

The Legislative Council was unusually industrious yesterday. It passed a series of resolutions on the state of the colony, which, if they are not truthful, are at least amusing, and it threw out three of the Assembly's bills. The paid politicians, from the Colonial Secretary down, and the non-official fogies, were unanimous. It is right that this should be so. When we desire to consign a thing to the flames, it is gratifying to know that there is not a part of it worth preserving; when the Assembly is praying to Her Majesty for a constitution that will ignore all such ingredients as the present Council is composed of, it is satisfactory to feel that we are aiming at sacrificing nothing that deserves to be retained. The Legislative Council of Vancouver Island is the worthless remains—the *caput mortuum* of colonial legislation. We do not blame the members; because we are not disposed to quarrel with nature. They can no more help the narrowness of their minds than they can the shape of their legs. We merely blame the system that allows such men to get into a position in which they can inflict serious public injury. There is nothing new in our objections to nominative Councils. Viscount Goderich, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the Royal Instructions to Governor Sir Thomas Cochrane, as far back as 1832, has the following pertinent remarks on the same important subject:—"In accordance with the usual course of precedents, your Commission constitutes a Council which will participate with the Assembly in the enactment of laws. It is not, however, to be denied that this part of the established system of colonial legislation has been practically found to be attended with some serious difficulties. The members of Council deriving their authority from the Royal Commission, have not seldom been regarded with suspicion and distrust by the great body of the people. Their elevation in rank and authority has but too often failed to induce a corresponding degree of public respect. Even the most judicious exercise of their powers has occasionally worn the resemblance of harshness when opposed to the unanimous or the predominant opinions of those to whom the colonists looked with confidence as their representatives. The Councils, it must be confessed, have not uniformly exerted themselves to repel, or to abate, this prejudice. The acrimony engendered by such disputes has sometimes given occasion to an eager assertion of extreme rights on the part of the Council, and to a no less determined denial of their necessary and constitutional privileges on the part of the Assembly. The Councils have also been employed as instruments for relieving Governors from the responsibility they ought to have borne for the rejection of measures which have been proposed by the other branch of the Legislature, and have not seldom involved them in dissensions which it would have been more judicious to decline. The effect of the institution, therefore, is too often to induce a collision between the different branches of the Legislature, to exempt the Governor from a due sense of responsibility, and to deprive the representative body of some of its most useful members. Yet the compensation which might atone for these evils is not obtained, and the Council does not assume in the colony a position or an influence analogous to that of the House of Peers, because entirely destitute of that hold on public opinion which the property and independence of its members, as well as the antiquity of the institution itself, confers upon the Peerage of this country."

The remarks of Viscount Goderich have lost none of their force through time. Legislative Councils of the kind he speaks of as mischievous and as unpopular now as they were more than thirty years ago. The official members of such bodies are, as a general rule, men who cannot make a livelihood if left to their own exertions. They are the "dead-heads" of English or colonial society, and through importunities either in Downing street or at the Governor's residence in the colony are foisted on a victimized public. When they enter upon their duties they soon show an aptitude for pomposity to those below them, and obsequiousness to those above—excellent tools to carry out the whim of a despotic Governor, but the worst material wherewith to make a straightforward and useful public officer. The first lesson indeed that is learnt is to treat the people with a kind of "haw-haw" condescension, the second to give up the little judgment they possess to their superiors in office. Polonius was not more anxious to wear by the whims and eccentricities of Hamlet than these men are to speak and vote as the Governor of the colony directs them. When we come to the non-official, nominated members the position is not much improved. As a rule they are selected for their wealth, without any regard to education, experience, or ability. Hence they are nearly on every occasion to be found voting on the side of the officials. They have nothing in common with the intelligent portion of the population and they are too purse-proud to herd with a

lower order; the consequence is they are, generally speaking, the Ishmaels of a community. It is no wonder, then, that nominative Councils are as a rule very unpopular bodies, and that they act antagonistic to the people's will. There have been and are exceptional cases, but they are extremely rare; and the rarity, unfortunately for us, is not to be found on Vancouver Island: Here the lack of experience and ability is relieved by neither education nor refinement—nothing in fact to command respect. Our Legislative Council is we believe to day the most wretched specimen of a legislative body to be found throughout the whole of Britain's colonies. Incapable of originating a single measure of utility itself, it pounces with all the unctious of a malicious schoolboy on the measures which are initiated by others. It destroys the homestead bill, mangles the abolition of imprisonment for debt, stands in the way of Parliamentary reform, throws out the mechanics' Lien Bill, the Descent of Real Property Bill, and every other measure which the public have ever and over again demanded. It may be very necessary to obtain a change in our Government, but the evil will be only partially removed, if the Assembly does not exert itself to the utmost to prevent any of our present heads of departments being retained after union of the colonies. It has to be tested whether the people's will or the caprice of their paid servants is to be carried out in these unfortunate portions of the British colonial empire.

LETTER FROM BIG BEND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]
FRENCH CREEK, June 10th, 1866.
The various mining companies are getting to work more vigorously, and things are commencing to look a little more stirring. Some ten or twelve companies are washing regularly. The Monroe Co., washed up, on last Monday, 19 ounces, the best days work of the season so far, since which time they have made good wages. The balance of the old companies are doing a large amount of work, putting in substantial dams, &c., and in a few days nearly all will be prepared to wash. Numerous companies are busy prospecting, but from the various difficulties, such as water, boulders, &c., small companies get along slowly. A company has been formed to finish sinking a shaft, commenced some time since, and abandoned after getting down 25 feet, on account of the difficulty of keeping out the water. It is about a mile and a quarter up the creek from the Discovery Co.; the company have in a large overshot wheel, and intend to work night and day until they reach the bed rock, if possible. What they find will probably determine the amount of prospecting that will be done on the upper part of the Creek.
A prospecting party is starting out for the head of Gold river, and another is already out prospecting streams still higher up the Columbia.
On McCulloch creek, four or five companies are making from grub to wages, and the rest are prospecting. The claim of Mr. McCulloch to the discovery of this Creek was heard on Monday last before Judge O'Reilly. It appears that the ground consisted of 750 feet, (five discovery claims) and that the company holding it against McCulloch, of course consisted of five persons. It was decided that as McCulloch had not complied with the law in regard to mining claims he forfeited all right to the claims; but on the other hand the parties jumping were not the discoverers, and therefore could not hold the discovery claims. Therefore they were awarded five ordinary claims (five hundred feet). McCulloch was allowed one hundred feet, and one hundred and fifty feet was declared jumpable. It is hardly necessary to state that the jumping part was immediately attended to. On Camp Creek several parties are prospecting still, but I have not heard of anything being struck. The bars on the Columbia are being taken up; on many of them companies are already washing, and they are said to yield from "grub" to \$10 per day to the hand. They can only be worked for a little time, as the river is liable to rise at any time. Moberly Creek is attracting some attention, as I hear that 30 or 40 men have proceeded there to prospect. Parties have been prospecting a quartz reef on French Creek for silver lately, but from want of acids, crucibles, &c., have not been able to test it as yet; in a month or two we shall probably know something more about it. The prices of goods on the creek remain as follows: At the steamboat landing on the Columbia, flour is worth 40 cents per pound; bacon, 90 cents; beans 75 cents; sugar, 87½ cents; other things in proportion. The names of the two unfortunate persons who were drowned with the party of 16 lately, near Death Rapids, and who were reported as two Frenchmen names unknown, were Edouard Daumet and Benada. One, I believe, leaves a wife and the other a mother in Victoria. But one body, that of Mr. Richardson, has as yet been recovered. Mr. Haynes, Gold Commissioner, arrived here a few days since, and I understand will take the place of Mr. O'Reilly, who will proceed to Kootenay at the end of this month. Messrs. Macnema & Elliott have commenced business here as Mining Agents, etc.; Messrs. Shipper & Davis have opened a clothing and notions store; Mr. Murray (of Wilson & Murray) is putting up a bakery and store; Mr. Gambitz has arrived with gun boots, etc.; Mr. Dissett, himself, has decided to commence business here. We have two doctors—Dr. E. Shell, from Walla Walla, and Dr. Oliver from New Westminster, and two lawyers, Messrs. Cornwall and Barnston; so you see we are progressing considerably.

THE TRIP DOWN.
VICTORIA, June 20, 1866.
We left French Creek on Monday, June 10. On passing over the trail to Kirby we found the road parties had nearly completed their labors—two or three days more and the trail would be finished, and when finished it will really be a good one, and could be easily made into a wagon road. Some horses came up on the "49" on her last trip which are

intended to pack over this trail. The price at present paid for packing on men's backs is 13 cents to French Creek. Two or three parties have already taken up land on the trail and promise to supply the chaw-bacon on the creeks with vegetables as soon as mother earth sees fit to bring forth. The trail from Kirby's up the mountain we found good until reaching the snow, about three miles from the Summit, when it got muddy from the melting snow. Through the snow a trail has been cut and we met the first pack train about two miles from the Summit; there is no doubt that before this the goods taken by them are on the creeks. On coming down we met three or four more pack trains, some of considerable size, all heavily loaded. Eight or nine head of cattle also came up on the Marten on her last trip, destined for the mines, and by this time fresh beef can be had there. We met about 20 men on the trail going in. We arrived at Seymour on the third day after leaving French Creek. At Seymour we found things rather dull there being very little trade either at present. The steamer not having come up we were obliged to lay over one day. The Marten is a fine boat, and when finished will compare favorably with the Fraser river boats. Our passage down the lake was a very pleasant one—the more so in contrast to the trying trip we had up there. We arrived at Savana Ferry about 7 o'clock a.m. on the 11th, and at noon Barnard was ready to take us to Yale, which place we reached on the 17th at 8 o'clock, p.m. Yale is the liveliest looking town we have seen, and as it can now boast a newspaper it ought to keep ahead. The editor of the paper (Mr. Wallace) was on a visit to Victoria, and we found that the devil had mounted the tripod and was looking as blooming as a rose. We left Yale on the 18th at 10 o'clock a.m. on the 18th, arriving at New Westminster at 6 o'clock p.m. This town has been so often vividly described that it will be needless to say more than that the upper part of the city consists of residences, a barracks and a gunboat, together with an occasional stump, and the lower portion consists of stumps, stones and an occasional residence. We were obliged to lay over another day in New Westminster waiting for the Enterprize, on which we left at 11 o'clock this morning, reaching here at her usual time (5 o'clock p.m.). Thus we have made the trip from French Creek to Victoria in eight days travelling time; the exact number of hours travelling was ninety-one.

W. E. O.
Oriental Honors to American Ministers.

[From the S. F. Bulletin.]
A banquet in honor of Hon. Anson Burlingame, American Minister to China, and Gen. Van Valkenburg, American Minister to Japan, was given by the principal Chinese houses in this city—Tung Yu & Co., Chy Luog & Co. and Wing Wo Sang & Co., at the Hang Heong Restaurant, on Dupont street, last evening. It was a great and sumptuous affair. The restaurant was elegantly decorated for the occasion. Everything that a liberal hospitality could do to honor the distinguished guests of the evening was done.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE TOWN CRIER.
OR SEYMOUR CHARIVARI.

TELEGRAPHIC.
(Special Despatches to the Town Crier)
San Francisco, June 8th, 1866—A great fire broke out on the premises of—
Here the line gave out.
FASHIONABLE ARRIVALS.
J. W. Trutch and suite.
Accidents.
Yesterday a wheelbarrow capsized and all hands lost.
As one of the Hudson Bay Co. officials was leaving Kamloops by the steamer Marten, he stumbled against Mr. Denness, and fell, and has not been able to speak the truth since.
GOOD NEWS.
We glean the following items from a returned digger.
He saw Mr. Moberly who informs him that the trail most likely will be finished some time this season... The water on French Creek is very wet, and some of the boulders are very much larger than others... Every place in which he got the color, he believes there is more or less gold... Two Cornishmen bottomed a shaft and struck (one another)... Mr. Ormandy, of the Bank of B. C., doubts the probability of the Bank erecting a mint on French creek this season.
SUDDEN DEATH.—We regret to announce that Mr. C. E. Simpson, a young English gentleman formerly connected with the house of Messrs. Hornum & Barnaby of this city, died suddenly of disease of the heart in London, about six weeks ago. Deceased was widely known and greatly respected in these Colonies.

DESSERT.
1 Bow Low—Pine Apple.
2 Bay La—Strawberries.
3 Hong La—Cherries.
4 Hong Chow—Bananas.
5 Hang Yan—Almonds.
6 Ping Quat—Apples.
7 Hong Chung—Oranges.
8 Li Chee Kon—Dry Li Chee, Canton.

Oolong Tea—superior quality—Champagne Claret—Rose Wine—Sapp Soo—China Wine Cigars.
At the end of each course the guests journeyed to another room, where speech were made by Hon. Anson Burlingame, Gen. Van Valkenburg, Rev. A. L. St. Rev. Horatio Stebbins and others. At the end of second course, Chy Lung, in name of the hosts, returned thanks to the guests for their company, and proposed the health of the "American Minister to China, H. Anson Burlingame," coinciding with Oriental expression—"We wish your Excellency ten thousand golden pleasures, and happy voyage to the Central Flowerly Empire."

Later in the evening there was a speech-making, Capt. Eldridge, Gov. I. of Idaho, Charles Wolcott Brooks, Japan Commercial Agent; Capt. Woodworth, the Navy; the Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade; representatives of the leading commercial houses, Mr. MacCrellish of the *Alta*; Mr. Knox, the *N. Y. Herald*, and others, respectively to toasts. Toasts were also drank, Chy Lung, Tam Quon, Fung Tung, other distinguished Chinese merchants, party dispersed at a late hour, with an ding conviction they had had a "good time." Too much praise cannot be awarded to the hosts of the occasion. Their princely hospitality will be long and gratefully remembered by all who were so fortunate to enjoy it.

BIDDY AND THE PREMIER.—Some years ago Lord Palmerston visited his estate for the purpose of inspecting the improvements which were being made one morning he, with a friend spent their guns many miles over it in se game. They had, however, little sport became tired and hungry. In the p.m. Lord Palmerstone saw a cabin—a poor cottage, not so good as a stable—to which made his way, in company with his and a keeper, and found the tenement occupied by an old woman and her pig. Lordship asked if she had anything "God bless your honor, sure there's and eggs at your service," was the and while the old woman, without further ado, commenced washing the potatoes and putting them in a pot, his lordship told her he would return in half an hour. When he did so, the old woman had prepared him a substantial meal of potatoes and fresh eggs, which, being hungry, he heartily enjoyed. One is naturally in good humor after dinner, however simple it may have been, and Lord Palmerston drew from the old woman that she had been many years a widow, and worked hard for a livelihood, but feared when her strength should fail her, that she must go to the workhouse; but she fortunately added, "If my husband had taken less of the whiskey, and kept the money to buy a cow, I would have got the agent to let me the bit of waste land in the corner, and I'd been as happy as the Queen. But there's no helping it, your honor. It's a poor lone woman I'll be, and nobody will care whether poor Biddy is alive or dead."

"Suppose I were to speak to Lord Palmerston," suggested her visitor. "Oh, faith, your honor, it's not the like of you that Lord Palmerston talks to," said Biddy. "Isn't it himself that has dinner with the Queen, and tells her what she has to do, and don't he tell the House of Lords, and the Parliament, and all on'em, what they are to do? Sure it's not yourself that'll get within a mile of him. Take the country all over, he is the biggest man in it; he's equal to the Prince of Wales, and perhaps beyond him." "Well," replied his lordship, "I am going to London, and I'll try to see him, because you are a deserving creature; so I shall not give you anything for your hospitality, but leave Lord Palmerston to reward you." Said Biddy; "it's the good maning gentleman you are; but it's not Lord Palmerston that you'll see." His lordship shook the old woman by the hand, and departed. In a few days the agent sent down a fine cow, and gave Biddy ten acres of land free of rent for her lifetime. The old woman's delight knew no bounds, and when told that the person she had seen and shaken hands with was Lord Palmerston himself, her gratification was positively greater than in the acquisition of the land and the cow.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
THURSDAY, June 21.
Council met at 10 a.m. Present—The Hon. Chief Justice (presiding), Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Treasurer, Sur- General R. Finlayson, Donald Fraser.

FERRY BILL.
On motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, seconded by the Hon. Attorney General, this bill was also thrown out without dissent.

DESCENT OF REAL PROPERTY.
On motion of the Hon. Attorney General seconded by the Hon. Mr. Finlayson, this bill was also thrown out without dissent.

FRANCHISE AMENDMENTS.
Council went into Committee on the Assembly's amendments to this bill, the hon. Colonial Secretary in the chair, and accepted some of the amendments, rejecting others. Committee then rose and reported progress.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF.
The Hon. Mr. Fraser gave notice that he should at the next meeting of the Council ask leave to introduce resolutions respecting the Tariff of British Columbia.
Council adjourned till Monday at 1 p.m.

FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.
By the bark Ethan Allen, which left Honolulu on the 31st ult., we learn that Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria, sister of King Kamehameha V., died two days previous. She was to lie in state at the Palace, and according to the royal custom of Hawaiian Princesses, will not be buried for two months at least. The natives wander up and down the streets, and for a considerable time a continuous wailing is kept up. All natives throughout the Islands will wear mourning as for a Queen. Immediately after the death of the Princess, a royal salute of twenty-seven guns was fired from the Fort on Punch Bowl Hill. The late Princess was a sincere friend of Americans, and ever ready to forward American interests. In her death we lose a friend difficult to replace.

A private letter received from a lady correspondent contains the following: "I have just returned from the palace, where I have seen the Princess Victoria laid out in full Court dress of white satin and lace. The scene was an impressive one, but to a stranger appeared very strange." The Princess was *de facto* the Prime Minister of the Kingdom, being the "Kacina-Ara" without whose sanction none of the royal acts can be ratified. As such, she of course occupied quite a prominent position in the political and social interests of the islands, and her death will be mourned as if she had occupied the throne as the Queen.

The other news is not important. The barque Kadosk, from Sydney, with coal, was discharging cargo preparatory to being hove down for repairs, on completion of which she would leave for this port. She was found to be leak about ten days previous to her arrival at Honolulu—*Alta*.

PURGATION AND INVIGORATION.—By means of Bristol's Sugar Coated Pills, these two processes are made one and inseparable, and this cannot be said of any other cathartic in existence. For this reason they are decidedly the most successful alternative medicine ever prescribed for paralysis, palsy, nervous weakness general debility, and vertigo or dizziness. These complaints are always in some degree connected, either as effects or causes, with a morbid condition of the stomach, the liver, or the intestines. Upon these organs the Pills act with a directness, promptitude, and constant power that are simply astonishing, while at the same time they communicate vigor to the whole organization. Bristol's Sarsaparilla, indubitably the most remarkable of all agents for renewing the vitality of the blood, is indispensable in such cases. The Pills are put up in glass vials, and will keep in any climate. Both medicines are sold by all prominent druggists.

THE "THAMES".—This steamship has safely arrived at Honolulu, S. I.

The English papers receive give us some further information Reform question in England when the great division on the ing of the Franchise Bill to Conservative, Mr. R. J. Har the Government, thirty-four against the Government; Re Government paired off with six Liberals and three Conservatives, and eleven seats Counting the Speaker these members of the Lower House, tells of a Mr. C. H. Mills, who had been declared unseated on the day of division he could have legally voted, the Committee not having been the House, he abstained. The having beaten their opponents dangerous ground have wisely demands made upon them their intention of not only Redistribution Bill with the but of introducing the Scotch Franchise Bills without loss will remove all cause of defect Liberals and will give Government of thirty-five or forty. tionering contest took place Mr. Samuelson was elected, was presented against his ground that he was an alien that he was born in Hamburg father was born in Petersburg. The Committee, however, decided to be seated, inasmuch as he was born in London. reign of George III. provides son of a British subject may by taking the Sacrament in place of worship, and also the giance—conditions which the member had complied with, fear that electioneering matters places in England but very known yet. An election at Helston, resulting in a tie— Mayor, who had already voted candidates, gave another vote one and returned the candidate. The action will doubtless be the double return should have and left to the House of Commons.

Earl Russell's Government to make an effort to remove causes of Irish dissatisfaction. The Irish Secretary, has introduced Right bill, which although not lengths necessary, is still a step direction, and will be supported the Irish members. The measure based on the draft of a bill previously submitted by several members. At present the great cause in many parts of Ireland is the ness of the tenant in enforcing compensation for improvements. The consequence is that in one agrarian outrages and in another land allowed to go to waste cause the tenant will make no prove the "holding" for the estate of the landlord. The Government the tenant the right to compete there be a written agreement to The compensation is to be equal letting value given to the land, the event of dispute to be settled by sioners of Public Works, with Chairman of Quarter Sessions imm award must not exceed The right of distress is abolished under written agreement, the provisions being to make writ absolutely essential to the land, a great inducement to which, again, can under this bill by the life-tenant for forty-one the case of building land, for the Jamaica Commissioners at last, and their report is highly They decide that the proclamation law was idly prolonged, and then indulged in of a most character. After the first week ones ought to have been handed civil tribunals, and not hung The hurrying off and execution were condemned by the Comm they can find no proof of his assault on the Court House Eyre will be declared to have panic of his advisers, and to be equal to a great emergency. sioners have found that the un- outions during the time that prevailed was 438, 600 persons 1000 houses were burnt down, a this means taken away from black population—a retributive proportion to the necessities

DISGRACEFUL ROBBERY.—W few days the old Convict of Humboldt street, has been entered and a quantity of clothing been watch and chain taken away. Is occasionally unoccupied, and was thus taken to rob the pre- supposed to have been the work