STOL'S
(getable)
R--COATED
ILLS!
REAT CURE
the diseases of the
OMACH AND BOWELS,
ass Phials, warranted
IN ANY CLIMATE.
pared expressly to operate in har-
atest of blood purifiers, BRISTOL'S
all cases arising from depraved
blood. The most hopeless sufferers
Under the influence of these two
maladies, that have heretofore been
incurable, disappear quickly and
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at once resorted to.
A or INDIGESTION
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STIPATION;
EADACHE
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PILES,
hese PILLS have been used in daily
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composed of the most costly, purest
Extracts and Balsams, such as are
ordinary medicines, on account of
the combination of rare medicinal
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PILLS, have effected speedy and
25 cts per Phial.
ALL DRUGGISTS.
Hostetter, Smith & Dean.
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resh Culled Flowers.
Y & LANMAN'S
ELEBRATED
da Water.
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, of surpassing fragrance. Its aro-
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NTERFEITS,
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NMAN & KEMP,
Wholesale Druggists,
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ALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.
& PERRINS'
CELEBRATED
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AINST FRAUD.
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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 9. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1868 NO. 18

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY.
HIGGINS, LONG & CO.

TERMS:

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For Six Months	4 00
For Three Months	2 50
Per Week	0 25

PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

OFFICE—Colonist Building, Government and Langley streets, adjoining Bank of British Columbia.

AGENTS.

S. D. Levi	Nanaimo, V. I
Holder & Hart,	Comox, do
Sam'l Harris	Cowichan do
Clarkson & Co.	New Westminster
Barnard's Express	Quesnelle, B. C
do	Lytton
do	Vanwinkle
do	Richfield
do	Barkerville
do	Cameronton
do	Clinton
L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
Hudson & McCarty	11 Clement's Lane, London
F. Algar	30 Cornhill, London
C. Street	

Were we called on to decide whether the interior or the ocean mail service was the most inefficiently performed, we confess we should be unable to render a decision. "It is "six of one and half-a-dozen of the other." Both are in a condition that reflects discredit on the Executive of the Colony, when it is notorious that it is in its power to effect other and more efficient arrangements. The last mail received here by steamer left San Francisco on the 14th ultimo. The next mail is announced to leave to-morrow—an interval of nearly a month having elapsed. Government has paid for a long time $750 per trip to the California, Oregon and Mexico Steamship Company for bringing the mails to Victoria—a trip not to be made less frequently than once in three weeks. Last month the Company demanded a subsidy of $1000 per trip once every four weeks. This modest demand was complied with temporarily, and the whole question will come before the Legislative Council for action early in the session. We regard the sum paid for an ocean mail service as exorbitant under the old arrangement. But this last demand is outrageous. The Company say they have lost money during the winter—that few passengers and little freight offered—and that if an additional subsidy be not granted they will withdraw their boats entirely from this route. That money may have been sunk during what is always in this Colony the dullest season of the year, may be quite true. But it certainly appears not a little strange, after maintaining boats on the route during the dull season when every avenue of commerce was blocked with snow and ice and trade was prostrate, that the Company, just when the business season is about to open, when stocks require to be replenished, and when miners are preparing to return to Cariboo from California and elsewhere, should threaten to withdraw their ships if their new and extortionate demand be refused compliance. The fact of the matter is simply this: The California, Oregon and Mexico Steamship Company fancy they have us at their mercy and are prepared to "lay on and spare not." If the Government gives way now it will have to give way always. A steamer but once a month is almost equivalent to no steamer, especially in the spring of the year when there is reason to hope we shall have at least a small accession to our population. If the mail service is ever to do us good it is at this season of the year. Heretofore we have simply been subsidising steamships to bring our mails and take away our people; and just when there are symptoms that the return wave of population is in motion, up steps the Steamship Company with a fresh demand. No money, no population, is the cry. They virtually say, comply with what we ask or we shall withdraw from the trade—cut you off from communication with the outer world. Are we, then, completely at the mercy of the California, Oregon and Mexico Company? Have we no means of relieving ourselves of the incubus? Must we continue to be bled in the manner we have been bled for an indefinite period? Now, it strikes us that Government has the game in its own hands if it only possesses the energy sufficient to play its cards rightly. A few weeks ago the *Government Gazette* contained an announcement that under the new Postal Treaty important reductions would be made in the rates of postage; but when the first mail on which the reduced rates were charged reached San Francisco, the Postmaster notified our authorities that the reductions only applied to letters sent to Great Britain. Blunder though it may have been, it was the only evidence of life the hybernating Executive had given for a long time, and it is pitiful to reflect that its spasmodic effort was not crowned with some degree of success. But by the same Treaty the United States Government is to deliver *all* mail matter intended for a British Colony at the American post office nearest the destination of the matter. Port Townsend, right by our side, across the Straits, being the nearest point to Victoria there is nothing in the way of the Government (except its ingrain imbecility) of demanding that the bags shall be brought overland to Port Townsend and there delivered to a special messenger sent from this side. We should then enjoy weekly mail communication with all parts at a cost which, compared with the sum now paid for the expensive, irregular, infrequent and unsatisfactory service by the ocean steamer, would be mere *bagatelle*. But, it will be asked, what shall we do for population, and how will our freight get here? Well, until the Steamship Company shall have come to their senses, or another Richmond whose expectations are more moderate enters the field, the public can avail itself of the accommodations offered by sail vessels, which will be only too glad to touch at Victoria on their way to and from Nanaimo and elsewhere. Depend upon it, however, there will be no withdrawal of the steamships from this route. Were an opposition line on foot the Company would be glad to bring our mails for nothing and our freight and passengers at half the present rates. How much less likely are they, then, to place themselves in a position of antagonism to the Colony and force it to encourage and sustain the first boat that will contract to carry, passengers, mails and freight at reasonable rates. Let the Government stand firm—if it knows what firmness is. Let it refuse to be *black-mailed*. Let it insist upon the mail matter being brought not less frequently than once in three weeks, for a sum not exceeding that previously paid for the service, and it will win the active support and co-operation of the public; and let it at the same time take steps to bring to the notice of the Home authorities the condition of our Postal affairs, so that any privileges we may rightfully possess under the new Postal Treaty may be secured as speedily as possible.

The death of Louis II, the young King of Bavaria, (announced by telegraph) will hasten the consolidation of North Germany under Prussian rule. King Louis was melancholy mad. His specialities were—love of solitude, moonlight, ruined castles, music and very wretched poetry of his own composition. He possessed a great love for the composer Wagner, and would withdraw for weeks from the glare of his court to enjoy the society of his favorite and his flute.

Monday, March 9th.

OH!—The *News*, which has been doing its best for the past year to drag this Island into the American Union, is now confident that 'every city, town, village and hamlet' will 'become involved and divided in itself with a bitterness of feeling far beyond what characterized the war between the North and South.' Does our contemporary still insist on joining the Happy Family across the Straits?

COLD COMFORT.—The anti-Confederation petition was signed by 160 persons out of a population of 4,000. It went up to New Westminster last week and the following letter, acknowledging its receipt by His Excellency, was received on Friday:

New Westminster, Feb 29, 1868.

GENTLEMEN:—I have had the honor to receive your petition of the 3d inst. against any immediate step being taken for the Union of this Colony with the Dominion of Canada. I shall forward it with respectful comments to the Secretary of State.

Great as must be the desire of us all to see a road made in British Territory across the Continent of America, and immigration setting in to British Columbia by the nearest way from the mother country, the practical difficulties of carrying it out are very considerable.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most ob'ed't, humble serv't,
FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

The petition called for 'delay' in the matter of Confederation. The reply of the Governor informs the petitioners that there are 'practical difficulties' in the way of a 'road made in British territory across the Continent of America!' Did they petition against a road being built? or did they ask His Excellency to state *his* opinion as to its practicability? There is a screw loose somewhere. Perhaps the petitioners were not sufficiently explicit; or, perhaps, after the petition was signed for one object it was decapitated and another heading substituted, with the names signed to the first still untouched. Such tricks have been played before and why not in this instance? There is an ancient and codfish-like smell about this business that savors of the foot of Johnson street. Some of those who signed in good faith ought to get a copy of the petition they signed and the one that went to New Westminster and compare them.

RELIEF FOR FARMERS.—We understand that J P Davies & Co. are about to open their Cattle Sale Yard for the accommodation of farmers on the morning of Saturday in each week, where the produce of the Island may be exposed for sale from 7 till 12 o'clock At the latter hour the produce remaining unsold may be disposed of by public auction or taken away, at the option of the owner. This arrangement will prove beneficial to the farming classes, the want of a market or depot for their produce on sale having been long severely felt.

MR. CLARKE'S BENEFIT.—The performance on Wednesday evening will be under the patronage of Sir James Douglas and the Fire Department. The plays are being carefully studied and rehearsed, and confidence is expressed that the entertainment will be the most successful ever given by the Dramatic Club. But, apart from the promised excellence of the entertainment, the past services of the gentleman in the cause of charity and his merits as an actor and a man call for the bestowal of a substantial mark of public favor, which we feel sure will not be withheld.

PRECAUTIONARY measures by the authorities to guard against surprise by raiding parties of Fenians continue. The defences of the jail and armory are being strengthened, special constables have been sworn in to serve in case of disturbance, and a tender of the services of the Rifle Corps has been made and accepted by the Government. At Esquimalt the ships of war are ready for active operations at a moment's warning.

COUNCIL MEETING.—A private telegram from New Westminster on Saturday states that the Council is called to meet at The Hovels on the 21st inst. We telegraphed for a copy of the proclamation; but up to the time of the telegraph office closing yesterday morning it had not come to hand. We shall probably receive particulars to-day.

THE American (late Russian) steamer Constantine sailed yesterday morning for Nanaimo, where she will load with coal for Sitka and return to this port to await the arrival of the mail steamer.

THE PRIZES.—The judges of the Prize Essay have completed their labors, and the award will be made at the Theatre on Friday next. Prices of admission have been fixed at 50 and 25 cents.

AWAY AT LAST.—The powder magazine was towed from Shoal Point on Saturday, by the steamer Enterprise, to a safe position in Esquimalt harbor.

THE FIDELITER.—A dispatch from Portland announces the arrival there on Friday night of the steamer Fideliter, from Victoria.

VERY GOOD.—The nett profit of the late performance for the benefit of the Steam Fire Engine Fund is $235 75.

THE Annual District Meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Church Missionaries is now in session in this city.

The Cariboo Mail Service.

BARKERVILLE, B. C., Feb. 16, 1857.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—It seems to me that our notoriously imbecile executive, has at last reached such a climax of inefficiency, that challenges every honest man to denounce its incompetency.

We have borne, with comparatively few murmurs, the grinding taxation of a pigmy intellectual clas of rulers, as long as quiet submission has any virtue left in it; we have made bricks, whilst clay was anywheres obtainable, but now that the labor is increased, and we have to find straw, the doblas, the burden is greater than we either can or will bear.

Cariboo has long been patient under her sufferings, but Cariboo will never submit to be unsexed, so to speak, to have her *mail* properties *spirited* away and herself turned adrift.

Here have we been, I am afraid to say for what length of time—wit a breath of intelligence from the outside world, eargerly looking forward for the arrival of the coach of the indefatigable Barnard, who we felt confident would turn up some day, as his praiseworthy exertions for the due fulfilment of the contracts he has entered into, in spite of stupendous obstacles in the shape of bad weather, and otherwise are familiar as household words.

At length it has arrived, but alas! *with no mail*, and I can assure you when the truth was known, a chorus of curses was wafted Westminsterwards.

Barnard stands almost alone, as one o the sole surviving representatives of a hundred public undertakings that have languished through the passing stupidity of a wooden headed Government.

Barnard is and ever has been a sort of balm to Cariboo—no matter how many crosses and disappointments assailed us. We knew during the summer that Barnard's Express would be here on Sunday, and that then we should hold through the medium of our letters and papers, converse with "terra cognita" and forget for the time being all our troubles about Bed-rock and Slum.

To be sure there was during the summer no communication between Victoria and the Home country, but that we always passed over in contemptuous silence; as long as we were permitted to enjoy all the privileges that were bestowed on our fellow Colonists. But now, alas! even Barnard's Express seems about to be taken away, an enterprise which should have received the most diligent fostering care at the hands of our Solons,—an enterprise that is above all others the greatest monument of individual pluck and perserverance in British Columbia, and certainly one of the greatest utility, yet even this it appears must have all governmental props withdrawn.

When and where, may I ask, is all this going to end?

Yours &c. L.

The Strange Story of an Adopted Child.

[London Daily News, Dec. 12th.]

That thoughtful pastor of Carolina who feared to emancipate Sella Martin's sister lest she should fall a victim to "free society," but was ultimately persuaded to hand her over to her own brother for a hundred pounds sterling, might possibly feel inclined to preach us a sermon over the dead body of that poor child, of name and birth unknown, upon whom Coroner Richards held an inquest last Tuesday. If that "fine boy of two years old" had lived "down South" ten years ago, his chattel value would have ensured him an amount of attention that might have preserved him through the common perils of childhood. At any rate it would have given somebody an interest in keeping him alive after he had been abandoned by his parents. We want a name for that inverted system of trade in human flesh and blood which has sprung up among us, and in which money is paid, not for, but with, a child, on condition that its parents shan't see it again. There are few days on which those who know where to look for it may not find among advertisements of a "Billiard-table to be disposed of," or advice "To All in Debt or Difficulties," or "Nine Houses for a Shilling Each," an announcement that "A Respectable Couple, not blessed with offspring, wish to adopt a Child." Such an advertisement appeared last March in a London paper, having been inserted by Mr William James Cooper of 10, Nelson street, Bethnal-green, and elicited a response from a writer who had "a little boy fourteen months old" whom she "wished to have adopted," and desired to be furnished with full particulars concerning the premium and other matters. Mrs Cooper who replied, dealt with her correspondent in a very business like manner. As to the premium, she wrote—"We have decided £20 if under six months, or £15 if over." The child, it was further stipulated, was to be entirely given up; the parents were on no pretence to acknowledge it at any future time; in short, as Mrs Cooper put it "it is to be to all intents and purposes our child." No pains, it will be seen, were spared to strip the child of the last chance it might have of aid from its natural protectors, or to exclude the advantage it might possibly receive from a revival of tender feeling on the part of either of its parents. The case of many children would be desperate indeed if there exists no power ready to defend the rights of children thus abandoned by their proper guardians. The child's mother could only give £10 premium, but she enlarged upon his good qualities: "He is now getting very pleasant; he is a very healthy and a very good child, and of good birth. I would give him up entirely."

These terms were accepted, and it only remained to deliver possession of the helpless and unconscious subject of the bargain. No time was lost in the process, and on the 23d of March last a cab drove up to the Coopers' door, and a young lady of about three and twenty stepped out with the child in her arms and £10 in her hand. Her words, as she handed over her boy, with all his destinies, to persons she had never seen before, were few, and to the point:—"This is my illegitimate child; it has not been baptized, and it has no name." What a description!—a string of negations! A stranger in a world which has no place for him, he can only be described by his want of all he ought to have. Who this spectral visitor was, where she came from, whither she was going, the Coopers declare they know not. And why should they want to know, when the chid's short history up to that day was thenceforward to be a blank for itself and all the world? Enough that there the child was, and, above all, there was the £10. If the money were good and lawful, the guest might vanish and return into the mystery from which she came.

We hear no more of this "pleasant, healthy, good child" for six months. How he fared at the hands of strangers during that period when he should have been

Fretted by sallies of his mother's kisses,
With light upon him from his father's eyes,

we know not. On Saturday last, however, Mr Chambers, a practitioner in attendance upon Mrs Cooper, was about to leave her house, when he was abruptly called by her husband to the fact that a child was dead in the house. Stepping into an adjoining room he saw a boy, about two years of age, described as very beautiful, but with a "blue mark over the lips," and some other signs which usually accompany death by suffocation. A coroner's inquest was of course held, when the facts we have narrated were given in evidence. Cooper was very reluctant to state the circumstances under which the child came under his care. He denied that in the advertisement for a child anything had been said about money; but the letters which he most unwillingly produced showed that from the first money was the main consideration. The actual cause of death remains to be investigated, the inquest having been adjourned for that purpose; it would therefore be premature to offer an opinion on the subject. The Coopers declare that the child was found dead early on Saturday morning lying on his back in bed, having had nothing the matter with him but a cough, and the disturbance incident to teething. An attempt is to be made to find out the child, and very properly, for it is time to ascertain whether natural responsibilities can thus be shuffled off for a small money payment, and with an assurance that whatever happens no question shall be asked. If this is permitted by law, it is high time the law was amended.

THE Paris correspondent of *The Publishers' Journal* writes to that journal:—"M. Renan has just issued the thirteenth edition of his "Life of Jesus," with a new preface, which is remarkable among other things for a confession that he has changed his opinion about the value of the fourth Evangelist. I am told the sale of the book is wonderfully steady. There is an alarming and increasing hostility to religion in France. I wrote you the liberal party are about erecting a statue to Voltaire, which gives the greatest indignation to the Church. Bishop Dupanloup, of Orleans, said a few days ago, in his speech before the Catholic Congress at Mechlin: 'It is said a statue is to be raised to Voltaire. A statue to Voltaire! If a statue is raised to him, and perhaps a statue will be raised to him, for nothing is impossible, I shall say a statue has been erected to *infamy personified*.' 'Le Siecle,' the leading organ of the liberal party, is issuing, at cost, a complete edition of Voltaire's works. The effect, circulated among the people, must be to increase their hostility to all religion.