

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, Dec. 30, 1864.

THE QUEEN.

I have a piece of news for you—the best piece of news that for a long time past I have been able to send you, and which is causing a not uneventful, although somewhat uninteresting year, to pass away a little less gloomily than the weather, amongst other causes, would tend to make it. Everybody hopes, and is willing to believe, this piece of news to be true, and if it would only turn out to be so, universal satisfaction will prevail amongst all classes of her Majesty's subjects both at home and abroad. The news is, and it rests on excellent authority, that the Queen will open the session of 1865 in person, and deliver, as of old, the speech from the throne. Two statements had been made public touching the meeting of Parliament, which somewhat puzzled the knowing ones. One was that Tuesday, the 7th February, would be the day; the other was that Thursday, the 9th, would witness the annual assembly of Lords and Commons. Whilst there was much discussion as to the why's and wherefore's of these contradictory reports, the information I give you settled the question at once. Although Tuesday would be the more convenient day, so far as public business is concerned, it is understood that the 9th would be more so to Her Majesty, who indeed, on being asked, had fixed that day. You cannot imagine what crowds will assemble to welcome her once more to the world, and how the welkin between Buckingham Palace and Westminster will ring with cheers of heartfelt loyalty. It is the right thing to do, and the public will testify in a manner not to be misunderstood, that whilst they respect the royal sorrow, they will welcome with all the warmth of honest hearts this assurance Her Majesty will thus give, that she is about to take her place in society once more, and to resume all her duties as a Queen after the old fashion. Her presence indeed at the opening of Parliament will be the official signal that she has abandoned her privacy for public life and regal duties, both social and political, and will make the day which sees her once more at the head of her people one of universal public rejoicing.

THE PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE.

A rumor has been afloat for some time past that the Princess Mary of Cambridge had married an English nobleman, contrary to the rules and regulations of the Royal Marriage Act, which has been the cause of so much sorrow and annoyance to several sons of the House of Hanover. The absence of the Princess Mary from England for two or three months had diverted public attention from her, so that it was only by fits and starts that the rumor limped along. However, this morning, "the murder is out," since a paragraph has been published upon the authority of the Churchman, a weekly clerical newspaper, as its title designates, to the effect that a marriage really had taken place. It is further said that as the Royal Marriage Act stood in the way of the Princess's wishes the Queen was appealed to, since it was within the Royal prerogative to remove all obstacles which that enactment places in the way of any member of the Royal family following their inclinations to marry whom they please. It is said that the Queen refused to do so, and that the Princess at once asserted her own rights, and in the presence of God, and with the blessing of the Church, gave her hand where she had already given her heart. As she is said to be an expectant mother the time has doubtless come when it was necessary to announce the fact. That the marriage had the approbation of the Princess's mother and sister may be inferred from the circumstances of her having been, and still being a visitor with her husband at her sister's Court at Mecklenburgh Stralitz. The name of the Princess's noble husband has not been yet permitted to be made known.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

Those who are "up" in Parliamentary information predict a quiet session for 1865—the last the present House can legally hold. Predictions of this kind do not often turn out to be true. For instance, the prospects of 1858 were all wrong, and still more had they been so in 1857. But then, neither Earl Russell, nor Mr. Milner Gibson were in the Cabinet; and their being so now may be an assurance that there is no such imminent danger of the coach being upset! Meanwhile the Railway question I mentioned in my last is more than ever a topic of conversation. I am much better "posted" on this subject than I was a fortnight ago. The fact is Mr. Gladstone is brooding over very comprehensive views. He wants to make a public revenue out of railways, and it is not impossible that the vision of the payment of a large part of the "big debt" by this means has risen up in his inventive brain. His scheme, as I am informed, is to purchase a railway system, not for the purpose of working it by Government agency, for that would never be tolerated, and indeed is impracticable, and even if it were practicable would defeat the end he has in view. He meditates such a purchase simply for the purpose of leasing it to select and safe men under certain stipulated conditions. The *modus operandi* would be either by the absolute purchase of the interest of the stockholders, or by giving them a fixed percentage on their shares calculated on a three years' average. In either case he would lease out the lines at a higher rate per cent., and it is calculated that an enterprising, sagacious, and not too numerous a body of lessees taking the lines and working them with no more capital than is required by actual working expenses, would obtain upon that capital a much larger relative rate of interest than is now secured by the existing shareholders. It is said that able directors, untrammelled by a mass of needy shareholders, could afford to experiment upon traffic, and afford to give their experiments a fair trial. It is believed that both goods and passenger traffic could be enormously and profitably increased. If that be so then it is plain all parties would be gainers. The existing shareholders would either recover their investments or receive an interest as safe to reach them as the div-

idents from the funds. The new lessees would be enriched by the difference between the price paid to the old shareholders, and the rent repaid by the new lessees. Finally, the public would gain in extended accommodation. Such is the scheme. It is indeed a "big thing," but it is in contemplation. Whether it will get beyond the Treasury into the Cabinet, and out of the Cabinet into Parliament, is more than I can say. There are great difficulties and strong objections in its way. The difficulties are chiefly financial and political; and these might be got over. Take one for example: Who is there that could give the State security for the payment of the rent of the lines? Take another: Would it be safe to encourage the Government still further to meddle with private matters? In any case, however, the scheme demands and must have a full and fair hearing, and no one knows what we shall all think after Mr. Gladstone has expounded it in one of his eloquent speeches. It should not be forgotten, however, that, although he may try to legislate on the subject next session, he is not bound to do so; for the construction put upon the clause of the Act is that Government may exercise its reserved power to purchase at any moment after Oct. 1, 1865. The right does not elapse by not being exercised; and that being so, there seems more reason why a commission of inquiry should issue. I have dwelt at greater length on this subject than I could have desired; but I have got the impression into my head that many of our friends on your side are in vestors in English railways, and as such persons, I have deemed it imperative to give them the newest and fullest information I could gather.

THE ENGLISH ARMY.

It is not to be largely reduced. One step in a moderate direction has been mooted to effect a small saving—viz.: six depot battalions to be swept away, and probably the six juniors at home to be placed on half pay. Nothing else will be done. It is not thought likely that the War Office and Horse Guards will be able to consent to the reduction of a single existing battalion. The whole amount of force is required to furnish the fixed proportion of regulars. Besides which there is nothing in the existing state of foreign affairs to warrant large reductions, and it is not at all unlikely that large reinforcements will be required for Canada should Brother Jonathan be mad enough to cross the border. It is not improbable that the cavalry will be remodelled, and by way of setting about the best method for so important a change, Lord George Paget is to be the new Inspector. However, I must not begin to write about that officer and gentleman, else I fear I might become censorious. Let it suffice then to have said that a man can never be unfortunately who has "friends at court."

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA FROM THE POPE.

The poor old Pope has just informed the faithful what they are to think, believe, and avoid. He has condemned eighty distinct propositions in morals, philosophy and politics with a tolerably distinct intimation as to the fate of those who persist in holding them. The whole thing is regarded as the greatest political blunder the Church of Rome could possibly have made; notwithstanding it never more freely or competently unbosomed itself at any former time. Not that there is anything new either in the Encyclical itself, or in the new index of condemned opinions. The sentiment of the papacy on all subjects is pretty well known. No one is ignorant of its hostility to modern society, in religion, politics or morals. The thing, therefore, to be borne in mind is the fact that the Pope has published his hostility in such a form as to be a challenge in every State; for in every State except Spain there is at least some show of religious liberty, as well as of deference to freedom of conscience. These papal documents are, however, a declaration of war against society, upon pretty nearly every principle of modern policy, and upon nearly every individual right fought for and won at great cost. By his proceeding Pius IX. has gone out of his way to offend every State in Europe, except perhaps Spain. The Emperor of the French must feel it as an answer to the Italian Convention. The Belgians must regard it as a support to the Roman Catholics, who so nearly overthrew their system. The Italian must look upon it as an appeal to civil war; whilst to Germany and Prussia it must be equally offensive. It is a sign, indeed, that if the papacy is about to die, it is determined to die game. There can, however, be no longer any pretext for the vague talk that is often heard about the Church of Rome not being hostile to everything held to be valuable; and the effect of it ought to be to strengthen those of liberal tendency all over the world. But, alas! the effect is likely to be disturbance and faction.

Louis Napoleon, at all events, will now be able to point to these documents as a reason for dealing more harshly with the Papacy; and should they go the entire length of interfering between rulers and their subjects in every land, one would think that every ruler must be roused into hostility. Pius IX. ought at least to have known that this is not the 12th or 13th century, and that it is much too late in history to play at Hidebrandism or Innocentism and that in a contest like that he has himself provoked the weakest must go to the wall. There can be no question that these documents have advanced the solution of the Roman difficulty by several years. Never perhaps was there so positive an illustration of the old saying—*Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat!*

NEW ZEALAND.

The state of affairs in New Zealand still continues unpromising. There are now no less than four Governments of the colony all pulling at sixes and sevens—the assembly, the ministers, the governors and Mr. Cardwell. Out of such confusion what good can come? Sir George Grey is accused of being the author of all the mischief. He, it is said, allowed the prisoners to escape, refused to carry out the Land Settlement Act, took up the position of a dictator and paralysed the hands of General Cameron! The colonists are furious, as well they may, and nothing but the strong head of a competent governor at the head of affairs can settle the question. But Mr. Cardwell, as you doubtless have found out by this time, is not the

man to meet and overcome a difficulty, requiring decision and courage.

INDIA.

Important news comes by the last mails from India which although brief, tells of a decisive policy now being carried on by the Governor General. The fortress of Dalemkote in Bhootea, has been captured with the slight loss of two officers and 50 men. The position of the fortress is described as exceedingly strong. Unfortunately an accidental explosion of gunpowder caused the additional death of three officers and seven men. The cause of quarrel with Bhootea is very simple. For years the Bhooteese have been in the habit of rushing through the passes, plundering property and carrying off British subjects as slaves, 127 of whom are now in the territory. The British power in India could of course no longer endure this. Negotiations had all failed. The order was therefore given to annex so much of Bhootea as would give security to the frontier. Unfortunately there was no other means of punishment. It is most satisfactory to know that up to the latest advices our troops had admirably succeeded in all they had undertaken.

The Bank discount rate reduced the other day to 6 per cent remains at that figure. The Bank of Holland to-day reduced its rate from 6 to 5 per cent.

Consols, money 89 1/2 @ %
Acct, January 10..... 89 1/2 @ %

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, February 21.

A JEALOUS HUSBAND.—A man named Oldham, residing on Kane street, was brought up in the Police Court yesterday on a charge of disturbing the peace on Sunday morning last, at 2 o'clock, by smashing the doors and windows of a house he had let to a lodger, in which his wife had taken refuge from his drunken violence. It appears from the evidence of Mrs. Oldham, a quiet, respectable looking woman, that Oldham was in the habit of abusing and ill-treating her on the pretence of being jealous. Several witnesses were examined, who proved the destruction of the doors and windows by Oldham, and the threats made use of by him, upon which the magistrate bound him over to keep the peace, himself in \$100, and two sureties in \$25 each.

THE ALEXANDRA BACK AGAIN.—The stern-wheel steamer Alexandria, formerly owned and commanded by Capt. Wm. Moore, arrived in this port at noon yesterday, under care of Capt. Inley and three men. We are informed that bonds were given by the lawyer for the Victoria creditors in the matter of the men's wages, for which the Alexandria was libelled in the American courts, and the steamer was accordingly released. Capt. Moore was not aware of her departure till she was fairly off, as he was residing with his family at some distance from Penn's Cove, where the boat was tied up. She is now in the hands of her creditors in this city.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DIRECT STEAM.—We are authorized to state that the H. E. C. steamer Labouchere has not been offered to the British Columbian Government, nor asked for by them, to be used on the proposed direct line between New Westminster and San Francisco. We learn that the arrangements for chartering the Thames have been completed, and in all probability she will shortly be placed on the route. We further learn that within six months the Government of the sister colony will have a steamer to place on the direct line to Panama.

ESCAPE OF JIMMY JONES.—A canoe manned by eight white men came into the harbor yesterday morning, having, it is rumored, just returned from conveying Captain Jimmy Jones across to the American side of the Straits. The same canoe was observed on Saturday evening at six o'clock near Race Rocks, with eight paddles and a fair wind, making at full speed for the opposite shore, and it is believed that said canoe contained Jimmy and his (mis)fortunes.

THE SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.—His Excellency the Governor and the Col. Secretary with the Treasurer, Mr. Franklyn, J. P. of Nanaimo, and others went on board the new tug boat yesterday and steamed to Esquimalt and back. The engines worked well and gave perfect satisfaction. She was computed to have steamed at the rate of over ten knots an hour.

AN INQUEST was held by Coroner Dickson yesterday at one o'clock on the body of the unfortunate man found in the harbor on Saturday last. After viewing the corpse, which apparently had been in the water about 8 or 10 weeks, the jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned."

Wednesday, Feb. 22.

SHOOTING CASE.—Lazar, a half-breed, who was arraigned at the assizes a few months ago on a charge of shooting and killing his chief at Sooke and narrowly escaped with his life, was brought up yesterday on another charge of shooting, the victim on this occasion being a klootchman. Indian testimony was taken, and it appeared, that Lazar had been drinking freely, and in the middle of the night took his musket and went to a lodge occupied by an Indian and his wife, where he demanded admission for illicit purposes, and on this being refused he fired two shots through the domicile, the first ball lodging in the woman's back and the second passing over her husband's head. The force of the ball had been partially expended by penetrating the boarding and matting, and the woman's husband extracted it with a knife. The witnesses were either unable or probably unwilling to trace the act to the prisoner, as they are all in the mortal dread of him, and the case was remanded for further evidence until Monday next.

LECTURE.—The third lecture of the course was delivered before the Mechanics' Institute

last evening by John J. Cochrane, Esq., M.L.A. Owing to the attractions of the Swiss Bell-Ringers at the theatre the attendance was very much smaller than usual. The lecture was very carefully got up, and was delivered in a most spirited style, calling down frequent applause from the audience. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

TRIAL TRIP.—The steam-tug Diana, formerly belonging to Anderson & Co., and now the property of Capt. John T. Wright, having been repaired and fitted up with new machinery, took a trial trip outside the harbor yesterday. We understand that the Diana will be employed by her owner in the fur trade on the northwest coast.

Thursday, Feb. 23.

BEWARE OF BURGLARS!—On Monday evening some daring thieves broke into a house on View street in broad daylight and after coolly emptying a decanter of sherry made away with sundry articles of vertu in the shape of jewelry, &c. They effected an entrance through a window. During the following day some burglars entered a dwelling on Kane street and took away articles to the value of nearly \$50. Two other establishments on Broad street have also been robbed within the last few days. Families cannot be too particular in securing their doors and windows before retiring to rest.

THE FORT RUPERT COAL MINE.—The schooner Gazelle, Capt. Gollacer, arrived yesterday morning from Fort Rupert, with a cargo of 40 tons of coal to Leneveu & Co. The Gazelle left the mines on Monday morning last, making a very quick run down. The prospects of the mines are very encouraging; the coal is said to be of an excellent quality for fuel, and the seam is 15 to 20 inches thick at the outcrop, increasing as it goes down. Five men are now employed at the mine.

THE BAZAAR.—The use of the capacious room in the Royal Exchange Buildings has been kindly offered by Mr. Huskinson to the Ladies' Committee of the Female Infirmary for their bazaar, in aid of the Building fund, which will take place on the last Thursday and Friday in March. A number of ladies are laudably engaged in providing material for this bazaar which gives promise of being a very good one.

HEBREW LADIES SECOND ANNUAL BALL.—This event came off last evening in the Lyceum Hall with great *clat*. The room was tastefully decorated, and all the arrangements connected with the dancing, supper, and refreshment departments were admirably carried out by the committees appointed. Allen's quadrille band was all that could be desired. In fact nothing was wanting to render the occasion thoroughly enjoyable. Dancing commenced shortly after 9 o'clock and continued until a late hour. His Excellency was present by invitation.

CODFISHING EXPEDITION.—The schooner Nonpareil, Capt. Stevens, is now fitting out for a codfishing expedition to the Northwest Coast. Extensive cod-banks have lately been discovered on the coast of the Russian Possessions, and the Nonpareil will sail in a week for a three months' cruise to the new fishing grounds. The codfishing season has now commenced, and a fleet of 14 fishing vessels from San Francisco will also avail themselves of the funny treasure which has been laid open to them.

MORE CHINAMEN.—The steamer Pacific yesterday landed a number of Chinamen. There has been a constant and steady increase of the celestial population during the last few months, every arrival from San Francisco bringing its quota. A large number have their way to the Fraser River bars, which have been worked to such advantage since the low stage of the river.

CLOSE OF THE THEATRICAL SEASON.—The Mail Steamer will take away Mr. Potter and the remainder of the theatrical company to Portland. The theatrical season in Victoria may, therefore, be said to be at an end. Mr. Potter, with his company, will make a summer tour through Oregon and Idaho. He purposes revisiting us in the fall, having concluded terms for the lease of the theatre.

SETTLED.—The case of assault which was to have come before the police magistrate yesterday, was settled out of court, and the exposure which it would have occasioned thus wisely averted. The accused who had been held to bail in the sum of \$25 forfeited the amount.

NANAIMO.—The Emily Harris arrived yesterday from Nanaimo. The miners were at work getting out coal. The Alpha was the only vessel seeking a cargo. Large supplies have however been forwarded to Messrs. Kavanagh & Co. and other city dealers.

SUPREME COURT.—Mr. Ring yesterday applied to the Chief Justice for a new trial in the case of Steele vs. Cohen. The application was opposed by Mr. McCreight. His Honor reserved his decision.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.—Yesterday being the birthday of Gen. Washington flags were generally hoisted throughout the city by American and English residents.

HOVE DOWN.—The bark Envy was yesterday successfully hove down for examination and repair, opposite Bullock's Yard.

THE SASKATCHEWAN GOLD FIELDS.

The following highly favorable account of the gold diggings on the banks of the great river Saskatchewan, lying on the direct route from these colonies to the British Provinces on the Atlantic, will be read with interest at the present time by the Victoria public. It furnishes the strongest additional incentive to increased effort in favor of the great cause of union of the colonies, and ultimately, our incorporation with the grand British American Confederation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific:

NEWS FROM THE SASKATCHEWAN MINES.

Mr. Louis D. Irving, Mr. Samuel Martin, and Mr. Horace Becker arrived on the 3d instant from the mines at Edmonton. Mr. Irving and Mr. Becker are from the Kootenay mines by way of Edmonton. Mr. Martin spent the last summer in the Edmonton mines. All speak in very favorable terms of the mining prospects of that region, and report an average of ten dollars a day during the whole of last summer with rockers, and think that with sluices forty to fifty dollars could be made with ease. They speak of a peculiarity of those mines which is highly important, and that is, that the gold deposit is not confined to the bars in the river, but is richer in the sandbanks of the shores, showing that for years and years to come the yield will be greater and will afford field enough for hundreds of thousands of successful miners. Mr. George Gunn, well known to us, has been doing very well, as also has Malcolm MacIver and Eustace Amlin, each of the latter having made \$300 to \$500 in the last two months' work. Mr. George Flett was building a fort for the Hudson's Bay Company at Mr. Woolsey's Mission, which fort he was to be in charge of.

Fuller particulars we would have learned doubtless, except for the unfortunate accident which resulted in the loss of a number of letters which were entrusted to the care of Mr. Becker. That gentleman brought them safely onto Beaver Creek where they were lost by the tearing out of the pocket of his coat. It is very likely, however, that they will be found, and Mr. McKay, of the Beaver Creek Post, has promised to forward them in that case. Mr. Irving has brought a few letters, among which we notice one for Mr. Bird and one for Mrs. Geo. Flett, which may be found at the Post Office.

Mr. Irving and Mr. Becker proceed at once to St. Paul and Mr. Martin remains with us to return to the mines again in the spring. We wish the two first a pleasant journey to St. Paul, and trust that the latter by his presence among us may rouse up a spirit of enterprise which will result in making this settlement the centre of the future gold trade. The arrival of these gentlemen with their buckskin sacks of the shining dust is something too palpable to admit of doubt. Gold there is on the Saskatchewan, plenty of it and in large paying quantities.

From other sources we have gleaned the following additional information respecting mining operations in the Saskatchewan last summer: Neils Mortenson, formerly in the Hudson's Bay Company's service, made on a bar near Edmonton, £68 stg. in 25 days.

Eustace Amlin, alluded to above, made considerably more than the amount stated, but he was at the time working for an American to whom he had to pay a large sum for the use of mining tools.

George Gunn made \$36 in 18 days. One of these days he made three guineas. Some of the miners realised the sum of £200 stg. as the result of their summer's work.

The least made by any of the miners during the summer, so far as was known, was from £120 to £140 stg.—*Nor-Wester.*

LEECH RIVER.

Alfred Barnett, Expressman, arrived this evening and gives us the following information: The trail to Leech river is good, the snow having been well trodden down. There are several companies still at work on Kennedy Flat, amongst which is the Cornish Co. who have sunk a shaft over thirty feet, and are making a tunnel, the first blast of which he heard this morning before he left. They have found quartz bearing gold and are well satisfied that their claims will pay well.

The Williamson claim situated about a mile from the Mouth have got down about 75 feet and are sanguine of success.

At Bacon Bar they are still working and taking up pay.

At the North Forks, in consequence of the heavy falls of snow, the miners are unable to work, but should the weather remain as at present a short time will only elapse before they will be in full work with every prospect of success.

Great preparations are being made at the various stores for the accommodation of visitors during the ensuing season.

Barnett still continues to run the Express, and will leave the day after the arrival of the steamer.

DULL TIMES.—A gentleman who has been on a visit to San Francisco informs us that he has not seen that city so empty or times so dull for some years as at present. There will be a large exodus both north and south this spring which will tend to make matters worse during the summer. We are not the only apparently who have suffered from depression on this coast. Let us however look cheerfully forward to brighter prospects looming in the horizon, and unite in the plaintive chorus "Hard times come again no more."

COMMUNICATION WITH THE EAST.—When the Pacific left San Francisco telegraphic communication with the East had been resumed and some private despatches had come through, but no war news had been received. The next mail ought to bring us a large budget.

A CROWD.—We learn from a passenger who arrived last evening by the Pacific that the steamer was crowded with passengers both in the saloon and steerage. About 700 miners are on their way to Boise.

lible Remedy. Ointment. Kidneys, Stone and Gravel. Sore Throats, &c. SAUCES, JAMS &c. &c. Majestly's Table. GILT MEDAL. Corsets. SALOMONS, 25, Old Change, London.