

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Tuesday, December 4, 1866.

The Peace of Europe.

The Napoleonic manifesto of the 17th of September affords ground for believing that if the peace of Europe depends upon the desire of France to destroy it, it will live as long as Napoleon himself; and the retirement from the French Ministry of Drouyn de L'Hays—who is known to have favored an armed intervention in favor of Austria—would appear to furnish additional assurance of the peaceful intentions of France, and an earnest desire of Napoleon to pass the remainder of an eventful career in peace and harmony with "all the world and the rest of mankind." What ever may have been, at one time, the character of the negotiations between France and Prussia with regard to the cession of the Rhenish Provinces, it is certain that the refusal of Bismarck to yield an inch of German territory, completely changed the attitude of the French Government towards its German neighbor, and drew forth the manifesto to which we allude. No one can doubt that the Prussian Government will continue its efforts towards German unity with or without the consent of France; and even at this distance from the seat of the late war, no one can help observing that France now occupies quite a secondary position in the settlement of the affairs of continental Europe. A campaign of ten days' duration not only changed the map, but placed Prussia in the foremost rank of the continental powers. Should France, at any time, seek to interfere in the work of unity now going forward, she would be sure to bring on a fearful struggle that might end in her own discomfiture. If, however, she should not attempt to stay the proposed political changes, the Germans will soon enjoy the same national unity that has been perfected in England, Russia, France, and other countries. The same is the case with Italy. France cannot, much longer, without risking a general war, continue her interference in Italian affairs while the withdrawal of the French Protectorate from the Pope will settle the complications in a month, and give Europe a more solid guarantee of peace than can be extracted from the professions contained in the manifesto. Napoleon's health is said to be failing; and it is therefore highly probable that he is more anxious to secure a continuance of his dynasty than to risk uncertain wars, the termination of which he may not live to see; and while at a more favorable juncture of circumstances he could hardly resist the temptation to risk a war for the rectification of the French frontier, there are many reasons for believing that his present professions of peaceable designs are sincere.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Municipal Council.

MONDAY, NOV. 26. The Mayor took his seat at 7:15 p.m. Present.—Councillors Gowen, Lewis, Layzell, Hebbard, Gibbs, Trahey. CREDENTIALS. Mr. Lewis presented his certificate of election and took his seat at the board. COMMUNICATIONS. A communication was read from Mr. H. F. Heisterman on behalf of the lessees of the Council Chambers, reducing the rent to \$20 per month. An account for \$25 rent due for the month of November was ordered to be paid as soon as funds are in hand. Leave was granted on petition of Mr. Woods to cut a drain on Kane street, subject to supervision of the Committee. Leave was granted Messrs Hicks & Russell to occupy portion of sidewalk on Government street pending certain alterations. COUNCIL CHAMBERS. Mr. Layzell reported that the Committee appointed to ascertain where suitable city offices could be obtained at a lower rental, had received an offer from Mr. DeCosmos to fit up offices in his brick building on Langley street and to rent them at \$20 per month, provided the same be taken for two years. The lessees of the present chambers had agreed to reduce the rent to \$20 per month. The latter offer was, on motion, after some discussion, accepted for the present. ADDRESSES TO THE GOVERNOR. Mr. Trahey moved that a Committee of three be appointed to draft an address for presentation to His Excellency the Governor as soon as convenient after his arrival in Victoria. After some discussion the motion was carried.

ried, Messrs Hebbard and Layzell contra, and Messrs Trahey, Lewis, and Gibbs were placed on the Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES. The name of Mr. Lewis was added to the Committee on Finance and Streets and Sewers. Mr. Lewis was also appointed Fire Warden for Yates street.

On motion of Mr. Lewis, it was agreed that the several Committees be empowered to authorize improvements in cases of emergency pending the Council's meetings. Mr. Layzell informed the Council that either the Water or Gas Companies had taken upon themselves again to open the streets without leave, and he hoped he should not have to make a similar complaint hereafter. The Clerk was instructed to inquire into the matter, and ask an explanation from the Company.

PRODUCE MARKET. A communication was read from Messrs. J. P. Davis & Co., offering the use of town lots on Fort and View streets for the purposes of a weekly or monthly stock and produce market, provided that the proprietors be allowed a scale of charges and obtain a charter in perpetuity, under the name of Davies' Cattle Market. The matter was referred to a Committee consisting of Messrs Gowen, Layzell and Hebbard for report at next meeting.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE BY-LAW. The Council resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on this By-law, Councillor Gowen in the chair, and, after some debate, rose and asked leave to sit again at next meeting. Council adjourned till Monday evening next.

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE SALE.—Yesterday, at noon, the rooms of Messrs Franklin were crowded by persons in attendance upon the sale of valuable real estate belonging to ex-Mayor Harris. The property offered consisted of the Bank of British Columbia building; the Bee-Hive Hotel building, the one-story brick adjoining the hotel and occupied by the Spring Kidge Water Works Company, and the double one-story and a-half cottage on Broad street, now occupied by Mr. Harris, together with the lots on which the buildings are situated. The sale commenced with the Bee-Hive Hotel, the first offer for which was \$500, gradually increasing to \$2000, at which price R. Bishop was the purchaser. The Water Company's office was started at \$500, and was knocked down to Mr. Innis for \$750. The dwelling-house hung in the balance between \$500 and \$850 for some time, and was sold at the latter figure to George S. Wright. The Bank building, the object of absorbing interest, was the last offered. The building is one of the largest, most substantial, and best located in the city. It is leased to the Bank authorities for \$250 a month until August, 1867, after which the lease is renewed for a term of ten years, at a monthly rate of \$200 per month. The first bid was \$1000, which was rapidly increased to \$10,000, by a number of bidders, until \$13,000 had been reached, when the bidding was confined to Mr. Ward, Acting Manager of the Bank of British Columbia and Mr. J. Robertson Stewart. The contest continued for some time, the auctioneer exhibiting a great deal of patience and skill in angling for bids. After numerous rises of \$50, the amount offered reached \$14,850, when Mr. Ward bid \$14,900, and was followed by Mr. Stewart with \$15,000, at which sum the property was knocked down. The investment is one of the best ever made in the Colony, affording a net income of nearly \$500 per annum, with first-class security for the permanency of the tenant. The purchaser is understood to be a gentleman connected with the Bank of British Columbia.

PILING IT ON.—A small coaster, called the Shark, yesterday brought over from San Juan, Island a cargo of potatoes, valued at \$80, on which the owners paid the usual landing permit of \$5, and were told that was all they had to pay, as San Juan was claimed to be in the Colony, and no duties could be charged on goods brought from there. The importers, however, before they could discharge the produce were required to pay \$10 more for British Columbia customs duties, which they did under protest, resolving at the same time to bring no more to this port. Other crafts from San Juan, we understand, since the Union Proclamation, have paid only \$5. Why should any difference be made between one craft and another? and when, we may ask, is the present injurious exaction to cease?

JACK OF THE SPREE.—William Underwood, a seaman belonging to the Prince of Wales, was yesterday charged with stealing \$2 50 from W. Moakes, a sailor belonging to H.M.S. Clif. Moakes, who prosecuted, it appeared was on a bender, and had been drinking with the accused, who was an old shipmate of his. While at the Red Lion Underwood was seen to take the money from Moakes, and was given in charge. Underwood admitted taking the money, but only as a banker, and declared that he called the attention of every person present at the time to the fact of his having taken it for safe keeping on board his ship, where Moakes could get it by applying to him. Mr. Pemberton said the Prince of Wales was a very good ship, no doubt, but a bad bank. He must remand Underwood for further inquiry.

The petition to the Governor sent the contemplated change in the judiciary of this Island has received nearly 800 signatures.

LECTURE CLASS.—There was another large attendance last evening of the Elocution Class, President O'Connell in the Chair. Mr. Babbitt was chosen Critic of the evening. Several capital recitations were given, the best of which was by Mr. W. K. Bull; it was a selection from the writings of Artemus Ward, entitled "Marian; a romance of the French School," and was delivered in style which called forth roars of laughter, and elicited the commendation of the critics. The Elocution Class is rapidly growing in numbers, and is actually in a more flourishing condition than at any previous time.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—LECTURES.—The Committee of the Mechanics' Institute have arranged for the delivery of series of semi-monthly lectures during the winter season. The following gentlemen are named as lecturers: Rt. Rev. Bishop Hills, Archdeacon Gibson, Rev. T. Somerville, Rev. A. C. Garrett, Chief Justice Needham, Capt. Porcher, (H.M.S. Sparrowhawk), Mr. J. J. Cochran, Mr. A. Waddington, Mr. E. G. Alston, and C. B. Young. The first lecture will be delivered on the evening of Thursday week, by Rev. Mr. Somerville—Subject, "Some talk on talk and talkers."

DISMISSED.—The charge preferred by a klotchman against Lock Miller, of having eased her of \$100, was yesterday dismissed, there being no evidence beyond the statement of the girl that Miller was the last man in the house. Mr. Bishop, who appeared for Miller offered to call witnesses as to character, and stated that the house where the alleged robbery took place belonged to Miller himself. The magistrate said he felt satisfied that the girl had lost her money, and it was an every day occurrence for whitemen to rob klotchmen, but there was nothing before him to warrant his detaining Miller.

CABLESHIP.—High winds and seas are supposed to have chafed the shore-end of the piece of cable between the Islands of San Juan and Lopez, and destroyed the insulation. A steamer with a working party aboard will proceed to repair the damage, which can, to-day, be effected by overrunning the defective part and splicing a new piece on in its place. We shall probably have a renewal of telegraphic communication on Thursday.

A QUANTITY OF MERCHANDISE from Nainimo—the stock of a bankrupt—was brought down on the last trip of the Sir James Douglas, for sale by auction in this city. Strange to say, no duties were charged, by the Customs officer. Why this omission? If duties can be collected on goods shipped to New Westminster, or from San Juan to this port, why can they not with equal propriety be collected on goods shipped to or from Nainimo?

PROSPECTUS.—The prospectus of the Hixon (commonly known as Canyon) Creek Quartz Mill Company, appears in our paper to-day. We are pleased to learn that a number of shares have been applied for, and that a mill will be ordered immediately. We are confident that the true wealth of the country will be found to lie in our quartz veins, and every encouragement should be given to any enterprise having for its object their development.

PHENIX COAL MINE.—A letter from Cliallam Bay, W.T., states that the vicinity of the Phenix Coal Mine had been severely visited by the late storms. The miners at one time were seriously incommoded by water; but the admirable machinery in use at the mine succeeded in freeing the works after a day or two of pumping.

SMASHING ROUND.—A man named John Milward was charged yesterday with smashing windows at the Fashion, and with resisting the officer in the discharge of his duty. He was fined \$10 or two months' imprisonment, the damage to be made good out of the fine.

BROKEN RIBS.—John Costello fell from a pile-driver on Friday, and fractured two of his ribs. "Billy" is one of the kindest-hearted and most useful members of our community, and his misfortune is regretted by all.

PRODUCE.—The schooner Spray arrived yesterday from Dungeness, W.T., with a cargo of hops, hay and poultry, upon which duties were paid to the amount of about \$150.

DR. PHILLIPS, lately from England, has arrived at Nainimo, to take the place of the Coal Company's physician, vacated by the retirement of Dr. Carrall.

THE STEAMER ELIZA ANDERSON arrived from the Sound at 12 o'clock this morning. Among the passengers was Mr. Haines, of the State Telegraph Co. By telegrams received at Seattle, we learn that the "Fideller" had not reached Portland up to yesterday at noon. The Active sailed on Saturday noon.

ASSAULTING A CHRISTIAN.—A Fort Rupert Indian, named Thomas Tompkins, was yesterday charged with creating a disturbance at a Chinaman's house and assaulting one Ah Chong. Tompkins admitted the corn, pleading drunkenness. He was fined \$10 or two months.

A COURT MARTIAL was held yesterday on board the flag-ship.

Letter from "Tom Brown of Oxford." Mr. Hughes, M.P. and author of "Tom Brown at Oxford," has been engaged as the "own correspondent" of the New York Tribune in England. From among his recent epistles we select the following:

London, Sept. 10, 1866. The arrival in England of Gov. Eyre, is creating a good deal of excitement; indeed, I should not wonder if the fight over him and his doings, which is almost sure to take place now, were to stir some of the depths of political and social life among us which have not been moved this many a year. Your readers have seen that on his landing at Southampton he was welcomed at a public dinner by several Tory Lords and municipal authorities, and—alas! that one should have to write it—by Charles Kingsley. The demonstration was not otherwise than feeble, in a political sense, as no member of the House which is directly responsible to constituents was present. But other receptions are now being talked of in different parts of the kingdom; and a committee of noblemen and gentlemen has been formed to raise an "Eyre Defence Fund." It is curious how this test of the treatment of inferior races divides men in our time more keenly and subtly than any other. I never now can really depend on an Englishman's political faith until I know how he felt about your rebellion, or how he is feeling about this outbreak of ours in Jamaica. He may have talked and professed liberalism from his youth up, and honestly, too; but if he went wrong five years ago, in favor of the last nineteenth century power, with slavery for its corner stone, or if he is now shouting and subscribing for Eyre, all his talk and professions are but as a sounding brass and a tinkling symbol. I have no doubt, from all I gather from your journals, and from my American friends, that it is just the same with you. It is only true liberals, those in whom the faith, that all men are born free and equal, goes down deeper than their dinner, who can stand the notion of absolute equality before the law for all colors, either with you or us, and, to my mind, none, others deserve the name. We shall see how the hosts muster as regards present strength in your Fall elections, and in our Eyre and anti-Eyre demonstrations.

The foremost men on the wrong side with us, as yet are Carlyle, Ruskin, and Kingsley. Our people are calling them renegades, but this is not fair. The only one to whom the name can with even prima facie fairness be given, is Kingsley. Carlyle has been a power whisperer, and a despiser of freedom any time this 25 years. Reverence him as one does, and must, there is no denying this. Ruskin has been the captive of Carlyle's bow and spear for the last 10 years, or nearly that. He is intensely clear, keen, and narrow; can never see more than one side, and is as bigoted a hero worshipper, both in the good and evil sense, as his great master. He is fond now of saying "I am a King's man, not a mob's man," including tyrant in his term king, and people in his term mob. But Charles Kingsley had far more real popular sympathy in him at one time. I remember nearly twenty years ago, at one of a series of meetings of the leaders of our London workmen, called by Mr. Maurice and a lot of young lawyers and parsons who were working with him, Kingsley making a speech in which he declared himself a Chartist, and gave his reasons, carrying the whole meeting enthusiastically with him. Three or four years later again, at the time of the first great exhibition, I remember him preaching his celebrated sermon on Freedom, equality and brotherhood, in a London pulpit, to which he had been specially invited by the incumbent, who rose up in the reading desk, scared, and made a protest against the doctrine and the preacher, the moment he had finished. Afterward he was one of the chief leaders among the Christian Socialists, and wrote constantly in their paper, and a series of tracts under the nom de plume of Parson Lot. One of his tracts in this series, called "Cheap Clothes and Nasty," had a considerable reputation at the time, and deserved it. His early books, too, the "Saint's Tragedy," "Yeast" and "Alton Locke," had the true liberal ring in them. But for all that, those who knew him best always said that his sympathies were at the bottom strongly aristocratic, and so it has proved. He was bred in a school where deference to mere rank was part of the creed. Moreover, his brother Henry, who was out in Australia during Eyre's exploring trips, came home a great admirer of the ex-Governor, and inculcated his big brother before the Jamaica riots occurred—lastly, the Kingsley family owned West India property, and were great losers by the emancipation. Taking this all into consideration, I think one may regret very much the prominent part which he has thought fit to take in this matter, without quoting Browning's "Lost Leader" against him, or ceasing to respect and feel kindly toward a man who has done yeoman's service for the right at one time in his life.

On the other side the leading names on the Jamaica Committee are J. S. Mill, J. Bright and Goldwin Smith. The Buxtons have left the committee, thereby of course damaging it seriously, but themselves, I think, much more, on the ground that outrageously illegal and unrighteous as they deem Governor Eyre's conduct to have been, they cannot see their way to putting him on his trial at home. A rich though not numerous section of the old anti-slavery party here, has followed them, and it seems possible that their defection may make it impossible to raise the funds necessary to try Eyre for the illegal execution of Gordon. I cannot, however, myself doubt that they will be forthcoming. Meantime the press here is strongly deprecating the trial. There is in fact scarcely a paper except The Star, which has come out for putting the thing through. Even journals which were uniformly on the right side during your civil war, are giving an uncertain note, putting the case on a wrong issue; and vilifying the Jamaica Committee. The Pall Mall Gazette, for instance, which is generally sound on legal questions, has said that the nation will not allow the burden of proof to lie on a British Governor; that in taking measures for the public safety he has not been actuated by malice, or by any feeling which the English law will construe as malice." Now the question of malice on which it is thus attempted to ride, has no bearing on the point at is-

Our law is so clear on this part of the case, that I doubt whether any lawyer of character and standing would argue it. The last time that it was seriously argued was at the beginning of the century by Mr. Dallas, afterward Lord Chief Justice in Gen. Pictet's case, who was tried for signing an order for the torture of a colored girl in Trinidad, which had been recently taken from Spain, and of which he was Governor. He urged again and again that there was no evidence to prove the most remote suspicion of malice, and again and again Lord Ellenborough, the judge who was trying the case, interrupted him with, you cannot go into this. The act, if unlawful, is presumed by our law to be malicious. The argument you are now stating would be of the highest importance if urged in mitigation of punishment, but to the question of guilty or not guilty it is wholly irrelevant.—(State Trials, vol. 30, pp. 488-9.) The Jamaica Committee contend that the only issue is whether the seizure of Gordon in a district where the civil law was in force, and his transfer to a district under martial law, was not an illegal act. If illegal, the higher the position of the offender the more needful is it that the Executive Government here should not be able to screen him by refusing to proceed against him. The matter is very serious, and I cannot but hope that the Jamaica Committee will be successful.

The Reform movement gathers weight and strength daily. Liverpool and Manchester are following the example of Birmingham, and there will be monster meetings at each of these places in the course of the month. The League is very indignant at the refusal of Chief Justice, Cockburn, to reappoint Mr. Beales, their president, reviving, barrister for Middlesex. The reason given by the Chief Justice is that, however impartial Mr. Beales may be in his judicial capacity, it is not to be supposed that the Conservative party will believe him to be so, and that it is therefore out of the question that he should be the person by whom the lists of voters in the metropolitan districts shall be settled. One is very sorry that so good a man as Mr. Beales should suffer, but it is clear that the Chief Justice could do no otherwise. It would never have done to keep the leader of a very serious political agitation in such a position. Your readers probably never heard of Mr. Beales till within the last few months, nor, indeed, was he at all known here. He is a Chancery barrister of some 35 years standing, so that he can scarcely be less than 60. I have seen him going about his business very quietly in the Lincolnshire Courts, as long as I can remember, and I don't think five men at the bar with whom he was daily associating had any idea of the strength of his political faith. Indeed, I doubt whether he himself was conscious of it. It is in a different sphere, much like the case of one of the old prophets, mastered by the impulse to go forth to the people, and he may say with Amos, I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but a shepherd and a gatherer of sycamore fruit, when the Lord took me and said, go prophesy to my people Israel. However, without pressing the comparison or at all comparing the work of Mr. Beales to that of Amos, it seems to be more and more clear that he and the Reform League will have settled the fate of Lord Derby's Government before the winter.

Roebuck has just recovered from the illness which kept him out of the House during the last half of the session, and has signalled his recovery by one of his acrid, mischievous speeches, at Sheffield. He attacks Lord Russell and Mr. Gladstone most unfairly, accusing the latter of attempting to cajole and bully the House of Commons, and strings together a lot of stupid platitudes against the Reform bill, which were slain again and again in the debates. He looks forward to the amalgamation of the two great parties of Liberals and Conservatives, and the formation of a joint government of great strength. Without expressly saying so, he gives us to understand that a small rump of Radicals are to be left out, including, I presume, Mr. Gladstone. In fact, he is for playing much the same game as your Copperheads, Democrats and Southerners have been about in the Philadelphia wigwag, and miscalculates. I believe, the strength of the Radical rump here, at which he sneers, as much as Raymond and the rest do at that of the true Republican party. We shall see.

The cholera has all but disappeared, and has left our scientific men more and more confident that water is at the root of the mischief. I only hope it may hasten a little the adoption of one or other of the plans for supplying London, of which the Cumberland lakes scheme seems to be just now the most popular.

We are having a terrible Autumn—nothing like it since 1852, the drenching year of the Great Exhibition, when our cadmen began to think Millennium was bona fide, set in. The harvest, I fear both here and in Ireland, will be greatly damaged. The only consolation is that it will make Reform and the downfall of the Tories (though 50 Roebucks were ready to back them) the surer and speedier.

Summary Court.

MONDAY, NOV. 26. Eugene Thomas v. Quarles.—Plaintiff by Mr. Green. Judgment for \$60 25 for goods sold and delivered.

Stachschmidt v. Edgar.—Plaintiff by Mr. Green. Judgment for \$61 50 for goods sold and delivered.

Robert Slater v. J. B. Swell.—Plaintiff by Mr. Drake. Judgment by default for \$12, goods sold and delivered.

Acey Corridge v. J. W. Williams.—Plaintiff by Mr. Drake, defendant in person. Suit for \$85 for damage to crops. Case partly heard and adjourned until Monday next to enable defendant to produce witnesses.

J. Finerty v. Jean Fortom.—Mr. McCreight instructed by Mr. Drake for plaintiff, Mr. Courtney for defendant. Suit for \$170 damages for loss of six pigs, the property of plaintiff alleged to have been destroyed by defendant; judgment for \$161.

Lavellyn and Copland.—This matter was postponed until Wednesday, after Bankruptcy Court.

The Nicholas Biddle will leave to-day for San Francisco.