

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, October 18, 1864.

THE CLERGY AND THE EDUCATIONAL QUESTION.

October 12, 1864.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—Sir,—It will excite no one's surprise, and least of all your own, that my views with regard to a system of Free School Education should be entirely at variance with the position assumed by the public press, so far as the question of the introduction of the Bible is concerned. I trust, therefore, that I may venture to expect, now that this question is again before the public, to be permitted, so far as I may deem advisable, a free expression of my conscientious convictions on the important issue at stake, without being exposed to the charge of exciting any "un-Christian influence"—a charge that, seeing that nothing can be more unobjectionable, and the very point I contend for is that the free schools of Vancouver Island should not be absolutely denied of Christianity.

The press would have its readers assume that the decided exclusion of the Bible from the free schools is in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the colonists of Vancouver Island. This assumption I beg to call in question. My experience, not entirely unconnected with the press, has led me to the conclusion that "articles of the press" are written as frequently for the purpose of creating a public opinion as for giving expression to that opinion when it exists; and it is less difficult for me to assume that the former is the case in the present instance than to conclude that the majority are in favor of exclusion.

I had intended when I began this letter to have alluded to the extraordinary proceedings by which you contrive in your issue of Tuesday to connect the Belfast riots with the introduction of the Bible in the free schools, implying as you did a kind of connection like that which existed between the Bible and the Riots. But, sir, I found this morning that you were fairly matched, while the manner in which you strove to evade the force of Mr. Dundas' arguments, show you are conscious of the weak joints in your armor. You strove to attract the attention from the religious objection of your argument to the mischievous effects of sectarian teaching as exemplified in the North of Ireland; in connection with the Belfast riots, when it is applied to the cases of England and Scotland, by appealing to the state of things in Tipperary, where the inhabitants are nearly all of one religion. As if the absence in England of riots analogous to those in Belfast was the consequence of the inhabitants of England being "nearly all of one religion." This, sir, is assuredly as palpable an "ignorant slant" as the former with which you are justly charged, and could only have been framed on the supposition that your readers are as ignorant of the actual condition of things in England as they were supposed to be of the facts of history.

The state of things in England admit of a far different and more satisfactory solution, and that is the jealous anxiety with which England guards the great principle that education be based upon religion. I have before me a Blue-book of the minutes of the committee of the Council of Education, and therein I find that on the application for the admission of Jewish schools to participate in the Parliamentary grant for Education, a special inquiry is instituted as to whether "the Scriptures of the Old Testament will be required to be read daily in the Jewish schools; and, if not, whether the Scriptures of the Old Testament will be required to be read daily in Jewish schools, for which assistance is asked," that assistance, other points being satisfactorily settled, was granted.

It is true that this has reference to the denominational system, but that is not the point; the point is that even denominational schools were not capable of partaking in the benefits of the Parliamentary grant unless a religious education formed a recognized part of their system; so important does the state of England consider the principle that secular and religious education should never be separated. This I beg leave to say, sir, will be admitted by all reflecting minds as a more satisfactory solution of the condition of England than any comparison relative to the state of Tipperary or Timbuctoo.

Without further delay, I must postpone my observations to a future occasion. The subject is too important to be hastily annexed to a letter already respecting beyond ordinary limits. The vital nature of the question at issue must be "my apology" while I beg to remain, Your obedient servant, WILLIAM S. REECE, Vice Principal of the Collegiate School.

THEATRICAL.—The tragedy of "Mary Queen of Scots," was enacted in the theatre last evening for the second time this season.

The principal characters were filled by Miss Ince, Miss Hinchley, and Mr. J. H. Taylor. The play, although a rather heavy one, and rendered more so by the paucity of those occasional scenes of costume and scenery which add so materially to effect in metropolitan theatres, was nevertheless very fairly performed, and met with the approbation of the audience. The scene where Queen Elizabeth (Miss Hinchley) signs the death warrant of her unfortunate cousin (Miss Ince), and then quails in terror before the appalling obituration of her victim, who suddenly enters the chamber, was particularly effective. The fearful malediction of the unhappy Mary being given in a style which thrilled almost painfully through the assembly. Miss Hinchley, who seems a most promising young actress, filled her part very creditably, and was ably supported by Mr. J. H. Taylor as Leicester. Mr. Ince, as Mortimer, deserves praise for his conception of the character, which appears better suited to his style than some of his previous parts. The amusing farce of "Family Jars" concluded the evening's performance. Mr. Ince, who has become quite a favorite, and Mr. Myers, taking the leading parts.

ASSAULT CASE.—The charge against Mr. John T. Howard, of Esquimaux, for assaulting a man named Donovan at Esquimaux, was heard yesterday. Mr. Drake appearing for the complainant and Mr. Bishop for the accused. From the evidence of the complainant, it appeared that the accused entered the apartment where he was sleeping and without provocation committed a violent assault upon him. It appeared, however, that Mr. Howard had been incensed by disgusting and scandalous observations made by the complainant, and regretted having taken the law into his own hands. Mr. Pemberton said that it was not advisable to disclose any matters of scandal, and as the accused had expressed his regret at what had occurred, it only remained to order him to enter into bonds. Mr. Drake here enquired if Mr. Howard was not already under bonds, to which Mr. Howard replied that he had been placed under bonds for six months about two years ago for thrashing Dr. James, who had swindled him out of \$1000. Mr. Pemberton directed the accused to enter into security, to keep the peace for six months.

ASSAULTING A LADY.—James Dupuy, the miserable ragged lunatic who has been several times brought before the Police Magistrate, was yesterday charged with assaulting Mrs. Kennedy. Mr. Guild, of the firm of Gould, David & Co., stated that he saw the accused strike Mrs. Kennedy across the shoulders with a stick while seated with her daughter in a carriage on Wharf street; he also struck the horse. The blow was not severe enough to indicate a disposition to inflict any injury, but it was quite sufficient to alarm the inmates of the carriage. Superintendent Smith said that the accused was in the habit of striking females, and it appeared that he did it with the object of being sent to prison. Dr. Helmcken had previously testified that the youth was more than twice drunk, and he had therefore been charged with vagrancy. Dupuy was remanded for one day for further medical examination.

ALBERTA.—The chief of the Ohit tribe, Cio-hin, who is charged with the murder of Banfield, was at Alberni mills on Saturday last, and requested Capt. Henderson, of the Thames, to bring his daughter back from Victoria. He made an attempt to hide himself. Nothing was known at Alberni regarding the recent naval operations. The Indians would not disclose what had taken place. Dr. Brown's party left last week to explore the country in the vicinity of the Canal and Sound, and intended visiting the neighborhood of the Ahommet-tribe on route to Nooka. They knew nothing of any outbreak among the Indians.

SEWING MACHINES.—We have been called upon by Mr. William Broderick, the general agent of the celebrated Singer Sewing Machines for this coast, and have been requested to call the attention of heads of families, Dress makers, Tailors, &c., to the fact that he has concluded arrangements for the exhibition of these machines for a few days at the store of T. L. Sawcott, Government street. Mr. Broderick professes that it will afford him great pleasure to receive all interested, and demonstrate to them the qualities of the Sewing Machines. The public are requested to call and inspect them.

LEASO DUPUY, the crazy youth who assaulted Mrs. Kennedy with a stick, was yesterday convicted of vagrancy and sent to the chain-gang for one month, where he will be put to manual exercise of a less offensive and more profitable nature.

MUSIC "OVER" THE WATER.—The Rifle Corps Band last evening at 8 o'clock, marched to James Bay Bridge, where they halted and discoursed sweet sounds for over an hour. The night was beautiful and many listeners were attracted to the spot.

GAMING.—Two Chinamen were brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday, charged by the police with permitting gambling to be carried on in a house on Cormorant street. The case was remanded for one day for further testimony.

AUSTRALIA.

(From "Times" Correspondence, Aug. 17th.)

(Dated to JOHN 25th.)

The new electoral act has come in force by which a man wishing to vote who is not on the municipal roll must pay one shilling for the privilege. The consequence has been that the list of voters is frequently reduced one-half. This is a clever device for obstructing the evils of universal suffrage.

The weather in New South Wales has been storm and wet beyond all previous experience. The floods in many parts have been fearfully heavy and destructive to property, but happily no lives have been lost. In some instances, on the Darling, and in that neighborhood, flocks of sheep and farm produce have been swept away, and at Hexham, on the Hunter River, at the Mimmi colliery, principally owned by Victorian proprietors, the mines were flooded, the laborers to the number of several hundreds, were compelled to abandon the drives, and the works are for the present stopped, involving many families in great distress.

During the month Australia has afforded a few remarkable instances of the social status originally induced in the neighboring colonies by the system of transportation. Gardner, the notorious bushranger of New South Wales, has been tried in Sydney on two successive informations, and has been acquitted by the jury in both cases. Mr. Soper's Royal Osborne Sauce, and Captain White's Oriental Pickle, Curry Powder, and Paste, and Maltgating Fat.

THE KEARARGE IN ENGLAND.—The Keararge, which for some time past has been stationed near Dover, during the last Thursday for New York. During her stay she has been visited by crowds of people, all anxious to see a vessel which has earned so prominent a place in the naval history of her country by her gallant combat with an antagonist which was scarcely worth the price of the shot which sent her to the bottom. Up to the last moment the Keararge was full of English visitors, all of whom were treated by Captain Winsor, his officers and crew, with marked courtesy. Spenser and scold and ridicule John Bull as you may, he has a warm-hearted feeling for Americans, after all, and as the Keararge steamed out to the offing, she was followed by a fleet of small boats from the shore and gave three cheers in acknowledgement of the compliment; these were echoed by the people in the boats, while those ashore waved their hats and handkerchiefs in token of their good will. All this may seem trifling or trivial to you, my good reader, yet I like to show you that, as a people, we have none of that animosity to you which you think we have. That a few prejudiced fools do their best to make you hate us, and to make you believe that we hate you, I am ready to admit; but the bulk of the nation are not so bigoted, and these, let me assure you, are the most intelligent or most influential class. The Keararge has been replaced by the Iroquois, a vessel about the same tonnage. On entering the Roads she ran up the English flag, and a salute was fired by the guns of the Castle, London, Co. S. F. Co.

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IMPORTANT TESTIMONIAL. DEAR SIR,—I daily receive per Mail the one of Lozenges, and have much pleasure in saying that I have found them a very valuable remedy, and send me now the value of one pound, that I may double the last sent, and so on, until I have sent you a sum of ten pounds, that I may be able to purchase the Lozenges for my family. I am not an Advertiser for Proprietary Medicines, but I am proud to assure you that the Lozenges have done so much good to almost every case, which I have recommended them, that I believe them better adapted to this climate than anything else we have seen used. Believe me, dear Sir, yours faithfully, D. N. R. LONG. Mr. Thomas Keating, Pharmaceutical Chemist, 27, Paul's Church Yard, London. Sold in Victoria, V. I., by W. M. SEARBY, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Government Street, 1417 1/2.

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