

The Weekly British Colonist  
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, October 29, 1867

## Crisis in American Affairs.

The reader of the dispatches that day by day come over the wires from Washington, must be convinced that a crisis in the affairs of the United States is drawing near which will require all the moderation, all the wisdom and all the patriotism of the best men of the country to tide the nation over without an appeal to arms. Should the country pass peaceably through the approaching season of trial, it will establish itself on an enduring basis and may exist for centuries free from internecine disturbances. The approaching crisis is a continuation of the old, old story. Congress and the Administration are still at loggerheads. Encouraged by what undoubtedly was at the time the popular voice of the nation, Congress last year passed over the President's veto several Acts affecting the status of the Southern States. These Acts, the President held, were unconstitutional, and consequently inoperative; but yielding to popular pressure Mr Johnson prepared reluctantly to enforce their provisions. Among the Acts thus passed was one which removed the appointing power from the President and vested it in the Senate or Upper House of Congress. By the terms of this law the President was forbidden to appoint or remove any person to or from office without the consent of the Senate under penalty of removal by impeachment. This Act, since the adjournment of Congress, has been declared by the Attorney General of the United States—the highest legal authority—to be, like its predecessors, unconstitutional, and Mr Johnson, backed by this decision, has lately made and unmade officials. Among others, he has turned out his Secretary of War and removed Generals Sheridan and Sickles, who, the President conceived, had exceeded the strict line of their duty. This disregard of one of their laws has incensed the Radicals, and they now demand the impeachment of the President, which, as the Radicals have a large majority in both Houses of Congress, would seem to be a matter of little difficulty. But the result of recent elections in the North, while they have emboldened the President, have to a corresponding degree filled the Republicans with alarm. Everywhere, lately, the Democrats—the sworn friends of Mr Johnson—have been successful. States that a year ago rolled up majorities of 40,000 for the Radicals, now report Democratic officials elected. Several States, which have yet to hold elections, will, it is claimed, speak still more decidedly in condemnation of Congress and in support of the Presidential policy. The question now arises, will Congress, in the face of this wonderful reversion in the popular feeling of the North, dare to proceed with the impeachment of the President? Yet, should they fail to face the issue raised by the President, they will tacitly acknowledge that their past policy has been a mistake and that the President was right from first to last. An acknowledgment such as this would destroy the party; and should they push matters to extremes they threaten in the face of the popular verdict against them, the President will not yield without a struggle for the supremacy. But suppose that the Radicals quietly pocket their discomfiture, submit to have their laws set aside and, succumbing to defeat, neglect to press impeachment, still another danger threatens the country. Upon the faith of the Reconstruction Act, the negroes of the South have been admitted to the suffrage, elections have been held, conventions called, and black candidates for Congress are already in the field. In a few weeks these "new citizens" will present themselves at the doors of the National Legislative Hall, and demand seats within. Should Congress admit them, the President must decline to recognize the body as legally constituted, refuse to hold further intercourse with it, and may, if he deems proper, turn the members out at the point of the bayonet. Should the blacks be denied seats, the President will again triumph, and all the Congressional schemes for reconstruction must fall to the ground. Such is the crisis in the affairs of America that the lapse of each day is drawing fearfully near. Between the President and Congress there can be no compromise—"it is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt." Whichever party falters in its purpose will be overwhelmed and destroyed. One or other branch of the Government must go to the wall during the coming session—the Executive or Congress.

We again emphatically deny—as charged by the *Columbian*—that we "brutally abused" the Governor during the late controversy, or that we "abused" him at all. We deny that we applied to him the epithets "coward" "old woman," "coetermonger," &c. We attacked the Governor's policy, not the man. We charged that his Excellency's policy was weak and temporizing and cowardly. When the never-to-be-forgotten letter addressed to the person he had selected as arbitrator in the case appeared in the *Gazette*, we characterized it as "disgraceful," and denounced it as an attempt to prejudice the case. To this opinion we still adhere; and, so far from believing that Governor Sey-

mour's visit to Cariboo produced a beneficial effect, we consider that it only involved the matter in greater difficulties and postponed its settlement. The last charge of the *Columbian* is piece and parcel with the same fellow's accusation a week ago. He then accused the *Colonist* of having first demanded that troops should be sent to the mines; but we demolished the paper-fort behind which he had entrenched himself by quoting from his own journal and proving, in his own words, that he was the very man who urged upon his Excellency the adoption of that extreme policy. To this charge he makes no reply. He meanly evades the point entirely; but finding it necessary to say something, he discharges a fresh volley of misrepresentation at our head and accuses us of "abusing our esteemed Governor." Our contemporary is striving with all his power to hold Mr Seymour up as a martyr before the country. He may do that in any other way than by misquoting us. This we are determined he shall not do with impunity. We challenge our contemporary to the proof that we have ever "abused" his Excellency. On the contrary, we have declined to use the *Columbian's* favorite weapon, and have endeavored to save the Governor from mortification and unpopularity by telling him the truth. In doing so we believe we have acted the part of a true friend towards the Executive, who has so long been hoodwinked by the sycophancy of the *Columbian* as to be at last unable to discern the true estimation in which his policy is held by the people. It is no evidence of friendship to cloak a man's faults. The true friend is he who tells another of his failings and shows him how to rectify them. We claim to stand in the light of a friend and well-wisher to Mr Seymour. Like the courtiers of King Canute who sought to make their sovereign believe that the tide would ebb or flow at his bidding, the *New Westminster* courtiers have made Mr Seymour imagine that he can, by the issue of a proclamation, change the current of the Fraser or bid the sandheads dredge themselves. But were his Excellency to follow the example of Canute, and put his supposed power to the test! What then?

Friday, Oct. 25.

**ANOTHER SUICIDE.**—Yesterday morning a trader named Oldenburg, who keeps a small store on Store street, noticing that a man who occupied a room in the rear of his premises had not made his usual nightly visit on Wednesday, went around, and on entering the room found him lying stretched on a bed quite dead, with his throat cut and a razor lying close at hand covered with blood. No doubt the instrument with which he effected the fatal deed. The unfortunate man was known by the name of Barry—Christian name unknown—and did odd jobs in watch and clock repairing, glazing, &c. He had for some days past been drinking heavily. Deceased came to this country in '58 from the Eastern States, where, some time since, he stated he had a wife and family, but had not lived happily with the former, which was the cause of his leaving. He also stated that he had a brother in Astoria, and wished to go there. Tuesday evening he was last seen alive, and although apparently sober, spoke very incoherently, and remarked to a person, "I wish I was dead." An inquest was held yesterday before Mr Coroner Pemberton and a jury, when evidence to the above effect was produced, and a verdict of suicide while laboring under insanity returned.

**ANOTHER INDIAN MURDER.**—The week before last an Indian belonging to the Chemainus tribe, or Oyster Harbor rancherie, while in a state of drunkenness, was shot fatally by another Indian. We understand that the deceased went to the Indian lodge and in a violent manner drove out all the inmates but one, who refused to leave, and having had a quarrel with the same Indian for killing on previous occasions some of his tribe, shot him through the side. The magistrate, Mr Morley, was sent for and inquest held. The Indian who fired the shot has offered to give himself up and still remains at Oyster Harbor.

**THE PAPER HUNTERS.**—Extract from a letter received in town from a farmer in Victoria district:—"The paper hunters these last two days have thrown open our gates, pulled down our fences, and have let the rams, horses and oxen out of our fields. It may be fun for them, but it is poor fun to us who have to mend all the broken places on the fences, besides the risk incurred from the rams going at large, and of cattle getting in our turnip fields; also the delaying our work when we have no spare man to do up what they have broken down."

**ANTIDOTE FOR POISON.**—Sweet oil, according to the *American Artisan*, is an antidote for poison. It says that "a poison of any conceivable description and degree of potency, which has been swallowed, intentionally or by accident, may be rendered instantly harmless by swallowing two gills of sweet oil. An individual with a very strong constitution should take twice the quantity. This oil will neutralise every form of vegetable or mineral poison with which physicians and chemists are acquainted."

**USING THREATENING LANGUAGE.**—Col Foster, of Esquimalt, summoned J T Howard, of the same place, before the police magistrate, yesterday, for using language towards him calculated to lead to a breach of the peace. The matter arose out of the removal of firewood from the property of the colonel, contrary to his wishes. The accused stated that Mr Foster had raised a whip to him, but he failed to satisfy the bench that there were no grounds for the complaint, and was placed under bonds to keep the peace.

**ISLAND OFFERS.**—The sloop *Lumby*, Hughes, arrived in town yesterday with sixty bushels of oysters, the finest yet shown in the market this season. They are from the famous bed at Chemainus, which was leased from the government some time since. Olympia bivalves are thrown in the shade by these oysters, and arrangements will be made to supply the Victoria market regularly, wholesale or retail.

**FROM THE NORTHERN COAST.**—The steamer *Diana*, Capt. Wright, with Col. Scott and Major Hort aboard, arrived last night from the Coast of American Russia. She had been up about 100 miles above the boundary line. Bad weather was experienced on the trip. The *Diana* parted company with U. S. S. *Osage* at Fort Simpson, and had seen nothing of any of the fleet since.

**THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.**—It is stated that but three of the present Councillors will come forward for re-election. So far the hear of no new names being spoken of. The election comes off on the 9th of November, and nomination the day previous.

**STATE OF THE PRISON.**—The number of persons confined in prison at the present time is as follows: In for hard labor, 33; without hard labor, 3; insane, 5; out on bail, 12; committed for trial, 5; 1 necessary witness; debtors, 2; total, 61.

**SENT UP FOR TRIAL.**—Sibook, the Indian charged with the murder of another Indian, at Esquimalt, was yesterday sent up for trial on the Coroner's warrant for wilful murder.

**THE FORWARD.**—H. M. gunboat *Forward* returned to Esquimalt on Wednesday evening, from Sooke, whither she had been on government business.

**FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.**—The steamer *Enterprise* will sail this morning, at nine o'clock, for New Westminster.

**THE CALIFORNIA** arrived down at San Francisco on Wednesday evening.

## The Volunteers and Mr Scott.

**EDITOR COLONIST.**—My attention has been called to a letter of Mr J. T. Scott in the *Columbian* of the 24th inst., which, in connection with a late advertisement in your journal, make it appear that Mr Scott is chagrined at the defeat of his comrades in their last match with the Victoria Volunteers. This is quite natural; but it is very strange Mr S does not see that the only way for the Westminster men to retrieve their lost laurels is—as was suggested by a brother volunteer in the *Colonist* of Tuesday last—by making arrangements for the return match to take place at Victoria (the last having been shot at New Westminster). If ten men cannot make it convenient to come, they had send any less number selected from the whole of the Westminster Volunteers, and we will find an equal number to meet them. However few come, let them be their best. If Mr Scott be of the number he will be able to form an opinion as to what difference in the result of the last match his presence would have made.

## ANOTHER VICTORIA VOLUNTEER.

## The Cholera in Italy—Cardinal Altieri

(Correspondence London Times.)

NAPLES, Aug. 14.

From Palermo, it is reported that the pestilence instead of diminishing increases. It appears to have assumed a more terrible character than ever, as many "become black and die" without any premonitory symptoms. Of the mortality you may form some idea from the fact that on one night last week 100 were buried, and from the want of assistants, 100 other bodies remained unburied. These, too, were only the ascertained cases, but others had been carried off by their friends to the ordinary cemetery. Among the victims was the Archbishop of Monreale, Monsignor D'Acquisto.

The telegraph communicates the sad intelligence of the death of Cardinal Altieri, in Albano, while private letters give me details. His Eminence succumbed in the performance of his duty, having assisted the ex-Queen-Mother of Naples in her last moments, and his loss will be deeply felt in Rome. Descended from a noble family, he derived his title of Prince from Clement X., who was an Altieri, and it was during his Pontificate that the noble palace which bears his name was built.

On the mother's side Cardinal Altieri was descended from the Royal family of Saxony, his mother having been a princess of that house, and through the same line may be said to have descended from Augustus II., King of Poland. In every respect, then, his Eminence was what the Italians call *un molto Gran Signore*, and in his bearing, especially when he was holding his receptions, he looked every inch a king. For many years he was Nuncio at the Austrian Court, where he was a great favorite, and where the handsome and aristocratic cardinal was the centre of the fashionable world. It is unnecessary, therefore, to say that he was always greatly attached to the Austrian alliance. On the termination of his Nunciature he returned to Rome, was made a Cardinal, and sat in the conclave which elected Pius IX. On the return of his Holiness from exile Cardinal Altieri was sent forward with two other members of the College to make preparations for the reception of the Pontiff, and, while standing on the balcony of his palace, was a witness to the violence of the mob who tore down the Austrian arms. On that occasion his Eminence presented himself and spoke strongly of Austria, an act which was never pardoned at Vienna. Indeed, one or two years after, on the visit of Archduke Albert, if I mistake not, to Rome, great offence was given by the Austrian Ambassador's inviting the Cardinal to meet the Archduke at dinner. His Eminence was placed next to his Imperial Highness at dinner, but the Archduke did not address a word to his Eminence. Matters were carried to such an extreme that it was said, and is believed to be true, that Austria had resolved on giving her veto against the Cardinal in the event of his being elected Pope on the demise of Pius IX., which several years ago appeared to be approaching. As you are aware, France, Austria and Spain have each the privilege of a veto

against one Cardinal on the election of a Pope. By Pius IX. his Eminence was always greatly distinguished. There are two Bishops which confer a rank the next after the Pope—those of Albano and Ostia. The Bishop of Ostia crowns the Pontiff, the Bishop of Albano is the *Cardinale Camerlingo*, and he was Cardinal Altieri. As *Cameringo* the Cardinal, on the demise of the Crown, assumes the sovereign power *pro tempore*, the position of the deceased Cardinal was the highest he could occupy short of the Throne; moreover, he enjoyed the confidence of Pius IX., being always summoned by him to the most secret consultations. In politics his Eminence was what is termed a *Nero*—I do not mean to use it offensively. He was too much a man of the world to be extreme in his opinions. Society will miss him much, for his manners were precisely, and he was almost the only Cardinal who received, and that with much magnificence. His last great reception was on the occasion of signing the contract of marriage between his nephew, the Duc di Viano, and a Milanesse lady. During the recent festivities his Palace was much resorted to by the Bishops, and there it was that their address to the Pope was drawn up. I may add that his Eminence contributed much to the fall of Monsignor di Mercede, and was not on good terms with Cardinal Antonelli, whose descent from the mountaineers of Sommino the aristocratic Cardinal could not pardon.

Cardinal de Pietro and Cardinal Sacchina are also lying ill at Albano from an attack of cholera. Rome, says my letters, is in a state of the greatest consternation; and so may it be said of Albano and other places. In Naples we have had no sensible increase of the malady, though apprehension is great.

## Party Disturbances in Ireland.

A correspondent of the *Belfast Northern Whig*, writing from Rathfriland, County Down, on Friday, says:—"Yesterday was a day of great excitement here owing to the rumour that the Catholic party would march through the town, and, if so, that they would be sure to be attacked by the Orange party, who muster very strong in this district. I regret to say that the Catholic party did march towards the town, and that the moment they appeared they were fired on by the Orange enthusiasts, who secreted themselves in the fields on the outskirts of the town. Several of the Catholics were wounded, and one of them, John Toner, very seriously, having got his hand shot off. The Orange party, having heard that Lady Day was fixed for a gathering at or near Rathfriland, were preparing for some time to attack them, and yesterday morning they disposed themselves in the fields so as to command a view of the Catholics when approaching the town. They had guns with them, although none of them were seen by any of the police. It is thought that the arms had been secreted in the fields for some time before, so that they could be made use of at any time without being observed by the authorities. About noon one body of some hundreds was observed marching towards the town, and immediately the police, numbering about 40 men, proceeded to meet them. They were accompanied by the local magistrate, who used his efforts to persuade the party to return; and, after some time, they consented to do so, provided an escort of police was granted them, as the Orange party were assuming a very offensive attitude. The Catholics had drums with them, but ceased playing when the police went forward. A large escort was accordingly given to them, and then, when the police were absent, a second body of Catholics came up with drums, and they were immediately fired on by the Orange party, who rushed upon the drumming party and chased them through the field in every direction. Some few shots were fired by the Catholic party, but they were wholly unable to withstand the determined and savage onslaught that was made upon them. Their drums were taken from them and broken up, and two or three of their number were left wounded on the ground. Only one, however, was captured by the police; the others, it is said, having been secretly removed by some friends. When the police returned all was over; and though inquiries are made, no one has yet been arrested."

Six of the Roman Catholic party are reported injured by gunshot, but none of the wounds are serious. Eight of the Protestant party have been arrested, and were on Saturday admitted to bail by the magistrates.

**THE PAN-ANGELICAN COUNCIL.**—We are enabled to inform our readers that amongst subjects likely to be considered at the Pan-Anglican Council are the following:—(1) The Relations of Colonial Churches with the Mother Church. (2) Appeals from Colonial Courts to the Archbishop in person. (3) The Reform in Convocation. (4) The Relation of the Church of England with the rest of Christendom. (5) Corporate Reunion. (6) The *Conce de l'ere*. (7) The restoration of Wesleyans to Communion with the Church of England. (8) The Royal Supremacy and the Court of Final Appeal. And possibly—though at present there is some doubt on this point—(9) Ritualism.—*Church News*.

**THE DOOM OF THE HIGH HAT.**—Ladies, who always take an interest in what their admirers wear, will be glad to hear that the high hat for gentlemen—the "stove pipe," to call it by the slang term—is doomed. Every season, it falls in height, and the brim widens; and, in the course of a few more changes of fashion, it will be replaced by what the London *Spectator* promises and prays for—a reasonable head dress—a low, stiff sombrero of silk covered cardboard, with soft interior edges, than which no one could wish for a more reasonable or more becoming covering. It will be light, for there will be little of it; will shade the eyes and neck—far more important—because it has broad brims; can be taken off for a bow, because those brims are stiff; and will not heat the head, because it has the single merit of the old hat—it admits of scientific ventilation.

## Frightful Accident at the Camp of Chalons.

(Paris Correspondence of the London Morning Star, September 1st.)

A frightful accident took place at the Camp of Chalons at two o'clock yesterday. A shock resembling that of a slight earthquake was experienced, caused, it appeared, by the explosion of a powder-magazine placed at a distance of 1,800 yards from the quarters occupied by the First Division of Infantry. The Sappers of the Fifty-seventh and Seventy-third were employed in loading baggage-wagons with barrels of powder and packages of cartridges, under the orders of a Captain of musketry. Two of the wagons had been laden and drawn to about fifty yards from the exterior *enceinte* of the powder-magazine. The men were carrying the barrels which were to complete the number to be placed in the third and last wagon, when the catastrophe took place. What occurred no one can tell. A cry was heard, and instantly followed by a frightful explosion. As soon as the partial detonations which followed the first tremendous explosion had ceased, General Douai, who commands the camp *ad interim*, ordered Colonel Venant, of the Engineers, to repair to the scene of the catastrophe with a strong body of his men. The fire was speedily extinguished, but the sight which presented itself was heart-rending. Three sappers of the Fifty-seventh, five of the Seventy-third, as well as the Captain of musketry of the Fifty-seventh, lay on the ground mangled and disfigured corpses, so mutilated it was almost impossible to identify them. The men in charge of the two baggage wagons which had been drawn off and were waiting for the third were all severely injured, in consequence of the burning materials of various kinds projected from the magazine which fell on them and inflicted wounds. The cause of the accident will never be known, as the poor fellows who alone could explain the mystery have all perished. The Captain—whose name, by the by, is not mentioned—is said to have been a young man of great promise.

## Frightful Tragedy at Oil Springs.

The London (C. W.) Free Press says:—

In the late fire which occurred at Oil Springs, resulting in the loss of the Hartford Oil Refinery, it was stated in this paper that a man lost his life, but it was not generally known then under what painful circumstances such loss of life occurred. The man was literally baked to death! He was, at the time of the fire, which took place at midday, cleaning out one of the stills. To effect this he had to descend into the still by a small ladder which has to be drawn up to enable a man to go about his task. Whilst thus working, by some means through the pipe becoming disconnected under the hands of his fellow workman in the refinery, the oil ran out and communicating with the fire, the whole mass was in a moment in a blaze. The man who occupied endeavored to extricate his fellow, and succeeded in grasping his hand, but he was unable to retain his hold through the fierce flame which was rapidly surrounding him, and to save himself was compelled to abandon his companion; in the meanwhile being himself severely burnt in his effort at rescue. Rushing through the flames, he escapes, and stands in the open air, only to hear, in common with the assembled neighbors, the hopeless cry for help which every now and then rang above the roar of flaming oil from the fatal still which was to prove the terrible tomb in which, unscathed by flame, a living man was to grapple with death heat, as hotter and hotter grew the iron, closer and more stifling the atmosphere and more intense, though each time feebler, the attempt to draw breath: till at last the almost equally painful silence told the horror-stricken spectators who stood powerless, that all was over, and that soon nothing but a blackened mass would remain of the man who not an hour before was in the prime of life and health. To add to their distress, the wife of the dying sufferer buried to the scene, but only to hear the last cry that came from that terrible tomb, and to be borne back again stunned with her grief, to fold almost unconsciously within her arms four little fatherless ones. The poor man was subsequently found in an upright posture, leaning against the corner of the still, and though not touched by the fire, he was but a black, charred mass, whose clothes crumbled away at the first touch, only to reveal the burnt skeleton of the man Hutchison.

## Earl Derby on Confederation.

In the course of his speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet, the Earl of Derby said:—

"My Lord Mayor, you must not suppose that this session, much as its attention has been given to the great measure of the representation of the people in parliament, has been wholly barren of fruits of a different character. We have not allowed our attention to be exclusively devoted to that subject, however engrossing and important it has been. We have succeeded in an object which has been anxiously looked for by successive governments in consolidating and uniting our various North American provinces, and we have by that means given, I believe, additional strength to those provinces—we have given them additional security and promoted their loyalty and attachment to the British throne; and in extending to them the full privilege of citizens, the full enjoyment of the rights of a united people, we have in the greatest possible degree consolidated their power and knit them to us by the most enduring tie of mutual interest and affection."