

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

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NO. 2.

## THE BRITISH COLONIST.

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### AGENTS.

John Meakin, Nanaimo  
Clarkson & Co., New Westminster  
Barnard's Express, Quesnel, B. C.  
" " Lytton  
" " Vanwinkle  
" " Richfield  
" " Barkerville  
" " Camerontown  
" " Clinton  
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G. Street, 30 Cornhill, London

### TEA MEETINGS AND THEIR CHRISTIANITY.

A correspondent in another column indulges in some hypercritical, if not indeed unwarrantable remarks on the late Presbyterian Tea-meeting. He objects to some of the speeches on the ground that they were a mere re-hash of platitudes, weak and uninteresting—that in one of them the greatest amount of language was used in "recounting the least eventful of events;" and demands something higher—some new ideas in the addresses delivered at these social gatherings. We cannot altogether agree with our correspondent. The majority of the speeches were far above the average of those previously delivered at social or religious meetings on Vancouver Island. Taking the nature of the festival into consideration we could indeed scarcely have had more appropriate remarks than those which fell from His Excellency Governor Kennedy, Chief Justice Needham, the Rev. Dr. Evans, and the Rev. Mr. Somerville. They were all directed to the one great point—the desirability of harmony and unity in things essential. It could not be from the necessarily meagre report which we gave of the addresses that our correspondent draws his deductions—otherwise he might be a little surprised that from the speeches as they were delivered, we had no talk of the multiplicity of words used by one gentleman to describe a very insignificant event. That there was some fluent prosiness in one or two of the subsequent speeches we are ready to admit; but all men, however fluent, are not orators, and an audience must occasionally be charitable. Under any circumstances it is asking too much of polished rhetoric, close reasoning, and originality of thought to demand their presence at a social gathering like a tea-meeting. If we want new and instructive ideas always enunciated we must have on hand a supply of speakers that even the House of Commons would find it difficult to afford, and an occasion to bring them out. Lord Stanley is a very good authority on public speaking and has a pretty correct knowledge of the most "illustrious assemblage in the world," and what does he say? He shows us that the really good speakers of the House of Commons are in a very small minority—and that fluent bores are numerically infinite; but then the deliberative assembly is aware of the fact, and treats the members accordingly. "The House, as long as I have known it," says Lord Stanley, "has always shown a marvellous tact, almost approaching to instinct, in discerning who are those who are likely to contribute anything to its debates, and who are those who merely get up to waste time and air their vocabulary. I have heard men who have spoken with real fluency and eloquence; in a word, men of that kind who are described as having great command of language, when probably it would be truer to say that language has great command of them, because they have about as much command of it as a man has of a runaway horse.—I have heard men of that class described as not knowing what they were going to say when they got up, not knowing what they were saying when on their legs, and not knowing what they had said when they sat down. Many and many a man of that sort is left to declaim to empty benches, while you have the ear of 400 or 500 members listening in silent respect to some one else who certainly had not the gift of oratory, and brought his sentences out head foremost, or tail foremost, till you almost wondered how it was possible a man could speak such bad grammar." There may be a little exaggeration in the last remark; for it is rarely in any educated assembly that a man who has got anything worth saying will say it in very ungrammatical language; but the experience

of this statesman, and it runs over a legislative period of seventeen years, is worth something; and when he tells us that even in the House of Commons there is no small number of speakers who, in our correspondent's language, "recount at the greatest possible length, the least eventful of events," let us make some allowance for less pretentious assemblages on Vancouver Island.

A tea-meeting is, however, not exactly the place in which speakers are, according to our correspondent's theory, to "launch out new ideas." We certainly could have no objection to the original thoughts, if they were not hurtful to the feelings of some particular sect; but in a mixed assemblage of all denominations it is just as well that the speakers should not get very far out of the beaten track. The object of such gatherings, leaving out the financial one, is to make all parties "feel at home;" to bring together the diverse elements of Christianity and make them feel that they are really all brethren laboring for the one great cause. We are sorry that so high an authority as the Bishop of Columbia should have taken an opposite view of the question, and that he should have declined an invitation extended to him by the Committee on the ground that he is not a Presbyterian! What in heaven's name is a Presbyterian, or a Wesleyan, or a Roman Catholic, but a Christian; and on what Christian or apostolic grounds can Bishop Hills set such an example to his congregation? Is there contamination in the touch of any denomination differing from our own, although laboring for the same great end, and its religion, like society, to be regulated by the fitness of our cloth and the fullness of our pocket? Surely our clerical teachers have mistaken their mission, and made religion a personality! If not, why cannot a Bishop of the Church of England lend his countenance and assistance to a cause that has really as much of true Christianity about it as the sermons that are preached from the pulpit from one year's end to another's? The great moral precept taught us is to "love our neighbor as ourself;" and no sooner is an opportunity afforded for all classes of diversely thinking Christians to meet together under the same roof and fraternize in true brotherly spirit, than we are told in substance it is wrong, and that the true way to carry out the divine commands is to nourish every little petty difference of creed—to foster sectional diversity, if not indeed animosity; and to eschew everything that is not of our own way of thinking. Can anything be more contrary to the spirit of Christianity, and anything more antagonistic to the spread of Christianity? What faith can we have in the enunciation every week from the pulpit of humility and charity, when we find such narrow-minded sectional feelings as this in the teacher? Is this the example we are to be set in order that we may love one another—"I am not a Presbyterian; therefore I cannot assist you in your Christian work." We wonder if the "Good Samaritan" took the precaution to ask the unfortunate person by the wayside his particular belief before granting him assistance.

Is it a matter of surprise that there are un-believers—that there are empty Churches—that there are men who, in a reverend gentleman's language, "spend their Sundays like a Siwash's dog?" We think not. The real wonder is, indeed, that there are any genuine Christians at all. When we come to look upon the bigotry, the total absence of Christian charity, the narrow-mindedness and self-sufficiency that only too frequently stick out of the clerical necktie, we are really astonished at the great moral vitality of the people at large. We are astonished to see, as we did on Thursday evening, the Episcopalian, the Roman Catholic, the Wesleyan, the Presbyterian and the Hebrew, all sitting down together, and feeling that they had but one common origin and one common end. Where was the Roman Catholic clergyman and where the minister of the Church of England? We are told that the former was not invited!—that Presbyterianism, that plumes itself on its rigid contempt of pomp, saw something in the Episcopalian Bishop's cloth that was finer than the coat of Bishop Demers. Surely this is untrue—surely there is some mistake, and that our Presbyterian Christianity does not, like the English Bishop's, partake of the Pharisaical characteristic, and look too much to the outside of the platter. We cannot tell what the Roman Catholic Bishop's answer would have been had he been invited—whether it would have erulated the reply of the other prelate or partaken of a more fraternal character; but we think the time has arrived in this as well as in other countries when the teachers of religion should learn something of the age in which they live—something of joint efforts for the common benefit—something of liberality, humility, and charity. They see their lay brethren assemble together—men of all shades of opinion, sinking minor differences

for one common cause; they see it in almost every undertaking, in everyday life. Cannot the teachers of morality become themselves the taught and take a lesson from the more practical Christianity of their own congregations?

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster on Saturday with 145 passengers and \$150,000 for the Bank of British Columbia, from the New Westminster Assay Office, in charge of Mr. F. Howlett. The Enterprise was detained in the river by the violence of the westerly gale until two p.m., and had a rough time across the gulf.

The telegraph wires being down, we have no despatches to present to our readers. The news from Cariboo, to the 4th inst., which we republish from the *Columbian*, is no later than that which appeared in the *Colonist* of the 13th inst., supplied by our regular correspondent, and has been for the most part anticipated.

From Mr. Allan, who left Cariboo on the 5th, and Mr. Rankin, who left on the 4th, we have obtained the following items of news:—The weather on Williams Creek had moderated; the snow had nearly disappeared, and rain was falling on the 4th. Most of the wheels were going, and the claims yielding much as usual.

The following are the principal claims at work: Australian, Wake-up-Jake, Hit-or-Miss, What-Cheer, Davis, Watson, Last Chance, Forest Rose, Cameron, Raby, Confederate, Dead-Broke, Prince of Wales. In the last named claim a strata of gravel, twenty feet from the bed-rock, was paying 20 ounces a day.

In Conklin's Gulch a company of 12 men were running a tunnel into the hill, at which they expect to work during the winter. A company had struck good diggings about 20 feet from the bed-rock, in ground adjoining the What-Cheer claim, paying an ounce a day to the hand.

In McArthur's Gulch the old Stobo Co. had struck good pay in a tunnel. The Barker, Diller, Canadian, Baldhead, Sheepskin, Wake-up-Jake, Welsh and Cariboo Companies have combined for the purpose of continuing the bed rock drain from its present terminus through their claims, being a distance of about 1400 feet. This work will be carried on during the winter. Capt. Evans has taken the contract for cutting the balance of the bed-rock flume—about 800 feet—at \$18 per 100 feet.

The Discovery quartz claim on Bald Mountain is believed to be a good thing. It is stated that a small sample, a few pounds of quartz, sent to San Francisco some time ago, assayed at the rate of over \$2,500 to the ton.

Markets are much the same as at last quotations. Flour, 28 to 30c; Bacon 62½c; Beef, 25 to 30c; Mutton, 30c; Sugar, 50c; Rice, 50 to 60c; Soap, 62½c. Tea \$1 to \$2; Coffee, green, 62½c to 75c; Roasted do., \$1 to \$1 25; Butter, \$1; Eggs, \$7 50 to \$8; Onions, 50c; Potatoes and other vegetables from 8 to 10c, and in abundant supply. Wages \$7 to \$8 a day.

There was tolerable sleighing out as far as Vanwinkle; from there to Quesnelmouth part of the road was very bad.

Peterson, one of the men who was suspected to be connected with the murder of Morgan, had been arrested at Quesnelmouth. The inquest on the body of Morgan was to have been held the day after our informants passed. The body was lying where found, wrapped in deceased's blankets, and otherwise unprotected. Mr. Rankin informs us that he looked at the body and that the birds had picked the eyes out and otherwise mutilated the features. This would appear to indicate shocking negligence somewhere, and should be enquired into by the authorities.

The freshet had carried away the bridge at Boston Bar, and caused a number of very bad land slides on the road, rendering traveling tedious and difficult. The mountain torrents were everywhere swollen to unusual dimensions, causing foaming cataracts down the mountain sides. The snow was rapidly approaching the base of the Mountains, and at Yale snow was falling on Thursday morning, and the weather was becoming cold and disagreeable.

THE KOOTENAY CIRCUIT.—On arriving at Kootenay, Judge Begbie found an empty jail and a clear docket—not a single case, either civil or criminal, awaiting adjudication. Three recals had been under arrest for passing "spelter" for gold dust; but they got tired of waiting, and left one fine Sunday morning for Uncle Sam's dominions, having first taken the precaution to turn the key upon the keeper, who was washing himself in one of the cells, while they had the unrestricted use of the outer room. One of them, a notorious scamp, has, we believe, since been hanged by the Vigilance Committee of the neighboring Territory.—*Columbian*.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, Nov. 17.

DEBATING CLASS.—Mr. W. K. Bull will deliver his lecture this evening before the above class, commencing at eight o'clock, on "A trip from Melbourne to Tahiti and other Islands in the South Seas." Various specimens of native industry will be exhibited, as the handwriting of the natives, etc., showing the result of missionary labor, samples of native cloth, elegantly embroidered, and interwoven by the nimble fingers of the maids of the South Seas, and which would afford our lady friends much pleasure, and enable them to become much more efficient in the accomplished art of fancy work. We anticipate a rare treat.

COUNSEL AND ATTORNEYS.—His Honor the Chief Justice informed the legal gentleman yesterday from the bench that he should in future adhere to the English rule of practice, and not allow the Solicitors to have audience in the Supreme Court.

YATES STREET WARD.—By the decision of His Honor the Chief Justice, given yesterday, Mr. John Jeffrey will be entitled to take his seat at the municipal board.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.—We understand that proceedings are about to be taken in the Supreme Court to quash the recent municipal election.

FOR THE NORTH.—H.M.S. *Clio* left yesterday morning for a cruise North as far as the Metlakahla mission station. Captain Chambers went as pilot.

FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Otter left yesterday morning for Nanaimo and way ports with passengers and freight.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise will leave for Fraser River this morning at 8 o'clock.

Saturday, Nov. 18.

THE DYING KICK.—Finding how thoroughly they had been worsted in the recent circulation wager, and what a ridiculous figure they were cutting in the eyes of the public, the proprietors of the *Chronicle* bethought themselves of a *dernier ressort*, and yesterday produced a most convincing document in the shape of an affidavit which they prepared and made their unfortunate pressman depose to before a Notary Public. This paper affirms that they had for the last two years and a half printed over 551 daily copies and that when they printed the paper for them they gave us over that number of sheets. This is certainly a most annihilating piece of manuscript, and the only wonder in the world is that it has not been long since they backed out of their own challenge. Unfortunately, however, for them, we can bring forward testimony when necessary, and they know it full well, that would soon place such evidence out of court. We can afford to pity the cause which is reduced to the necessity of such a course as this, and the more so, when an *employe* is made to depose on oath to the correctness of certain alleged facts prepared for him, and starts off by swearing that he printed the *Chronicle* on or about the 5th of September last, when in reality it was during the month of August.

FLOOD AT LEECH RIVER.—From Mr. Alfred Barnett, Expressman, who arrived last evening from Leech River, we learn that there was a second flood on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, and the scene of desolation at the mines is quite distressing. The river rose at least ten feet and flumes, sluice boxes, wheels and everything else belonging to the miners, for a distance of a mile and a half, have been swept out of sight. The water was up to some of the cabin doors, and goods had to be removed from the lower to the upper stores on Kennedy Flat. The large bridge is still standing and pack trains can cross as usual to Kennedy Flat, though the trail is inundated and difficult for foot travellers to pass. Mr. Homfray commenced surveying yesterday for the new ditch which was a source of great gratification to the miners as it is improbable that any mining can be done until that is completed.

Monday, Nov. 20.

THEATRE.—The performance on Saturday night for the benefit of Mr. T. J. Sisk was not very well attended, although the programme was an attractive one, including the drama of "Ben Bolt," the popular nautical play of "Black Eyed Susan," and the smart little sketch entitled "A Glance at New York." The company exerted themselves to the utmost and gave great satisfaction. The support extended to Mr. Ward has been too feeble to induce the manager to keep the theatre open, and we regret to learn that the doors are to be closed. The favorite actress Mrs. Fanny Morgan Phelps announces her farewell benefit to-night, on which occasion she will appear in the great drama of "Jack Sheppard, or the London apprentice," to be followed by the drama of the "Maid of Croissey." Mrs. Phelps talent are too well known to need comment, and we can only say that her numerous admirers will not have another opportunity this season of marking their appreciation of her successful efforts to beguile many a weary hour during her present engagement in this city; we therefore call upon them to give her a genuine, hearty, and substantial farewell.

ELOCUTION CLASS.—The programme for this evening's entertainment comprises—"The Ocean," a recitation by Mr. W. Gibson; Reading, by Mr. E. White; "The Blind Boy," a recitation by Mr. A. Lyne; Recitation, by Mr. Stewart, introducing a tragic scene, in which the celebrated painter Parrhasius will be represented by a well known member of the Institute, who is making due preparations to give effect to the character he will represent. The exercises are all of an interesting and instructive nature, and we would advise all who desire the opportunity of combining recreation with instruction, to lose no time in enrolling their names among the members of the debating and elocution classes of the Mechanics' Institute.

RACES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We present elsewhere a report of the first race meeting, held at Mr. Cornwall's ranch, in British Columbia, for which we are indebted to Mr. A. F. Kingscote, through our obliging correspondent, Hong Dennis.

FROM DUNGENESS.—The schooner *Spray* arrived on Saturday with a cargo of potatoes, hogs, fowls, and squashes, valued at \$875, to R. Brodrick.

A SINGULAR AFFAIR.—Yesterday morning (says the *Brooklyn Eagle*) an advertisement was brought to this office, asking for information of the whereabouts of a young lady who had been missing since Sunday afternoon, and of whom no trace could be found and whose absence had caused deep distress among her relatives. In the afternoon, just before the *Eagle* went to press, a gentleman came in to stop the publication of the advertisement, stating that the missing lady had been found, and he related the following singular story: The young lady went on Sunday afternoon to the Presbyterian church, corner of Atlantic and Bond streets; after the Sunday School exercises she went to her seat in the gallery. The minister having to leave town to attend the Synod, no service was held in the afternoon, and the sexton supposing the congregation had retired, closed up the church, locking the young lady in the building all alone. She says she tried to get out, but the doors resisted her efforts to force them open, the windows were beyond her reach, and she was unable to make herself heard outside. Here she remained a close prisoner in the church until Wednesday afternoon, when the sexton went in to prepare the place for the usual evening prayer meeting, and discovered the missing lady, who was in a very exhausted state for want of food, having been fasting in solitary confinement for seventy hours.

BIRMINGHAM.—General attention, says a London exchange, is directed to Birmingham, where a working men's industrial exhibition has been inaugurated with brilliant success, an ode for the occasion having won the prize offered by the Corporation by one himself professing to be an *employe*. Some years ago the term Birmingham was derisively applied to all articles of pretentious or meretricious worthlessness. We had Brummagem wit, philanthropy, gentility, morality, and scholarship. The name had come to be a synonym for all that was shabby and tricky, but, "now avous change tout cela." Whilst Birmingham is the toy-shop of the world she is also the queen of manufacturing towns, and few, if any, great undertakings in our empire could be completed without her assistance. Whether it is setting the jewels for a fair woman's neck, drawing out wire that is to carry our thoughts to the end of the earth with lightning speed, forging the bolts of our grim iron-clads, constructing the infant's cot, or beating out the coffin plate, she stands unapproached, the great Mother of Industry.

OPERATIC.—An English exchange has an *on dit* that Madam Grisi will appear again at Her Majesty's Theatre next year; if so, possibly also Signor Mario. There is obviously a storm, portending change, brewing in the opera atmosphere; would that it would bring down a new composer! Meanwhile, the event to be looked for is M. Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet." "The Widow Be-witched," Miss Gabriel's new operetta, is highly spoken of. Says a London critic:—"Miss Gabriel has never presented herself to so much advantage as in this operetta. Her music, if not startling by any originality, is clear, graceful, in places quaint, and shows a marked advance on her part in the science and practice of construction and composition. Among many numbers which pleased greatly, must be specified a charming minuet, and a quartet, the latter the best piece in the operetta. In short, this was a genuine success. The artists who made up the quartet were Miss A. Thompson, Miss E. Pitt, and Messrs. Whiffin and Shaw. "Ching-Chow-Hi," one of Mr. Offenbach's most sparkling pieces of China nonsense, is as sure to "run," in London as it has done in Paris. Though his music, in its familiarity, sometimes verges on impudence, in trifles like this it never "breeds contempt" (to complete the proverb). It is instinct with life and piquant accent, and goes as merry as a marriage bell. To anything like a longer or more serious task, Mr. Offenbach has yet to prove himself equal. The bagatelle was beautifully put on the stage. The two operettas form a most attractive entertainment, at a time of year, too, when, though London is empty of its residents, comers and goers are at a loss where to pass their evenings pleasantly."

by the Rev. E. the 4th instant, at the John Gundry Miss Annie Maria Holmes, Esq., of G. F. Whitworth, Smith, of Port An- Stevens, of the

8th, Augusta Gam- and Regina Gam- and 3 days.

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**NOTICE.**

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