The Weekly British Colonist.
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, January 8, 1867

Economy.

It is better, says a philosopher, to meet danger than to wait for it. The mariner on a lee shore, foreseeing a tempest, stands out to sea to avoid shipwreck. The apothegm is especially applicable to matters of political economy. The statesman or legislator who foresees and meets an evil half way may succeed in subduing it. Governments, like individuals, not unfrequently overrun the constable by entering into speculations that are not followed by the expected gain, and by living beyond their actual income. The Government of this Colony has indulged in both with the common result,—empty coffers, large debts, and no credit. On the one hand, it complains of financial embarrassment; on the other, the people from Victoria to Cariboo, with just cause, complain of excessive taxation. The popular voice is more potent and can find more vent now than in the despotic days of Claudius Cæsar, when to meet the exigencies of an ambitious and extravagant government, "a decree went out that all the world should be taxed;" and whilst it is plain to the most superficial observer that additional taxes cannot be borne by the people of this Colony, nor even the present ones tolerated, it is equally clear that the only course open to the Government is to examine closely into the best and wisest manner in which its expenses can be diminished. That they can be, indeed must be, for necessity knows no law, is too palpable to need argument. Retrenchment in the civil service of the Government is a laudable beginning, but the pruning must not end there; and if the greatest possible saving be not observed in every branch of departmental expenditure, the country cannot possibly tide through its present difficulties, and will sink into absolute and irretrievable bankruptcy, the shame of its few pauperized inhabitants, the despised of its neighbors. With the New Year a new leaf must be turned over, and a system of the strictest economy take the place of past extravagance. The Colony has been indulging in a little speculation in steamboating; the speculation has been a failure, excepting to the owners of the boats. Some forty or fifty thousand dollars have, during the past year, been thus squandered—thrown away! If we mistake not, much of this large sum still remains to be paid by Vancouver Island, and if the amount due by British Columbia has been met it can only have been by increasing her debt to the bank of the same name, with interest at the rate of one per cent per month. True it is that the people of this Island cannot complain of the subsidy paid to the mail steamers during the past year, inasmuch as they earnestly desired it, believing at the time that Big Bend would attract a large number of miners who would be induced to come through British territory rather than go *via* Portland. With this object in view, it was stipulated that the rate of passage money should be much less than that usually charged. It was this very diminution of the rate of passage that occasioned the granting of so large a subsidy—indeed of any subsidy at all. The whole scheme has unfortunately long since proved to be an entire failure, and a great loss to the people at large. The Colony cannot afford to play the same rash game a second time, and therefore when the present engagement (if any there be) expires, no further subsidy must be given. Nay, it would be more honorable at once to declare that we are penniless; let the unprofitable thing drop; pay as heretofore, a few dollars for the mail, and allow the steamboat owners to charge what they please for passengers and freight. Here then is an item of no small magnitude, which need not encumber the estimates of the present year. We have no fear of the result interfering with immigration for some time to come, and it would require a pretty large immigration and a vast amount of public convenience to repay thirty thousand dollars per annum. The people have to provide for the entire expense of the Government, and before they can pay it they must earn it. The day has fled, we hope for ever, when taxes were paid out of capital instead of profits; and what is now most wanted is to enable the people to make money before attempting to take it from them; blood cannot be squeezed out of a turnip. We, therefore, call upon the Government not to subsidize boats again, and even to withdraw from the present engagement if possible. It is ruinous to fiddle-faddle any longer, and to go on running into debt when there is every prospect that the Colony will come to a dead-lock before the close of the year. Let us have no more loans to patch up deficiencies, but meet the emergency with a bold hand; drop carriages and kid gloves, and reduce the expense of Government so as to bring it within the income of the Colony. It is no matter of choice but of stern necessity. The entire revenue, whatever it may be, must not be swallowed up by a host of officials; something will be required for permanent improvement, although the people have no right to expect much. They have cast their bread upon the waters, will they find it after many days?

LOCAL INTELIGENCE.

New Year's Calls.—A large number of gentleman were "out calling" upon their fair friends on New Year's day. At some of the dwellings as high as sixty visitors were entertained, and but for the heavy shower of rain,—which dampened the ardour of the very young men, and caused them to suspend their calls at an earlier hour than usual—the number of guests would have been greatly augmented. The custom of making New Year's calls, is not generally observed in England; but in Scotland very intimate acquaintances exchange calls. In Holland, Germany, and other Continental countries, the practice is maintained by all classes; and it is to the early Dutch, who settled in New York city (then known as New Amsterdam), that we are indebted for its introduction upon this continent. After New Amsterdam fell into the hands of the English, the Dutch residents continued to make calls on each other, and the usage was gradually adopted by the Anglo-Saxon settlers, until to-day it is observed by the Americans as a national custom. In the Eastern provinces, and in Canada, calling on New Year's day, has of late years grown to be universal, and and we are glad to see that the agreeable custom counts its observers among a very large proportion of our population. The Chinese are in the habit of exchanging calls at the commencement of *their* New Year, which occurs in the latter part of January; the calling is kept up for nine days, and each visitor is regaled with wines, preserved fruits and mixed candies, all of Chinese manufacture.

Fearful Suffering on Shipboard.—We alluded briefly, in our issue of Saturday morning, to the arrival of the ship Shatemuc, from New York, after a voyage of 173 days, with every soul on board, save the captain and first mate, down with the scurvy in its most malignant form. It appears that the Shatemuc was fallen in with some twenty miles outside the Farallones by the whaling bark Harrison. She was displaying a signal of distress, as there were not men enough on board to manage the vessel and get her into port, or even to keep her out of danger, and she was driving at the mercy of the storm. She was boarded by the captain and eight men from the Harrison, who were hoisted on deck one by one, and immediately took charge of the vessel, the captain of the Shatemuc gladly yielding the command. We understand that a claim of $26,000 salvage will be put in on behalf of the owners, captain and crew of the Harrison, who allege that the Shatemuc would have been inevitably lost, with all on board, but for their assistance. The scurvy among the crew is of the worst description, and could hardly have gained such complete mastery had the vessel been properly supplied with antiscorbutics. The Health Officer considers it the worst case which has ever occurred on any vessel arriving at the port of San Francisco.—*S. F. Alta, Dec. 24.*

Satisfactory Assay—Mons. B. Deffis has shown us a highly encouraging assay made at the Government Assay office, New Westminster, of quartz taken out by the Selkirk Company on McCulloch's Creek, Big Bend Eight pounds, avoirdupois, of quartz taken indiscriminately from some of the rock brought down by Mr Wattelet, gave the following result of gold:—18 ozs. 37 dwt=$379 70 per ton of 20 cwt. Five hundred pounds of the same rock were forwarded to San Francisco for assay by way of Portland, and the result will be made public as soon as known.

Leech River.—There are twenty-five men on the river, waiting anxiously for the completion of the ditch. Two companies, Williamson & Baker and Cosgrove & Scott, are working in the bank, and have prospects from which they could make $3 and $5 a-day to the hand if the ditch were completed. Health on the river is good. A grand dinner was given by Bollier, the hotel and store keeper, on Christmas day, to the miners. Flour is selling at $4 50 a sack, and whiskey at one bit a glass.

Mechanics' Institute.—In consequence of the absence at New Westminster of Capt. Porcher, R. N., the lecture announced by that gentleman for this evening will be postponed, and Mr Waddington will deliver his second lecture on "Animal Magnetism," commencing at 8 o'clock. We hope to see a large attendance, the subject being most attractive.

Disastrous Fire—A private letter, dated San Francisco, 23d December, received in town per Eliza Anderson, states that on the morning of the 24th December a fire broke out on First street, at the Central Hotel, by which five lives were lost. The building had been insured five days previously, and the proprietor was arrested on suspicion of arson.

The Public Morals—There was not a single case on the Police docket yesterday—not even a d. and d. Considering that the preceding day was the first of the new year, this augurs well for a faithful observance of the good resolves always made at the close of the old year.

Warning to Parents.—A little girl, in this city, over two years of age, was allowed access to a box of Keating's cough lozenges, and eat about a dozen, when she was taken ill, and her system became so entirely prostrated from the effects of opium, that a medical attendant had to be called in, and considerable difficulty was experienced in restoring the child to health.

The Germania Sing Verein gave one of their excellent soirees on New Year's night, which passed off most agreeably. There was a fair attendance of the "fair," and dancing was maintained with unflagging spirit until the small hours. Mr Piper ministered to the wants of the guests with creature comforts of a varied and superior description.

The Shooting Match between Mr Gerow and Sergt. Wade, (Victoria *vs.* Esquimalt), took place on New Year's day, at Brown's hotel, Parson's Bridge. A dispute having arisen as to which was the winning party, the shooting will be repeated again to-day; fixing to commence at 12 o'clock m.

The Capital.—A requisition, calling on the Mayor to convene a public meeting to consider the expediency of memorializing the Governor with regard to the location of the capital, was circulated yesterday by Captain Doane and Mr H. E. Seelye, and a large number of signatures obtained.

Vandalism.—Some persons in sheer wantonness have destroyed the ornamental part of the railings enclosing the Presbyterian Church, on Pandora street. It is a pity that the perpetrators of this unpardonable outrage could not be detected and severely punished.

No telegraphic communication was had yesterday south of Red Bluffs, California. The flood continues in Sacramento valley, and the poles for many miles have been swept away.

The Active, according to an understanding which prevailed when she last left this port, should have left San Francisco yesterday on her return trip.

Stephen Scott, Chief Engineer of the steamship Moses Taylor, lately died when the vessel was near San Francisco.

John P. Baker, a pioneer merchant of San Francisco, died on the 23rd Dec, of heart disease.

The Fideliter reached Portland on Tuesday evening, and will probably leave there to-day for this port.

☞ The Sound steamers came over on New Year's day with full freights and a large number of passengers.

Thanks—Mr H. E. Levy, late of this city, has our thanks for files of late papers.

The Mayor as a Member of the Council.

Messrs. Editors:—Notwithstanding your remarks on the subject, I think the majority of the citizens of Victoria will agree with me that the presence of Mr Macdonald, as Mayor of Victoria, in the Legislative Council, is most desirable for the interests of the city. The local business that will afterwards devote upon him in his municipal capacity will mainly depend upon the action taken in the Council; and till that has been decided, little or nothing can be done by the Mayor and Council. Let our Chief Magistrate represent the views of the citizens, in the Council at New Westminster, and then return to Victoria to carry them out.

Mr Macdonald represents the people of Victoria, and although nominated by the Governor to the Council, he can only represent the views of his constituents; and as the Governor has so strongly and openly stated his desire to carry out the views of the people, as expressed by their representatives, the appointment of Mr McDonald, and his independent action under it, will be the best test that could be had.

A Citizen.

Another Fearful Accident on Mont Blanc, Switzerland.

(Correspondence of the London Times.)

Paris, Oct. 17—The news of another disaster comes to us from Chamouni. It appears that the fine weather had attracted a considerable number of families to that place, and among others, Capt. Arkwright, an Englishman, with his mother and his two sisters. On Friday morning last he resolved to attempt the ascent of Mont Blanc, and one of his sisters decided on accompanying him as far as the Grands Mulets. Early on the following morning, Capt. Arkwright took his departure with two guides and a porter, and about nine o'clock they were seen ascending the Grand Plateau. In advance of the party went Sylvain Couttet, the proprietor of the new huts on the Grands Mulets, attached by a rope to a coachman of the Hotel Royal, known by the name of Nicholas, who wished to profit by the opportunity to ascend Mont Blanc. On reaching the Grand Plateau the parties agreed to take the passage which had been usually followed before 1820, but which was subsequently abandoned in consequence of a catastrophe similar to the present. They adopted it in preference to the "Corridor," from its shortening the journey by two hours, and because they calculated on having much less ice to cut through, as was experienced during the summer by three or four other parties. They were about half an hour in their ascent when Sylvain Couttet, who was in advance, suddenly heard above him a loud detonation. He looked up and to his horror saw an avalanche rushing down with fearful rapidity. He instantly shouted out to those who were below him, "Save yourselves! to the right! to the right!" He threw himself in that direction, advanced a few steps, struck his staff into the snow and clung to it with all his might, and his companion Nicholas did the same. They both threw themselves flat on their faces and buried their heads in the snow. They had hardly done so when a tremendous crash followed, and the immense mass thundered along quite close to them—so close that they were all over splashed with the fragments of the ice. In a few minutes, when the avalanche had passed, they raised themselves up and looked about for their unfortunate companions. They saw nothing—nothing but a furrow under them, and further down on the Grand Plateau a mass of blocks of ice.

Couttet and Nicholas descended in all haste in the same direction and searched everywhere in the hope of hearing a cry or moan to indicate that some had survived the catastrophe. They at last perceived an arm. At great risk to themselves they reached the spot and dragged out from between the blocks a dead body, the skull crushed and the breast laid open. They laid it on the snow and resumed their search but found nothing more. They resolved to descend and announce to the sister and the other families that there was no hope beyond the faint one of finding the following day the three other bodies buried in the ice. They reached the Grand Mulets, where Mrs Arkwright had been left, and informed her that it was useless to wait any longer, and that she herself must, without a moment's delay, descend with them. The writer of a letter from Chamouni says:

'Imagine the scene that took place—the lamentations of the mothers, of the three widows, and of the nine orphans. The pen is powerless to describe it. Mrs Arkwright bewailing her son; her two daughters weeping for their brother; but calm and firm, and relying on the will of God, who tries them so cruelly. They are still hoping, unfortunately, against hope, for the recovery of the bodies of the victims.'

On Sunday morning fifteen men, selected from among the most intrepid of the population, left on the search. They proposed to pass the night on the Grands Mulets, in order to begin early the following morning clearing away the avalanche; and many others have offered themselves to act on the following day, if necessary. Fortunately, the weather was fine and favorable to their perilous work. An American family, who did not wish to have their names mentioned, gave the Mayor 250 francs for the three widows.

A Remarkable Presentiment of Poisoning.—The *Cornhill Magazine* for October, in an article on premonition, gives the following: A young lawyer who had chambers in the Temple, had a nodding acquaintance with an old gentleman living on the same staircase. The old man was a wealthy old bachelor, and had a place in the country, to which he went for a week every Easter. His servants had charge of the place while he was away—an old married couple who had lived with him for twenty-seven years, and were types of the fine old English domestic. One Easter Tuesday the young lawyer was astonished to find the old gentleman on his Temple staircase, and made some remark about it. The old man asked him into his room, and said he had received a fearful shock. He had gone down as usual to his country place, and had been received with intense cordiality, and had found his dinner cooked to perfection, and everything as it had been from the beginning. When the cloth was removed his faithful butler put his bottle of port on the table, and made the customary inquiries about master's health, hoped master was not fatigued by the journey, and enjoyed his cutlet, and so on. The old gentleman was left alone, his hand was on the neck of the bottle of port, when it suddenly flashed across his mind, "Here I am, a lonely old man; no one cares for me, there is no one near to help me if anything should happen to me. What if my old servant and his wife have been cheating and robbing me all this time? What if they want to get rid of me, and have poisoned this bottle of wine?" The idea took hold of him so strongly that he could not touch the port. When the man came in again he said he did not feel well, and would have a cup of tea; no, he would have a glass of water and go to bed. In the morning he rang his bell, but no one answered. He got up, found his way down stairs; the house was empty, his two faithful servants had vanished. When he came to look further he found that his celler, which ought to have contained two or three thousand pounds worth of wine, was empty, and the bottle they had brought him last night was poisoned.

Corruption in the School Committees of New York.

There have been reports of the robbery of school teachers in New York by their official employers; Mr Parton, in his article in the *North American*, exposes this unspeakably mean business, thus;

It was recently proved, in the presence of the Governor of the State, that the appointment to the office of Corporation Attorney was sold to one incumbent for the round sum of $10,000. This is bad enough, but worse remains to be told. Sworn testimony (from thirty-six witnesses), taken by a committee of investigation, establishes the appalling fact that appointments to places in the public schools are systematically sold in some of the wards—the wards where the public schools are almost the sole civilizing power, and where it is of unspeakable importance that the schools should be in the hands of the best men and women. One young lady, who had just buried her father and had a helpless mother to support, applied for a situation as teacher, and was told, as usual, that she must pay for it. She replied that she could not raise the sum demanded, the funeral expenses having exhausted the family store. She was then informed that she could pay "the tax" in installments. Another poor girl came on the witness stand on crutches, and testified that she had paid $75 for a situation of $300 a-year. Another lady went to a member of the ring and told him, with tears, that she saw no way of procuring the sum required, nor even of saving it from the slender salary of the place. The man was moved by her anguish, took compassion upon her, and said he would remit his share of "the tax." It was shown, too, that the agent of this foul iniquity was no other than the principal of one of the schools. It was he who received and paid over the money wrung from the terror and necessities of underpaid and overworked teachers. We learn from the report of the Committee that the ring in this ward was originally formed for the express purpose of giving the situations in a new and handsome school 'to the highest bidder;' and, as the opening of the new school involved the discharge of a small number of teachers employed in the old school, the ring had both the fear and the ambition of the teachers to work upon. 'There was a perfect reign of terror in the ward,' says the report of the Investigating Committee. 'The agent performed his duty with alacrity and with a heartiness worthy of the employers. It appears that he not only summoned the teachers to come to him, but that he called on their parents and friends to the amount they should pay for their appointments, the sums varying from $ to $600, according to the salaries of the situations sought.'

And who were the ring that perpetrated this infamy? They were a majority of trustees elected by the people, and the commissioner elected by the people. Creatures selected from the grogshop, the wharf, and entrusted with the most interest of a republic—the education of children. It was known before the election of the wards, the school trustees would be wards; it was known before that lists were piled up, like flower-pots, in a house, in small, ill-ventilated rooms, that no one supposed, before this investigation, 1864, that men could be elected to office who were capable of such revolting practices as this.

Great Famine in India—Millions Starved to Death.

(From the London Spectator.)

The telegram from India, announcing that half the population of Grissa have died in the famine, must be a lie. It is impossible, inconceivable, incredible, that so transcendental a horror, one so utterly beyond all precedent, so nearly beyond imagination, should actually have occurred, that so inexplicable a disgrace should have fallen upon the British name. Two millions and a half of people dead of hunger in five months! Why, they are British subjects, and British subjects in India, living under the care of a paternal despotism, of a government with boundless power to help, with a continent to tax at will, with a revenue of $16,000,000, with $14,000,000 in its treasuries—of a government which declares that its moral right to reign is its care for the masses of the population—of a government which, if it has a fault, has that of loving the peasantry above the landholders. The statement is false, the invention of an enemy, to disgrace us in the eyes of the world. Two millions and a half of human beings dead of hunger on the south west coast of Bengal! Why the coast is opposite Arracan, the rice-granary of India, looks straight to the mouth of the Ganges, and the rich delta whose endless wealth of production supplies the surplus revenue of a continent, opposite ports crowded with shipping, and under a government which can transport armies, which can find agents by the million, and which maintains in comfort soldiers equal in number to three-fifths of the families which the telegraph says have perished. Two millions and a half of people, five hundred thousand heads of houses, five hundred thousand mothers, fifteen hundred thousand children, dead of hunger! Why the Viceroy is the picked Indian, the man chosen by a nation because of his capacity to govern, the ruler who risked a rebellion to secure comfort to the peasantry of Oude, the Englishman whom of all human beings philanthropists would have picked out for a throne, and he is in the Hills, as far away from those whom this villainous story represents as dying in myriads as Warsaw is from Paris. Two millions and a half of people!—twice the population of Denmark, or of Greece, eight Suffolks, six Hampshires, five sixths of Scotland, dead of hunger. Why, they are trusted to the Government of Bengal, and the 'Government is a cool, farsighted civilian, who has just been selected for honor, and he has not stirred from his hill retreat, has not gone among the dying, or sent a representative, or organized relief at his capital, or shown the faintest idea that he is face to face with a calamity such as, since the birth of Christ, has scarcely stricken the subjects of a civilized State. Two million and a half of men, and women, and babies, our subjects, dead of hunger! Why, we are Christians, and if but one woman so dies, move the whole force of the State to secure inquiry and relief from a horror which chills the warm comfort of our wealth. It is a lie, incredible and absurd.

S.T-1860-

GRAND JAN SOE HITS

two of disinterested friends who have endeavore
tatate or counterfeit them. It's all of no use. Th
won't be long imposed upon. The Plantation Bi
increasing in use and popularity every day, and
what's the matter." They are in same sized bo
made just as they were at first, and will continu
or we shall stop making them.

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They create a healthy appetite.
They are an antidote to change of water and diet.
They overcome effects of dissipation and late hour
They strengthen the system and enliven the mind
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They purify the breath and acidity of the stomac
They cure Dyspepsia and Constipation.
They cure Diarrhea, Cholera and Cholera Morbus.
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They ma ke the weakstrong, the languid brilli
are exhausted nature's great restorer. The re
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chants and persons whose sedentary habits indu
hess lassitude, palpitation of the heart, lack of
distress after eating, liver complaint, constipati
will find immediate and permanent relief in these
but above all, they are recommended to weak an
cate female and mothers.

The original quality and high character of thes
will be sustained under every and all circuma
They have already obtained a sale in every town,
pari and hamlet shamong civilized nations. Base
tators try to come a near our name and style
n, and because a good article cannot be sold as low
poor one, they find some support from parties
not care what they sell. Be on your guard.
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the face and person, to render the sk
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Montgomery, Ala. June 17th, 1859.

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Sprains, Soars, Scratches or Galls on Horses. Ou
have used it for Barns, Bruises, Sores, Rheumatis
and all say it acts like magic."

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Foreman for American, Wells Fargo's and Ha
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skating last winter, was entirely cured in one week
she commenced to use your celebrated Mustang
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ED. SEE

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Quick and sure it certainly is. All genuine is w

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An effort has been made to counterfeit it with a
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It is a most delightful Hair Dressing.
It eradicates scurf and dandruff.
It keeps the head cool and clean;
It makes the hair rich, soft and glossy.
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Lyon's Magnetic Insect Powder is instant deat
Fleas, Ticks, Roaches, and everything of the
pecies. It is one of the few articles that can be r
upon, and for a mere two bits we can save the bite
bills of these little pests. None is genuine unless si
by E. Lyon, and bearing the private stamp of D
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