohue & Co. of San Francisco will shortly be finished. They are intended for the Columbia River trade and are of the following dimensions: Length of keel, 150 feet; breadth of beam, 27 feet, and depth of hold 6 feet.

THE DETERMINED MINORITY.

There is something melancholy in fallen greatness—in the sight of a dethroned king. Charles I. raised as he was, drew down sympathy from those who were to be his executioners. We dare say the blind Samson met with pity from even some of the Philistines; and we know that Napoleon, on St. Helena, was the recipient of almost a world's commiseration. When we look upon the fall of "the Company"—that great power—that Brobdingnag of aggrandisement, that pyramid of avarice, that colossus of anything the mind of injured colonists may choose to call it—we are, like Addison, struck with the insignificance of worldly things. When we view it prostrate before us, like a second Goliath, "every emotion of envy dies within us," and we only wonder how we could have been so long held under its baneful yoke. When we see Dr. Helmcken and Tolmie, who whilst wore the calm and placid air of conscious power, now the excited victims of defeat—when we see these men who reared the colony, now the mortified members of a miserable minority; is there any miracle that may not yet be witnessed? It is in vain these gentlemen jump from Cicero to Demosthenes; their auditors are unimpressible. In vain does Tolmie call from classic lore and Caledonian song—in vain does Helmcken spread invective upon joke, and sarcasm on audacity—the members are as "stones or worse than senseless things." The birds are in a cage and they are merely flapping their nervous wings against the iron bars. They fly and flutter, but it is only to drop exhausted. Reply to my arguments! cries the member for the District. Where are your facts! shouts the unusually excited Speaker? Alas, overwhelming power condescends not to argue, or even fight. A regiment does not choose to break a lance with an enthusiastic knight, but quietly makes him prisoner. The Company are eloquent—the Company are pugnacious—but like the unfortunate Danes, they are driven from their Danneberg by sheer force of numbers—they are pushed back bit by bit by the might of a crushing majority, until at length they are left in possession of nothing worth fighting for.

The principal section of the resolutions requesting His Excellency to appoint a Commission, was accepted to yesterday, so that the passage of the resolutions in their entirety may be looked upon as a fait accompli. We must say the country has reason to rejoice at the fact. If we have not had long speeches from the majority, it is not because the arguments of Messrs. Tolmie and Helmcken were unanswerable; but because there was a dread that the debate might become interminable, and the success of the cause seriously affected. The Hudson Bay Company members made the best of their case. They shifted their ground when they found it untenable and tried a new footing. The gist of Dr. Helmcken's speech on Thursday, was that the large sum of a million dollars was unfairly put before the eyes of the British Government to tempt their cupidity, and the gentleman seemed rather afraid of the result. In his remarks yesterday, there was no danger in any money temptation being placed before Her Majesty's Government, who could only be affected by principles of right and justice. At one moment these gentlemen scout the idea of any success attending the efforts against the Company—that the indenture is final and cannot be set aside; at another they go into the minutiae of figures to prevent, if possible, too glaring statements—whether mistakes or not—appearing before Her Majesty's Government. In any case they show a marked inconsistency in manner and argument; for surely the expense to the colony in forwarding the matter ultimately to Downing street is not an adequate cause for their persistent and even querulous opposition to the resolutions.

It would be worse than useless going over the ground again on this question. No newspaper article, nor speech in the Assembly can affect this matter now. A Commission will doubtless be held, and the result placed in the hands of the Imperial authorities. There is no terror of litigation—no gigantic law-suit that is going to swamp the colony. If Her Majesty's Government are induced to revoke the indenture, the Company will show that they are sufficiently afflicted with natural feelings as to be unwilling, like other portions of the human family, to "throw good money after bad." They have exhibited no more recklessness in getting into law-suits than other people, nor will they be apt to oppose the Home Government in the "higher tribunals," if the indenture is set aside. The litigious bugbear that is held by Messrs. Foster, Helmcken and Tolmie in terror over the heads of the people is merely the effect of heated imaginations. If there are to be law-suits over Crown Lands the Crown will carry them on; when the lands are given over to the people it will be time enough to talk of our legal expenses. In the meantime, Drs. Tolmie and Helmcken need not be alarmed at the results of a Commission. It is not going to be highway robbery, gartering, or anything of that sort. There is no determination to make out fraud where it does not exist; nor to insult the tender sensibilities of a public company, whose ruler of Vancouver Island has almost outlived its reputation.

CARIBOO.

FOUR DAYS LATER.

The steamer Alexandria arrived from New Westminster on Friday morning bringing eight passengers. From Mr. Davis, who left Conklin's Gulch, Williams' Creek, on the 13th instant, we obtain a few additional particulars from the mines: CONKLIN'S GULCH. About 150 men were prospecting on this gulch, sinking shafts, with the object of striking the lead passing through the Erickson claim, at the mouth of the gulch. The company next the Erickson had reached the bed-rock with their shaft, but did not find a color. Mr. Davis has been working in the Lone Star claim since he went up, at \$10 per day.

THE ERICKSON CLAIM. This now celebrated claim was still paying splendidly when our informant left. On the Friday before he started from the gulch the company took out 400 ounces! The Erickson is the only claim, so far, on the gulch that has paid well.

SAW-MILL GULCH. On the opposite side of Williams' Creek from Conklin's Gulch is supposed to be as rich as the latter. Our informant states that one claim in that gulch had been yielding 100 to 150 ounces per day, to four men, for some weeks.

THE RED ROCK DRINK. Is not yet finished, nor likely to be, according to Mr. Davis, for a considerable time.

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Collegiate School came off Thursday at one o'clock, p.m. His Excellency and family, with a number of other ladies and gentlemen were present, and evinced much interest in the proceedings. His Excellency presented the prizes, and addressed a few suitable remarks to each recipient. The following are the names of the successful aspirants for prizes: Governor's Prize, (with special commendation) Master S. Hoffman.

Bishop's Prize, (for the most steady progress) Master Robert Branks. FIRST FORM.—Master Jacoby, 1st prize; Master Allen, 2d prize; Master H. Hoffman, 3d prize.

SECOND FORM.—Master James Tolmie, 1st prize; Master Wm. Dorman, Bishop's Prize; Master Martin, 3d prize.

THIRD FORM.—Master Simon Dorman, Governor's Prize; Master James Branks, Bishop's Prize.

FOURTH FORM.—Master Harrison, Governor's Prize; Master James Leighton, Bishop's Prize.

FIFTH FORM.—Master Pitts, Bishop's Prize, for Algebra.

SPECIAL PRIZES.—Master Pitts, Scripture Prize in Upper Division; Master James Harvey, ditto in Lower Division; For Drawing, Master Harrison, 1st prize; Master Ainsley Monatt, 2d prize. Lower Division, Latin Prize, Master James Tolmie; Astronomy, Master Pitts.

THE KOOTANAS NEWS.—Those kindred spirits, the Chronicle and British Columbian, unite in a forcible onslaught on the Colonist in reference to the interesting and important Kootana news which we have lately laid before the public. The Chronicle, with that innate blackguardism which characterizes its principal conductor, pours on us, from its choice vocabulary, a torrent of abuse, such as "rascality," "criminal and contemptible," "unenviable reputation," "bogus," "unprincipled," etc., etc., because, forsooth, we have given to the public news which it has been unable to procure; and the Columbian, with an assumption of superior knowledge that is supremely ridiculous in a journal of so diminutive calibre, gravely lectures us on our foolishness in giving news in regard to "this colony" which has not appeared in its columns, and takes upon its ignorant little self to state that the information we give is incorrect. We shall not condescend to notice further the blackguardism of the Chronicle nor the latens ignorance of the Columbian; we have only to state that every word of the Kootana news published as original in this paper is thoroughly reliable. This community is perfectly satisfied to accept the information of Hon. Roderick Finlayson as genuine, although the Chronicle may affect to doubt its truth; and one of the highest officials of British Columbia (who favored us with the information we published in a subsequent edition) will, doubtless, be believed, although the poor Columbian has been left in a state of blissful ignorance as to the facts of the case. The appointment of Mr. Haynes, noticed in its columns, is for Gold Commissioner at Kootana, although it has never been so informed. The community have accepted our news as truthful and most important, in proof of which we may state that a large company is already being formed in this city to proceed to the new mines, and has secured twenty peck animals for that purpose. Our contemporaries have allowed their mortification at being behind with the news, to carry them into a very silly exhibition of malignant spite, and we will simply take leave of them with the true classic sarcasm "Areades ambo" or as Dan. O'Connell would render it, "Blackguards both."

RECORD OF WATERY GRAVE.—Last Saturday week, as the schooner Discovery was speeding her way from Comox to Chematnu, with a strong breeze off the land, the Captain discerned, at some distance from the land, a canoe being blown out into the Gulf, he immediately bore down to the rescue; and on nearing her the canoe upset, which caused five minutes immersion to the unfortunate, and the loss of a rifle, pistol and other articles. The lonely voyagee who turned out to be a Comox settler, was landed near Nanaimo. He may "thank his lucky stars" that a vessel happened to pass within sight of him, otherwise a watery grave might inevitably have been his lot.

JAPAN. The whereabouts of the Tycoon remained a mystery. Sir R. Alcock was about to set out on an expedition to settle accounts with the Prince of Nagao. Ningpo rice had fallen very much.

THE NAVAL DISASTER.

Her Majesty's steam-ship Tribune, as was feared by many intimately acquainted with the navigation of Fraser river, has got into an extremely unpleasant, if not dangerous predicament. On Saturday afternoon last, at four o'clock, she took advantage of an unusually high tide to leave her moorings opposite the Casp, above New Westminster, and start for Esquimalt. At five o'clock, whilst endeavoring to make out a buoy which indicated a sharp bend in the channel, she suddenly grounded, and has remained hard and fast up to the present time. On Tuesday afternoon, the Otter on her way up to New Westminster, discovered the unfortunate position of the Tribune, and conveyed the information to the town, where it was received with no little consternation. On her way back on Wednesday, the Otter proffered Capt. Gilford her assistance, which was accepted. With considerable difficulty she got alongside, owing to the shallowness of the water, although her draught at the time was only 9 feet 6 inches. She was three hours aground before she could get near enough to be of any service. Then she took on board thirteen of the Tribune's 68-pounders, and 10 or 12 tons of shot and shell, making in all between 40 and 50 tons, with which she left at half-past eight, arriving here at three o'clock yesterday morning. The Tribune is lying about half a mile from the Otter with orders for the gunboats to stand by, and should it come on to blow, the consequences might be very serious. She is about 50 feet from the channel of the river, broadside on, and when the Otter left, was in 13 feet of water. The water was deeper on the opposite side, from which on which she Otter grounded; but the latter was unable to near her on that side owing to the cables which had been run out to keep her in position. As it was, she had shifted considerably, and it was feared from the uneven nature of the bottom and the action of the tide in scouring the sand from beneath her, that she was in great danger of breaking her back. Indeed we understand that she is already injured to some extent by bumping and straining. Pilot Titcomb, to whom, or indeed to any one on board, not the slightest blame can possibly be attached, came down on the Otter with orders for the gunboats Forward and Grappler to proceed at once to the scene of the disaster, to render all the assistance in their power. It is contemplated to lighten the Tribune by some 200 tons, consisting of the remainder of her guns, shot and shell, stores, &c., when it is hoped she may get off. She is, however, in a most difficult and dangerous position, and we fear only in the beginning of her troubles. As we have said, there is no blame to be attached to any one on board. Capt. Titcomb is well known as one of the most skilful and experienced pilots on the coast, and knows as much of the mouth of the Fraser as any man in the country, while Lord Gilford is as careful and prudent a commander as could be wished. The only thing to be found fault with is the ordering up of this fine vessel to a port to which, for such large craft, the navigation is to say the least, intricate and uncertain. It was doubtless intended as an experiment, and we can only regret that it was made with so valuable a vessel, and that it has been attended with such possibly disastrous and costly results.

SOUND CORRESPONDENCE.

PORT ANGLON, W.T. June 23. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST: A few days ago I read in the Chronicle of the hanging of a man-of-war's-man at New Dungeans, V. T. Indeed, I was surprised, but not the less amused at the style in which the story was served up. As reporters are liable from time to time to be misinformed, I feel called upon to justice to the side of the land, as also to get your paper to correct the statement so far as the hanging part goes; to briefly say—it is false. I should be very sorry to read of such an affair as a truth, much more so as a false report.

A BOON OF LOSS ADRIFF.

The bark Narramias whilst bound down yesterday, encountered considerable difficulty in keeping clear of a boom of logs which acted as bad as a blockading squadron on a great portion of the water between here and New Dungeans. They had broken loose from the "Wright," whilst in tow of them to Port Discovery. The loss is considerable. Captains had better be on the look-out for a few days.

Gen. Lee's Congratulatory Order to his Army.

[Special Correspondence of the Richmond "Enquirer."] ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, May 15, 1864.

The following general order of Gen. Lee, most as it is classic and beautiful, has just been published to and received with enthusiasm by the army: GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 41. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, May 14, 1864.

1st.—The General commanding takes great pleasure in announcing to the army the series of successes that, by the favor of God, have recently been achieved by our arms. 2d.—A part of the army's force threatening the valley of Virginia has been routed by Gen. Imboden, and driven back to the Potomac, with the loss of their train and a number of prisoners.

3d.—Another body of the enemy, under Gen. Averill, penetrated to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad at Dublin depot. A portion of his force has been dispersed by Gens. Morgan and W. E. Jones, who are in pursuit of the remainder.

4th.—The army of Gen. Banks sustained a severe defeat in Western Louisiana by the forces of Gen. Kirby Smith, and retreated to Alexandria, losing several thousand prisoners, 35 pieces of artillery, and a large number of wagons. Some of the most formidable gunboats that accompanied the expedition were destroyed to save them from capture.

5th.—The expedition of Gen. Steele into Western Arkansas has ended in complete disaster. Northern journals of the 10th inst. announce his surrender, with an army of 9,000 men, to Gen. Price.

6th.—The cavalry force sent by Gen. Grant to attack Richmond has been repulsed and retired towards the Potomac; a further demonstration south of James river has, up to this time, been successfully repelled.

7th.—The heroic valor of this army, with the blessing of Almighty God, has thus far checked the principal army of the enemy, and inflicted upon it heavy losses. The eyes and hearts of your countrymen are turned to you with confidence, and their prayers attend you in your gallant struggle. Encouraged by the success that has been vouchsafed to us, and stimulated by the great interests that depend upon the issue, let every man resolve to endure all and brave all, until, by the assistance of a just and merciful God, the enemy shall be driven back and peace secured to our country. Continue to emulate the valor of your comrades who have fallen; and remember it depends upon you whether they shall have died in vain. It is in your power, under God, to defeat the last great effort of the enemy, establish the independence of your native land, and earn the lasting love and gratitude of your countrymen and the admiration of mankind.

R. E. LEE, General.

THE SHIP GRANADA.—Capt. Bartlett, the master of this vessel, which lay for some time lately in Esquimalt harbor, has written a letter to the Pacific Tribune, stating that "so lost is this remnant of the British flag to the common feelings of humanity" that he was taxed \$85 port charges, although this is a free port, and his vessel was in distress. He, therefore, recommends all ship-masters to remain at Port Townsend in preference to coming over here to get supplies and men.

A LIQUOR.—The Chronicle's "lokalitama" man will quote French, although his past attempts at that polite language have been so unfortunate. His last "bull" was about the weather being "passé over head" and yesterday he makes Dr. Tolmie say that perhaps Dr. Trimble intended to erect a grand "mazion de sainte" on Ogden Point. We would advise our contemporary to stick to his mother tongue; the language of la Belle France is evidently too much for him.

WHISKEY CASE.—A man named James Laughlin was brought up in the Police Court yesterday, charged with supplying liquor to Indians. On its appearing that he had only been taking a drop too much with his squaw in his own house, the magistrate let him off with a fine of \$10.

CAVALRY ARMY IN VIRGINIA.—The superiority of the Union cavalry in Virginia during the present campaign is partially due to the employment of the Spencer repeating rifle, instead of the carbines formerly used by our troops. This weapon is a breech-loader and a seven-shooter, patented in 1860. An ordinary cavalry soldier can discharge the seven loads in twelve seconds, and seven more can be inserted in less than half the time required to ram and cap the muzzle of a long rifle. It is claimed that this rifle will throw a ball two thousand yards, and that at the distance of one hundred and fifty feet it will propel a ball through thirteen inches of timber. This terrible weapon was used with great effect by a portion of our troops at Gettysburg, and by Wilder's brigade of Rosecrans' army during the advance on Tallahoma. The rebel cavalry are unable to face such a rapid storm of bullets from Sheridan's men.

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THE VICTORIA ELECTION.

At length three candidates for appearance in the field, and Victoria seems to have a chance of a representative in the place of the Secretary. The three gentlemen thus conferred everlasting benefit by being it from the indelible not being able to fill up a political Messrs. Alston, Crutchfield and after day, and week after week, not still ambition seemed to be not indeed, altogether extinct, solution for this quietest and condition of affairs was readily the position of legislator had very low, or the estimate formed necessary qualifications had risen. In the one case the capable in proud to descend; in the other, men were too humble to aspire, however, there is a more rational apathy which has existed, since 1864 is now at a low ebb, it will be all probability, a year before the newly-elected give the pleasure of delivering speech. When this period has through a disputation may at some the members' political and and safety and trouble of an movement might appear to be truly thrown away. This was the case of the late British Colonist.

Have a person who is con the history of the Colony for struggles in 1858, and who is a man of considerable general knowledge, however, has the very back of estimating his abilities that would be much too large on the Pacific coast. When the rid of Mr. Cary, the members one of the greatest stumbling-blocks monious working was removed Young enter its portals, and farthing but wrangling and persons we apply the term "outland readers will perhaps better natural falling with which Mr. stified, and which makes him, in great outfit for a calm, deliberately Mr. Crutchfield is, perhaps, known as Mr. Young, having a colony, at comparatively speaking period. He is, however, a member; and, thoroughly conversant interests of Victoria. The people of the Hudson Bay Company give as a chief of union with British Co met with his warm epousal, cated gentleman, with nothing ambition to forward the interests in which his own interests are a certainly entitled to the considerable felicitations. While he will ing member, superior, we believe the other candidates in the field blessed with an amiability of and a refinement of manners, to to lessen rather than increase the which lower so much the digni gistrates of your countrymen.

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