

We can easily understand how a person might think that annexation to the United States would better the condition of this Colony commercially—for the present at least—rather than Confederation with the Dominion of Canada; and would readily accord honest intentions to those who might give expression to such sentiments; and so far as our contemporary has advocated annexation on such grounds we have no disposition to censure or find fault. His opinion may be honest; but it certainly is to be regretted that a colonial man, publishing a colonial paper, should so far stultify himself, and strive to degrade the character and intelligence of his countrymen, by publishing and endorsing such sentiments as appeared in the *Morning News* of Sunday last, emanating from the Washington *Standard* and San Francisco *Bulletin*, when he knew full well that their origin and design were slanderous without mitigation. It will require something more than mere aspersive epithets, such as "broken down party-hacks," and "Canuck," to convince the colonists that Canadian statesmen possess less political honesty or legislative acumen than do the politicians of the United States: or the *Bulletin's* ignorance of "Canadian cloth, Canadian calico, and Canadian boots," to make Canadians believe that those articles are not produced in the provinces as cheaply and of as good quality as they are in the United States. Such slurs, we think, will hardly convince the people of this Colony that their political and commercial salvation lies alone in annexation; and the "protection tariff" bugbear, with which an attempt is made to frighten us, is simply an ebullition of the high tariff mania which so afflicts the public mind of the United States, a relic of unwise legislation which English and Colonial statesmen have long since eschewed as belonging to an unmitigated age, and fitted only for a selfish and ungenerous people. That Lord Monck has said—"the Confederation of British Columbia with Canada is impracticable, for some at least," we do not believe; but, on the contrary, have strong reasons for believing that it will be accomplished within a year. As to the immediate benefits accruing therefrom, we think that to any intelligent Republican it is quite sufficient to mention the change which would be made in our mode of government to satisfy him that that alone would be a great advantage over our present state; and that even if we should be compelled to wait for "reciprocity" until some more liberal and enlightened political party may come into power in the United States, our trade can only remain as it is; nor can it involve in any way the necessity of sending "lumber, coal, and fish" round the Horn to Canada, when there are so many needy markets much more accessible. We believe, however, that we shall not require the longevity suggested by the *Bulletin* in order to enjoy the benefits of reciprocity; for it is well known that the American people are more anxious for the renewal of that treaty—so unwisely, on their part, abrogated—than are the Canadians, the latter having seen that its repeal has largely induced the development of their natural and industrial resources. Yet, if the Dominion Government are satisfied that this portion of the Empire would be especially benefited by reciprocity with the United States they would accede to any reasonable demand on the part of the latter to insure it for this Colony. We regret to see such a hostile spirit manifested on the part of the American people toward the new Empire. No opposition on their part can now prevent its consummation or impair its efficiency. The thing is done; the decree has gone forth that the Dominion of Canada shall extend from ocean to ocean, dividing the continent between a people of one common origin, speaking the same tongue, and whose manifest interest it is to live together in peace. In another century this continent will outweigh in importance the whole of Europe, "with its burden of empires." To each of these two American nations concord becomes a necessity, and there is nothing so well calculated to insure and perpetuate that concord as free trade and free intercourse with each other. Free trade is fast healing the differences

between European nations—differences which have involved England in many a bloody struggle. So, too, it is manifestly better that we should trade with our American neighbors than to fight with them. By the interchange of our respective productions both would be enriched but hostility produces only a loss of treasure and blood. We have now had fifty years of peace. Let that time be lengthened to a century, and let the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon race now occupying this continent as separate nations enjoy during that period unrestricted commercial intercourse with each other, and at the close "they will present a spectacle of commercial grandeur such as has not been witnessed since the creation of man."

Saturday, Nov 28

LECTURE.—Mrs W. C. Stowe's second lecture upon Spiritualism was given last evening, at the St. George Hotel. The lady claims to be "in a trance" while lecturing, and says that, although she can hear herself speak, she has no control over her mind while in that state. Her eyes remain tightly closed while she (or, rather, "a familiar spirit") addresses the audience. The medium came out of the trance in about three-quarters of an hour, and announced that she was ready to answer any questions that might be put to her; but after three or four queries, relative to her belief and powers, had been addressed, and answered in a manner far from satisfactory to the majority of the audience, Mrs Stowe, without affording sufficient time for any fresh questions to be prepared, dismissed the assemblage, with a bow and retired from the platform. We went to the St. George last evening impressed with the belief that Spiritualism is at best a delusion, and we came away convinced that it is a deception. To our minds, Mrs Stowe is a well-educated, intellectual woman, with a remarkably retentive memory, who, having committed a certain number of lectures to memory, travels from place to place reciting them, as a scholar does his lessons. We may be mistaken in our estimate of the lady, and are open to conviction; but we shall require some more convincing proof of the "spiritual" character of her mission than she has yet given.

THE COUNTY COURT.—Our Government is absolutely a drag-chain on the progress of the country. The County Court Bill was signed on the 17th September. By its provisions the Summary Court is abolished and the Stipendiary Magistrate is appointed as County Court Judge. The bill came into force—now two months and over—the Court for the collection of debts by summary procedure has been held on the island. The Chief Justice, not being a Judge of British Columbia, cannot sit as County Judge, and the Stipendiary Magistrate is awaiting instructions. In the meantime debtors laugh at creditors; and the latter have no legal redress. What is the Government about? Can it not, for a few days, abandon the pursuit of sensual pleasure and apply itself vigorously to the transaction of public business? Or is it as “wedded to its idol” as to be unable to see the ruin which its action is bringing upon us? It is infamous that the public interests are left to suffer through the indolences of officials who are paid so well for looking after them. It is not alone in this matter of the County Court that there is room for complaint. Every interest is allowed to suffer through the laziness or indifference of the public servants, and nothing short of a Royal Commission to inquire into the misconduct of the officials, or immediate Confederation, will rid us of the pack of court-morants who have fastened upon us.

**JAMES BAY WARD**—The election of a Councillor for James' Bay Ward took place yesterday in front of the Police Barracks, where a large concourse of people was assembled and took a lively interest in the proceedings. Mr Charles Clarke, the returning officer, at 12 o'clock (Council time) called on the electors to nominate candidates. Mr J. G. McKay was then proposed in a neat speech by Councillor Lewis. Councillor Al-latt, in able and eloquent terms, in which he alluded to the weather and other popular topics of the day, seconded the nomination. No other candidate being proposed, the returning officer declared Mr McKay unanimously elected. W. J. Callingham, Esq., proposed a vote of thanks to the returning officer, commending that gentleman for the very able manner in which he had conducted the election. He said it was a duty of no small importance, and he congratulated the City Council on the excellent selection they had made, as few could be found with the necessary ability, eloquence and tact that Mr Clarke possessed. The returning officer replied in his brief and happy style. The new member appeared much affected by his election, and his speech in returning thanks was inaudible to our reporter.

**WATCH THEFT.**—George Curtis appeared before Mr Pemberton yesterday on a charge of stealing a watch, the property of George Lomas, from the brig Robert Cowan; but for the want of sufficient evidence the prisoner was remanded until Monday.

**A MILL IMPROMPTU.**—Joe Eden was called to an account by the Police Magistrate, yesterday, for exercising his "fives" on the *plat* of Wm. Muldeen, who appeared as complainant with his nasal architecture somewhat disfigured by the operation. The cause of the collision originated in a fight between two other parties in whom the litigants seemed interested, both claiming that their intentions were to stop the combatants, in which act of charity they came in unsocial contact, unfortunately however, for Muldeen, whose nose seemed to possess less power of resistance than Joe's fist; and in order to equalize in some degree the penalty, the Magistrate mulcted Eden in the sum of ten dollars, and reminded him as well that his mode of stopping a fight was rather summary, and might lead to unpleasant results if indulged in to any extent.

**ABOUT KID GLOVES.**—A New York fashion writer thus discourses of kid gloves: The new style of kid glove is finished with a cord and tassel, lacing on the back of the wrist for ornament, not use. Buttons are used to some extent for fastening gloves, but the new gloves are clasped with studs, mechanically fastened to one side. The varieties of gloves are the plain, with two buttons; long wrists with welt and band, fastened with three buttons or two studs; a wider band with three studs; and long armed gloves with four studs, the larger ones with six. The studs take the places of three buttons. The fashionable colors in gloves are "culr," Russian grey, a purple hue, French gray, a lavender tint, lilac, purple, lavender, amburn, and Giraffe.

**A PROSPEROUS SEASON.**—The season now drawing to a close at the mines has been the most prosperous yet known in the colony. The receipts of gold for the past eight months have been larger than ever before known during the same period and, better yet, not a broken miner from Caribbo has been met. With a government worthy of the name, better days would soon dawn upon this colony, for we have within our borders every resource that contribute to make a country great, prosperous and happy.

**THE THEATRE**—The manager has selected the "Porter's Knot," a beautiful domestic drama, and the farce of a "Kiss in the Dark" for this evening. The cast is a powerful one, including the interesting young *Zabulnians*—Misses Yeomina and Von Allman, Mr. Edwards, Mr. O'Neil and others will assist in their several capacities during the evening.

THE LAST MATCH OF THE SEASON—The day at Butte for several prizes, the gift of islands of the Corps. The match—which will be the last of the season—will commence at 12 o'clock sharp. The prizes consist of two first-class rifles, for the first and second best marksmen; and \$20, \$15 and \$10, for the third, fourth and fifth best shots.

The Hudson Bay Company's steamer Enterprise sailed for Nanaimo and New Westminster yesterday morning. Among those on board were Mark Bate, Esq., and wife of Nanaimo, and Hon G. A. Walkem.

THE Directors of the Royal Hospital beg gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of \$64 25, being the nett proceeds of a benefit given by the Amateur Dramatic Corps of H. M. S. Zenobius, in aid of the Institution.

**"Natator," or the Human Frog.**

On Saturday last I was invited by Mr. C. M. Adams, the polite and active secretary of Cremorne Gardens, to give some account in *Land and Water*, of the sub-aqueous performance which is now being exhibited to the visitors at these gardens. A huge, human aquarium (for I can call it nothing else), is placed on the stage. It is made of iron with a plate-glass front, and measures nine feet of water. It contains four tons of water, the depth of the being about six feet. It cost nearly £100. When I arrived the "human form" had just begun his performances, and through the plate-glass I beheld a human form twisting itself round and round with the velocity of a cock-shafer on a pin, and looking like a huge cock fighting in his last efforts to get rid of the fatal gorge-bait.

Getting close to the aquarium, I beheld "Natator" go through the following subaqueous performances. Firstly, he stands on his head; his head touches the bottom of the aquarium, his feet are at the top, like a couple of huge fishing floats. This is called the "minute trick," and is performed first in order to show the length of time that "Natator" can stay under water.

The "Natastor's" second performance is to swim up and down the tank several times—twenty are the most—without coming once to the surface to breathe. He twists himself right round, and gives a slight push with the foot at each end of the tank, so as to reverse his motion. This is a very difficult trick, inasmuch as the aquarium is not long enough for him to take a full stroke, and he has to stop his force at either end as well as he can. The performance of this feat requires from forty to forty-five seconds' under water.

Thirdly. "Natator" sits down, tailor fashion! at the bottom of the aquarium, and grips at the people through the plate-glass front. He also opens and shuts his eyes under water, to show that this can be done. He also opens his mouth quite wide under water; this, he tells me, is very difficult. Great practice has enabled him to do it, without swallowing a drop of water. He throws out air-bubbles, nor, being under water (of course), takes a fresh supply of air.

Fourthly. He again descends, and eats under water a sponge-cake or a bun. He opens his mouth to show that he has really swallowed it. It is most difficult to swallow cake under water without also swallowing water. It required three years' practice to do this performance with safety; for if, when under water, he should happen to cough, the water would enter, he would instantly be choked and a serious accident would ensue.

Fifthly. Ascending to the surface, a soda-water bottle is handed to him; he dives with it to his perch at the bottom, and drinks down the contents, viz : a half-pennyworth of milk; he chooses milk because of the color, and in order that the audience may see that he actually drinks it from the bottle; this is a most difficult trick, as it is hard to swallow the milk without the water getting into his mouth.

Sixthly. A lighted pipe is handed to him; he takes a few whiffs above water, and then descends with it; when under water he manages somehow to keep it alight, and to emit bubbles, which, coming to the surface, burst in little puffs of tobacco smoke. Coming to the surface, he shows that his pipe is still alight.

Seventy. He does *posses* *plastiques* under water, placing himself in various attitudes, and then the piano strikes up the tune of "Froggy would a wooing go." The "human frog" dances to the music, frog fashion, at the bottom of the the water all the time singing the song. It is very curious to see the bubbles of air from his mouth, rushing up to the surface in greater or less numbers according to the number of words in the verse of a song which the spectator should follow in his mind. This would be an interesting study for Professors Wheatstone or Faraday, to see how many bubbles of air were necessary to form an individual word. "Nator," tells he can hear the piano quite plainly when under water; this is indeed evident from the way his bubbles kept time with the music; and he also tells me that if anybody speaks very loud outside the glass, he can hear the speech. This bears on the question of sound being under water; but it must be absolutely that a fish's ear is very differently constructed to a human ear.

ing most like a shrimp, with a body more like a fish like a jet, with a lazy, sleepy floating like a hundred years old cary in the Royal ponds in Virginia Waters, and lastly, being apparently seized with a fit of the "merry-go-rounds," performs a series of head-over-heels gyrations round and round, like a man practising upon a pole between bars in a school of gymnastics. He remains in midwater, without touching the top or bottom of the tank, the whole time, and does not once come to the surface; this might well be called the "porpoise trick." The most number of head-over-heels turns that he performs (and this generally every night) is twenty-four, and he requires about fifty seconds to get through them.

The performance concluded, "Natorator" allowed me to examine him in my medical capacity. He is a young man, twenty years old, 5 feet 7½ inches in stature, and weighs 160 stone 6 pounds in weight; he is lightly built, but exceedingly well made and muscular. His pulse, on coming out of the water, gave 148 beats to the minute, twenty minutes after they were 93 to the minute. I listened to the lungs and heart and observed several strange phenomena, showing how wonderfully nature can accommodate the machinery of the heart and lungs in an air-breathing animal. I hope "Natorator" will forgive the expression to long stays in an element only suited for the existence of fish, and other cold-blooded vertebrate, and this without interfering with the good health of the individual. I shall not now enter into particulars of the auscultation, except to state that the breathing with the diaphragm was very marked; but I should

much pleased if Dr Cotton [who is killed with the stethoscope in cases requiring accurate diagnosis in lung disease] could turn his attention to nature's mode of getting out of a difficulty.

With all this hard and very peculiar work, "Natato" (whose name, he has no objection to my stating, is Cooper, well known to professional swimmers) has excellent health. When he first began to practice long stays under water, some four years since, he used to suffer from severe head aches, but now these have entirely disappeared; he never has rheumatism, or other ache or pain in any form, although he goes through his performances half-past ten every night, and sometimes twice a day. The water in his aquarium he generally manages to keep at a temperature of about 62 degrees, but if it is warmer the water is the longer he can stay in, and the easier his performances become. The longest time he has ever remained under water at a stretch, has been 69 seconds, and last Saturday week he remained 64; his ordinary tricks render

It is an error to suppose that Burns was not generally appreciated in his life. He was eminently so. Before he had composed any of those exquisite songs, which he contributed to Johnson's "Musical Museum," and Thomson's "Collection," he was hailed as a prodigy. He visited Edinburgh direct from the plow, and was received with honors and hospitality by the leading persons of that lettered capital. His recent provincial tour was a continued ovation, and when he was passing the second edition of his poems through Mr Smellie's press at Edinburgh, the stool on which he usually sat, while correcting his proof-sheets, he found one day covered with flowers. He looked annoyed, and the foreman, perceiving the cause, asked him to step a moment into the composing-room. Sir John Dalrymple, who was seated on the stool, was now asked to resign it for a chair, which was handed to him. "What!" said Sir John, "do you suppose I'll resign my seat to an impudent, staring fellow?" "That is Robert Burns," said the foreman. "Robert Burns!" resumed Sir John, at once dismounting from the stool, "that quite alters the case. Give him all the seats in the place."

In a speech delivered by Sir John Bowring, at Dundee, lately, at the meeting of the British Association, Sir John urged that greater attention should be paid at our public schools to what are vulgarly called the three R's—reading, writing, and arithmetic. He stated when he was Governor of Hongkong a highly connected young gentleman was sent out to him for public employment, bringing recommendations from very influential quarters. A report having shortly afterwards reached him of the gentleman's ignorance, he sent for him and examined him as to his proficiency in spelling. When required to spell the word candle, the highly connected young gentleman spelt it "kandell."

At a recent meeting of the Highland Society, Professor Anderson was reported to have stated that a complete exhaustion had taken place of the guano in most of the northern Chinese Islands, and that the supply from the southern islands is of an inferior quality. In consequence of this, a correspondent interested in the debt of Peru, which is secured by a lien on guano, expressed a hope that the agents would at once take note of the point, since if such statements were not met, the holders of Peruvian bonds would naturally feel anxious. Mr. Haslewood, the broker to the last two loans, accordingly furnishes the following reply: "I preface my observations by stating to you that the northernmost of the Chinese Islands having been exhausted of guano has been patent for nearly two years past. As to the demand for guano, state to you authoritatively that our state is not considerably increased in quantity of precious metals, and that this fact is attributed to its small measure to the superior quality now furnished by the other islands now worked for export and therefore more esteemed by agriculturists. As to the extent of supply of guano for future, permit me to assure you that even when the Chinese Islands shall have been exhausted, as in course of time they must infallibly be, there exist other deposits of such extent as to secure sufficient for some generations to come."

WHEN the Perth and Inverness Railway was first opened, some of the natives, accustomed to the well-known system of "haggling" practiced by the highlanders, would often make their appearance at the little stations at the north, when some such dialogue was the following would ensue: Native—"What is the price to —?" Ticket clerk—"Two and eightpence." "What?" "Two and eightpence." "Two and eightpence? Hooh, never, I'll give you no shillings!" "There's no reduction, the fare is two and eight." "Make it two and tuppence and it's a bargain." "Tell you the fare is two and eightpence." "It's only thirty miles." "It doesn't matter what it is. That's the fare," "I'll give you two and threepence." "It won't do." "Two and sixpence then." "No, nor two and sixpence." "At two and sixpence the man, perhaps, would make a dead end, and, finding the clerk inexorable, would actually go away and wait for the next train, to return then with sixpence of two and sixpence, in the vain hope of finding the clerk more accommodating.

Mr. Paw. — Some years ago, a lady from a northern city, went to pass a short time at a wintering place. The Sunday after her arrival she attended divine services at the small church of the place, and took her seat in the most convenient pew. Before long the minister of the pew entered and sat down, with his eyes cast about at the intruder. These eyes perceived no person so out of place as the lady, and he said to himself, "I wonder who that is." "I congratulate you," said the stranger, "it is an excellent pew." The proprietor drew back, and astonished; but, after a few minutes, returned to the charge: "I said, Madam, that this is my pew." "Indeed?" said she. "It is a truly comfortable pew. The light is very pleasant and the music is all that I could wish." "I have given out, when the stranger took up a hymn-book, and was looking for the first stanza, when the pew-owner interrupted her: "Madam, that is my hymn-book you have reserved." "It does you credit," said the other, "it is very handsomely bound, and the print is exceedingly clear. You must take great care of it." This last repulse was completely unexpected, and nothing more was said. When service ended, when the intruder thanked unwilling hostess for the use of her excellent pew, protesting that she had never been

Tuesday, November 2

The *British Columbian* issue, has a labored and article, in which it attempt to lead its few readers by inf that the memorial presented to the Secretary for on the subject of the Settlement was signed by only men. We do not wish porary to deceive itself scribers, and therefore we inform him and them that rial was signed by fifty gentlemen, either the representatives of establishments in Vancouver or otherwise interested in by reason of their being bondholders, in addition several officers of her Majesty who had been in the Colony, the prayer of the With its usual and habitual misrepresentation, it charges the authors of the memorial with the Colony of British Columbia, "a very wilderness, in fact covered with dense forests of trees," when in truth those relate to the site of Westminster need not follow our coterie his fanciful description of it Suffice it to say that it is to be a comparatively useful its value not being at all surplus with the size of Nature, indeed, seems to have it purposely to prevent citizens to egress from the interior Colony. The *Columbian* give Captain Richards' evidence the non-shifting character of the mouth and the straight narrow channel running parallel to the river. Sir Richards made his survey known that the channel is annually and new shoals, first being called the "Malaga" on account of H.M.S. Malaga there. Even now the point out the path to the channel resembles the which is by no means straight. *Columbian* will soon be misapprehension on this score; and to comfort, we may state that Richards, whom it quotes, and several officers of H.M.S. supported the prayer of the memorial that the "Seat of Government be at Victoria, now that united colonies had taken place." The *Columbian* by its misapprehension, we may observe that it is quite singular that the Navy well those now here as it journeyed at Esquimaux harbor, and other nautical men unite in condemning the Minister. We do not, however, under the question of the Settlement to be a local one. The country is interested in the result upon its determination of the whole Colony. The country must be considered that the original owners afterward turn to the *Ecumenical* admits that the local petitioners intended to the memorial, which the Resolutions of the House indeed the Memorial is signed, may be of considerable attempts to show that the interior were deceived of signing those petitions. We believe the people of the interior possessed of quite as much sense and a greater desire to the welfare of the whole Colony as temporary, and will see the result, viz.: that its remarkable signed for the scissors of the colony, to be sent to the Home Government, perhaps inspired for that purpose. Let anyone look at the signatures, and then ask themselves "trick" was practised by the Unionists in the interior who signed the memorial. However, we admit to the cunning of the *British Columbian* being more refined than the Unionists in the interior, that the signatures were obtained by means of whiskey and the people is apparent.