The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday January 5, 1870.

The Red River Difficulty.

It has been quite interesting to observe the eagerness, the zest with which a portion of the American press and people have worked up the details of a tempest in a teapot, until it has, in their heated imagination, assumed all the importance and circumstance of a civil war. Indeed, it is matter of surprise that Sumner or Chandler or some such irrepressible patriot has not introduced a resolution in one or other of the national assemblies for the purpose of conferring belligerent rights upon the French half-breeds of the Northwest Territory. It will be doing no injustice to say that in all this the wish has been father to the thought. No small section of the American people have viewed with jealous disappointment the successful development of the principle of Confederation on their northern frontier, and it would doubtless have gratified not a few to have witnessed a formidable difficulty present itself in the new territory west of the great lakes. It will scarcely be necessary to state that the sensational stuff which has obtained circulation through the American press has hardly a particle of fact to rest upon. 'Governor McDougall,' as they are pleased to term him, remains quietly at Pembina, simply because he *is not* Governor. He is still the Hon. William McDougall, C. B., Chief Commissioner of Public Works for the Dominion, and member of Parliament for North Lanark, and such he will remain until the Northwest Territory is handed over to the Dominion and he receives his commission as its Lieut-Governor. It will thus be observed that had Mr McDougall entered the Territory sooner he would have committed a grave error. The territory did not belong to Canada, and, as a member of the Canadian Government, he could have exercised no authority whatever therein. He would simply have been plain Mr. McDougall, a stranger and sojourner in the Northwest, without the common rights of citizenship certainly, without any official powers which would enable him to deal with any exigences that might arise. Clearly it was Mr McDougall's true and only proper course not to enter the Territory until such time as he could do so clothed with full and unquestionable power and authority as its Governor. When that time arrives, if indeed it has not already arrived, there is every reason to believe that Mr McDougall will be enabled to proceed to the seat of his government and assume the reins of power without encountering any very huge difficulty. All this has evidently been overlooked by the Americans in their eagerness to magnify the importance of a difficulty scarcely entitled to the notice we have given it. Thus they have had Governor McDougall advancing and retreating; one day making a 'Bull's Run' of it, and the next, a prisoner of war in the hands of the 'Liberators'; one day engaged in an abortive attempt to raise an army within the territory, the next enlisting an army of invasion within the territory of the United States, contrary to international law and usage,—all of which we are prepared to reject as unmitigated fabrication, for the very cogent reason that Mr. McDougall had no power to perform any one of the acts thus imputed to him. But there was another reason why Mr McDougall should not have entered the territory, even if he were invested with executive functions. The Canadian Government was entitled to peaceable possession; and in view of any trouble or dispute, such as is said to exist, it would clearly have been Mr McDougall's proper course to carefully refrain from performing any official act, either having in view the quelling of rebellion, or acquiring possession, thus leaving the affair entirely in the hands of those whose duty it was to give peaceable possession, and keeping the Canadian Government free from all responsibility. All this, we have reason to believe Mr McDougall has done; and in the doing of it his acts, or rather, the absence of all action, have led the eagre and curious into a long no end of absurdities. Judging from the tone of the Canadian press, little anxiety was felt about the matter; and there is little reason to doubt that whenever the time arrived for Mr McDougall to enter the Northwest Territory as its Governor, he would find a sufficient number of loyal settlers, ready, if need be, to rally round the new Government. It is presumable, however, that before such entry the minds of the recalcitrant half breeds would be disabused of the falsehoods with which they had been purposely crammed by designing persons, and that they would have learned to regard the new dispensation in the light of a blessing rather than the reverse. The Queen's Proclamation handing over the territory to the Canadian Government was expected to be issued sometime during the present month, when Mr McDougall would receive his commission and vacate the official positions held by him in Canada; and it is quite possible that the next news from the East will inform us of all this having been done. It is just possible, however, that this little disturbance may have the effect of delaying the taking over of the territory by the Canadian Government. Such a result would appear all the more probable from the following dispatch, dated Ottawa, Dec 17th:—'It is reported that it is not the intention of the Government to complete the purchase of the Northwest Territory until spring, and not until the Dominion is able to assert its authority by the presence of an armed force. It is said payment to the Hudson Bay Company will not be made for some time. The insurrection is left to be dealt with by that Company.'

Thursday Dec. 30

CHINESE ANTI-IMMIGRATION LAW. — A bill is now before the Senate of the United States which aims at preventing Chinese immigrating into the United States otherwise than on their own separate responsibility, risk, charge, and volition. Those familiar with the subject will readily understand that should this bill become law, and, as such, become operative, it will not only strike at the root of the projected coolie importation, for Southern plantation purposes, but it will virtually prevent the emigration of Chinese to any great extent to that country. It is a measure the enforcement of which will be attended with great difficulty; and we must be pardoned for thinking that we discover in this piece of legislation something bearing a slight resemblance to the policy of the China of past times,—the same policy which reared enormous walls around that singular country, a policy which one would least of all expect to see adopted by the United States of America. If there was discovered in this proposed coolie importation the probable germ of a system of enforced labor, it undoubtedly became the duty of the government to interfere and adopt effective measures for preventing such a contingency. Yet it appears to us that there might have been found a far more simple and efficient remedy, if that is all that is intended. But that clearly is not all. The bill before the Senate is, we suspect, intended to have a much wider application; it is intended in fact, to be broad enough to cover the whole question of Chinese immigration, which has created so much unnecessary alarm in the United States. This broad interpretation is, however, distinctly disclaimed. It is asserted that the act is not to be construed to deny Chinamen, free from any contract or obligation of services, the right of voluntary immigration into the United States. Notwithstanding this disclaimer, however, we prefer to think that the bill is admirably calculated, if not intended, to produce the broader results, and it is rather that it is so viewed by a section of the American press.

ANOTHER GREAT MAN GONE.—Our last night's dispatch announces the death of Edwin M. Stanton. In the profession of the Law, Mr. Stanton had few equals in his country. Entering public life in 1837, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Harrison County, Ohio, and from that early period up to the date of his appointment to the Attorney Generalship of the United States, he continued to be almost wholly occupied with professional duties in the state and supreme courts, displaying such rare abilities as to be much sought after in important causes. But it was while occupying the important and trying post of Secretary of War, during the late rebellion that Stanton attained a place in the heart and history of his country which it has been the good fortune of few public men to reach. He it was who held up the hand of 'Abraham' during that terrible struggle; he it was who so manfully braved the fury of 'Andy'; and it was without doubt, in a great measure owing to his talent and firmness that the ship of State was steered safely through those terrible breakers which surrounded it, when Lincoln was struck down at the hands of the assassin. Quick of thought and firm of purpose, yet too impetuous at times, it may, perhaps, be said of Stanton that he was a great politician without being a great statesman. President Grant nominated Stanton to the Supreme Bench, and it was only on the 18th of the present month that the nomination was confirmed by the Senate. Appointed to the highest judicial position in his country, death claimed him before he could take his seat. America has lost another of her great men.

INCREASED PRODUCTION AND DECLINE IN PRICE.—It appears from commercial statistics just published in San Francisco that the exports of wheat, flour, and wool, from that port, have been fully one-third larger during the present year than they were in 1868, but the price realized by the sale of these products has been fully $2,000,000 less than in 1868. Taking into account the decreased production of bullion and the double profits from the sale of produce, the balance against the coast, as compared with 1868, is a double loss of $10,000,000, in the vital element of business, in eleven months. These figures are alarming enough to be sure.

THE SERVANT GIRLS.—The twenty servant girls engaged in England for British Columbia were to sail from Liverpool in the ship Alpha (very properly being the *beginning* of what we hope will prove a long and continuous stream of immigration shortly to set in from the Old Country towards our shores), about the latter part of November, and the bark must be by this time well on her way. No difficulty was found in securing the required number—the trouble, indeed, being to select from the large number offering to come out girls possessing all the requirements. The shipment will be due here in March. The Alpha comes consigned to Messrs Janion, Rhodes & Co.

ARRIVAL OF THE GUSSIE TELFAIR.—The steamship Gussie Telfair, Capt Rogers, arrived in Esquimalt harbor at 7½ o'clock last evening, having crossed the bar on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, after lying five days at Astoria, where she received on board the passengers, freight and mails which left San Francisco on the 19th December. The memoranda reports heavy gales off the coast. The Telfair entered the Straits at 11 a m yesterday morning. She brought 50 passengers and 250 tons of freight for Victoria, and will sail for Seattle, W. T., this morning.

MAXIMILIAN THE MARVELLOUS, astonished and delighted a large audience at the Alhambra last night. His tricks were new, and performed with marked skill. Seventy prizes were given out, the most important being a tea set, a $20 piece and a $5 piece. The Professor announced that he would at the next performance give away a still larger number of prizes, the principal being a silver tea set, two China tea sets and a $10 gold piece.

THE CARTER DRAMATIC TROUPE arrived on the Gussie Telfair from Portland and will open at the theatre this evening. The company number 17. They come well recommended and include several *artistes* who have been long favorably known to Victoria audiences. Their first piece will be the great play of 'Fanchon the Cricket,' with Carrie Carter as Fanchon.

ROBBERY ON VIEW STREET. — Sometime during Tuesday night a yard adjoining the residence of Inspector of Police Bowden was entered and a quantity of clothes stolen from a line. 'This is carrying the war into Africa.' For the thief or thieves the law or its officers evidently possess no terrors. The Land Office having been invaded and the next-door-neighbor of the chief policeman having been despoiled, we may look next for a raid upon the Police Barrack.

WE learn with pleasure that the Corporation intend making the necessary improvements to cross and sidewalks on Pandora and adjoining streets. While their hand is in, they may as well raise the crosswalk leading from Christ Church to the opposite side. I is six inches too low and is both unpleasent and unsafe, particularly after nightfall.

AN ASSAULT WITH A KNIFE.—A Fort Rupert Indian is in custody upon a charge of assaulting with a knife a little half-breed boy. The little fellow appeared in court yesterday with a deep gash on his cheek, and his assailant was remanded for further examination.

EX-SENATOR LOCKER, of California, recently gave an order to a San Francisco publisher for a set of all the standard English works, and the order has been filled in London, every volume in full Russia binding. The cost of the entire set, delivered in San Francisco, exclusive $20,000.

THE schooner Kate started out yesterday for Howe's Sound. She carries all the appliances and the right kind of men for a 'short, sharp and decisive' contest with the oleaginous monsters of the deep. We hope to hear, soon, a good account of the operations of the company.

WEB FEET ON ICE.—It appears that Oregon is far ahead of us in the matter of cold, good skating-ice having been formed some time ago. Up this way there has been no ice strong enough to carry a goose, much less an Oregonian.

BARNARD'S NEXT EXPRESS for Cariboo will be dispatched from the Victoria office on Wednesday next, January 5th, 1870. Packages for points above New Westminster must not exceed 50 pounds in weight and must be made waterproof.

NEW YEAR'S DAY will be generally observed as a holiday in this city, and we presume that the pleasant custom of making and receiving calls on one's friends and wishing them a very happy New Year, will be followed.

CALENDAR, 1870.—Hibben & Co. have laid on our table a calendar for 1870. Its typographical appearance is neat; but it possesses the fault of having been done in a foreign country.

THE street peddlers of San Francisco, finding the shoeblacking, toothwash, itch ointment and paintkilling trade to be waning, now sell 'earthquake-ometers' to foretell the coming of a shake.

REV. S. MCGREGOR, a Presbyterian clergyman from Nova Scotia, arrived with his wife on the Telfair, last evening. Mr McGregor will take up his residence here.

QUITE RIGHT.—The *News* corrects our statement regarding the political creed of Sir Stafford Northcote, it having wrongly said that he was a liberal.

ANOTHER DEAD BODY from the Southeast, subsequently floating round to the Southwest, sprung up yesterday morning.

THE steamer Enterprise put out for New Westminster at 8, yesterday morning. She carried a small freight and a few passengers.

THROUGH the politeness of Mr Goodbus, purser of the Gussie Telfair, we have late papers, ship's manifest, &c.

LAIN.—The first twenty miles of the Oregon Central Railroad is finished and trains are passing over it.

FOUR fine deerhounds, consigned to Mr Eli Marks, came on the Telfair last evening.

THE Corporation of London having, in carrying out public improvements, obliterated the street in which Bunyan died, Snowhill, it is now suggested that its memory should be preserved, either by the erection of a tablet or by naming one of the new thoroughfares after the 'immortal tinker.' Why not call it Immortal Tinker street?

'Druid' Ploughed and Harrowed.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—It is amusing to see how your correspondent 'Druid' capers, jumps, turns and calls names or anything else rather than keep to the subject—viz the grading and graveling of Michigan street.

I see little to answer in his last letter. The first is that my assertion that I have been an householder on Michigan street nearly five years is an outrageous whopper, &c, and when contradicted I dare not deny it. Now, sir, I said it once, and whether I repeat it an hundred times, or not at all, makes no difference as to the fact; but if he is so confident, if he will place any sum of money, from $100 to $500, in your hands, I will do the same, and if his assertion is right I forfeit my deposit, if mine is right he forfeits his, the money so forfeited to be equally divided between the Royal Hospital and the Christ Church Building Fund.

He next says the matter is purely local and of little interest to the public at large except those who reside on Michigan street.' Now, I believe the principle involved is anything but purely local. If 'Druid' proves his case he will prove gross partiality by the Government in the expenditure of the public monies. Is that a local matter only?

He then reiterates his favorite item about the payments made out of the private purses of the residents to grade the street, and seems to forget that I deny the grading of the street by those means. Now, I must again remind him that he is on the affirmative, and so should prove it—otherwise, if he is going to argue in a circle there will be no end of it.

Next, he says he would readily answer the three questions in my last to any one he believed really and bona fide interested in the matter; but as he don't believe I am, he will not satisfy me. Your belief, 'Druid,' seems a very accommodating one. The reason is, you can't. Now I think 'Druid's' 'not a defunct species of the genus homo' is getting dissected pretty well—and if he persists in bringing it forward, will become defunct, unless he arms himself with better weapons than his old ones.

'Druid's' last item shows he must be in a terrible splutter when he considers pig and ass are fit and proper names to bestow on me. If he goes on in such choice language we shall soon see where the piggy and donkey are.

NOT A DRUID.

Escape from Mormondom.

Yesterday we were favored with a call from a bright eyed, ruddy cheeked intelligent Scotch lassie of seventeen, who had just escaped from Salt Lake City, and is on her way back to her parental home in Scotland. Her name is Emily Jane Kane. She is a native of Glasgow; her father, formerly a respectable stevedore of that city, is dead, and Emily and her widowed mother, among numerous others, were converted about two years ago to Mormonism by some of the proselyting elders of that sect. Glowing pictures were presented to the converts, especially to the comely and marriageable females, of the comforts and delights of a life in the terrestrial paradise of the Saints in Utah, and the young girl, by dint of hard work and strict economy, was enabled to save enough of her hard earnings to pay with a steerage, full of fellow converts, on the 28th of July, for the promised land. The passage was without adventure. They arrived in New York city on the 12th of August, and in Salt Lake City on the 21st.

Vehicles met them at the station, and Emily found an elderly saint of 60 seated by her side, who told her that he had a good home and wanted her for a wife, and would take good care of her if she would have him. Naturally staggered by this abrupt proposal, she begged a little time for reflection, and on arriving at the city, found that the grey Lothario had already three wives and numerous children.

Emily and her fellow-voyagers opened their eyes to the existence of polygamy. On the first Sunday after her arrival she heard Brigham preach a sermon in which he said that those who had but one or at most three wives would surely be damned, and that every man ought to have from seven to ten to be sure of salvation.

Emily, who has the stuff of a true heroine in her composition, soon resolved to escape from the wretched life before her at all hazards. She fled to a camp of United States soldiers near the city and threw herself on their protection. The soldiers contributed enough to pay her passage to Omaha; then she sold the new dress garments in her little bundle, and got money to pay her fare to this city.—*N Y Times.*

There have been increasing doubts as to whether the Suez Canal is going at once to fulfil expectations. The adventure of Eugenie makes one thing clear. Whatever vessel may be able to pass through, it is very certain that those drawing over twenty feet of water cannot. This is a serious matter. 'Bring another two,' calmly said the priceless courtier, when his servant dropped upon the dining room carpet the only supposed attainable specimen of that magnificent fish. 'Give me another ship,' says the offended Empress. But people in general are not so fortunate. Especially that part of them who own ships. And this is of more consequence when the tonnages of large numbers of vessels is remembered. For instance of the class of sailing vessels there are really three thousand in the American Lloyds' Register. Of these very few are under twenty feet while perhaps half are over that measurement. And so with steamers, to a considerable number of which the canal will be closed if the depth is not increased. It is strange that the obvious fact that large vessels would not be able to pass should have been thus overlooked. The builders of the steamship Great Britain built her in a dock that had to be destroyed to get her out. There was a man who raised a fine two story house and forgotten to make any stairs. Surely Mr Lesseps is not to be added to the list of those ingenious artificers.

During the Crimean war a lady was distributing tracts to the occupants of a ward of a hospital, and was exceedingly shocked to hear one poor fellow laugh at her. She stopped to reprove the wretched patient. 'Why, ma'am,' 'you have given me a turn on the sin of dancing, when I have both my legs shot off.'

ALWAYS ON HAND.

A Human Fiend—An Infant Burned to Death by its Nurse.

[From the Lynchburg, Va, News.]

A lady from Bedford County gives us the subjoined particulars of one of the most atrocious and horrible crimes we have ever been called upon to record. It appears that Mr Henry Creasey, living in the meadows of Goose Creek in Bedford County, some short time since had the misfortune to lose his wife, who died, leaving an infant child. The infant was placed under the care of Mr John Morgan its grandfather, and was nursed by a colored girl aged about fifteen years. Two or three days since Mrs Morgan had occasion to scold this girl for some delinquency, at which she showed marked signs of anger and resentment. The next day Mrs Morgan visited a neighbor's house a short distance off, leaving the child with the nurse. During her absence the fiendish and brutal nurse, to gratify her anger against Mrs Morgan, deliberately threw the child into the fire, and let it remain there until both of its legs were burned off above the ankle causing its death. When Mrs Morgan returned in a few hours, she was horrified to see the little innocent babe burned almost crisp, its distorted features indicating the terrible agonies it had endured. The nurse, who still remained at the house, was at once taxed with the deed, but denied it stoutly, stating that the child's legs had been eaten off by a dog while she left it only for a few moments. This was wholly disapproved by the plain marks of the fire, and the brute being threatened with severe punishment, finally confessed that she committed the horrible deed in the manner above stated and assigned as her reason for it her dissatisfaction with Mrs Morgan. She was then conveyed to Liberty and committed to jail for trial. She should have been promptly hung from the limb of the first convenient tree.

England is no place for schoolboys who object to be flogged; they should ask to be sent to France, where views altogether liberal are held as to corporeal punishment. The birch and the cane, as institutions, disappeared in that country at the outset of the Revolution; and they remained in almost total abeyance until last year, when the reverend fathers of the Jesuit school at Bordeaux chastised a small boy according to the old approved method, and excited the indignation of the French press, who made more noise about it than perhaps the matter required. To avoid a recurrance of the scandal, the general of the order has just issued a circular prohibiting all manual correction, and enjoining that any reverend father guilty of striking shall, as penance, be made to dine on his knees in the refectory. For the instruction of Etonians, we may explain that this is exactly as if the Provost of Eton, Dr. Goodford, were to forbid Dr. Hornby from making use of the block under pain of being set to eat his dinner kneeling in the middle of the college hall.

A Highland Scotch minister, being much disconcerted by the putting up of umbrellas here and there in a congregation which he was addressing in the open air, on the sudden appearance of a summer shower, shook his head grimly, and fixing his eyes on the innovators, said, with dreadful solemnity, 'Ah, ma freens, ma freens, there'll be no umbrellas in hell!'

In the courts of law in Grenada there used to be a picture of a naked man with a large bundle of papers under his arm and certain words proceeding out of his mouth, of which this is a translation—'I who won my suit am now stripped to the skin—what, then, must be the fate of him who lost it?' Spanish litigation would seem to be almost as expensive a luxury as our own.

A very talkative little girl used often to annoy her mother by making remarks about visitors that came to the house. On one occasion a gentleman was expected whose nose had been accidentally flattened nearly to his face. The mother cautioned the child to say nothing about it. Imagine her consternation when the little one suddenly exclaimed: 'Ma, you told me to say nothing about Mr. Smith's nose; why, he hasn't got any!'

The Prince of Wales ran great risk of being killed a fortnight ago. He was on his way to Scotland by the limited mail train when one of the carriages got off the line of rail. The Prince was jerked against the roof of the car he sat in, received several wounds about the head, and had a very narrow escape with his life.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Wrongs and their Remedy.—When the extraordinary virtues of these, by these purifying preparations, is so simple, and the good results so fully known, it seems almost unnecessary to ask the ailing to give them a trial. The Ointment is infallible in curing skin diseases, healing ulcers, arresting inflammations, reducing enlargements, and removing almost all external maladies. In all affections of the joints, gouty, rheumatic, and scrofulous attacks, by which the health of many is daily drained away, Holloway's ointment and pills will afford indescribable relief, and will gradually, if they are used as recommended in the accompanying directions, bring about a thorough and lasting cure. These medicaments are suitable for both sexes, and for every age and condition.

FOR 30 YEARS

THE dark-eyed and lovely daughters of Spanish America have used MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER as their only cosmetic and toilet perfume. It is the most fragrant, as well as the most lasting of all floral waters, and possesses refreshing and invigorating properties not contained in any other preparation of the kind.

TARTAN NOVELTIES.—AT VICTORIA HOUSE will be found an assortment of the new styles of *Tartan* trimmings, braids, ribbons, velvets, sashes, &c, just received by express—also, a few elegant *French Costumes* in the new material Satin-Laine, *Dressing Gowns*, real laces, hemstitch handkerchiefs, Infant's clothing, &c. A few FANCY GOODS, such as brooches, ear-rings, necklets, purses, porte monnaies, scarf pins, work baskets, etc have also been received.

BUY IT AND TRY IT.—Russell's celebrated coffee. The best on the Coast. Warranted a pure and healthful beverage.