THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1865. NO.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED

EVERY MORNING,

(Sundays Excepted)

AT VICTORIA, V.

TERMS:

Annum, in advance $10 00
For Six Months, ... 6 00
Per Week, payable to the Carrier, ... 25
ingle Copies, ... 10

☞ Advertisements inserted on the most reasonabl erms.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

urnished to Subscribers for $8 a year; $4 for six months; $2.50 for three months: payable in advance

NOTICE:

L. P. FISHER is our only authorized Agent for the ollecting of advertisements, etc., in San Francisco.

AGENTS.

John Meakin, ... Nanaimo'
Clarkson & Co., ... New Westminster.
Dietz & Nelson, ... Yale.
Barnard's Express, ... Quesnelle, B. C.
" " ..... Lytton
" " ..... Vanwinkle.
" " ..... Richfield
" " ..... Barkerville.
" " ..... Camerontown.
" " ..... Clinton.
W. R. Burrage, ... Comax
L. P. Fisher, ... San Francisco.
F. Algar, ... Clement's Lane, London
G. Street, ... 30 Cornhill, London.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

When we take a glance over the history of the past year, we cannot say we are disappointed at the general result. We see a community staking the greatest portion of its capital and its labor on a single resource, and that one the most uncertain in its character. This resource, by a chain of adverse circumstances, fails to be as productive as was expected—the dice have turned up the smaller numbers—and the community have lost. It is the gambler's fate, and we should not repine. The next throw may possibly do more than redeem the past, but it may also plunge us into greater misfortune. Let us take warning in time. Fortune has up till recently been too lenient for our own sake. We have, through a continuation of almost marvellous good luck, been increasing in wealth and prosperity, and, like self-loving human nature generally, we have put our success down to our own intelligence and the infallibility of our institutions. The present year has, however, rudely shattered the dream. We perceive that the laws of political economy are just as active in Vancouver Island as they are elsewhere, and that we cannot, any more than other countries, infringe them with impunity. When we say [illegible] appointed at our present stagnation, it is simply because we felt convinced in the early part of the summer, and said as much, that the undue speculation in Cariboo was bound to bring about a reaction. We have indeed not only been trading on an uncertain basis in the neighboring colony but we have been raising everything to a fictitious condition in our own. While, however, we have been over-estimating the value of real estate and the thousand-and-one copper and gold schemes, we have been underrating the very source of wealth which above all others would add to the stability of the colony and counteract the injurious fluctuations of mining speculation. We have persistently ignored our agricultural resources, and while sending large sums out of the country to provide for our own and British Columbia's consumption, we have been depending for our returns on a desperate lottery. All this is wrong in principle and ruinous in practice.

Much, however, as this exclusive dependence on the gold fields is bad in the abstract, the mania for speculation which it creates is, in its evil results, beyond all calculation: A mining excitement takes place, and a temporary demand is created for house accommodation; immediately there is a wholesale investment in buildings, and the town increases in proportions so rapidly that property-holders begin to see a Melbourne or a San Francisco close at hand. This unhealthy, hopeful feeling in its turn induces all manners of extravagance, and so we have in a few short months, most of the ready money of the community locked up in things, if at all productive, at least only so for a limited period. The miners leave for British Columbia, and tenantless houses meet the eye on every street. When the stream returns, if it be fortunate the speculator may get back an interest on his outlay, but if not he has only to see his money tied up and repine at his misfortune. Now all this we maintain is not the fault of the country, but the short-sightedness of a portion of the population. The same depressing results which we see now, we can see in any country where the inhabitants have been trusting too much to a blind fortune, and too little to their own energy and intelligence. We are not alone in the misfortunes of 1864. Our California neighbors with a want of foresight almost as great as our own, have been giving way to the whirl of mining speculation, and the inevitable result—bankruptcy and ruin—has overwhelmed thousands. In Australia we find another commercial crisis, in Brazil another, and in England another. Our misfortunes—if we can indeed call that a misfortune which teaches us us more forcibly the folly of our ways—have been insignificant when compared even relatively with those of the countries we have named; but they have been less excusable. We have ample field for legitimate enterprise in the manifold resources of these colonies, without trusting everything to a commerce which is, at the best, unsubstantial so long as Vancouver Island and British Columbia continue disunited.

Taking all things into consideration, we have been a favored community. Men who have made their fortunes by purchasing real estate a few years ago may grumble because the price of property has declined since 1863, but they forget that during the last year or two everything has been overdone and unduly magnified, and that we must suddenly or gradually come back again to first principles. No person who understands anything about new countries will object to this. It is wholesome. It is the headache after the dissipation—disagreeable enough, no doubt, but an excellent warning to eschew undue excitement in the future. When we look around us, however, we have every reason to be thankful. Almost wherever we direct our eyes we find communities suffering much greater depression than our own, and few, relatively speaking, that have so fair a future before them. We see in the opening of the Kootenay country—a subject to which we were the first to call attention—not only the prospect of obtaining a considerable increase to our population, but a hopeful indication that we are but on the threshold of the gold discoveries of British Columbia. While great results, however, may flow, and we believe will flow, from the unfolding of the auriferous wealth of both colonies, we would for the hundredth time impress on the people and the Government the necessity of looking upon the gold mines as little better than adventitious aids for settling up the country. We do not imply of course that they should be in the slightest degree neglected,—for we would have their development made a first necessity;—but we maintain that the great object of Government and of an intelligent population is to turn such temporary means of wealth to the building up of those interests which are less uncertain and more permanent. We shall in future issues endeavor [illegible] for the instability of our commercial [illegible] means by which the year 1865, upon which we have just entered, may be made one leading to a substantial prosperity.

INTERESTING PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF THE FLORIDA.

[From the Boston Advertiser of November 9th.]

AMERICAN ACCOUNT.

The news which we announced yesterday morning, that the arrival of the famous Kearsarge at this port had brought the intelligence of the capture in Brazilian waters by the Union gunboat Wachusetts of the notorious rebel steamer Florida, sent a thrill of surprise and delight through the community, even in the midst of the excitement and anxiety of Presidential election day. The joyful news spread over the city like wildfire, and was the subject of universal discussion and mutual congratulation, until the interests of Congressional and National elections seemed to be almost forgotten in comparison. One of our reporters paid a visit to the Kearsarge during the day, and by the kind courtesy of her officers, Paymaster. J. A. Smith being especially obliging, was enabled to obtain a detailed account of the singular affair in the bay of Bahia, comprising all the particulars which are accessible to the public,

The Confederate war steamer Florida arrived at Bahia, Bay of San Salvador, Brazil October 5th, having captured and burned the bark Mondamon, from Rio, off Pernambuco, on the 28th of September. The United States steamer Wachusetts, Capt. Napoleon Collins, had been lying several days in the port of Bahia, and the Florida at first anchored in the offing. The Brazilian Admiral immediately sent her a message requesting her to come inside, which she did, anchoring in the midst of the Brazilian fleet and close under the guns of the principal fort, which is located on an island in the middle of the harbor.

Certain parties in Bahia, which is a place of considerable commercial importance, with one of the best harbors in the world, being interested in American affairs, bestirred themselves to bring about an engagement between the Wachusett and the Florida, firmly confidont that the result of such an encounter would be another Union victory as complete as that won last summer in the British channel. On the morning of the 6th of October they carried a challenge to Captain Morris, of the Florida, to move outside the limits of Brazilian jurisdiction and fight the Wachusett. The rebel commander refused to receive the message which the Brazilian citizens had prepared, on account of some informality in its address. During the afternoon of the same day a Hungarian citizen living in Bahia, and sympathizing with our Government in its struggle with rebellion, waited upon Captain Morris and endeavored to induce him to consent to an action between his ship and the Union gunboat, but without success. Capt. Morris, however, stated that if he happened to fall in with the Wachusett during a cruise he would willingly engage in a contest with her, but that on no account would he consent to leave a safe harbor for the express purpose of having an engagement.

All efforts on the part of outside parties to bring on a naval battle in open water between the two vessels proving unavailing, Captain Collins promptly took into consideration the other means which suggested themselves for ridding the seas of the most dangerous enemy of our commerce. In the evening of the same day above mentioned—Thursday, Oct. 6th—he called a council of his officers to debate the subject. An important element in the consideration of the matter was the fact that the convenient harbor of Bahia has three openings into the Atlantic, by any one of which the Florida could make her escape whenever the darkness of the night favored her purpose, without the possibility of a Union vessel preventing it. It is stated that the council of officers were also possessed of information that the Florida had repeatedly seized and burned American ships within 3 miles of the Brazilian coast, in defiance of every law of neutrality, without the slightest objection of any sort being raised by the Brazilian authorities. Taking into consideration all the facts in the case the council advised, with but one dissenting vote among all the officers of the Wachusett, that the scheme proposed of seizing the rebel cruiser at anchorage should be carried out. Captain Collins immediately gave the orders for accomplishing the design agreed upon, saying that with the very deepest regret he felt that the Brazilian government in permitting piracies wishin the shadow of its shores, had made the step an imperatively necessary one. It may be remarked here that it was found after the seizure of the Florida that arrangements had been made for her escape from the harbor on the very next night for a new career of depredation upon our commerce.

The preparations for the encounter were made with the greatest celerity and complete secresy, and at about 3 o'clock in the morning of Friday, October 7, the cables were slipped, and the Wachusett bore down upon the rebel vessel under a full head of steam. So little expectation was there of such a proceeding that one half the officers and crew of the Florida, 70 in number, and including Capt. Morris, were carousing on shore, and the remainder having just returned from a similar absence, were in no condition to repel an assault. The Florida's officer of the deck supposed the collision which he saw to be imminent to be merely accidental, and cried out, "You will run into us if you don't look out." The design of Capt. Collins was simply to strike the Florida amidships, with full steam on, crush in her sides, and at once send her to the bottom, beyond the possibility of causing further trouble to any one. The Wachusett, however, did not strike her adversary fairly, but hit her in the stern, carrying away the mizzenmast and main yard. [illegible] as to prevent her escape from below. The recoil which followed the shock carried the Wachusett back several yards. In the confusion which followed several pistol shots were fired from both vessels, chiefly at random and without effect. Two of the guns of the Wachusett were also discharged by accident, according to one report, and as another version has it, by order of one of the Union lieutenants. The shots did not strike the Florida.

Capt. Collins of the Wachusett immediately thundered out a demand to the rebel craft, "Surrender or I will blow you out of the water." The lieutenant in charge of the Florida may be excused for considerable amazement, but still had presence of mind to reply, "Under the circumstances, I surrender." Without the delay of an instant, dozens of gallant tars boarded the prize and made fast a hawser connecting her with their own vessel, and the Wachusett turned her course outward, moving at the top of her speed and towing the Florida after her.

The fleet of Brazilian vessels, which nearly surrounded the little space of water in which the brief battle had been fought, was so situated that the two American steamers were obliged to pass under the stern of one of the largest in order to penetrate their line. The Wachusett was challenged but did not deign a word of reply, and the Florida, when hailed and commanded to halt a moment afterward, replied that a pause was impossible, as she was towed by a vessel in front.—The Brazilians soon guessed the state of affairs, and in another moment one or two of the heaviest guns of the fort, under the very muzzles of which the capture had been made, opened fire on the Wachusett as she disappeared in the morning darkness. Three shots were fired after her, passing harmlessly far above her pennant, and striking the water beyond.

To the reader it seems that all this must have taken a considerable time, but the testimony of a careful officer on the Wachusett, corroborated by the surgeon of the Florida, assures us that from the time the Wachusett first slipped her cable and steamed upon the rebel cruiser to the moment when the echoes of the last gun from the Brazilian fortress had died away, was only 20 minutes by the watch. Certainly no page of history can show a more daring achievement or one executed with more brilliant rapidity or more complete success.

The Brazilian naval commander in Bahia harbor acted with all the promptness which could have been expected, and in a few moments the dawn of day disclosed two vessels of the Brazilian fleet doing their utmost to pursue and overhaul the Wachusett and her prize. They were a heavy sloop-of-war and a small armed steamer, neither of them any match in point of speed for the handiwork of New England mechanics, and soon gave up the chase as the Union and rebel steamers disappeared below the horizon.

The crew of the Florida is composed of Englishmen, Irishmen, Germans, etc., and contains no citizens of the rebel States. Among her officers, however, are several Southerners.

THE BRAZILIAN ERSION.

[Translated from the Journal de Bahia.]

THURSDAY, Oct. 6—At 6 a. m. yesterday the Confederate States steamer Florida, which has the same celebrity as the Alabama and Georgia, arrived. She came from Santa Cruz de Teneriffe, after a run of 61 days, and entered to make some repairs, and also to take in coal and provisions. At once a great crowd gathered upon the quays, and a rumor flew about that a combat between the Florida and the U. S. steamer Wachusett was about to take place. The latter was in our port for some days. In fact a constant stir on board this vessel was noticed, and it was said she was going to wait for the Florida outside the line of neutrality. In the evening the Florida came and lay between one of our vessels of war and the land, as it was thought, to make the repairs that she stood in need of, and to take in coal. Both the American vessels were the same force. Each mounted 3 guns on broadside, and 3 on pivot. It was asserted that the U. S. steamer Onward, a consort of the Wachusett, was signaling outside of the bar. Our authorities both on land and sea, noticed the movement.

FRIDAY, Oct. 7.—Last night the crews of the steamers Florida and Wachusetts began to sing in a loud voice up to 9 o'clock, a chorus from each vessel coming after the song of the other, with prolonged plaudits from the crew. It was told us that the songs were in praise of the deeds of each vessel, and in disparagement of those of the other. As to the challenge, some said that the captain of the Florida did not accept it, because his vessel was not recognised as a belligerent, and that therefore it could not enter into an action. Others said that the Florida accepted it, declaring that the captain's instructions did not allow him to send a challenge, but did to accept one, and that a cartel would be ordered as a proof of this. The public curiosity is each moment more excited.

SATURDAY, Oct. 9th.—To-day we have to record another outrage done to our sovereignty and another slight to our means of defence. The public knows the fact which took place in our port between the U. S. steamer Wachuset and the C. S. steamer Florida, but as it may be viewed incorrectly, we will, for our own honor, refer to it as it took place.

The Florida came in on the 5th from Santa Cruz de Teneriffe in order to repair her engine and take in water, etc, for her crew were not well, from eating rations of salt meat and drinking salt water filtered. The U. S. Consul asked the President of the Province not to let the vessel into our port, and to impose some penalty for her not respecting Brazilian waters in burning an American vessel near the Island of Fernando de Noronha.—The President replied that he had granted her two days to make the repairs that her [illegible] needed. There was in the port the [illegible] since a challenge had [illegible] dent obtained from the Consul the word of honor that peace would be kept, and that no action would take place in the port, or within the line of neutrality.' The Florida, for better security, was placed under the batteries of the flagship.

On the 5th, the crew being in need of some recreation, half of it were put on liberty and went on shore, coming back in the evening. Many of the men being drunk, and considering himself guaranteed in a neutral port, the captain of the Florida let thirty men of his crew and some of his officers sleep on shore on the nights of the 6th and 7th. At 3.10 of the break of day the officer of the deck, Hunter Junior, was surprised to hear the cables loosen on board the Wachusett, and her crew called to quarters, which was not very difficult for it to do. Nearly at the same time some boats filled with men, boarded the Florida, receiving from her a volley of musketry, and they were seconded by the Wachuset, which not being seen, owing to the smoke from her funnels and the night being very dark, had left her position and run rapidly toward the Florida, passing by the stern of the corvetta Donna Januari, which at once ordered it to heave to, but the captain of the Wachuset did not heed the order, running rapidly upon the stern of the Florida, which lay to the north. Hardly had she struck the latter when she fired a shot from her bow gun. At once a mast of the Florida fell over, and she lost some men, but the crew returned a feeble fire.

It is asserted that there was great loss of life at all points in the struggle which took place with revolvers and cold steel, and that it did not last long, for the compliment of the Florida was reduced by nearly fifty men. Among the dead is said to be the officer of the deck, who received a ball in the breast; and it is said that an officer named Stone was also killed from a shot in the mouth.—Another officer leaping on board the Wachusett, struck about him and fell dead under the many blows dealt at him. Four sailors of the fifteen who leaped into the sea escaped, and were picked up by the vessels lying near. The other eleven were shot in the water by the enemy. After this brief contest there came an interval of silence, which was broken by cheers from the Wachusett.

CARLYLEISM.—As a specimen of Carlyle we quote this passage in "Frederick the Great," which occurs after an enumeration of the lectures of one Lisenbarth: 'There, your Majesty! what a glimpse as into infinite extinct continents, filled with ponderous thorny inanities, invincible nasal drawling of didatic Titans, and the awful attempt to spin, on all manner of wheels, road harness out of split cobwebs.'

DOGGED FUFFYDOM.

A puppy once, a vagrant hound
Who tried to make his food by sound
Essayed to bark [illegible] puppies wi
In what is know as *chronic-ill*.
He strove from [illegible] his brainless head
Some sparkling gems of wit to shed,
And *dog*rel verse came forth in time
With neither measure, sense, nor rhyme.
Not every pup well knows its pa
However well it hails *dogma*,
But this grammarian dolter
Dogberry knew—his learned sire—
And bursting with musical fire
Himself he struck, the brazen l[illegible]

HOW LAWYERS WOR[illegible] A CASE.

The modern Admirable Crich[illegible] was the lawyers. Law is the least of the lessons [illegible] In fact, they would seem to practice law as a shopkeeper I knew in Limer[illegible] kept a clothing shop, "only for the convenience of an exchange." It is over science, art, and literature the fine arts, the drama, [illegible] and death by mysterious agency—that they roam as a wild bee flouts over a garden.

Take a case of fouling in the channel, where the Mary Jane of Swansea, on the starboard tack, was run into by the Dashing Hero of Cardiff, lost her bowsprit, was damaged in her bulwarks and so severely injured below the water-line that she narowly escaped foundering off the Nore, and indeed only gained Margate to go down in four fathoms of water. Spinks was for the Mary Jane; Adams represented—I was going to say commanded—the Dashing Hero.

Spinks opened beautifully with an account statistically given, of where the Mary Jane was built, and the admiration that accompanied her on the morning she descended into what newspapers call her "native element." He then grew warm and described the joy of Swansea and the delight of her owners. She was a model craft, "swanlike and graceful, and chartered by the house of Rigs & Rags with coal for the works at Millwall." Once at sea—"the blue, the open sea"—he became Fennimore Cooper, and told how she furrowed the white waves, cleaving her proud way through the crested water, her gallant crew, sons of that land "whose home" by some incongruity "is on the deep," and at the main the flag that for a thousand years, etc. In the Pool, however, came disaster, and Captain Spinks had now to be professional. Poetry had done its work and navigation had to be called in. "We were, my lord, on our starboard tack; the wind was east east-and-by-south—a fresh breeze, and threatening to be fresher. We were under a reefed topsail and trysail, with a storm jib, and our mainsail doubly reefed. Your lordship will perceive by this every possible paecaution, even to the battering down of our fore hatch."

"What of the main?" interrupted Adams, "tell the Court, I beg, how was the main hatchway."

"Brother Adams, I desire I may not be interrupted. I appeal to his lordship, is the course now adopted by my learned friend usual, regular, or professional? I deny that it is either. I go farther, and declare it to be unseamanlike."

The rebuke was heavy, and Adams went below.

But why should I go on? The report is in the *Times*, and under the head of 'Admiralty Court—Collision—Scuttles, owner, *vs.* Scales and Others," you may read how the gallant Adams handled the Dashing Hero, showing by every rule of the Trinity House that if he had not run into the lubberly collier—it was an unfeeling expression—he would have been "unworthy of his certificate—unworthy of the confidence of his owners." "My lord, my learned friend has told you of the wind but he [illegible] omitted to tell you of the tide." "A [illegible] from Spinks, looking [illegible] "[illegible] Mary Jane was determined [illegible] reckless as it was—when by repeated signals [illegible]

"What were your signals?"

"What were our signals! Does my gallant brother require at this time of day to be told what loosening off the foresail of a schooner on the port tack with her helm hard up?"

The scene grew warm—almost a battle; and when a grand peroration closed Adams's speech about the naval supremacy of Britain, and the rights of Englishmen to do at sea what nobody has ever dared to attempt on land, the genius of the place responded to the appeal, and three lusty cheers shook the court house. Now, when one remembers that either of these intrepid mariners would have been sea-sick in a ferry boat, it must be owned that the exhibition was creditable. It was thoroughly histrionic, too; they imparted to the whole discussion a certain bold and dashing character, an air of reckless attack and daring rejoinder, that savored of a naval action; and when Adams, in his last appeal to the jury, "hitched" his small clothes, there ran a murmur of approval through the court, in testimony of one who had thoroughly invested himself with his client's interests.—"*Cornelius O'Dowd.*" *in Blackwood's Magazine.*

DUPLICATE LADIES — The predominant idea of all the Parisian purveyors of fashion in female dress (with a keen eye to business no doubt), according to London journals, appears to be to multiply as far as possible a lady's requirements; and, as though one robe were not sufficient, the modistes have now introduced a description of double dress, which makes the wearer appear to indulge in two at a time, thus increasing the outlay, as, of course, the material for both must be good; otherwise they would not be in unison.

A man brought a piece of board to an artist, with the request that he would paint his portrait upon it as large as life,—'But' returned the artist, 'that board is much too small for that purpose.'—The man looked perplexed at this unexpected discovery.—'That's a bad job,' said he; 'but look 'ee, sir, ye can let my feet hang down over the edge.'

A gentleman who was staying at an hotel during the Summer expressed his dissatisfaction to his landlady of the heavy charges in his bill—'Well, you see,' she said, 'our season is so very short that we are obliged to make hay while the sun shines.'—'That may be all very true, my good woman, replied the visitor, 'but though I know all flesh is grass, I decidedly object to being made hay of.'

Some wives who will not allow their husbands to keep imported liquors in the house, treat them to plenty of *domestic whines.*