Scrofula, or King's Evil,

is a constitutional disease, a corruption of the blood, by which this fluid becomes vitiated, weak, and poor. Being in the circulation, it pervades the whole body, and may burst out in disease on any part of it. No organ is free from its attacks, nor is there one which it may not destroy. The scrofulous taint is variously caused by mercurial disease, low living, disordered or unhealthy food, impure air, filth, and filthy habits, the depressing vices, and, above all, by the venereal infection. Whatever be its origin, it is hereditary in the constitution, descending "from parents to children unto the third and fourth generation;" indeed, it seems to be the rod of Him who says, "I will visit the iniquities of the fathers upon their children."

Its effects commence by deposition from the blood of corrupt or ulcerous matter, which, in the lungs, liver, and internal organs, is termed tubercles; in the glands, swellings; and on the surface, eruptions or sores. This foul corruption, which genders in the blood, depresses the energies of life, so that scrofulous constitutions not only suffer from scrofulous complaints, but they have far less power to withstand the attacks of other diseases: consequently, vast numbers perish by disorders which, although not scrofulous in their nature are still rendered fatal by this taint in the system. Most of the consumption which decimates the human family has its origin directly in this scrofulous contamination; and many destructive diseases of the liver, kidneys, brain, and, indeed, of all the organs, arise from or are aggravated by the same cause.

One quarter of all our people are scrofulous; their persons are invaded by this lurking infection, and their health is undermined by it. To cleanse it from the system we must renovate the blood by an alterative medicine, and invigorate it by healthy food and exercise. Such a medicine we supply in

AYER'S
Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla,

the most effectual remedy which the medical skill of our times can devise for this every-where prevailing and fatal malady. It is combined from the most active remedials that have been discovered for the expurgation of this foul disorder from the blood, and the rescue of the system from its destructive consequences. Hence it should be employed for the cure of not only scrofula, but also those other affections which arise from it, such as ERUPTIVE and SKIN DISEASES, ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE, ROSE, or ERYSIPELAS, PIMPLES, PUSTULES, BLOTCHES, BLAINS and BOILS, TUMORS, TETTER, and SALT RHEUM, SCALD HEAD, RINGWORM, RHEUMATISM, SYPHILITIC and MERCURIAL DISEASES, DROPSY, DYSPEPSIA, DEBILITY, and, indeed, ALL COMPLAINTS ARISING FROM VITIATED OR IMPURE BLOOD. The popular belief in "*impurity of the blood,*" is founded in truth, for scrofula is a degeneration of the blood. The particular purpose and virtue of this Sarsaparilla is to purify and regenerate this vital fluid, without which sound health is impossible in contaminated constitutions.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills,

FOR ALL THE PURPOSES OF A FAMILY PHYSIC,

are so composed that disease within the range of their action can rarely withstand or evade them. Their penetrating properties search, and cleanse, and invigorate every portion of the human organism, correcting its diseased action, and restoring its healthy vitalities. As a consequence of these properties, the invalid who is bowed down with pain or physical debility is astonished to find his health or energy restored by a remedy so once so simple and inviting.

Not only do they cure the every-day complaints of every body, but also many formidable and dangerous diseases. The agent below named is pleased to furnish gratis my American Almanac, containing certificates of their cures, and directions for their use in the following complaints: *Costiveness, Heartburn, Headache arising from a disordered Stomach, Nausea, Indigestion, Pain in and Morbid Inaction of the Bowels, Flatulency, Loss of Appetite, Jaundice,* and other kindred complaints, arising from a low state of the body or obstruction of its functions.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral,

FOR THE RAPID CURE OF

Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Hoarseness, Croup, Bronchitis, Incipient Consumption, and for the relief of Consumptive Patients in advanced stages of the disease.

So wide is the field of its usefulness, and so numerous are the cases of its cures, that almost every section of country abounds in persons, widely known, who have been restored from crippling and even desperate diseases of the lungs by its use. When once tried, its superiority over every other medicine of its kind is too apparent to escape observation, and where its virtues are known, the public no longer hesitate what antidote to employ for the distressing and dangerous affections of the pulmonary organs that are incident to our climate. While many inferior remedies thrust upon the community have failed and been discarded, this has gained friends by every trial, conferred benefits on the afflicted they can never forget, and produced cures too numerous and too remarkable to be forgotten.

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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.
And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 8. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1867. NO. 19

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY BY

HIGGINS, LONG & CO.

TERMS:

Per Annum, in advance $6 00
Per Six Months 4 00
Per Week 25

PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

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English and Continental Echoes.

The topic of most interest to Colonial readers is that of Confederation, and the speeches at the dinner of the Canada Club by distinguised guests (one of which is given in another column) will be read with satisfaction here. Several able letters on the subject of Confederation have appeared in the London press, and the project meets with much favor at the hands of public men (the telegraph informs us that the bill confederating the Colonies passed Parliament on the 28th February); but the London *Times* contains an article, designed and calculated to throw cold water on the scheme, in the course of which it confesses that it is impossible to predict what will be the future of the Confederacy, and says that England has long since ceased to regard the "Colonies as sources of profit, strength and influence; or as a medium through which the British type is to be impressed on the future of mankind." However, the dinner was a very successful affair, and the bill having passed, the "destiny" of the "new nation" will soon make itself "manifest." The papers contain some interesting details of the opening of Parliament on the 5th February by Her Majesty. A cold and dreary morning ushered in a rainy, heavy day, and the popular belief or superstition that such royal pageants are specially favored with fine weather, or "Queen's weather," as they term it, utterly failed of realization in this instance. The Queen arrived at Buckingham Palace from Windsor at eleven o'clock in the morning. She was met by the Cabinet ministers and great officers of State, the heralds, pursuivants and other functionaries, when the procession was formed. The procession left Buckingham Palace at one o'clock in the afternoon. There was a fine display of military, but the plumes of the soldiers were draggled and their uniforms rendered dull with heavy sparkles of rain. There were large numbers, crowds of people out, but they were almost hidden under a forest of expanded umbrellas. On reaching the Parliament the scene in the House of Lords was magnificent. The nobility, including the peers, their wives and dignitaries of the Church, were present in gorgeous costumes and robes. The peeresses and other ladies were in full dress, their costumes glittering with diamonds. Queen Victoria, who was superbly robed, was duly announced by the heralds, and was received on entering the House by the vast audience rising to their feet. Her Majesty ascended the throne, the Premier of England, the Lord Chancellor and other officers of the Crown taking their proper positions near her. The members of the House of Commons having been duly summoned, a large number of the honorable gentlemen attended at the bar of the House of Lords. When silence was obtained the Queen rose and read her speech in a clear and firm tone of voice. At the conclusion of the speech the session of Parliament was declared duly opened, and the royal cortege having reformed returned to Buckingham Palace. The scene at the return was even, if possible, more dismal than that on the approach. Everybody in the crowd was thoroughly soaked with the rain. Many of our English readers will call to mind the fine old parish church of Croydon—a building of great antiquity and one of the most beautiful structures in England. This church has been destroyed by fire—nothing saved except the tower. The chancel, or rather the chantries, contained monuments of no less than six archbishops, all more or less magnificent—namely of Archbishop Grindall, who died in 1583; Archbishop Whitgift, who died in 1603; Archbishop Sheldon, 1677, Archbishop Wake, 1736; Archbishop Potter, 1747; and Archbishop Herring, 1774. John Bright and Mr Garth, both M.P.'s, are engaged in quite a lively newspaper controversy growing out of some remarks of Mr Garth at a recent election meeting, in which he charged that Mr Bright had been hooted by his own workpeople, and that he declined to subscribe to the Lancashire relief fund. Mr Bright denounced Mr Garth as a slanderer, and declared the statements to be wholly and absolutely false, and added that Mr Garth would not dare to repeat them in his presence. To this Mr Garth replied that he based his statements upon assertions made by Mr Ferrand and Pope Hennessy in late political speeches. Mr Bright rejoined: "On the occasion of your speech and your letter, I come to this conclusion—that you wished to get into Parliament, and were not particular as to the path which might lead to it. You threw dirt during your canvas, doubtless knowing that, if needful, you could eat it afterwards. There are many men who go 'through dirt to dignities,' and I suspect you have no objection to be one of them." Mr Garth, in closing the controversy, says: "I am quite aware that I am not your match in the use of discourtesies and insulting language, and therefore, instead of concluding my letter in the agreeable form which you have thought proper to adopt, I beg to subscribe myself, with conventional courtesy." It is to be regretted that the days of duelling are over, or these political Hotspurs would have an opportunity of shedding something thicker than ink. A terrible calamity took place in Regent's Park on the evening of the 16th January, just as it was growing dark, a little before four o'clock. The frost was not so keen as it had been, and the ice had been weakened by being cut round the shore near private houses, in order to prevent skating trespassers from invading the gardens. A great many fortunately had already left the ice as dangerous, but there were still probably 200 skaters and sliders upon it, when it gave way all at once in a hundred different places, and most of those then on the ice fell into water twelve feet deep. Much the greater number were eventually either able to escape for themselves or were rescued, but no less than thirty-seven corpses had been found. The agitation and screams of the bystanders, many of whom saw their children, or brothers, or husbands drowning before their eyes, were even more terrible than the cries of the drowning. One lady saw her husband drown, while two others were screaming in the greatest agony for some one to save their brother. Children went down crying to their mothers for help where none could be given. The ice was too rotten to hold, and too thick for swimmers to penetrate. The boats crushed their way through it at a snail's pace with the greatest difficulty. Many were saved by ropes, of which, however, there were not a quarter enough at hand for an accident on such a scale. It was more than an hour before all those who were clinging to the floes were rescued. Several died afterwards who were not drowned, and almost all these, it is said, were delirious, supposing themselves to be swimming matches during the night. Many of the rescued were taken to private houses in the park, others to the Marylebone Workhouse. The Marquis of Exeter died on the 16th of January. He was the descendant of Elizabeth's Lord Burghley, the son of Miss Sarah Hoggins—the original of Tennyson's "Lady of Burleigh," and said to have been worthy of the poem—and the greatest horse-racer in the world. In politics his only achievement was, as Grand Elector of Stamford, to return Lord Cranborne to the House of Commons. The *Morning Post* says the cause of all famines in India is invariably drought. For many months no rain falls; the rivers and the springs are dried up; the arid soil bakes under the scorching rays of the sun, and every plant which gives sustenance to man is actually burnt in the ground. This is the short history of the cause which occasions famine in India, and which has, on the present occasion, actually swept into eternity between five and six hundred thousand beings from sheer want. The only questions, therefore, which present themselves for the consideration of those to whom the government of our Indian possessions is intrusted are, whether it is possible to provide artificially for the irrigation of the soil during the dry season, and, if so, whether the expenditure entailed by such a course of proceeding would not be compensated by the benefits accruing from its adoption? The *Morning Post* doubts whether compulsory education would be submitted to by the class it is intended to benefit. That is merely half of the difficulty; still it is the half which, if multitudes are to dictate or to govern, should be carefully examined. The obligation which would be recognised by compulsory education is comprehensive, and, as the Germans express it, many-sided. If the State provides for the instruction of the people, the State may require service in return, and on the same system. The Bishopric of Calcutta, which has been going a-begging for an incumbent, ever since Bishop Cotton was drowned in the Hooghly, has at last been accepted by the Rev. Robert Milman, of Exeter College, Oxford, and nephew of the Dean of St Paul's, a High Churchman, but not a Ritualist, it is said, author of a life of Tasso, of Meditations on Confirmation, and of a work of a very mysterious title, called Mystery of Meaking. The *Allgemeine Zeitung* publishes a statement, which the demi-official journal of Berlin characterizes as only inexact in form, upon the demand made by the Emperor of the French after the signature of the preliminaries of peace between Austria and Prussia. Prussia was requested, says this paper, to consider the propriety of compensating France with Saarlouis, Saarbruck and their coal-fields, the Palatinate, and Rhenan Hesse—territories which, be it remembered, contain Mayence and Landau. Prussia, moreover, was to resign her right of garrisoning Luxembourg—leaving that task, we presume, to the King of Holland. These proposals were rejected at once, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, through whom they were made, was compelled to resign. The old difficulty about this statement still remains. What could have induced Napoleon to expose himself and France to the humiliation of a demand certain to be refused? That hints may have been given to Prussia as to what Napoleon would demand, should all Germany be united, is very probable, and may have been one reason why the Prussians stopped short before Vienna. The Russian Government has at length made an end officially of Poland. By three decrees dated 19th December—O. S.—the Czar merges Poland in Russia, destroys her separate financial and postal administration, and redivides her into five Governments, which will be gradually assimilated to Russian Governments in every respect.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday March 18

A BOXING NIGHT.—Ther was a large muster of the fancy at the Theatre on Saturday evening. After the entertainment furnished by the New Idea troope came a sporting sketch introducing the unknown pugilist from Quesnel, (Collins) who challenges and is excepted by the "Mouse," (Phillips) they meet, and after some severe sparring the stranger of course gets the worst of it, and throws up the sponge. After this followed several amateur "mills" which afforded much amusement, and the concluding set-to between the old opponents, Eden and Baker, was watched with considerable interest. Tom Lafont brought the evening to a close by a burlesque engagement with the Mouse, which provoked much laughter. During the evening Mr Tom Scott, was introduced who announced himself as the agent of one C. C. Davis (another unknown), who was anxious for business if any man would accommodate him. Baker came forward and said he could not afford to fight for $1000 or $2000, but if Mr Davis would make the amount $500 he would cover it. The announcement was received with cheers.

HEAVY FAILURES IN AUSTRALIA.—Private letters received from Sydney, Australia, state that the abundant grain crops, though a blessing to the country, had proved most disastrous to the large mercantile houses engaged in the grain trade. Wheat imported from California, which cost sixteen pounds sterling per ton landed there, had been forced into the market for eleven and twelve pounds, and the consequences were that all but two of the prominent business houses failed. The large fleet of ships constantly arriving at San Francisco from Australian ports, all bringing more or less coal as freight or ballast, tended materially to injure the Nanaimo coal trade in the California market. Those consignments will now receive a check, if they do not cease altogether for a time, and the result should give a healthy stimulus to the exportations of our Island coal.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Yesterday was a day worthy of Erins Patron Saint. The sky was cloudless, and old Sol smiled with a genial warmth that "infused itself into the trunks of men," and made the heart of the most stolid Hebernian feel light and joyous. The anniversary will be kept up to day, and will terminate this evening with a grand ball in the St. Nicholas Hall, which from all accounts will not only be generally patronized by the sons of the Emerald Isle, but also by a large number of our citizens of all classes and nationalities. The music is in the best hands; two original pieces of music, the "Faugh-a-Ballagh Polka and Emmet Waltz" having been composed by Mr Bushell for the occasion; and the names of the gentlemen who form the Committee is a safe guarantee that in all other respects the arrangements will give entire satisfaction.

THE VOLUNTEERS.—The Rifle Corps, under Capt. Pearse preceded by their band, marched out by moonlight on Saturday evening, in the direction of Cadboro Bay. On their return they were invited to the residence of the commanding officer, where there was an agreeable surprise for them in the shape of a liberal supply of refreshments, and a cheerful blazing bonfire. The men contributed to the general enjoyment with song and toast, while the band through the stirring influence of "St. Patrick's Day and Tara's Hall &c.," reminded all present that they were about entering on the 17th March and must do honor to Ireland's Patron Saint. There will be a general meeting of the Corps at the James Bay Barracks, tomorrow evening, after which a finance committee, to arrange matters connected with the forthcoming entertainment at the Theatre.

ARRIVAL OF THE EGMONT.—The British ship Egmont, Capt. D. B. Inglis, 707 tons register, with 400 miles of submarine cable on board, anchored in Esquimalt harbor Saturday forenoon, 109 days from Mauritius, where she was recoppered and underwent general repairs. She had a fine voyage up to 30° North, since when the captain reports strong N. and N. E. winds. She is consigned to Sproat & Co., her cargo to the Western Union Telegraph Co. and is bound for Behring's Straits, where the cable will be paid out by steam, a donkey engine and necessary machinery being on board the Egmont for that purpose.

THE COMOX COAL MINE.—The agent of the San Francisco company in this city informs us that the workmen and tools were removed from the mine at Comox, simply on account of the severity of the weather, the depth of snow on the spot being so great as to render it unadvisable to continue operations at present, and that the company, far from abandoning the mine, contemplate working it vigorously when they have completed the necessary arrangements.

THE CHURCH.—The Bishop of Columbia, assisted by the Rev. Archdeacon Gilson, with whom were also the Dean and Chapter, took part in the morning service yesterday at the Cathedral, when the Rev. Mr Hayman, of New Westminster, and Mr Cave, of Nanaimo, were ordained to the ministry, the former to the order of Priest, and the latter to that of a Deacon. A sermon and exhortation by the Bishop were given in the usual course before a large congregation.

ARRIVALS.—The U. S. steamer Lincoln, Capt. White, and the schooner Wester, Capt. Whitford, arrived in this harbor last night, from Puget Sound; the steamer Emily Harris also arrived, with a cargo of coal from Nanaimo to the H. B. Co., and a large steamer was seen to enter Esquimalt harbor after dark, having come apparently round Race Rocks.

☞ It is said that the next steamer from below will bring up a large number of passengers. The good accounts from our mines and the lack of employment below, will induce a great many to turn their attention to this country.

ARRIVED.—We are pleased to learn that our old friend and fellow citizen, Mr Richard Stark, accompanied by his fair "better half," has arrived in San Francisco with the intention of residing permanently on this coast.

☞ The Active left for Fraser River yesterday at 10 a. m., and will return tomorrow, leaving on Wednesday at 4 p. m., for San Francisco.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has resolved to appear in public more frequently. A series of Royal receptions, to take place at the Palace, commenced on the 5th Febuary.

VICTORIA RIFLE CORPS.—Musketry Instruction: Tuesday and Friday, at 8 p. m. James Bay.—By order, J. GORDON VINTER, Lieut. and Adj.

☞ The Enterprise is expected back from New Westminster this afternoon.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The following is a *verbatim* copy of the Speech from the Throne, at the re-opening of the Imperial Parliament

MY LORDS,—In again recurring to your advice and assistance, I am happy to inform you that my relations with foreign Powers are on a friendly and satisfactory footing. I hope that the war in which Prussia, Austria and Italy have been engaged, may lead to the establishment of a durable peace in Europe. I have suggested to the Government of the United States a mode by which the questions pending between the two countries arising out of the civil war may receive an amicable solution, and which, if met, as I trust it will be, in a corresponding spirit, will remove all grounds of possible misunderstanding, and promote relations of cordial friendship. The war between Spain and the republics of Chili and Peru still continues—the good offices of my Government in conjunction with that of the Emperor of the French, having failed to effect a reconciliation. If either by agreement between the parties themselves, or by the mediation of any other friendly power, peace should be restored, the objects which I have had in view will be equally attained. The discontent prevailing in some of the Provinces of the Turkish Empire, has broken out in actual insurrection in Crete. In common with my allies—the Emperor of the French and the Emperor of Russia—I have abstained from any active interference in these internal disturbances, but joint efforts have been directed to bringing about improved relations between the Porte and its Christian subjects, not inconsistent with the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

The protracted negotiations which arose out of the acceptance by Prince Charles of Hohenzollern of the Governorship of the Danubian Principalities, have been happily terminated by an arrangement which has been sanctioned by the concurrence of all the Powers signatories of the treaties of the treaty of 1865.

Resolutions in favour of a more intimate union of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, have been passed by their several Legislatures, and delegates duly authorized and representing all classes of colonial party and opinion, have concurred in the conditions upon which such a union may be best effected in accordance with their wishes. A Bill will be submitted to you which, by the consolidation of Colonial interests and resources, will give strength to the several Provinces. As members of the same Empire, and animated by feelings of loyalty to the same Sovereign—I have heard with deep sorrow that the calamity of famine pressed heavily on my subjects in some parts of India. Instructions were issued to my government in that country to make the utmost exertions to allay the distress which prevailed during the autumn of last year. The blessing of an abundant harvest has since that time improved the condition of the suffering districts. The preservering efforts, and unscrupulous assertions of treasonable conspirators have, during the last autumn, excited the hopes of some disaffected persons in Ireland, and the apprehensions of the loyal population, but the firm and temperate exercise of the powers entrusted to the Executive, and the hostility manifested against the conspiracy by men of all classes and creeds have have greatly tended to restore public confidence, and have rendered hopeless and attempt to disturb the general tranquility. I trust that you will consequently be enabled to dispense with the continuance of any exceptional legislation for that part of my dominions.

I acknowledge with deep thankfulness to Almighty God that the great decrease which has taken place in the cholera and in the pest which has attacked our cattle; but the continued prevalence of the latter in some foreign countries, and its occasional reappearance in this, will render necessary some special measures of precaution, and I trust that the visitation of the former will lead to increased attention to those sanitary measures which experience has shown to be the best prevention.

Estimating as of the highest importance, an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water, I have directed the issue of a Commission to enquire into the best means of permanently securing such a supply for the metropolis, and for the principal towns in the densely peopled districts of the Kingdom.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I have directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service. You will, I am assured, give your ready assent to a moderate expenditure, calculated to improve the state of my soldiers and to lay the foundations of an efficient army to reserve.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—

Your attention will again be called to the state of the representation of the population in Parliament, and I trust that your deliberations, conducted in a spirit of moderation and mutual forbearance, may lead to the adoption of measures which, without undue disturbance of the balance of political power, shall freely extend the elective franchise.

The frequent occurrence of disagreement between the employers of labour and their workmen, causing much private suffering and public loss, and occasionally leading as is alleged to acts of outrage and violence has induced me to issue a Commission to enquire into and report upon the organization of trades' unions and other societies, whether of workmen or employers, with power to suggest any improvement of the laws for their own benefit. Application will be made to you for parliamentary powers which will be neccessary to make this enquiry effective.

I have directed bills to be laid before you for the extension to other trades of the beneficial provisions of the Factory Acts, especially reported by the Royal Commission on the employment of children, and for the better regulation according to the principle of those Acts of worshops where women and children are largely employed.

The condition of the mercantile marine has attracted my serious attention. Complaints are made that the supply of seamen is deficient, and the provision for their health and discipline on board ship are imperfect. Measures will be submitted to you with a view to increase the efficiency of this important service.

I have observed with satisfaction the relaxation recently introduced into the navigation laws of France. I have expressed to the Emperor my readiness to submit to Parliament a proposal for the extinction, on equitable terms, of the exemption, from local charges on shipping which are still enjoyed by a number of individuals in British ports, and have, in anticipaton of this step, already admitted British ships to the advantages of the new law. A Bill upon this subject will forthwith be laid before you.

A bill will also be submitted to you, for making better provision for the arrangement of the affairs of railway companies which are unable to meet engagements.

Measures will be submitted to you for improving the management of the sick and other poor in the metropolis, and for a re distribution of some of the charges for relief therein.

Your attention will also be called to the amendment of the law of bankruptcy, to the consolidation of the Courts of Probate and Divorce, and Admiralty, and to the means of disposing with greater despatch and frequency of the increasing business in the Superior Courts of Common Law, and at the Assizes.

The relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland have engaged my attention, and a Bill will be laid before you, which, without interfering with the rights of property will offer a direct encouragement to occupiers of land to improve their holdings and provide a simple mode of obtaining compensation for permanent improvement.

I commend to your careful consideration these and other measures which will be brought before you, and I pray that your labours may, under the blessing of Providence, conduce to the prosperity of the country and the happiness of my people.

MR DALLY takes pleasure in announcing to the inhabitants of Victoria and its vicinity that the alterations in his photographic gallery are now completed, and that those who favor him with a visit may depend upon getting a faithful portrait. Views of houses or scenery photographed in an artistic manner, Fort street, near Government. *