

The Weekly Colonist,
AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, March 27, 1869.

WHILE we, lucky individuals, are enjoying the tranquility of a second Juan Fernandez in a climate without a parallel in the world; where beautiful scenery and productiveness are in such profusion as to be passed unnoticed; where the people and the journals, in the absolute absence of any real grievance, scold the Governor and the Legislative Councilors about questions that would be unworthy of consideration if we really had anything to grumble about. While we are living in a kind of elysium, all the nations of the old world are being agitated with subjects that must lead, sooner or later, to one of those great epochs in the world's history when the entire universe becomes a field of battle; and people, usually placid and ready to listen to the voice of reason in ordinary times, are wrought up to a frenzy of blood-thirstiness that if suggested to them in times of peace, would be stoutly set down as an impossibility. The great nations are regarding each other with the feline deceit of the tiger whose fiery eyes belie the apparent repose assumed by the recumbent position of the body. A close observer would note the quick, furtive glances cast by one towards the other, denoting the readiness for a spring when even any momentary forgetfulness of existing dangers induces one of the other to take a position in which it would be comparatively powerless for defense. It is more absurdly to think Russia, Prussia, Austria, France, or Great Britain believe any of the reiterated professions of peace with which they threaten us; but notwithstanding promises no steps have yet been taken to carry out the wished-for object. The Yaliesites are naturally much exercised over this neglect and fear that should the dangerous obstructions continue, the establishment of a new head of steam navigation below the Sisters will be the result.

An Exploring Party.—The Government is at last awoke to the fact that much of our audacious wealth must continue to lie dormant, unless some assistance is extended to our miners who have all the courage, power of endurance, and enterprise necessary to explore new fields for future camps, but are not possessed of the means to purchase the necessary tools and pack animals required for such an expedition. Through the influence of a member of the Legal & Quorum (Hon. Dr. Carroll) a sum of money has been granted towards the expenses of fitting out an exploring party, and there is a strong probability that the discoveries resulting from such an expedition will be a great advantage to the Colony.

Victoria House.—The varied and extensive assortment of dry goods comprised in the stock of Victoria House will be removed to the new premises on Government street to-day, at 11 A.M. to commence at noon.

Queen's Birthday.—It is gratifying to learn that energetic steps are being taken to make the next Queen's Birthday (24th May) one of the most remarkable, if not the most remarkable, ever celebrated in this Colony. There are to be horse races, boat races, Velocipedes, amateur theatricals, balls, and we don't know what else besides. Would it not be well to arrange that some central committee should take the lead in order that nothing be left undone to make the fete attractive to our friends and neighbors on the Sons, who will come over to assist us in celebrating an anniversary that is universally popular.

The Yale Examiner announces the reopening of business. The season has been very mild and no obstacle intervenes to the transportation of goods into the mines. J. G. Beedy & Co's ten-mile team left Yale with freight for Soda Creek on the 8th inst. Two causes, with intending settlers for Rompart Valley, had passed Yale.

Small mail and express from Fraser river arrived on Saturday by the Enterprise. There was nothing later from Cariboo.

Captain Powers P. Cole, C.B., has been making experiments at Portsmouth Dockyard with regard to the bottoms of iron ships for the disposition of their guns and armor. He states that his success has exceeded his anticipations.

The bark Clifton has discharged her cargo, with the exception of about 80 tons of canal coal, which will be taken out in a day or two. The bark has been chartered to load lumber at Muir's Mills for a South American port, bound for

Death at the Hospital.—Henry Horrocks, native of Holland, died yesterday afternoon at the Royal Hospital of lung disease. He had been an inmate about six months, and his death was considered as a subject for a caricature.

The ship Shooting Star, with 900 tons of coal on board, was towed out of Nanaimo harbor on Saturday morning by the steamer Billy Hand. The Emily Harris arrived here on Saturday with a load of coal for the B.C. Company, bound for Victoria.

A comix in Portland has built an ark 50 feet long and 15 wide, after the Noah style. He has put all he was worth \$6,000 into it, and is now calmly awaiting the deluge.

Intelligence.—A comix of H.M.S. Beaver, Commander Pender, is preparing for a surveying cruise along the West Coast of the Mainland.

Monday, March 22
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE JOHN L. STEPHENS.

The steamship John L. Stephens arrived from Nanaimo at 9½ o'clock on Saturday morning, having on board about 400 tons of coal taken in at Nanaimo. She was hauled alongside of the wharf at Esquimalt to receive freight and passengers, and sailed about 5 o'clock, with about 60 passengers, only 21 of whom were residents of Victoria. Among the number were T. Lowe, Mrs. Bradstock and two children, Mrs. Jules David, Miss David, Mrs. C. W. Wallace, Mr. Wallace, J. J. Scutgate, Mrs. J. Copeland, Mr. Pocock, W. T. Welcker, W. Loshe, L. Lewis. The town of Esquimalt presented a busy appearance during the day, being crowded with vehicles from Victoria containing persons who had ridden down to bid adieu to departing friends.

The Sister Rocks.—Much indignation has been expressed at Yale and elsewhere along the Lower Fraser toward the Government, in consequence of its failure to commence operation upon two rocks, form the similarity known as the "Sisters," which four miles above the town of Hope rise up in mid-channel and render navigation at a high stage of water difficult and dangerous.

During low water a considerable portion of one or both of these rocks might easily be blasted away, and the difficulties and dangers lessened; but notwithstanding profuse promises no steps have yet been taken to carry out the wished-for object.

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We observe that the question of Reciprocity with Canada, is being more and more discussed in the United States press, and that while a good many journals endorse the recent elaborate efforts of Messrs. Hatch and Morill, there are many influential voices on the other side. In Boston, and other New England towns, the feeling seems to be strongly in favor of a new treaty. A very significant indication of the direction public opinion in Maine is taking, was developed a few days since, in a contest for the United States Senatorship. Mr. Hamlin, ex-Vice-President of the United States, was the successful candidate, but only after he had contradicted a charge that he was opposed to Reciprocity. The charge was by no means without foundation; but Mr. Hamlin met it by a declaration that he was in favor of a broad and liberal treaty. Three years ago, candidates for offices in the States would hardly have helped themselves by such declarations.

The Mikado Receiving the Foreign Ministers.—Another of those great strides that Japan is making towards the manners and customs of the rest of the world took place on Monday and Tuesday week. The Mikado is now an ordinary sovereign; and how he reconciles his acts and deeds of the past year with his sacred and mediatorial functions is a matter for himself to determine, and with which foreigners have nothing to do. On Monday, the 4th inst, audience was given to these Excellencies the French, Dutch and Indian Ministers, and on Tuesday, the 5th inst, the same honor was accorded to the American, North German and English ministers.

We are very glad indeed to be able to adduce this formal recognition of the Mikado by foreign powers, and the breaking down of more barriers to the advance of Japan.

The government may be left to settle itself, it may or may not be approaching to a satiric development; but from the first, it has been admitted by all, that the admission of the sole sovereignty of the Mikado was the right thing—and we lost no time in applauding the promptness of Sir Harry Parkes in taking the earliest opportunity of making this acknowledgement. The only objection to his proceedings is, that he might just as well, or far better, have given the same support to the progressive government of State-shi, and thus have prevented the civil war attaining the dimension it did.

BAKODA.

A sad accident occurred here at the ushering in of the new year. Several Drs. an officers went out of the house to fire a salute with ball. The second doctor's weapon was out of order; and as he endeavored to cock it, the hammer fell, the pistol went off, and the bullet entered the skull of Dr. West, the Senior Medical Officer, who was standing by, killing him on the spot.

The movement in favor of the ballot is begun. The London League have commenced agitating in its behalf—it being one of their cardinal tenets. A memorial was brought forward at their last meeting, calling upon Parliament to put open voting into a practical test, and arguing that since it maintained that public voting is the sequence of a public trial, and that its public discharge is a public duty, Parliament should make voting compulsorily upon every one, and their should be established in this country an inexorable, unexemptible personal responsibility, and everybody held responsible for his use of the franchise, which is the principle of open voting. The way to defeat a bad law is not in its being carried out. The ballot will come if open voting is fairly enforced.

Administrator's Sale.—Mr. Main will sell at noon to-day the farm, buildings, stock and implements of Eliza Harris, deceased.

Palm Sunday.—The churches were well attended yesterday and the services more than usually impressive.

The Argentine Free Trade is now out 12 days from San Francisco and is hourly looked for.

China and Japan News.—The New York Tribune's London

Advertiser.—

London, Jan. 18.—It is a great advantage

to send us an Ambassador of all work.

Mr. Reverdy Johnson's natural affinity for diners is becoming universally appreciated, and when dinner fail him a tea meeting does not come amiss, and in default of a tea an dress is not despised. The other night the Rev. Newman Hall, who some time ago visited America, and brought home weed reports which excited the astonishment and greatly excited the believing power of Americans, exhibited the Minister at a tea party at his house.

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John persists that you are delighted with it. You want the Alabama claim settled, and John gives your Minister a succession of dinners, and persuades himself that you are viewing the proceeding with ecstasy. The Daily News, which showed a polished ambition to be subservious to Mr. Reverdy Johnson, published ten days ago, from its own

trusted correspondent in America, the declaration that "Mr. Johnson's career in England strikingly illustrates the value of Talleyrand's advice to younger members of his profession, how to be too zealous." Mr. Johnson's zeal as a peace-maker was stirred up in America feelings of animosity, which, at the time of his appointment were fast dying out.

What shall you think of the way in which two civilized physicians here have diversified the entertainments of Christmas. Dr. Beck, Governor of the British Lying-in Hospital, found Dr. Edmunds, a physician to the same institution, in one of its rooms. Dr. Edmunds is a physician of repute, who has made himself known as a lecturer against alcohol and drink—he theory being that they paralyze power to stimulate it, as has been maintained. This theory, however, did not help him when Dr. Beck apparently found this oil not stimulate Dr. Edmunds, slapped him in the face, and when the policeman arrived, he found Dr. Edmunds a scoundrel Dr. Beck is a feeble tactot with a lady's umbrella, Dr. Edmunds a lecturer at a ladies' college which may account for his choice of fighting with a lady's umbrella. Dr. Beck improved the occasion by tumbling him over and upon him. Dr. Beck is heavy and adipose. Dr. Edmunds slight and limited in testical tissue. Edmunds cried murder, and sent the Secretary for a policeman; but in the mean time adipose, combating in a medical way, continued to slap Tissue in the face, and when the policeman arrived, he found Dr. Edmunds on his back, having, as Mr. Reverdy Johnson put it in his diary figure at the Lambeth Baths, thrown up the sponge. It transpired that Dr. Beck was a rival candidate for the physician's place, but as Dr. Edmunds beat him at the election, he resolved to beat him another way. The British Lying-in Hospital has had a happy deliverance of Dr. Beck, and the next time he is a candidate it is to be hoped that his opponent will be a prize-fighter, and the committee will know how to decide the election. The magistrate, on finding Dr. Beck, very properly told him that he had been proved that he went to the Hospital with the intention of attacking Dr. Edmunds, he would have sent him to jail without opinion of fine. He deserved it as it was.

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