

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, November 28, 1865.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND HIS TASK.

Every telegram from the Eastern States only makes more irrefutable the position we assumed a few weeks ago in reference to President Johnson's scheme of reconstruction, and we perceive that many of the American journals which have been heretofore strong supporters of the policy of the President are beginning to throw doubts on his sagacity. In our previous article on the question we maintained that it was an injustice to the North to restore the rebellious States to that political status which they enjoyed before the war, and that it would, prove, ultimately, disastrous to the South. Recent events are bringing this proposition to a speedy solution. Florida has sent nearly all her old secession politicians into the State Legislature, and after insulting the national authority by speeches, and inflicting all manner of tyranny upon the freedmen, ends in sustaining by an overwhelming vote the Southern war debt of the State. This is, of course, in direct opposition to the whole policy of the North. In South Carolina political affairs are not on a much better basis. The Legislature has lost none of its old instincts, and strives with might and main to set the Federal authorities at defiance. President Lincoln proclaimed the emancipation of the slaves, and the constitution was so amended as to place the black man on the same footing as the white man, with regard to his "inalienable right to liberty" and the "pursuit of happiness;" but South Carolina, after subscribing to these conditions, introduced bills in her Legislature to take all arms from the freedmen, to prevent them in future possessing such weapons, and to punish any white person who enables them to obtain them. This is not all of the scheme for giving the freedman an opportunity to enjoy "liberty and the pursuit of happiness." If he has a shop, or if he opens a shop it is to be shut. If he becomes a servant it is only by obtaining the written consent of his former master; if, in fact, he makes the slightest attempt to exercise the new privilege of freedom conferred upon him he is to be punished in a manner only known to those refined Courts which have been accustomed to look upon the negro as a chattel.

All this looks extremely like subjugated rebels bowing in obedience to the mandate that abolished slavery. The fact is the Constitution and authority of the Federal Government are just as much set at defiance by South Carolina as when Sumter was wrested from Federal troops. It is not, however, to South Carolina or Florida that this antagonistic attitude is confined. Nearly every other Southern State is proving itself an enemy to reconstruction on the abolition of slavery. The old laws which prevented the oaths of colored men being taken by the Courts against white men are in full blast, with the thousand and one other disabilities, all of which make the term "freedman" at the present in the Southern States a pure fiction. It is true that President Johnson and the Freedmen's Bureau have interfered in many glaring instances of injustice and set the State laws at defiance; but this only shows the anarchy as well as the impracticability of the present policy of reconstruction. The very latest telegrams tell us that Mississippi as well as Louisiana has virtually ignored the Constitution, by refusing to acknowledge the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. The negro, by fresh enactment, is not only precluded from testifying against a white man, either civilly or criminally, but he is debarred from bringing a suit against him in any court of law. To clinch this nail in the coffin of the black man's liberty, it is further decreed that all colored people not in regular employment shall be deemed vagrants, and sold to labor by the State.

This is the result of President Johnson's experiment—the return for his unprecedented clemency. Is there an American of even the most ordinary judgment who cannot see that the end will be war again, unless some very decisive steps are taken at once to extract the political claws of this slavery-loving States? Already the President, as we have said, has been obliged to interfere in several of the States with the administration of the laws. In South Carolina he has gone even to the extent of removing a Governor elected in due form by the citizens, and placing one of his own selection in his stead. But what kind of reason or consistency is there in a policy that says the Southern States were never out of the Union—that they are now entitled to the full measure of self-government; and then steps in and deprives them at will of that right? The whole scheme is a bundle of contradictions. Either the Southern States possess the same political privileges they held before the war (which the President declares they do) or they do not. If they possess these privileges, the President cannot remove a properly elected Governor and appoint one of his own creating; and if they do not, then the reconstruction policy falls to the ground. The blunder has really been in precipitating the South, while she was still reeking with rebellious blood, into the exercise of all the rights of

self-government. It was against all experience of human nature to suppose that an enemy defeated in such a cause as the Confed- eracy fought for, would accept its old privileges without endeavoring to carry out its old instincts. The very fact of being obliged to swallow the constitutional amendment abol- ishing slavery was sure to make slave-loving people throw every obstacle in the way of its practical adoption; and this has been done in violation of good faith. Mississippi agreed to the anti-slavery amendment and showed every indication of penitence; but no sooner has she obtained a Legislature than she now ignores the whole affair and coolly proceeds to pass laws of disability on the colored race, as if the old state of things prior to the war were in full operation.

We cannot believe that President Johnson will continue his scheme much longer. By some of his recent actions it would appear that he has serious doubts of its success him- self; but even if he persists the Congress which will shortly meet is bound to over- throw the whole policy. The whites and the blacks will have to be put upon the same political footing; or the Southern States will have to be treated as subjugated countries and ruled by Governors appointed by Federal authority. This latter, however, would be invidious to republicanism, and expensive besides; and it is more than probable that the Southron would accept even the former horrible condition rather than be under the domination of Yankee officials. At all events a very significant phase in American political history is approaching—the most important Congress that has yet met is about to as- semble—and all we can hope is that the pro- ceedings will do justice to self-government and maintain the cause of human liberty in the Senate as powerfully as it has been fought for on the field.

THE PRESBYTERIAN TEA MEETING.

The third anniversary festival of the Pres- byterian Church was held on Nov. 16, at Buckley's Hall, and was a grand success, socially and financially. The hall was taste- fully decorated with evergreens and the flags of all nations. At the head were the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes; and under- neath in large letters was the appropriate in- scription of "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Beneath this again was the celebrated motto "Nee tamen consumabatur." On the one side of the hall was the Royal Arms neatly designed, with "God Save the Queen" and on the other the crest of the Prince of Wales with the accompanying "Ioh Dien." The tables were, without ex- aggeration, tasteful even to magnificence, and the eatables generally were of a most attrac- tive character. Ex-Chief Justice Cameron presided. Among those on the platform and around it, we noticed His Excellency Govern- or Kennedy and Secretary His Honor Chief Justice Needham, the Reverend Dr. Evans, Rev. Mr. Somerville, and the Rev. Mr. Duff. After tea was over, the Chairman read notes of apology from some of the Church of England clergymen; after which, the Rev. Mr. Somerville made an eloquent and telling speech, the substance of which was that the movement of the Presbyterian Church in that matter was a Christian movement, and he saw its uses in more ways than one. It brought all denominations to- gether; it inspired all with a disposition to co-operate in doing good; it created a field for and brought forward energy that in all probability would otherwise lie dormant. When he witnessed the rapidity with which the arrangements of the meeting were got up and completed, it gave him a profound re- spect for the energy of his congregation. He was glad to see members of all other denomi- nations present, and hoped that although they might all differ conscientiously on matters of doctrine they would unite in the one great cause, the cause of God. Unity, strange as it might appear, grew from antagonism. There could be really no unity if all were alike. The atoms or particles of sand on the anti-hill were all similar in appearance, but there was no unity among them, and so it would be with men if they were all alike; the great unity was the unity of antagonism. He did not care particularly what church a man went to, so long as he attended any; for it kept him from spending his Sundays in running about like the dog of the Siwash. The rev. gen- tleman illustrated his remarks with anecdotes that kept the audience in roars, and com- mended from the presence of so large a number of ladies and gentlemen there that evening, that Victoria was far from "caving in." Such energy as had been shown by those who got up the festival would conserve any coun- try.

After the applause which greeted the rev. gentleman's remarks had subsided, and in- deed after several of the subsequent speeches, the choir sang a number of sacred melodies. His Excellency Governor Kennedy then arose, and hoped that nothing he would say would interrupt the flow of harmony they had just heard from the choir. He was exceed- ingly gratified at receiving the invitation to attend the festival, and would have been equally so had it come from any other do- mination. His position prevented him from showing any partiality to any particular caste or creed; but that only enabled him to enter with greater sincerity into all their move- ments in any good cause. His Excel- lency then went on to congratulate the ladies on their efforts, and hoped that they would equally exert themselves in other an- very desirable causes; that they would use their influence in keeping their husbands, brothers or fathers, as the case might be, from attending places which they themselves could not attend. He was glad to see so many persons taking an interest in religious matters, and so much unity, as the present occasion showed, among the members of dif- ferent denominations.

Chief Justice Needham then arose and said he congratulated the Presbyterian Church in getting up such a festival as the

present, and he endorsed the views of the eloquent Presbyterian parson in calling it a Christian movement. There was pleasing evidence around him that no narrow sectarian spirit entered into the proceedings. He also agreed with Mr. Somerville that there could be no unity where there was apathy, and where antagonism was altogether absent. It was right that there should be opposition in everything—in trade, for it conducted to energy; in politics, for it conducted to good government; and in religion itself, for giving more vigor to those who were weak against the vices of life. It was this latter opposition that peopled up the most pros- perous part of the American continent. It was religious opposition that drove the Pil- grim Fathers from England to clear the forests of the New World. Such opposition should be respected; for he believed above all things which a man should defend to the last were his religious opinions. The Chief Justice concluded a very able and eloquent speech, and was followed by

The Rev. Dr. Evans, who enlarged upon the benefits of such occasions as the present, and was proud to hear from His Excellency's lips the noble sentiments of liberality in religious matters. He hoped that if there were any on Vancouver Island who felt it denominated in coming into contact with denominations other than their own, that such meetings as the present would tend to give them a higher idea of Christianity, and conduce ultimately to their moral improve- ment. The rev. gentleman then alluded to the gradual growth of the Presbyterian Church in the colony, and hoped, with the Rev. Mr. Somerville, that the day was not far distant when a Presbytery would be es- tablished, and when its field of operations would extend over a united colony.

Speeches were then delivered by the Rev. Mr. Duff, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Lang, Mr. Wright, Mr. Turner and Mr. Mitchell, after which a benediction was called down upon all present, and the highly gratified assemblage dispersed. Taking it altogether, the festival was a brilliant affair; about four hundred persons, enumerating among their number some of the principal inhabitants of the place being present. To the ladies of the Presbyterian congregation is due every credit. They have labored, in conjunction with the Committee, with an energy and a perseverance worthy the cause in which their services have been enlisted, and their labors have been crowned with the most marked success.

THE "CHRONICLE" CIRCULATION.

Victoria, Nov. 13, 1865.

To THE PROPRIETORS OF THE COLONIST: Gentlemen,—In pursuance of instructions received from you, I waited on the prop- rietors of the Chronicle, on the 8th instant, to ascertain from them the name of the "re- spectable merchant," in whose hands their \$200 had been lodged to cover your deposit of a similar amount; also to obtain from them their proposed terms of reference (they having declined yours). They refused to name the "respectable merchant," and in- formed me that the terms would be placed in my hands during office hours on Friday. On Saturday I received the enclosed docu- ment from them:

"MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY CHRONICLE. The matter in dispute to be referred to Mr. George Wallace or Mr. J. P. Davies. The original proposition of the COLONIST (as to number of sheets printed), to be ad- hered to, and circulation held to mean the publication.

Affidavits of pressman and the proprietors of the Chronicle to establish publication. A ward to be made within two days from date of reference. The remaining terms as proposed by the COLONIST are accepted, with the exception of books, which will not be produced unless the opposing party's books are also brought forward and submitted to inspection."

The name of the "respectable merchant" was still withheld.

On Monday I called again at their office with fresh memoranda of terms, signed by you agreeing to one of the referees named by them, accepting the offer to settle the question in their own words, allowing the question as to what is meant by "circulation," to be determined by the arbitrators before refer- ence, and leaving nothing open to any ob- jection on their part. I was informed that the terms proposed would not be accepted, and the "respectable merchant" turned out to be the original stakeholder, Mr. Geo. Wallace.


I am of opinion that the matter cannot be carried out on any terms, as they are evi- dently determined neither to abide by their own offer, nor to expose the weakness of their cause. I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, HENRY C. COURTNEY, Solicitor, Langley street.

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Earl Russell has graciously favored J. T. Davenport with the following extract of a despatch from Mr. Webb, H. B. M.'s Consul at Manila, dated Sept. 17, 1864:—"The remedy most efficacious in its effects (in Epidemic Cholera) has been found to be **CHLORO-DYNE**, and with a small quantity given to me by Dr. Burke I have saved several lives." Earl Russell commented to the College of Physicians, that he had received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Manila, to the effect that cholera had been raging fearfully, and that the only remedy which had effected a cure was **CHLORO-DYNE**—See "Lancet," December 31, 1864.
From W. Vesalius Pettigrew, M.D., Hon. F.R.C.S., England, formerly Lecturer upon Anatomy and Physiology at St. George's Hospital, London: "I have used it in Consumption, Asthma, Diarrhoea and other diseases, and am most perfectly satisfied with the results."
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W. M. SEARBY, Agent for Vancouver Island and British Columbia. j24 17w

Michael Fitzpatrick.
INFORMATION WANTED OF MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, a native of New York City, who left Clayton, Contra Costa County, California, two years ago last August. A little more than a year ago he was in Victoria, V. I., intending to go to Skeke river. Information addressed Patrick Fitzpatrick, post office San Francisco, California, will be thankfully received by his father and sisters. e10 law & w

The Invalid's Friend.
HOLLOWAY'S PILLS


Nervous Disorders.
What is more fearful than a breaking down of the nervous system? To be excited or nervous in a small degree is most distressing, for where can a remedy be found? Here is one—Drink but little wine, beer, or spirits, or far better, abstain from them altogether; do not take coffee—weak tea is preferable; get all the fresh air you can; take three or four of the Pills every night; eat plenty of solids, and avoid the use of soap. If these golden rules are followed, you will be happy in mind, strong in body, and forget you have any nerves.

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If there is one thing more than another for which these Pills are so famous, it is their purifying properties, especially their power of cleansing the blood from all impurities, and removing dangerous, and envenomed secretions. Universally adopted as the one grand remedy for all the complaints these Pills never fail, never weaken the system, and always bring about what is required.

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