

Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, September 7 1870.

The Great Commanders.

An eminent English contemporary, writing of the tangled and unintelligible web of conflicting and contradictory statements from the seat of war, exclaims in despair: 'The most uninformed and the most skilful writers find themselves on a level as regards knowledge of present events and future issues, and only refuge from falling into error is to reserve all commentary until the event has occurred.' Coinciding with this view, it is our intention to attempt a separation between the glut of strangely enigmatical fact and fiction almost daily presented to the reader. It will not, however, to suggest itself to the writer's mind that more recent disclosures, if worth anything at all, indicate decided Prussian success. Never was war like this war. Whether regarded in the light of its utter wantonness, or the magnitude of its immediate results, it has no parallel in history. To most of our readers it is known only surrounded by the glamour of fiction and the glare of the theatre. Were it not for the pity of things there would be a sort of grim merriment in the utter disproportion between the enormous magnitude of the event and the extreme insignificance of the cause. And, thus looking, we would say that this war seems to us a disgrace, though in an unequal degree, to France and to Germany, a scandal on the boasted civilization of the age, an outrage upon the creed of civilization. It may not be uninteresting to take a hasty glance at the great commanders in a war distinguished by the manner in which it has set defiance to the presence of the most renowned strategists and the calculations of the most experienced writers. Although the supreme command of the Russian army nominally rests with King William, it is no secret that General Count Von Moltke is practically the great power at whose bidding that mighty army moves. This general Moltke is regarded as the first strategist of the age. By birth a Mecklenburger, he was born in 1800, so that his term of three score years and ten has been completed. In the first instance, in the service of Denmark, he, at an early age, transferred himself to that of Prussia, and devoted himself with an unwearying energy to a scientific study of the conditions of success in war. Rising rapidly in his profession, he was, in 1856, appointed aide-de-camp to the present King, at that time the Crown Prince, and two years later he was appointed Chief of the General Staff. In this capacity he is believed to have drawn up the plan of an expedition intended to arrest the progress of the French arms in Italy, in 1859. Such at least was the suspicion of the French Emperor, which was supposed at the time to be the real cause of the sudden and surprising conclusion of the peace of Villafranca. In 1864 he accompanied Prince Frederick Charles as Chief of his Staff in the expedition which that prince led against Denmark. His high reputation, however, rests on his most skilful direction of the war against Austria in 1866, the plan of which he had previously prepared. Moltke's name was scarcely ever heard during that war, while those of his subordinates were trumpeted abroad. No man ever produced greater effects with less ostentation and noise. Only once, and then at Koniggratz, did he appear in front of the armies. Seated at his desk in the rear he received through the field telegraph a continuous stream of intelligence from all the corps, following their movements on the map, transmitting his orders to the Generals in command by the same medium, and performing all this with such skill and foresight that not a movement failed and every combination was made at the right moment. When Peace with Austria was concluded he received the Order of the Black Eagle, the highest decoration which the King of Prussia has to confer. And as in 1866, so now, Moltke's name scarcely ever appears in the telegrams; yet his hand is to be seen in every movement, and King and Princes are but the messengers to do his pleasure. Prince Frederick Charles, who commanded the First Army in 1866, and who may be regarded as occupying a like position now, is the eldest son of Prince Charles, the second brother of the King. Born in 1823, he may be regarded as a type of the modern, progressive Prussian officer. Even in early youth he devoted himself to the military profession, and his career was a brilliant one, holding important commands and gaining signal victories both in 1864 and 1866. In a series of well executed movements he drove the Austrians to Sadowa, and won the great battle of Koniggratz, aided by the Crown Prince, who came up at the

crisis of the day. Prince Frederick Charles is every inch a soldier and enjoys unbounded popularity with the army. He has labored strenuously, and with no little success, to make the Prussian military system more elastic, giving greater freedom to the officers, and relying more upon moral means than on rule and method in dealing with the men. The unexpected suppleness and dash which the Prussians displayed in 1866 was, in great part, in consequence of these reforms. The Crown Prince (Frederick William) of Prussia is a younger man than his cousin by three years, but he is scarcely less distinguished as a soldier. He acted a conspicuous part in the war of 1866. Under his command were Major-General Von Blumenthal and three army corps, under Generals Von Bonin, Von Steinmetz and Von Matus, besides the Guard Corps under Prince August of Wurttemberg. The Crown Prince led his army, composed of 125,000 men, from Silesia through the passes of the Sudetic Hills, an operation exposed to great difficulties and considerable danger. The Crown Prince has the reputation of being careless of his own troubles, anxious for the welfare of his troops, visiting billets and hospitals personally, but sparing neither himself nor his men in the hour of trial and duty. His march from Miletin to Koniggratz, and his series of victories on entering Bohemia, are considered to have established his reputation as an energetic and able commander. As the reader will know, he married the eldest daughter of our own Queen Victoria. Of the great commanders on the other side we have no room to say anything in the present article.

HALO SHAMS, MICA.—Some wag yesterday sensationalized the town by dropping a handful of brass solder into the excavations for a ci-tern at the corner of Blanchard and Fort streets. The discovery of the solder by the workmen created a genuine gold excitement and numerous pieces of clay to which adhered minute particles of the solder were carried forthwith to the jeweler's by whom it was tested with acid and estimated at its value—disappearing in a blaze of blue and green.

POSTIFICATIONS OF PARIS, ETC.—At the Mechanic's Literary Institute may be seen a map of the fortifications of Paris, and maps of Toulon, Brest, Cherbourg and other French ports. These maps possess a peculiar interest at this time. Paris is protected by 86 forts; within these forts are lines of stone walls with earthworks, ditches, moats, &c. between them and the forts. The system was commenced in 1840 under the administration of M Thiers, then Prime Minister of Louis Philippe, and completed in 1848.

RELIANCE.—Mr Hargreaves, of our Rifle Corps, will to-day shoot alone for the gold medal given to the British Columbian Volunteers by the J. T. Scott of New Westminster. Mr Hargreaves won the medal last year, and must win it twice more to become the owner, and as he is called away, the score made by him to-day will stand as the competing score when the medal shall be shot for by the New Westminster and Victoria Volunteers.

A NOVELTY.—Mr Wm G Conklin is the agent in this colony for a very novel and ingenious invention which is called the Lightning Printer. It consists of a cylinder on which is placed a gutta-percha band containing in raised letters the address or card of a business house. By an ingenious method this address is instantaneously printed on a package. The cost of the machine is nominal when we bear in mind the amount of labor that is saved by its use.

DISTRICT No. 2.—The settlers along the East Coast are preparing a requisition for presentation to A R Robertson, Esq., of this city, to stand for District No 2 in the next Council. The popular feeling of the District against the present member is very strong, and should Mr Nathan decline to come forward Mr Robertson will undoubtedly be the next member.

SALVAGE CASE.—Mr McCreight, on behalf of the Pacific Insurance Company, applied to the Chief Justice in Chambers yesterday for a summons of inquiry into the payment of a sum of money to the steamer Oster for the transportation of a cargo of goods, and \$20,000 in specie, saved from the wreck of the American schooner Woodward off Fort Mudge in November, 1868. The application was granted.

COWICHAN.—The Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Cowichan will hold their Annual Show on Wednesday the 31st inst, at Maple Bay. A hall 25x35 is in progress, and the display of fruits, vegetables, cereals and stock will excel any previous affair of the kind. Many of the best articles exhibited at Cowichan will be brought to Victoria for exhibition on the 29th.

THE CALIFORNIA arrived from Nanaimo last evening, and will sail on Monday morning at daylight for Portland. She has a cargo of coal. At Nanaimo the steamer G. S. Wright, from Sitka, had arrived, and was to sail thence for Portland to-day. Mr Allan Francis from Sitka and Mrs. Mowat from Fort Rupert were among the passengers.

WILSON'S GREAT OVERLAND CIRCUIT.—The manager of this great establishment will arrive at Victoria on Monday evening. So says a telegram to Mr Barron of the American.

THE schooner Black Diamond, with 100 tons of coal from Bellingham Bay, arrived yesterday. The ship Amythus was loading for San Francisco. The mine is somewhat troubled, with fire-damp, but no apprehensions are felt.

The ship Pocahontas, 1150 tons register, has been chartered to lead pass at the Hastings Mills, Burrard Inlet, for England. She leaves San Francisco on the 10th inst.

DIRECT STEAMER.—There is no certainty as to when the direct steamer will sail for Victoria, the agents having received no dispatch. By agreement between the Government and Company a steamer should leave on Monday.

THE SHOW.—The annual exhibition of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society will be held in the large lot on Cook street adjoining Jay & Bales' Nursery.

THE BUOYS.—John Costello is engaged in laying the buoys under the direction of Harbourmaster Wootton.

POLICE CENTER.—A clean sheet at this institution yesterday.

THE TEXAS have been telegraphed in full from this city to the Toronto Telegraph.

THE DIETRIAN AT SAN FRANCISCO.—A gentleman writing to a friend on the state of affairs at San Francisco, says:—"You take a tour among the intelligence offices, and sights are witnessed which make the blood run cold. Hundreds of eagerly-eyed men and women crowd them, eagerly and anxiously looking for work, begging for something to do to keep the wolf from the door. The supply is so much greater than the demand that a great number of the applicants hang about for months hoping for something to turn up. The sadness and sorrow depicted on the faces of the majority send a thrill of gloom to any heart having the least glow of sympathy with its fellow creatures."

FROM SITKA.—Mr. Allan B. Francis left Fort Constantine on the 26th June. He reports the fishing business as being very good this season. The ochr Petaluma had a very large catch. The fur business was very dull. The Indians quiet. At Kodjak the troops were preparing for winter quarters not knowing that orders were on the way to break up the post. Mr. Mowat, with a party from Sitka at Taku has found gold diggings, they took a quantity of dust to Sitka, bought goods and returned to the diggings. The Clear Simpson, a trading vessel, was seized in Ketchikan Sound by the American authorities for violating the Customs law, she having cleared for a foreign port. Gen. Darius left Sitka on the G. S. Wright.

THE NEW QUARTZ DISCOVERY AT MOUNT DOUGLAS.—Yesterday in Piper and Cargo-which's claim three blasts were let go and some 500 pounds of rock were detached for assay and will be brought in to the Bank of British North America for assay to-day. On the result of this assay will depend the value of the discovery. The lead is eight and a half feet thick and if the rock proves as rich as it appears it, with wood and water near and supplies cheap, will prove one of the most valuable gold discoveries ever made. Yesterday about 600 visited the spot and staked off claims; Monsi Douglas and surrounding hills are intersected with quartz leads.

TALK OF A Bell in a China Shop! What does the reader think of a bear in a lawyer's office? Yesterday morning a young grizzly, while being led past Mr Bishop's office, Bastion street, bolted from his keeper and took refuge among the dusty volumes of Oake, Blackstone and Littleton. A general panic ensued. The clerk, who was attentively engaged in preparing a deed, was immensely surprised to find four claws [sic] he never intended to appear imprinted on the document. A client who was standing near awaiting the preparation of the deed, seized a pot of mullage and gave battle to the intruder, who was immediately so coated with 'beastly substance that in passing a desk he struck fast and soon resembled a beautifully oiled grey marble statuette varnished. The animal was washed off the leg of the desk and secured by his keeper.

U.S. COAST SURVEY.—Professor Davidson, Chief of the U.S. Pacific Coast Survey, is in town on business connected with the Department. Professor Davidson headed the American expedition to Kodjak, in 1859, and obtained a valuable and accurate observation of the total eclipse of the sun. It was by the same gentleman that the difference in time between Cambridge, Massachusetts and San Francisco was ascertained by means of electricity in 8.10ths of a second through two wires 7,200 miles in length! We understand that the United States Government contemplate a new survey of the Strait of Rosario, which it is asserted by our Government, forms the true channel between the mainland and the disputed islands. Professor Davidson is accompanied by his family and by an able assistant, Mr Throckmorton.

THE BEAVER.—H. M. surveying steamer Beaver, Capt Bender, went round to Beaufort harbor yesterday, where she will remain as anchor. As we announced a few days ago, the Beaver's surveying duties are at an end and she will shortly go out of commission.

chian would not send their children two miles to school although conducted by able teachers. With regard to the flippant remark that 'there is nothing on the statute book to prevent French Canadian half-breeds' attendance at school, the distance of seven miles is sufficient impediment, and Mr D does not meet my charge that putting three families to such inconvenience shows how much the two-bit clique value the 'public interest'. The real point at issue is the want of liberality, and the meanness of our Government out of the public money without doing their utmost to raise the amount required by law has been adroitly evaded by Mr D, whose last letter is, more like the production of some needy candidate for the emolument of a country schoolmaster than Mr D's. Let Cowichan follow the noble example of Scotland, where parents so value education that they are willing to make every sacrifice to educate their children, which independent spirit has given Scotland the proud position she now holds for education. But, alas, some of our Cowichan Scotchman protest that in this they are unworthy sons of noble sires. Thanking you, Mr Editor, for the use of your columns and hoping the public may see the want of a better system of education based on some well defined principle, I am a believer in HALO HUMBUNG.

A Wild Lion Loose in the Streets. From the Burlington Vt. Free Press July 18.

Two cages containing a pair of African lions, and four panthers, or American lions, the elephant, Victoria, and two camels, passed through here on the cars yesterday morning for New York. To join Yankee Robinson's circus at St. Johns. The car doors were thrown open to give air to the elephant and camels, and quite a crowd gathered at the Central depot to have a free look at the show. The lions could also be seen through the small grades of their cages, they being on a flat car connected to the one occupied by the elephant and camels. The company was not destined to disperse, however, without a little excitement, as the sequel proved. As the keeper of the animals entered the cage on the cage, one of the lions sprang past him and out of the door, alighting on the ground in the midst of the crowd. This was something more than had been bargained for, and it is recorded that the way boot heels and coat tails disappeared around lumber piles, &c. was not slow. The highest lumber piles brought a premium and the lion had things his own way for a few minutes. The lion beat a hasty retreat under a car, and remained there growling angrily until compelled to come out by the keeper, who backed up his persuasion with a club. A rope with a noose had been prepared, and so arranged that when the lion came from under the car he had to pass through the noose, which was drawn up by parties on the top of the car, and the animal secured and put back into the cage, having injured no one while at liberty.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla, FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD.

The reputation of Ayer's Sarsaparilla is derived from its curing many of the most distressing cases of Scrophulous Eruptions, where the system is so much deranged that the most eminent physicians have been unable to cure it. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Eruptions, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections.

Ayer's Hair Vigor, For restoring Gray Hair to its natural Vitality and Color.

A dressing which is at once agreeable to the hair, and effective in restoring its natural vitality and color. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections.

ROBINSON'S Celebrated Magic Soap

Washes without Machine, Board or Hard Rubbing better than any other Soap will do with Hard Labor. THE MAGIC SOAP does away with the long and tedious wash days. THE MAGIC SOAP is of the quality of your clothes by making them soft, pliable and white. THE MAGIC SOAP has proved superior to all other soaps, and proved after several years' use, not to injure in the slightest degree any fabric of the finest texture or your hair.

HAIR DRESSING

Nothing else can be found so desirable for restoring the hair to its natural vitality and color. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections.

THE BEST REMEDY FOR INDIGESTION, &c.

Camomile Pills

Camomile Pills are recommended as a simple but certain remedy for indigestion. They act as a powerful tonic and gentle aperient; are mild in their operation; safe under any circumstances; and their use is recommended by the most eminent physicians derived from their use. Sold in bottles at 1s, 2s, and 3s each by the Wholesale and Retail Druggists in all parts of the world. Orders to be made payable by London House.

Pacific Telegraph Hotel.

George Street, between Herald and Flagstaff. VICTORIA, B. C. Andrew Astruc - Proprietor.

THE MOST COMFORTABLE and CLEAN

Hotels in Victoria. The Hotel is situated on the corner of George and Hastings streets, and is the most comfortable and clean hotel in the city. It is a powerful purgative, and cures all the Scrophulous Affections, and all the Disorders of the Skin, such as Bores, Ulcers, and other Scrophulous Affections.

NOTICE

MR. EDWIN DONALD HOLTS MY power of Attorney during my absence from the Colony. THOMAS TRONCUE. August 13, 1870.

Immigration.

DEPT OF IMMIGRATION BOARD, Victoria, British Columbia, 12th August, 1870.

It is required to give security, or an amount of twenty Dollars (\$20) for each Adult, and the sum of five Dollars for each Child, not exceeding Twelve Years of age, not will contribute the sum of Fifty cents towards the Pass for each Adult, and the sum of twenty cents for each Child under Twelve Years of age, in arrears. Domestic Servants will be required to bind them to serve their Employers a term of years, at a stated yearly rate.

NOTICE

Persons having any claims or estate of the late CHARLES BREWSTER, British Columbia, deceased, are requested to attend to the same by presenting to or having any property of the deceased, forthwith to give or deliver the same to the undersigned.

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