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# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1865. NO. 28.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED
EVERY MORNING,
(Sundays Excepted,
AT VICTORIA, V. I.

TERMS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Per Annum, in advance | $16 00 |
| For Six Months, | 6 00 |
| Per Week, payable to the Carrier, | 25 |
| Single Copies, | 10 |

☞ Advertisements inserted on the most reasonable terms.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.
Is furnished to Subscribers for $6 a year; $4 for six months; $2 50 for three months, payable in advance

NOTICE:
L. P. Fisher is our only authorized Agent for the collecting of advertisements, etc., in San Francisco.

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## JEFF. DAVIS AND HIS CAUSE.

To-day we record two great significant facts of the rebellion in the United States—the imprisonment of Jefferson Davis and the immediate emancipation of the slaves in North Carolina. What a startling change a few months have brought about in the history of a nation. "Yesterday the word of Davis might have stood against the world, now none so poor to do him reverence." It is the old illustration of the Dead Sea fruit; the apple of Sodom so inviting to the eye, so fresh and healthy in appearance, is no sooner touched than it crumbles into dust. The Confederacy wore all the bloom of vitality and strength—in the eyes of some European statesmen it had even become a nation, and if we accepted Davis' own remarks of its inherent power, it was to fight until the youngest born had grown up to manhood and to the responsibilities of civil war. The *Asclepias gigantea*, however, was rudely grasped—the vigorous muscles of Sherman and of Grant made its artificiality apparent—and it crumbled piecemeal into nothingness. The armies disappeared like some [illegible] pageant faded"—the thunder of the battlefield—the Jupiter of Richmond—was carried away in the tempest of its own creation, and made an ignoble flight in women's clothes. And so we come from the sublime to the ridiculous, and add another historical peg on which to hang the littleness, the evanescence, and the uncertainty of worldly power. Poor Davis! better to have emulated the Third Richard and died fighting on the battle-field; better even, like Brutus, to have fallen upon his own sword and, paraphrasing the dying words of the great Roman, exclaimed—"O human slavery, I have worshipped thee as a goddess, but thou thyself art the slave of fortune!" But no, his fate was worse than that of Smith O'Brien in the cabbage garden, and less dignified than the flight of Louis Napoleon in a footman's garb from the Austrian soldiery. The Supreme head of a power able at one time to place in the field half a million of men, driven as a fugitive from his seat of Government, and caught running in his wife's apparel, with no more effective power of resistance than a bowie-knife—what punishment can the Federal Government inflict more galling, more cruel, more humiliating than this?

Never since Waterloo has there been so sudden a crash—so overwhelming a disaster to armed authority. Napoleon on the memorable 15th of June was the terror of Europe, the nightmare of monarchs who "trembled in their capitals." On the night of the 18th he was a forlorn fugitive, a crushed and fallen victim of ambition. At the commencement of the present year, Jeff. Davis issued orders to a larger army than Napoleon had at the crisis of his fate. He sent forth mandates over a much vaster territory than that which was under the sway of the great French Emperor; and yet within "a few short months" he too was an unfortunate fugitive—an outcast, a hopeless man. With Napoleon fell the aggrandisement of military ambition, and the butchery of continued warfare; with Davis falls a more execrable evil—the system of human slavery. The great abolition scheme of Lincoln is at length being carried out. In vain the planters of North Carolina ask for a respite—in vain they apply for a gradual process of manumission; their petitions are ignored, their cries unheeded; the fiat has gone forth, and every slave from Richmond to the Rio Grande becomes "redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled by the irresistible genius of universal emancipation." Surely the year of grace, 1865, will be the most memorable in the world's history.—Memorable as a year that has redeemed the character of republics, and vindicated the great cause of self-government—that has crushed a rebellion against liberty, and annihilated an authority based on the destruction of human rights.

The last vestige of that power, which first thundered its demands at Fort Sumter and carried through a four years' sanguinary war, has disappeared, and has left the world to see more clearly the rottenness on which the fabric was raised. It was in vain the superstructure was made brilliant with valor and military skill; in vain it reflected the highest self-denial and the greatest self-sacrifice—the cause was bad, the foundation was crumbling to pieces through inherent decay, and the whole building from top to bottom could meet with no other end than destruction, and its designers and architects no other fate than being engulfed in the ruin. We have not much sympathy for these designers and architects; but there is a feeling in human nature that makes us pity the fallen wherever they may be found. We cannot withhold that pity from Jeff. Davis and his misguided followers. Nations however, cannot always afford to be generous or merciful. There is a stern justice to be administered in certain grave crises like the present condition of affairs in the United States, in order that the laws shall, in the future, be maintained, and that an example should be set so as to stamp rebellion against popular government as the most infamous of crimes. That, therefore, the leaders in the civil war should be punished, is only what order and good government demand; but there is a limit at which such punishment should stop. The culprit should not be made a martyr. John Brown hanged had a very different effect on American society from what would have resulted if John Brown had been merely imprisoned as for an ordinary crime; and Jeff Davis dealt with mercilessly may create a sympathy in his fate and give a dignity to his misfortune that will sadly mar the wholesome feeling of detestation against the slaveholders' rebellion. This, however, is on the supposition that the heinous crime—the accessory to the murder of Lincoln—with which he is charged is foundationless—a supposition we are bound almost to believe. We cannot bring our minds to fancy that any man in the position Davis held, with the ability he evidently possessed, could base. No, man knew better than he how ineffectual would have been the murder even of the whole of the Cabinet to stay Federal operations or alter the great principles for which the Federal Government were prepared to risk so much. There may be evidence as to his complicity in the murder, and if such can be obtained no punishment could be too severe, but until the connexion is proved we believe few will hold to this belief.

AN UNSTABLE BRIDEGROOM.—A case cam before the Leeds magistrates last week, affording another illustration of the trite adage respecting the frequent "slip between the cup and the lip." Harriet Lewis, who has been eighteen months a widow, and has three children, appeared in bridal dress to prefer a charge against Fred. Gale, a mechanic, for obtaining money by false pretences. Both of them reside in Greenwood street, Hunslet, and appear to have enjoyed a courtship of only five or six weeks. During that time the bride-expectant was induced to advance to Gale at various times in small sums for the wedding preparations £3 or £4, and at length the day for the marriage was fixed, coaches were ordered, the breakfast prepered, and the dresses purchased for the bride and bridesmaid at the expense of Mrs. Lewis, who thus rendered herself liable for £16 or £17. Her fickle lover, however, never made his appearance, and the indignant widow sought refuge for her disappointment in consulting her solicitor, by whose advice a warrant was obtained for the apprehension of her deceiver. The magistrates, having heard the evidence, adjourned the case in the hope that in the meantime some arrangement might be made.

VICTOR HUGO ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The *Guernsey Star* publishes a letter from Victor Hugo, in which that eminent writer says:—"In France Polizzioni would have been condemned for murder without premeditation to a temporary punishment. The English sentence is wanting to this great corrective—extenuating circumstances. Let England in her pride reflect on this. At present her criminal legislation is inferior to that of France—imperfect as this may be, in this matter England is behind France. Would England regain in an instant all the ground that she has lost, and leave France in the rear? She can do so. She has only to take this one step—abolish the punishment of death. This great act is worthy of a great nation. I invite her to it. The punishment of death has lately been abolished in several of the republics of North and South America. It is about being abolished—if it has not already been—in Italy, in Portugal, in Roumania, and in Greece. Belgium will not be long before she follows these noble examples. It would be admirable for England to take the same initiative, and show by the suppression of the scaffold that the land of liberty is also the land of humanity."

## Later Eastern News

[TELEGRAPHED TO THE COLUMBIAN.]

DATES TO 15TH.

NEWBERN, N. C., May 7.—The ram Cincinnati has arrived from Selma, conveying four steamers with 2,500 bales of cotton. Considerable cotton still remains at the river landings; immense quantities were taken into the interior after the fall of Mobile, to prevent its being burnt by rebels. Steele and his command will return to Mobile.

NEW YORK, May 12.—Correspondence from Havana 6th, and Nasseau 8th, reports that the rebel ram Stonewall was at anchor in the harbor at Nassau.

CHICAGO, May 12.—General Rosecrans made a speech yesterday in Boston. He denied having anything to do with the Mexican scheme, characterising it as a buccaneering expedition.

LOUISVILLE, May 15.—Major General Steadman arrived here to-day *en route* to Washington, having been invited there by President Johnson for consultations as to the best course to be pursued in the restoration of civil law in Alabama and Georgia.

CAIRO, May 12.—A Paducah, Ky., letter of the 10th, says a fleet of transports, convoyed by gunboats, has gone up the Tennessee to Eastport, Miss., to bring down Hatch's brigade of cavalry.

NEW YORK, May 12.—Gen. Steele's forces after the capture of Mobile, started on an expedition to the interior, to assist in finishing the work commenced by Gen. Wilson. He arrived at Selma April 20th, on a transport. A small force of rebels on the way up river fired on the boat, but were soon dispersed.

General Steele stated that vast quantities of cotton were stored in different places on the road. On reaching Selma he was informed of negotiations between Sherman and Johnson, and further hostilities were suspended. He released Union prisoners from Andersonville, and states that in and around that most infamous rebel prison and pen of that place, there are the graves of over nineteen thousand Union men.

NEW YORK, May 12.—There were remaining yesterday morning but one million one hundred thousand dollars of the present series of the government loan. Governor Pierpont goes to Richmond to establish State Government next week. Mrs. Lincoln starts for Chicago on the 15th.

NEW YORK, May 12.—Bishop Johns, of the diocese of Virginia, issued a letter to the clergy of his diocese, instructing them to resume the form of prayer in use before the rebellion. He expressed a hope that recent relations may be happily matured, and redound to the glory of God, and the tempo-

NEW YORK, May 13.—The *Herald's* Richmond correspondence, dated May 9th, says although it was expected there would be a grand review of Sherman's army on his passage through Richmond, none took place owing to bad feeling between Sherman and Halleck. It is understood this was caused by the act of the latter in countermanding the orders of the former to his subordinate during the truce with Johnson.

NEW YORK, May 12.—Last evening during a thunder storm, Spinhart & Son's warehouse in Brooklyn was struck by lightning and fired. Loss $10,000. The storm was accompanied by a gale which did great damage. A large number of houses were uncovered. The *Post's* Newark, N. J. correspondent says there was great destruction of property and many persons injured in that city by the gale. In Philadelphia many houses were blown down.

DANBURY, Conn., May 12—A tornado accompanied by thunder, visited this city last night. The steeple of the church at Bethel was blown down through the roof. Loss about $50,000. Roofs of houses and barns suffered severely.

NEW YORK, May 12—Dispatches from Greensboro, dated May 5th, announced that Capt. Liers, the ordnance officer who waited the receipt of ordnance from Johnston's army, has received 9,000 stands of arms and thinks he will be able to gather more; he will receive nearly 150 pieces of artillery. That portion of the army which would not surrender left at once with arms, taking also horses and equipments and some artillery. Like an army of locusts, Johnston's army are absorbing everything in the shape of food in the country through which they pass. Governor Vance left yesterday for his home, having failed to obtain permission to resume his functions as Governor of North Carolina. Governors Graham, Gillmore and Bradford waited on Schofield at this point, asking permission to go and see if they could not prevail on the President to continue Vance and present Legislature in power; also to see if they could not have gradual instead of immediate emancipation. Request denied.

Schofield's order proclaiming freedom to the slaves in this State created great sensation. It was hoped by leading slaveholders that they would be allowed to hold on to the negroes under a gradual emancipation scheme.

NEW YORK, May 15—Henry S. Foote, late of rebel Congress, who was sometime since released from prison on parole, was a few days since notified that he must stand his trial for treason or quit the country. He accepted the latter alternative and is now supposed to be in Canada.

Jeff Davis is to be confined in Fort Lafayette.

The *Commercial's* special says Jeff Davis will reach Washington the latter part of the week. Positive testimony against him from Richmond will not be wanting. Skilfully devised plans are unveiling the movements of Sarrall, who was in Richmond shortly before the murder, and had more than one interview with Davis and Benjamin.

The *Times'* special from Raleigh to the 17th says the destitution of the people of North Carolina is terrible, and the commissary department is constantly besieged with applicants for food. The country is devastated. Old men and women with but a single garment to cover their half-starved forms, are begging in the streets of Raleigh. The system of carnage (?) carried on by both armies has stripped the inhabitants of all subsistence. They are with few exceptions reduced to want, and starvation stares them in the face. Some of the wealthiest families have been brought to the door of poverty.

A Nashville special says George Brown, late rebel Governor of Georgia, was brought here last night as a prisoner, and left in the evening for Louisville. Jeff Davis under strong guard, will arrive here on Thursday evening the 18th.

Every rebel body of regular soldiers and guerrilla organizations in this State and northern Alabama have given up to come in under Gen. Thomas' late order. Thousands of rebel soldiers have arrived here and taken the oath, including the redoubtable Dick McCann. Nearly all the hospitals are cleared out. Thousands of Government employees are being dismissed.

## Later.

[Telegraphed to the V. I. Times.]

CUMBERLAND, May 11.—At daylight yesterday at Carsonville, I surprised and captured Jeff. Davis and family, including his wife, sister, mother, Private Secretary, Col. Harrison, Col. Johnson, and Col. Lubreck, Lieut. Harden, and several other important persons; five wagons, three ambulances. A painful mistake cost us two killed. Lieut. Bently in 4th Michigan, and four men of the 1st Michigan, wounded. This occurred at daylight, and before the capture of Davis.

(Signed) PRITCHARD.
Lieut. Col. 1st Michigan Cavalry.

MACON, GA., May 13—Lieut. Col. Harden, 1st Wis., just arrived from Carsonville, he struck track of Davis at Dublin, Laurence County, on the evening of the 7th: followed it night and day through pine wilderness and alligator creeks, and green swamps. At Chamberlinville met Colonel Pritchard with 158 men; hastily followed the train directly south. From Pritchard he got fresh horses and pushed down Ocmulgee, towards Hope Hill, thence by Horse Creek to town, where he arrived at midnight. Jeff. Davis had not been there, but from citizens learned his party was encamped two miles from town. Pritchard immediately made proper dispention of his men, and surrounded the camp before daylight. Harden arrived in the vicinity the same evening and camped within two miles of Davis' camp without knowing it. Three o'clock in the morning he pushed forward, had gone little more than a mile when his advance came on a party of fifty men of the 12th Michigan, a skirmish ensued. Fifteen minutes elapsed before the mistake was discovered, firing in the skirmish being the first warning that Davis had. Cavalry men state that he hastily put on his wife's dress and started for the river, followed by men who thought he was a woman. Seeing his boots while running they found out his ruse. The race was not a long one, and the rebel President was soon brought to bay. Drawing a bowie knife he showed signs of fight, but yielded to the persuasion of revolvers without compelling the men to fire. He expressed great indignation at the energy with which he was pursued, saying he had believed every government too magnanimous to hunt down women and children. Jeff. Davis remarked to Col. Harden after the excitement was over that men had better not provoke him or something might result from it.

MACON, May 13.—Major General Newton with Colonel Pritchard's command, with Jeff. Davis and others, is expected to arrive here to-morrow. They will be forwarded to Washington under strong guard.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

NEW YORK, May 13.—The Saxonia from Southampton has arrived.

In the House of Lords Earl Russell moved a humble address to the Queen, expressing sorrow and indignation at the assassination of President Lincoln, and praying that these sentiments be communicated to the American government. He said the Queen had written a private letter to Mrs. Lincoln, expressing her sympathy for her irreparable loss. Earl Grey, in consequence of the illness of Lord Palmerston, moved a similar motion in the House of Commons. The demeanor of Parliament was in the highest degree impressive.

Mr. Adams presided at a meeting of Americans in London, to express their sorrow and indignation.

The shipment of the Atlantic cable is being conducted with great dispatch. It may be expected to be shipped on the Great Eastern ready to leave in June.

The President of the Emancipation Society presided at St. James' Hall on the 30th, supported by many members of parliament, who took part in it. The speeches, which where expressive of horror against the assassin, and with deep sympathy with the American people, with hopes that the manifestations of indignation and sorrow will be received as spontaneous and genuine expression of feelings coming from the nation's heart. Let no one for a moment confound this manifestation with any political object; we feel confident that this sorrow in which England and America may without exaggeration be said to be sharers, cannot pass by without leaving them better acquainted with each other, and more inclined to be friendly, and with more mutual allowance for each other's faults than before.

Slidell declined an invitation to attend one of the funeral services performed in Paris on Mr. Lincoln's death, stating that no one could feel greater horror at the late crimes, but feared his presence at this ceremony would lead to erroneous interpretations.

Confederate loan was 12 and 15.

Napoleon left Paris on the 19th for Algiers. He was received enthusiastically at Lyons and Marseilles. The Empress was appointed Regent.

The American Minister thanked M. Drouyn De L'Huys for his condolence. Mr. Rankin communicated to the Chamber a dispatch conveying the sympathy of the French on account of Mr. Lincoln's assassination.

Similar addresses were listened to in the Senate.

The King of the Belgians is seriously ill.

The Czar of Russia has given his benediction to the new Czarowich.

The St. Petersburg *Journal* expresse sympathy with the Americans on the President's murder, and hopes Johnson will prove a worthy successor.

Solemn services, in all languages, were performed in Berlin on the 2nd, in memory of President Lincoln. Numerous deputations were presented. The King was represented by his aide-de-camp. The church was drowded.

## LATEST FROM MEXICO.

NEW YORK, May 13.—The *Herald's* city of Mexico correspondent says news of our national triumphs which has reached that city has afforded great encouragement to the advancement of President Juarez. The cause which a short time since was thought almost lost, is now rapidly recovering. A number of victories have recently been won over the enemy. New spirit appears to be infused into the republican armies. The reported capture of Saltillo and Monterey is confirmed. It is said they have taken Matamoras. These events restore nearly the whole of northern Mexico to Juarez.

NEW YORK, May 13.—The *Herald's*, London letter says a French expedition composed of one thousand French troops, and nearly as many Belgians had started for Lower California and Sonora. The ostensible object is against the Indians of Yucatan. Sonora is to be strongly garrisoned with French troops, so that when Sonora and Sinaloa are finally handed over to the French, they may be able to hold them.

## CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 18.—The electoral votes are not all counted yet. Judge Coon is elected Mayor by about 90 or 100 majority. C. Pelton for Superintendent of Public Schools by over 1000 majority. Mr. Harlan, Harbormaster, James Lindley, Harbor Commissioner, and Reynold, Supervisor, on the Union Ticket, are elected. The remainder of the people's tickets elected, with the exception of one or two supervisors and school directors. Legal tenders 75½ to 76.

## OREGON NEWS.

PORTLAND, May 18.—Beale and Baker, the murderers of the old man Delany, were executed at Salem yesterday at noon. They made full confessions, which are published in this morning's *Oregonian*.

PORTLAND, May 19.—The Sierra Nevada sailed from San Francisco on the 17th for Victoria, via Portland.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.—It is stated that Cardinal Wiseman has left a memoir on the condition of the Roman Catholic Church in England and on his influence in developing the interests of his religion in this country. At the end of the memoir are statistical tables, which are intended to show that Roman Catholicism has made continual progress in England since the Cardinal's arrival, and that by his direct or indirect influence 71 churches and 35 Roman Catholic convents have been built in London and its environs only. Also, that the priests who were under the immediate orders of the Cardinal numbered 1338 in England (comprising 17 bishops), 183 in Scotland (comprising 4 bishops), which will give a total of 1521 priests, showing a considerable augmentation of their numbers. In 1829 there were only 29 Roman Catholic churches in London, and one convent; in 1857 there were 46 churches and eleven convents; and in 1863 there were 117 churches and 46 convents.

DONATO.—This extraordinary dancer has for some days past been unable to perform at Covent Garden Theatre, nor is he likely to make his appearance there again. The illness which has kept him from continuing his engagement, and which appears to have been caused by excessive trial of his bodily powers, has been pronounced serious, if not dangerous in character. A consultation of four physicians—two being appointed by the Royal English Opera Company—has resulted in the signing of a joint certificate that the state of the sufferer's health requires not only cessation from his professional duties, but immediate change of air. Had Donato recovered in time, he would shortly have appeared at the Oxford Music Hall; and should a favorable change occur, he will still carry out his engagement with that establishment.

GARIBALDI AND THE CITIZENS OF LIMERICK.—Such was the fear experienced by the captain of a Norwegian ship which arrived in our port the other day, lest he might excite the passions of the Limerick people, that he gave orders to have the figure-head, which happened to be the bust of Garibaldi, taken down before entering the harbor. His precautions may have been well timed, but we should rather think that no matter how much the general is disliked in Limerick, the sight would not be made a pretext for violating the hospitality the Irish have been invariably known to show to the people of all countries visiting their shores.