

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, February 20, 1866.

THE MARKS OF PROGRESS.

If there is anything which distinguishes more than another the progress of the age it is the growing desire for plainness and simplicity. We see this in the manners, in the fashions, in the language, in the habits and customs, and, in fact, in everything whether pertaining to taste or utility. Forms and ceremonies, in so far as they are separable from the useful, are fast losing their hold of the human mind. We are beginning to value things not according to their outward show, but for their intrinsic worth. The trappings in which power was wont to be clothed, and which were looked upon by the superstitious multitudes as the very essence of authority itself, are gradually disappearing in the old clothes repository. Ceremonials which used to be looked upon by the English people as sacred as Magna Charta itself have now become the subject of newspaper satire, and heraldic devices and emblems which of old were esteemed the badges of honor and greatness, are about as important to the general public as the inscription on a mummy's coffin. As we emerge gradually out of the imperfect civilization of the past, we leave our superstitions behind us, and bring the touchstone of reason to test the purity and usefulness of things as they present themselves. In this way, as we have endeavored to show in former issues, we approach without fear or trembling even Government itself, and denude it of its expensive, cumbersome and useless appendages. Nothing, indeed, of a sublimity character is too high or too low for the daring spirit of innovation. It is only a few weeks ago that the whole constitution of an old European monarchy was changed,—that Sweden abolished her four Chambers of Government, and substituted a single branch in its stead. There were, of course, as there are here, indignant nobodies who appealed to the past, and to the danger of grasping with vigorous hands the sacred fabric of a Government, but they were as effete in opposition as they were in mind, and the reform was carried out. It is this spirit which the exigencies of every progressive country demand—to make utility the great object, and to be deterred from no change that will give a greater degree of prosperity to the country and a larger share of happiness to the people. This is the true reform. If we can have the same work which the Governments of this and the neighboring colony require \$1,000,000 to effect, performed for less than half the figure, reason tells us that it should be done, no matter what outward show may fall in the reduction. The spirit of the age is, as we have said, against elaborateness—against surplussage of any and all descriptions. In some countries, it is true, there are exceptions, where simplicity has no part, unless, indeed, it is the simplicity of the people who pay dearly for the ginger-bread ornaments with which the Government is surrounded. In these countries ceremony is everything and utility nothing. A Minister might be excused for plunging the nation into a devastating and purposeless war, but let him ignore a form at Court and he becomes a fallen man, with neither place nor prospects. As a laughable instance of the extent to which the ceremonial mania is sometimes carried, we give in the words of the London Spectator a description of the contortions which occurred lately at the marriage of Princess Alexandrine of Prussia to Prince Frederick William of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. They are both unimportant individuals, but as the bride is a king's niece, a grand ceremonial dinner was performed, one prince handing the soup and another the Madeira. The Envoy of France and England demanded seats at the Royal table, but as they are not of the absolute first rank of full Ambassadors—we have only two, one in Constantinople, and one in Paris—the claim was refused, and Lord Napier and M. Benedetti, with their wives, went home. The probability is that the Prussian Chamberlain, who has to learn enough about transparencies and serenities to bewilder a herald, and who has been studying ceremonial silliness all his life, knows his business, and is in the right. And, after all, we do not know that the Hohenzollern etiquette is much worse than that which keeps duchesses standing like parlor-maids behind the Queen at the opera, and will compel Mr. Bright if he takes office to make himself look as like a footman as he can manage. Suppose the Prussian Envoy were to claim the right to dress like a gentleman at Court, where would the Constitution be? It may do in such countries as Prussia to sacrifice the substance of prosperity for the shadow of empty ceremonial, but it will not do on Vancouver Island. What is wanted here is good legislation and very little government. What our authorities want to give us, however, is no legislation and an excess of government. What they demand is no laws to retain people in the colony and attract people to it, but plenty of Executive functions—plenty of commands and plenty of officers to carry them out. In this they are backed up by the powerful support of our contemporary, who rehearses all the stuff that has been enunciated about the necessity of the colony tying itself down to one class

of officials, whether the exigencies of the country demand a change or not. "Permanency," shout these oracles,—“let us make every office a fixture, and although we may perchance run out of money in the Treasury and empty the pockets of the inhabitants we shall have the consolation of knowing that our officials are well fed and highly respectable.” Such is really the substance of the language used by the hangers on of Government, in the press and out of it. When we say it is positively sickening from its disgraceful pandering to one of the least tolerable of the Executive's assumptions, we can safely state that we are expressing the opinion of nineteen out of every twenty people on the Island. The colony wants to be saddled by no permanent officials—it wants to be allowed to conduct its Government as a sensible person not affected by a plethora of cash desires to conduct his household, in the cheapest and simplest manner possible.

TO THE MINERS OF CALIFORNIA

The steamer Labouchere starts this morning for San Francisco, subsidized by the Vancouver Island Government to carry mails and passengers direct from that port to Victoria. What with the Active running to New Westminster via this city three times in two months and the Labouchere making similar if not more frequent trips, the people of Vancouver Island will have the benefit of at least a three-times a month direct communication with California. This is not all however; the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer is bound by contract not to exceed \$15 in the fare. The Active or any other steamer running in opposition must necessarily adopt as low a scale; so that we shall have not only the benefit of direct, regular, and frequent communication, but the passage will be fixed at rates low enough to meet the circumstances of the poorest class of miners. Indeed we would not be at all surprised to find, if the demand justifies the competition of another boat, as is likely to be the case, the rates of passage reduced to a merely nominal figure. Taking, however, the maximum amount \$15, the California miner will be enabled to reach the Big Bend at a total cost from San Francisco of \$41 50. This includes meals both on steamers and along the road. The quickest travelling time from San Francisco to the mines is put down at about eight days; the slowest, and the method which the great bulk of the miners will adopt, will cover 12 days. So far then we have given, as near as the most reliable authority can give the cost and time of reaching the new gold fields of British Columbia. The other desideratum, and which is of much more importance to the miner, is the advantages which are offered when he reaches his destination. And here we tread on delicate ground; for well we know how usual and how natural it is for newspapers to fall into hyperbole in describing the character of new diggings, and how disastrous are the consequences which sometimes flow from the exaggerations. We can, however, safely say that the newspaper press of both colonies has rather underrated than overrated the auriferous character of Big Bend. Nothing, so far as we are concerned, has been stated that cannot be substantiated by numbers of eye-witnesses. In December last we had the statements of nearly all the miners who came from the new diggings, and they corresponded in a degree never we believe known in a mining country before. At that time, and after carefully analysing every report from Big Bend we said, "So far as is yet known the gold region extends over a hundred miles; the sinking is shallow; the ground rich; and the mines comparatively easily reached. From all the accounts we have received, and they are almost strangely unanimous, there is but one conclusion to come to, and that is that the greatest gold mining region in any country on the Pacific has been discovered. This is no idle assertion. If we take the statements of those men who have had practical mining experience at Big Bend, we find that the average yield of the gold fields when opened is computed at from half an ounce to four ounces a day per hand. It is needless to say that no gold mining country in the world can equal this. California nor Australia, nor Montana nor Idaho, cannot pretend to a comparison." What we have since learned has led us to entertain even more glowing ideas of the new Eldorado. We find that the miners were not only badly supplied with food, but almost destitute of proper mining appliances—that they, in many instances, only got their claims opened as winter was setting in—that in fact they were the most ill provided and hardly dealt with body of men that ever undertook to open up a mining region. And yet, despite all these difficulties, we find on bill claim known as Dupay's taking out \$2,500 in eight days—two men having, in one of the days, obtained as much as \$800. The Discovery claim, of four men, took out sixty-four ounces in one day—the claim averaging throughout from two to four ounces to the hand. Shep. Bailey's Co. took out in a very little time \$1,600, and got as high as twelve ounces to the pan. These were on French Creek, a tributary of Gold Creek, which flows into the Columbia, the sinking on former runs from six to fifteen feet. The gold

is coarse, and it would appear to be widely disseminated, for on the creek being prospected fifteen miles farther up similar rich prospects were obtained. On Carnes' Creek which is a tributary of the Columbia much further south than French creek, the sinking is deeper, thirty-six feet having been put down without meeting the bed rock. Fifteen dollars to the hand were obtained by Carnes and his companions from the loose gravel, Chapron & Co. washed \$40 a day. Smith & Co. got four bits to the pan in loose gravel and calculated the dirt to turn out from two to three ounces a day to the hand. On McCulloch's Creek, another tributary of Gold Creek, the companies were making from two to three ounces a day to the hand. Thirty-five ounces were obtained from the high bed-rock. On the top of the Hill four bits to the pan were obtained in the loose gravel. We have here only enumerated the creeks, that are so far best known; but it is a remarkable fact that wherever other creeks were tried with any degree of fairness they yielded invariably good pay. The extent of the mines can be better inferred from the statements that Gold Creek itself is one hundred miles long. We have here, therefore, all the essential qualities of attractive mines. We have them rich, large in extent, shallow and therefore easily worked. If indeed mines ever deserved the name of being "poor men's diggings" these of Big Bend are entitled to the nomenclature. To the thousands who are toiling wearily in the California mines for little more than a bare pittance, they present attractions that would argue a sad want of enterprise and energy to forego. There is gold and plenty of it at Big Bend—all the machinery and the capital required to take it out are the stout heart and willing hands of the industrious miner.

LETTER FROM COWICHAN.

SOMENOS, COWICHAN. TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—SIR, A very heavy fall of rain upon three feet of snow had so raised the creeks and rivers in the valley of Cowichan a few days ago that the men almost began to think that a second deluge was at hand. The Indian camp at Somenos was entirely flooded, and at Quamichan and Clememalata a number of houses were carried quite away. Nearly all the bridges between Somenos and Cowichan bars have been carried away; one known as the long bridge, it being about 250 feet in length, has been borne off whole, and consequently precludes all intercourse in the shape of traffic between the outlying districts and the Bay. The worst feature of this last misfortune is that the evil cannot be remedied until the water shall have fallen sufficiently to admit of the bridge being rebuilt, which will not be for some months to come. In the meantime Maple Bay will be the only outlet available for the trade of the interior. Three days after the rain had ceased, thinking that the water must have subsided, I started, in company with a neighbor, to inspect the bridges and find out what damage had been done in the settlement, and discovered, to my surprise, that although the water had fallen three feet from high-water mark there was still a stream rushing along the road at several places that took us sometimes nearly up to our waist as we forded it. A settler living about half-a-mile from the river who has his cabin floor raised two feet from the ground, had it come into his house and put his fire out, and one family had to have a canoe sent to get it out of its waterlogged tenement. A short distance of the Victoria road presented an appearance (as I came along to-day) of a dried up creek bottom, and here and there it is still standing in pools. The storm, however, seems to have settled the weather which is now as fine as possible. Since the appointment of our Cowichan magistrate we have been kept quite in a ferment with the numerous law affairs that have kept the J.P.'s hands full, and supplied the settlement with an abundance of food for gossip and scandal. Happily that storm seems also to have passed and left our social atmosphere clearer and purer than it was. There is one thing, however, in connection with one of the late cases to which I would like to draw attention. When the policeman came to arrest Mr. Caldwell he took with him five full-blooded Indians, armed with staves, to make the arrest. Mr. C. was at home, quietly waiting for and expecting the arrival of the policeman. He had been arrested for the same affair before and discharged, and he would have given himself up if the magistrate had allowed him. He is known to be a quiet young fellow, and would have followed the policeman at the beck of his finger. What need, then, was there for all this display of brute force? Why should a white man be unnecessarily subjected to the degradation of being taken into custody in the name of the law by armed savages? Why should a white man be obliged to submit to the authoritative insolence of an Indian? If the policeman was afraid or from any other cause wanted assistance, was there not a white man to be got in the settlement to accompany him? Can it be that policemen systematically try to hurt men's feelings and heap unmerited indignities upon them? If so, I trust that our magistrates will endeavor in future to do without a "hobby" from town and confine himself to the assistance of a constable from among the settlers, who has pluck enough to make the arrest of a quiet, gentlemanly man without having at his back a crowd of armed Siwash retainers. W. SMYTH.

IN CHANCERY.

The Church Reserve Injunction.

[BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM.] Kennedy et al vs. Harris et al.—Mr. McCourtney, with whom was Mr. Robertson, instructed by Mr. Seabright Green, moved on behalf of the Governor of the colony, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Columbia, trustees, and W. S. Sebright Green, a lessee, for a decree that the injunction restraining the defendants Thos. Harris, W. B. Smith, James Jeffery, James Fell, James Thorne, J. W. Carey, William Hebbard, and Wm. Leigh from pulling down, cutting, defacing or destroying certain buildings, fences or other erections standing on the land described in the Indenture of May, 1864, (being the Church Reserve,) be made perpetual. Mr. Courtney watched the case for the defendants, several of whom were present, but they were not represented by Counsel, and Mr. Courtney was not allowed as this was a motion in Chancery to defend the Court. Mr. Fell, one of the defendants, with the leave of the Court, asked for a postponement owing to the absence, through illness, of Mr. Ring, who was instructed to appear for the defendants. Mr. McCourtney stated that the word "instructed" was comprehensive; Mr. Ring might be instructed in one sense and not in another, but no answer or affidavits had been filed, and he understood from Mr. Green that Mr. Ring had told him that he was not instructed to appear. Mr. Fell and Mr. Courtney both maintained that Mr. Ring was instructed to appear, and that the answer had been prepared and engrossed. It was Mr. Ring's expressed desire that a postponement should be asked for as he was too ill to attend. Mr. McCourtney said if Mr. Ring was really too ill to attend it was another thing, but he understood differently. His Honor said if it was shown to the Court that Mr. Ring was properly instructed and was too ill to appear he must grant a postponement, but it was not satisfactorily shown, and Mr. McCourtney must therefore proceed with his motion. Mr. Fell said the injunction was granted against a former Mayor and Corporation, there had since been an election and he was no longer a member of the Corporation, he therefore applied to have his name erased from the list of defendants. His Honor said he was hearing Mr. McCourtney on an ex parte motion, and could not entertain such an application, as proper notice must first be given to the opposite side. Mr. Jeffery also applied to have his name removed as he had never consented to the proceedings from the first. His Honor said it was a wrong time to apply, and the same objection extended to Mr. Jeffery's application as to Mr. Fell's. Mr. McCourtney said that Thos. Harris and W. B. Smith disclaimed having any interest in the matter. His Honor said the parties were charged with a wrong and they could not now disclaim having an interest in that wrong. Mr. McCourtney replied that they might disclaim any desire to perpetuate an alleged wrong, and they were now willing that the injunction should be made perpetual as against them. His Honor—What you mean is that they consent to the decree as against them. Mr. McCourtney said that Messrs. Harris and Smith, through their Attorney, Mr. Bishop, consented to the decree; that Messrs. Fell, Carey and Leigh, who appeared in person, also now consented to the injunction being made perpetual as against them, provided they were not pressed for costs. His Honor—Very well, that nearly exhausts the list Mr. McCourtney. Then there remain now only James Thorne and Wm. Hebbard. Mr. McCourtney was proceeding to move as against the two remaining defendants when Mr. Courtney intimated that he also consented to the same terms on their behalf. His Honor—It is surprising when the wedge is once put in how soon the tree splits (laughter). The list of defendants being now quite exhausted the decree must be made accordingly.

INFORMATION CONCERNING BIG BEND.

—We would draw the especial attention of miners and others to the advertisement appearing elsewhere, affording all the requisite information as to the distances and charges necessary for reaching the recently discovered rich placer diggings on the Columbia. The Chamber of Commerce deserve the thanks of the community generally for their active and laudable efforts to disseminate the information calculated to induce immigration from California and the intervening territories; Mr. W. H. Oliver, who leaves this morning on the Labouchere, will carry with him a large number of Government maps showing the exact distances and line of travel by both routes, so that miners may judge of the advantages of the Fraser river line from actual observation, and he will, moreover, have in his possession a number of posters and hand-bills, which he will circulate in San Francisco, Sacramento, Marysville and elsewhere. Besides this the Committee, we understand, will cause advertisements to be inserted in the principal California journals, with small lithographs of the route. Mons. Demy of this city has translated the notice into the French language for one of the French papers in San Francisco. WHARF STREET, VICTORIA, V.I.

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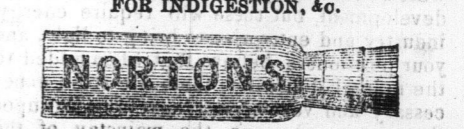
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ROUTE TO BIG BEND.

the following on the trail in the Dalles Mountaineer: started up the river from Col. the 9th of December. The r advanced that no time to procure a proper supply Captain White determined nces of gathering his fuel of the river. The first day after running eight miles, ascent of the Little Dalles had been feared that this ent was impassable, but the ont difficulty. This night t distance below the 49th t day, the 11th, the boat e to Fort Shepherd, which is Company's post of twenty est bank of the Columbia, e the International Boon- Captain White made the ements with the Colonial officials, and spent the day who were delighted with the tterprise. On the 12th the pids at Little Rock Island, e Fort Shepherd, but was a tow-line to help her over, at this point she was helpd e, and ran up to the mouth The first thing to be done e the 13th was to pull up ch is the last until the head lake is reached. The hills ntire distance rise above e of the river, and the difficl- are very similar to those on e Palouse rapids, except e not impeded with the big cky masses which make ngorous. At the mouth of e the Columbia gradually d, and for eight miles up e navigation is all that The river gradually widens e—the hills rising more eges of the lake are lined dry drift-wood, and the ed from the action of the which everywhere comes e. It was near the head of 49 met the fields of ice here were a number of e large supplies of pro- e put ashore, to spend e snows and hyperborean 30 m. north. From this back to Fort Shepherd on e 16th returned to Colville e head of Lower Arrow hies to Upper Arrow Lake e river connecting the two e has a sluggish current, e has the same general e lower lake, and is sixty From thence it is forty e de Mort, or Death Rapids, mbing capacity of the 49 e aid to have a swift current, eous obstacles to naviga- e are as follows:—

ending to the mouth	MILES.
the head of Lower	75
between the two	80
Arrow Lake,	15
les de Mort.....	60
	40
	270

are suppositions, but are tect.—Oregonian.

NG AT ESQUIMALT

MUNICATED.] g was held at Esquimalt g last to discuss the merits e and the action of the Road relation thereto, and to ereon as the people might

school house having been es who applied for it, the Mr. Rothwell's storehouse, purpose. e was built by public sub- eys been considered public for public meetings as e, until the key came into e person who now holds

at o'clock, Col. Foster was e and Mr. R. Green was

emerits of the Road Act on e of the present Commis- e discussed by Col. Foster, Williams, Fisher, Green, efer which the following e: Thompson and seconded e committee be formed ead Act, and if necessary e House of Assembly, eal of said Act. Carried

Fisher, and seconded by e committee consist of Rothwell and Mr. C. F.

oh was large and orderly, nks to the chairman and e call of the commit- e shall have been con-

Salt Lake Vedette of the e at the Montana vigilantes eptured and hanged five euf stage robbers, includ- e the most notorious of all e murderers were caught Denver City, Colorado.

—A little girl, after re- eurch, where she saw a e for the first time, related e, among other things, eher childish innocence, eound a plate that had e't take any."