

The Weekly British Colonist, Wednesday, December 28 1870 Christmas.

The saddest and merriest season of the year is once more upon us. In the case of many the external gloom of December corresponds but too well with the melancholy within. As they gather into family parties they are saddened by the gaps which have been made in their circle—the missing "wee stocking," in the case of others all merry-making is hushed; for "the wolf is looking in at the door." To all who have passed life's summit there is a certain sadness about anything which reminds us that we are a year older; but it need not be a disagreeable sadness. There is undoubtedly much about the sentiments associated with Christmas which grows stronger instead of weaker as we grow older, and the essence of the celebration will doubtless remain as long as people have imaginations or a sense of religion. In the possibly too common effort to drown "dull care" in wassail-bowls and forget all the ills of life in the consumption of gigantic plum-puddings, there is one sentiment which none should drop, one duty which none should leave undischarged. While we commemorate the birth of Him who went about doing good, let us not neglect the great duty of charity which He inculcated, ever remembering that even "a cup of cold water" given in His name, shall not lose its reward. Nor can it be pleaded that there is no field here for the exercise of this grace. Unhappily there are those amongst us whose circumstances not only forbid all "Christmas cheer," but actually render life miserable. Let us not meet the needy, either by example or precept, with the heartless doctrine that people who won't work must starve; but let us share with them our plum-pudding, and, by appealing to their better feelings endeavor to rouse them to renewed effort. "Charity begins at home," says one, as he draws tighter the strings of a well-filled purse, and coldly turns away from poverty's appeals. It is to be feared that the charity of such begins nowhere. The words are too often employed to conceal the want of charity. To give a practical turn to our remarks, in the exercise of this the best of all the graces, it is desirable, however may be the wants of this community, that the want of charity is not in the list. Perhaps we would be justified in the assertion that in no community are appeals more readily or generously responded to than in Victoria. Nor are we wanting in those organizations which constitute such happy and effective channels for the outflow of charity. But it cannot be concealed that, notwithstanding all these, there is still a serious want. There is a class of need untraced by those agencies, and which demands a more delicate, sensitive and shrinking. An instance accidentally comes to light. A generous and impulsive soul rushes round town with a sub-cription-list and, as such appeals are never made in vain, distress attends temporary relief. But, it must be perfectly obvious that, as regards both giver and receiver, a little more system is desirable. Could not a sort of executive committee be formed through whom distress could be ferried out and more systematically, effectually and discriminatingly relieved? Say, one committee of ladies and another of gentlemen; for it is often the case that ladies can manage a delicate affair of charity where the sternness which might wound the feelings, or altogether fail of success. We have ventured to throw out these crude thoughts at a season of the year when would appear to be peculiarly suggestive of benevolent effort, and because we know that there exists real need for such effort. And is it not by some special endeavor to relieve the wants of others that we shall most fittingly celebrate Christmas? If we could manage to celebrate it in such fashion that the external forms should be natural expressions of sentiment, instead of mechanical repetitions of traditional observances, they would cease to jar upon the feelings of any, and we might possibly make it an exhilarating occasion, in spite of all shades of melancholy which cling to all kinds of anniversary celebrations. How this object is to be accomplished is, however, a large question. But, on the other hand, there is, perhaps, a great deal of morose-temper and of covert revolt against conventional piety, which predisposes people at this season, to take stern views of things and to sympathize with rigorous indignation. No one should, therefore, be restrained by traditional propriety from calling attention to the sunny side of the world, and showing how necessary it is that each of all kinds, and especially of the charitable kind, should be kept in check by a strong hand. While, therefore, we make merry, let it be the aim of all to perform those duties and follow that true manner of living which can alone constitute the ground of real merry-making.

Madame Petibean's School Examination.

The examination of Madame Petibean's School was held on the first days of last week and terminated on Thursday, in the presence of the pupils and their parents, with a distribution of prizes. The examination was eminently satisfactory to the friends of the pupils. The following prizes (omitting those given for improvement) were awarded:

FIRST CLASS—1st PRIZES.
Geography—Divided Prize—Agnes Harrison and Emma Weiler.
Grammar—Divided Prize—Agnes Harrison, Emma Weiler and Alice Lewis.
Orthography—Josephine Jamieson.
Universal History—Isabella Johnston.
Music—Agnes Harrison.
Fancy Needlework—Josephine Jamieson.
Writing—Josephine Jamieson.

FIRST CLASS—2d PRIZES.
Josephine Jamieson.
Writing—Alice Lewis.
Universal History—Josephine Jamieson.
Grammar—Divided Prizes—Josephine Jamieson and Hannah Simms.

SECOND CLASS—1st PRIZES.
Universal History, Grammar and Geography—Julia Andrews.
Spelling—Rosina Flawin.
Writing—Divided Prizes—Julia Andrews, Rosina Flawin.

SECOND CLASS—2d PRIZES.
Writing—Annie Mason.
Spelling—Julia Andrews.

THIRD CLASS—1st PRIZES.
Universal History—Prize Divided—Fanny Allatt, Nettie Johnston.
Spelling—Divided Prizes—Thomas Ellis, Lizzie Barron.
English Writing—Alfred Harrison.

THIRD CLASS—2d PRIZES.
Geography—Fanny Allatt.
Spelling—Alfred Harrison.
The Prize of Excellence was awarded to Miss Harrison.

The school room was decorated with the tapestry, crochets and fancy needle work of the pupils, which do credit to them as well as to their teacher, Madame Petibean. English and French dialogues and recitations in prose and poetry in both languages, were very well rendered; and some very good songs and duets were played by Miss Harrison, Agnes Harrison, Josephine Jamieson, Emma Weiler, Alice Lewis, Hannah Simms and Fanny Allatt.

Madame Petibean's school will re-open on Monday, 27 Jan, as will be seen by an advertisement in our columns. The institution was established in 1859, and has been one of the most successful, as it is the oldest school in the colony.

OUR CABIN ON THE HILL.—We have to thank the author for a copy of the above Song, the words of which are hereto appended. The music is by Mr. John Fanning, and for the words we are indebted to the music being arranged by Mr. Digby Palmer, of this city. The song is dedicated to J. Z. Hough and R. B. Devlin, Cariboo Miners, and we need hardly remark that the scene is laid in that gold field. "Our Cabin on the Hill," being one other than a miser's cabin, competent judges have pronounced favorably upon the music, and we have the ready to judge of the words. We congratulate Mr. Fanning upon what we understand is his maiden effort.

TO THESE AWAY AWAY
To the golden beams of day
On a thousand happy homesteads ever glow
Out across the rolling meadows
We are backward bound again
To the cherub's ones we long ago
But the friends may grasp our hand
In our childhood's days
And the fond ones breathe a welcome back once more
Mid the brightest scenes of hope
Still our thoughts will wander
To our comrades gathered round the cabin door.
Yes, though dear our native shore
Where Niagara's waters roar
And a thousand lakes are mingling wild and free
While with bright and sunny smiles
Through a blue sea, green and blue
Both their waters proudly onward to the sea.
Still no matter where we roam
O'er the scenes of childhood's home
The affections only cluster round the hearth,
In the land we leave behind
There are comrades true and kind
And they'll never from our memory depart.

CHORUS.
Then meet at byes ye light
Round the cabin fire bright
Let's be happy, let's be merry while we will,
Till the morning dawns
To the scenes we love so well,
To our comrades and our cabins on the hill.

BERT SOGAN, says an English Market Review, will be a small production in France for the present year. The war came too soon for crop of 1870, and has turned the beet crop into food and fodder. This includes the seed that was maturing for the planter of 1871. The French are great consumers, and it became some by New Year the hungry demand will drain the sugar resources of commerce and put up the price. Not to speak of the mills destroyed, there must be a great loss of sugar workers. Now, to get sugar out of the beet root needs rare skill, only to be acquired by years of practice, and many sugarists must be for a year or two like slaves without sifting masters. Let any one visit the sugar mills at Alvarado (Cal) and he will see that the success of that enterprise is due to a thorough knowledge of the business by those who have the same in hand.

St. John's Church.—A committee of ladies and gentlemen of the congregation have elaborately decorated the chancel and body of St. John's Church. Wreaths, festoons, and branches of evergreen and holly, flowers, etc., arranged in unique and appropriate shapes, decorate the walls. A number of banners bearing appropriate devices, crosses and other emblems of the Church are suspended from the ceiling. The pulpit, reading-desks, choir-stands, font and vestry are also tastefully ornamented. The appearance of the interior of the sacred edifice is much improved by the decorations, which in beauty of design and execution excel all previous efforts of the congregation. Divine service will be held at the usual hours on day.

MARION BALL.—The entrance to Alhambra Hall on Tuesday evening will be by the main entrance of the Colonial Hotel on Government street.

Notice to Pay Up.—In yesterday's edition of this journal appeared a communication from Mr. James Fleming, Jr., referring to the Government notification to pre-emptors in certain districts to pay up the arrears due upon their lands. In issuing the notice the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works may probably be regarded as in the strict line of duty, yet it is very questionable whether the arbitrary enforcement of the notice and possible forfeiture of homesteads would be so regarded. Indeed, we do not hesitate to say that the Government would not be justified in resorting to extreme measures just now. The Government acts, or ought to act, for the people; and the Chief Commissioner may rest well assured that the people have no wish to see a single settler sacrificed for the sake of any revenue derivable from such a source. Indeed, it is so clearly the interest of all parties that the struggling settlers, whose early hardships were so vividly portrayed in the letter of our correspondent, should receive every possible encouragement and the utmost fostering care at the hands of the Government. There is this about it, that the Government has good security for whatever money may be due, the title being still in the Crown, and the improvements being upon the land. In any case there must be nothing done to oppress or drive away a single bona fide settler; nor do we for a moment imagine that such a thing is seriously contemplated.

The principal streets presented an animated appearance last evening. All the stores were open until a late hour, and were thronged with customers. The sidewalks, too, were filled with people who gazed admiringly upon the rich goods displayed for sale. The value of holiday goods sold this season has been very heavy. Prosperity has not been general during the past year in this community; but, somehow or other, the shop-shelves have undergone a very sensible depletion.

THINK OF THE INDIGENT SICK.—While enjoying that Christmas cheer which health and plenty place within reach, remember the indigent sick and do something towards relieving their distress. The inmates of the Royal Hospital, for instance, denied home comforts and the kindly offices of mother or sister, present an opportunity for the exercise of "the noblest impulse generous minds can feel."

SKENA RIVER TRAIL.—A deputation comprising Messrs Cannaghan, Woodcock, Germaine, White and Smith, visited His Excellency the Governor yesterday morning and presented a petition, signed by 200 persons, asking that a trail be cut from the head of steam navigation on Skeena River to Lake Tsalah. His Excellency said he was afraid the Government was not in a position to undertake the work at present, but after the deputation had pointed out on the map the great advantages of the road to miners and others that would result from opening up of a fine country; also, the small amount asked, (\$2000) His Excellency promised a favorable consideration.

REMEMBER THE ORPHAN.—It is at once a sacred duty and a high privilege, to care for the orphan poor. The present season would appear to be peculiarly fitting for such efforts of charity, and the orphan of St. Andrew's is at a ready opportunity. The Sisters of Mercy are engaged in a great work and they need help.

St. Andrew's Cathedral.—Midnight Mass was performed last evening by the Rev. Fr. Bishop Demers, assisted by Father Seghers and other priests, and a very efficient choir. The Cathedral is handsomely dressed in commemoration of the birth of Christ.

FROM THE INLET.—The steamer Grappler arrived from Burrard Inlet last evening. She towed down from the Hastings Mill the bark Nancy, lumber laden for Shanghai.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.—No special decorations for Christmas have been made at the Cathedral. Christmas services will be held at the usual hour this morning and evening.

FROM NANAIMO.—The schooner Black Diamond, Capt. Rodlin, arrived from Nanaimo yesterday at 4 p.m. with a cargo of coal for Brodick & Co.

DISMISSED.—Timothy O'Brien, on a charge of selling whiskey to Indians, was yesterday, after examination before the Police Court, dismissed from duress.

THE INQUIRY FOR LAND FOR FARMING PURPOSES continues active, particularly on the Island and on the Lower Fraser. Choice parcels change hands almost daily.

THE STENOGRAPHER.—The beautiful views were exhibited last evening, again at the Theatre to an appreciative audience. The scenes are very faithful and most of them new. The statutory is especially fine. The exhibition will be given to-morrow evening for the last time, after which it will be taken to the American side.

THE CALIFORNIA.—This steamer was announced to leave Portland for Victoria yesterday, but we received no advice as to her sailing.

A Canadian Romance.

The Lindsay Post tells the following tale of a Canadian who has returned to his wife and family after being supposed to be dead for several years. In the year of 1859 Mr. Thomas Fox then a resident of Bowmanville associated that a change of locality might benefit his worldly prospects, and place him in a position in which he could better the condition of his youthful family. After all the deliberation such an important matter demanded he fixed upon British Columbia as the field wherein well-directed effort would be best remunerated, and where in the shortest space of time he could realize his hopes of future wealth and position. After bidding adieu to his wife and children, Mr. Fox at once directed his steps to the sunny shores of the Pacific but his case was similar to that of thousands, a distance lent enchantment to the view. On a closer inspection he found that then also difficulties and toils beset the ventures of preference, but even in the El Dorado of the Western Continent there was no royal road to riches. For a time his family in Canada heard at regular intervals from the wanderer, but after the lapse of seven or eight years letters became less frequent and then ceased altogether, after a time came the tidings that he was dead, crushing the last hopes the wife had of ever again seeing the lover of her youth or the husband of her more mature years. This was in the spring of 1869. The family soon after removed to Lindsay where they have since resided. Two of the sons, steady hard-working men, are printers in the office of the "Post" while another has had charge of the telegraph office at Fecelon Falls and latterly at Sutton. Sober and industrious the boys have been a blessing to their bereaved mother no doubt materially lessening her troubles and in some measure at least, filling up the void caused by the untimely death of her husband. Such was the position of the family last Monday week when they received a telegram intimating that Mr. Fox was on his way home and would reach Lindsay on the following morning. We may fancy but cannot attempt to portray the joyful feelings which pervaded the hearth of the family on the receipt of such unlooked for intelligence. On Tuesday morning the long absent one did arrive by the 9 o'clock train and was gladly and lovingly welcomed as one from the dead and we can readily imagine that he has solemnly promised never more to roam but to seek within the bounds of this New Dominion for that return which is ever the result of well-directed labour and effort. Mr. Fox it appears wrote at different times but supposed that his letters were miscarried and so never reached Canada. Let us hope that as of his long absence toil and trouble he has achieved to some extent, at least the object of his search, and that a comfortable competency will result from the gold, granite of Fraser River, Cariboo and Williams' Creeks may be the portion of the subject of this brief sketch whose adventures have nearly furnished the theme for a Canadian Tennyson's "Scott's Arden."

Cautioning a Tartar.

From the New York Tribune Nov. 26th.
Robert F. Stockton, son of United States Senator Stockton, yesterday attempted to cowhide Col. J. R. Fresse, proprietor of the Daily Sentinel, in Trenton, N. J., and received a severe whipping at his hands. Stockton walked into Col. Fresse's banking house, in State street, soon after its opening for the day's business, and called loudly for the proprietor. Col. Fresse politely answered him, when Stockton exhibited a copy of the "Daily Sentinel" containing an account of a brutal assault by Stockton upon a young shopkeeper, in which Stockton was called a dangerous young ruffian, who ought to be indicted.

It was not written by Col. Fresse, but by one of the subordinates of the Sentinel, and the Colonel refusing to make the apology demanded, Stockton thereupon drew a stiff cowhide from under his coat and energetically attacked Col. Fresse, who caught him by the collar and dealt him several blows with his heavy cane breaking it over his assailant's head. He then took the cowhide from Stockton and belabored him until he broke away and escaped from the office. He ran bareheaded down the street to the Morrisville Station, pawned his watch for \$25, and took the through train for Washington.

WHAT EDUCATION SHOULD BE.—Education and preparation by moral training, is like sword in the hands of a madman—and yet grieved as I am to utter it, much of the education of the country is of this sort. The schools of most reputation are eagerly sought—the colleges of richest endowments are greedily visited—knowledge is the cry, while not one thought is spent upon the moral education which may be going on during the acquisition of that knowledge—the poison that our children may be drinking in—the poison of immorality, of licentiousness, of infidelity. My friends, rather let your children lack the accomplishments of life—than procure them at such a cost. But no schools, however strict the moral discipline, can achieve anything for your children, until you yourself train them in the homestead to obedience, to self-government, to courtesy, to virtue. It must be line upon line, and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little—it must be daily instruction in the word of God—it must be a constant watchfulness over thoughts and habits—it must be earnest prayer for them and with them, and accompanying all this must be a free use of the rod of correction, "for folly is bound upon the heart of a child, and nothing else can fetch it out. This is education, and it is the want of this which has made our schools and colleges rather engines of evil than instruments of good.—Ezra Chancy.

A THOUGHTFUL HUSBAND.—A domestic infidelity has meted that the house was on fire. "Tell your mistress of it," said he, "for I do not meddle with household affairs."

Beecher on Anglophobia.

NEW YORK, Nov 25.—Mr Beecher in his discourse at Plymouth Church sternly rebuked the invitation of war with England. He said—"Cursed of God and of all men may be that man who counsels the red hand of war, except when needed to fight for national existence. The only war we want is the war of righteousness. Let kings war, let aristocrats war, but the nobles of this Republic should know the fellowship of man, instead of the red hand of war; let them put around their neighbors the arm of fellowship, and dwell with them in harmony, in unity, in sympathy and in love."

XMAS PRESENTS!!

D. SPENCER
Has determined to clear his large Stock of
TOYS, GIFT BOOKS,
Photo & Scrap Albums
FAMILY AND POCKET BIBLES AND
CHURCH SERVICES.

FANCY GOODS

The most Beautiful all just arrived per "ADA" from London, at
LESS THAN WHOLESALE PRICES!
CALL AT ONCE
—AND—
Make Your Selection!

Rocking Horses!!

Government Street, Dec 16, 1870.

Fruits for Christmas

- FELL & FINLAYSON
Sweet Oranges
Lemons,
Fig Paste,
New Figs—in 1/2, 1 1/2, 2 1/2 boxes,
French Plums,
Crystallized Fruits,
New Dates,
Bananas—in 2 1/2 mats,
New Muscatel Raisins,
Sultana do,
Zante Currants,
Preserved Ginger,
do Limes,
do Pine Apples,
do Peaches,
Brazil Nuts,
Jordan Almonds,
New Soft Shell Almonds,
do Walnuts,
do Peanuts,
do Filberts.

CONFECTIONARY GOODS,

Which will be sold CHEAP.
The finest quality of
PORT AND SHERRY WINES
And the choicest brands of
GIN, WHISKEY, BRANDY, &c.
In quantities to suit every family and at
PRICES THAT CANNOT BE UNDERSOLD

J. L. JUNGERMANN

OFFERS HIS FIRST CLASS STOCK OF
SILVER PLATEDWARE,
CUTLERY, CLOCKS & MUSIC BOXES,
AT FIRST COST!
For the next two months, to make room for New Goods from the best English and American Factories.
THE STOCK CONSISTS OF
English and American Table, Dessert, Tea, Gravy, Egg Sugar and Saltspoons, Ladles, Table and Dessert Forks, Fish Knives and Forks, Elegant Tea Sets, Tea and Water Pots, Crystal Stands, Molasses, Cream Jars and Butter Pitches, Silver, Colony Glasses, Cell Bells, Water Coolers, Cakes, Card Receivers, Cardsticks, Punch Bowls, Cups, &c., &c. Best steel Table and Dessert Knives.
CLOCKS—The Largest Assortment in the Colony.
MUSIC BOXES, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 TONES
My Large and well selected Stock of Watches, Diamond Rings, Jewelry, SOLID SILVERWARE, Spectacles, Pocket Combs, Microscopes, Overglasses, Ac., &c., has been greatly REDUCED IN PRICE to suit the times.
REPAIRS in my line will be promptly and satisfactorily executed.
J. L. Jungermann,
ASONIC BUILDING,
GOVERNMENT STREET.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Europe.

London, Dec 19.—The Czar has repudiated the Moscow Corporation for petitioning in behalf of a free press religious toleration and other reforms and the university for asking for joint intervention to save the literary treasures in Paris.
The Czar refers unapologetically to the siege of Delhi and other tokens of British civilization.
The French troops fronting the Duke of Saxe-Coburg are holding their ground with splendid gallantry.
Mr. Reitzinger, secretary of Jules Favre, has escaped from Paris and has started on a diplomatic mission to Vienna, St. Petersburg and London.
The conference will not meet till January.
Berlin, Dec 18.—Two prominent members of the North German parliament were arrested on a charge of high treason for their anti-war acts, by order of Bismarck.
VIENNA, Dec 18.—A conference representing the neutral powers at the Foreign Office was held by the representatives of the neutral powers at the Foreign Office on Tuesday last. All the ambassadors were present. The basis proposed is as follows: The neutrals to acquiesce in the annexation of Luxembourg. To acknowledge William as Emperor of Germany. France to pay 1,200,000,000 francs. To raze the two frontier fortresses. To cede the district of Alsace to Germany and acknowledge the German Emperor. It is said that the French would rather pay more money than cede a mile of territory.
VERSAILLES, Dec 18.—The tenth Prussian Corps occupying Vendome on Friday captured six guns and 1 mitrailleuse.
On Saturday Gen. Von Der Tann took Epuilly with 230 prisoners.
A German detachment from Chartres defeated six French battalions at Brod.
London, Dec 19.—The Prussians are short of men and 20,000 fresh troops are coming in, but Versailles is likely soon to be untenable as the heavy guns of the French which were being moved forward will soon be placed within range of the city and the French are resolved to destroy it.
Paris will eventually fall by starvation but not within 3 months.
There will be no bombardment.
The Prussians, 21,000 strong, attacked Metz yesterday with 11 batteries. After a combat of 5 hours—in which they sustained heavy losses—they occupied the place. It is reported the battle will be resumed to-day. The enemy falls back, as Gen. Bourbaki advances.
The French troops have re-occupied Verdun.
MADRID, Dec 18.—Caucas Deputies by a majority in the Cortes, last evening, adopted a resolution in favor of the dissolution of the Cortes as soon as the new king has taken the oath of office.
London, Dec 19.—Parliament will meet on the 2nd. Hon. John Evelyn Denison will be re-elected Speaker.
The Herald's Brussels correspondent telegraphs this morning that the bombardment of Paris is declared to be impossible. It is not humanity which restrains the Prussians, but because it is simply impossible for them to succeed, as they neither number nor calibre of guns are 24-pounders, and the French works which command the batteries can destroy them the moment they open fire. Paris has two months' supplies of food.
A correspondent from Vandome says that the number of the French armies commanded by Chanzy and Bourbaki number less than 180,000 men and they can draw reinforcements from other parts of France for nearly double that number. The appearance of the French king is favorable.
The King of Prussia received an address at Versailles and accepted the dignity of Emperor tendered with the unanimous voice of the Princes, free towns and German nation.
The abolition of the Seheldt dues is voted. There has been no fighting before Paris since the 10th. Outside news to the 11th say they are undiminished, order is perfect and stores ample.
New York, Dec 20.—A Vendome correspondent writes manufacturing is the order of the day with the French army commanded by Gen. Chanzy and the Germans, under the Duke of Mecklenburg and Prince Frederick Charles, and as a consequence there are no forced marches than hard fighting.
London, Dec 20.—The prospects of peace are looking much improved this morning. It is thought in Berlin and Frankfurt that with some amendments the peace basis proposed by the neutral Powers will probably soon be adopted.
Military movements in the field continue actively, and the French are evidently endeavoring to concentrate.
One of the Prussian armies is falling back before Bourbaki.
The Cologne Gazette says it is rumored that the previous causes of delay in the bombardment of Paris are incorrect. The difficulties in transportation and material will shortly be overcome, and further action will be guided entirely by military considerations.
A special from Brussels says the large calls for the landwehr denote the weakness of the investment of Paris. One or two more sorties like the last might raise the siege.
A Frankfurt special says a month will be required before the bombardment of Paris is possible. The guns at present mounted are useless, while the French guns almost command Versailles.
The Prussians have taken Nuits, with a loss of 300 killed and wounded, among the latter being Prince William of Baden.
The Hessische Zeitung denies that Prussia has designs on Luxembourg, and affirms its resolve to submit to arbitration its complaints of a violation of neutrality.
The Luxembourg Government declines publishing Bismarck's acts; or the answer to it before the latter acts in the matter.
London, Dec 20.—President Grant's Message was reproduced here at length. The Times says the President expects England to take the initiative in reopening negotiations.