

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, May 2 1868.

of 2d April 1867; also, expenditure and income of... The Robson-Smith fracas appears to have expended itself in a tirade of abuse indulged in by the complainant towards the Magistrates who tried the case, and in a long (and said to be partial) report in the Columbian of Saturday.

It is a source of congratulation that the popular members of the Council have entered a general protest against the estimates for the current year as they stand. Their action will be fully sustained by the people. We have already pointed out some of the more glaring cases of inequality in pay and labor—cases so inconsistent with the actual necessities of the Government services the amount of population, the revenue of the country, and the public good in general; that it was only necessary to mention them to draw from the Legislature the attention required.

On Friday evening the question of Confederation was brought before the Legislature in the form of an address to the Queen in its favour, moved by the Hon. DeOsmos, and a resolution against it moved by the Hon. Wood. It requires but small powers of analysis to see the proceeding in its proper light; and to us the resolution of Mr. Wood appears an expression of personal feeling rather than public sentiment, of private interest rather than public good. It amounts absolutely to nothing, and moreover contradicts itself. It certainly enunciates no new sentiment, proclaims no new truth, suggests no new principle against the necessity or advantage of immediate Confederation—but it does indorse and confirm the action of the late Council in the premises, as well as sustain the proposition of the good which would be derived by both England and British Columbia from the Confederation of our North American territories.

The Robson-Smith fracas appears to have expended itself in a tirade of abuse indulged in by the complainant towards the Magistrates who tried the case, and in a long (and said to be partial) report in the Columbian of Saturday. The affair throughout was very disgraceful. The assaultee suffered considerably in body and the assaulter in reputation—the former from the hard knocks administered and the latter from allowing anything that could be said by the former to throw him off his balance. We admit the provocation was very great. No editor has a right to grossly insult a person—to say just sufficient to wound to the quick, yet not enough to afford the party assailed a chance to secure satisfaction in a Court of Law, and then, when challenged to combat, to evade personal responsibility by declining to fight the person he has injured. A plain narration of facts is not a libel, nor does the honest opinion of a writer, temperately stated, justify an assault upon his person. It is of traveling beyond the facts—of a departure from the usual etiquette of a report of the Council proceedings to indulge in a fling at a fellow member, and to point at him the figurative finger of scorn, contempt and ridicule, wherein Mr. Smith has just cause for complaint. But he should have kept his temper—especially when the object against which he allowed it to get the better of him was so unworthy his notice. Let us hope, however, that the chastisement administered to the one, and the infliction of a heavy fine upon the other, will prove a wholesome lesson to both, and that we have heard the last of affairs of the kind in this Colony.

On Saturday afternoon no less than three steamers arrived at the same moment. The Leabell from Burrard Inlet, the George S Wright from Portland, and the Douglas from Nanaimo. They gave the bay an animated appearance, and caused a large number of persons to collect on the wharves. The Enterprise arrived at 10 o'clock yesterday morning from New Westminster, having been detained by the sitting of the Council on Saturday night. Among the passengers were Hons. Smith, Walkem, Stamp and Pemberton. A Cariboo express and mail also arrived. A NOTED CHARACTER SHOT.—Samuel Brannan, a California millionaire, was shot and dangerously wounded in Napa County, in that State, on the 17th inst., by a squatter on his land who lay in ambush. After being shot, Brannan was robbed of his watch by his assailant. MAILS COMING AT LAST.—The steamship John L. Stephens sailed from San Francisco on Saturday afternoon for Portland with the Victoria mails. She will connect with the Active at Astoria for Victoria. MR FRANK TARBELL, of the steamer Geo. S. Wright, and Wells, Fargo & Co. have placed us under obligations for full files of late papers.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Cricket on the Hearth was beautifully presented last evening, there being scarcely a fault to be found with the performance. Amy Stone, by her admirable personation of 'Little Dot,' added to her well-earned reputation as a charming actress of great ability, and Mr H F Stone appeared to 'better advantage as Caleb Plummer than in any previous role here. Next to Mr Stone ranks Mr O Clarke, who, as John Paul Perrybingle, was unsurpassable. Mr George Marsh deserves praise for the humorous manner in which he played 'Tilly Slowboy,' and Mrs Fowles personated 'Blind Bertha' in a pathetic and touching manner. Mr Cairns's 'Tackleton' was very good, and Mr Gregory certainly invested the character of the 'Stranger' with a good deal of force and feeling. Upon the fall of the curtain, Amy and Mr. Stone with Mr Clarke were called before the curtain. 'Sketches in India' ended a night's entertainment in every respect successful. Mr and Mrs Stone as 'Tom Tape' and 'Sally Scraggs' kept the house in a constant roar. Marsh's Count Glorioso was about the best thing we have seen him in. 'Fanchon' will be presented on Wednesday. A REAL GRIEVANCE THAT OUGHT TO BE REMEDIED.—A toll-gate is established at Clinton, and upon most goods passing that point a toll of one cent per pound is paid. Among the exemptions is Colonial grain. Now, a farmer living below the toll-gate may and does send his grain through it free and have it ground at a mill located (say) ten feet above the gate, and the flour produced goes to Cariboo toll-free. But let him have his grain ground ten feet this side of the toll-gate, and the moment it is hauled through the gate in the form of flour it pays \$1 per 100 lbs. Cannot anyone, even with his eyes shut, perceive the injustice of a system that levies a toll on wheat ground below the gate, yet admits to market the same article ground above the gate free? And is it necessary for us to point out that the millers of Clinton and Lillooet must close their establishments if the tax be longer continued, for the reason that they cannot compete with millers more favorably situated?

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