

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday September 24, 1867.

The Decline in Legal Tenders.

No explanation is offered in our despatches as to the causes that have conspired to create the late sudden and alarming fall in the price of United States legal tender notes. A few days ago greenbacks were quoted at 74@75 cents. Yesterday the quotation was 69½, with no transactions. In time of war, the value of gold was regulated by the success or non-success of the Union arms. If a severe check was experienced by General Grant; or if a rumor was circulated that Sherman, in his "march to the sea," had been annihilated; or that McClellan or Pope had been driven into the entrenchments of Washington, gold rose and greenbacks declined. But when news came that Grant had defeated Lee, that Sherman had made his appearance with his victorious hosts on the Atlantic seaboard, or that Joe Hooker had fought and won a "battle above the clouds," gold fell and greenbacks advanced. So completely at one time was the existence of Confederacy supposed to depend upon the prolongation of Stonewall Jackson's life, that when the news came of his death gold in New York declined ten per cent., and when Mr Lincoln was killed greenbacks turned and descended the financial ladder. In times of fierce excitement, when to the arbitrament of arms has been confided the safety of a nation, wonderful changes in the value of its securities are not to be wondered at. But in a time like the present, when the disturbing elements of war are at rest, and the country is left to the enjoyment of comparative quiet, and when we are daily told that the national debt is being reduced at the rate of \$100,000,000 per annum, so great a fall in the value of the national securities is a fact worthy of serious attention. For some time back we have received rumors that Mr Seward was about to retire from the Cabinet; but those rumors were very indefinite and are more than likely to have no foundation in fact. The recent removal of the military commanders in the South cannot, surely, have brought about the change. Perhaps the retirement of the Secretary of War and the appointment of General Grant to fill the vacancy may have exerted an unfavorable influence, but changes have occurred in the Cabinet before without the currency of the country being depreciated thereby. The price of gold in the market is an unerring barometer of the political state of a country, and the more we ponder over the alarming decline in legal tenders, the more we are convinced that it is attributable to a want of confidence on the part of capitalists as to the stability of the present Government.

Wednesday, Sept 18. HONORS TO JEFF DAVIS.—The ex-President of the Confederacy recently visited, by invitation, the Theatre Royal of Montreal, to witness a performance for the benefit of his suffering country. He was accompanied by his son and three female members of his family. On entering the theatre, which, we are told, was densely crowded with the elite of the city, the President and party were saluted with cheer upon cheer, the whole audience, from pit to gallery, rising to their feet to give emphasis to the cheering, and shouting Jefferson Davis at the top of their voices, one excited John Bull exclaiming, 'We shall live to see the South a nation yet,' whereupon the excitement continued for a half hour, during which Jeff frequently rose to his feet and bowed his grateful thanks to his admirers. After the performances, the closing piece of which was, very appropriately, the farce of 'On his Last Legs,' the President was met by a large crowd which had gathered around the doors of the building for the purpose of giving him another manifestation of the sympathy felt by John Bull for the fortunes of the leader of the rebellion. With regard to the physical appearance of Jeff, as shown on this occasion, it is said his hair and beard are fast turning white, that his face was haggard and careworn, and that his entire looks and demeanor betokened an old and broken-down man.

IT IS SAID that certain of the residents of Port Townsend are petitioning to have another grand jury empaneled, with the object of finding a true bill against Tripp and Keys, who killed the sailors there in self-defence. It seems to us that the people of that town ought to indict the officials for being accessories to the slaying before the fact. They knew that Tripp, an American, had been hued from the place and forced with his family to seek on a foreign shore that protection which his own countrymen denied him; and they were aware that the sailors were preparing to renew the attack upon his return. Instead of arresting the doomed men they allowed them to repeat the assault, and their blood rests on the officers and not on Tripp and Keys, who fired in self-defence. In our opinion the Port Townsanders had better "let the dead bury the dead," and cease to refer to an occurrence that reflects no credit either on themselves or their officials. [Since the above was written we learn that a fresh grand jury has been summoned and a true bill found against Tripp and Keys, notwithstanding they were cleared by the first jury! The alleged murderers are in Victoria, and a special officer from Port Townsend has arrived to arrest them.]

FORTIFICATIONS AND NAVY YARD ON PUGET SOUND.—It is said that the U. S. Navy Yard site has been selected at Bainbridge Island, near Port Townsend. The principal fortification will be made at Point Wilson at the entrance of what is known as Admiralty Inlet at the head of Fuca Straits. The inlet, at this point is not more than four miles across to Whidby's Island, where a high bluff faces Point Wilson, and which will probably also be fortified. Three miles south of the fortification, are the town, bay, and beautiful harbor of Port Townsend. The second fortification will be at "The Narrows," about fifty miles up the Sound; the shores here are so near each other as to render it impossible for anything to pass when disturbed from either of the high bluffs towering over them.

LATER FROM SITKA.—The schooner Nor Wester arrived from Sitka last evening, having left that port on the 20th August. The weather was delightful at New Archangel. Game was obtained in the greatest abundance. A fine fat deer sells for 80 cts. The Victorians there are all well and doing well. When the Lincoln arrived at Sitka an order was issued to prevent any more lots being procured, and the holders of lots previously taken up are asking several hundred dollars for them. There are said to be rich diggings on Copper River, but the Indians there are vicious, numerous and warlike and have no love for the whites.

SHIP-BUILDING.—The ship-builders on the Sound are preparing for extensive orders next spring. Three yards are already in operation, and four vessels are on the stocks—two of the number ships. The cheapness of material on Puget Sound and the numerous splendid sites for yards that abound on its shores, hold out great inducements to California builders to establish their yards on the Sound instead of as heretofore freighted the timber to San Francisco and building the ships there. A new ship-yard is projected by Capt George Walker at Long Bay, near Olympia, W. T. The Nicholas Biddle is still lying on the beach at Port Madison undergoing repair.

THE RIFLE MATCH.—The match between ten men of the Fleet and ten of the Victoria Volunteers will take place to-morrow at the Naval Barracks, on the west side of Esquimalt harbor. The shooting will commence at 10, sharp. At 9½ o'clock a boat will leave Esquimalt for the grounds, and at 2½ o'clock in the afternoon a boat will leave the steps at Esquimalt with any lady and gentleman friends who may desire to see the match. The Zealous band will be in attendance.

GOOD TEMPLARS' PIC-NIC.—The Good Templars of this city, accompanied by numerous lady friends, proceeded in boats to Curtis' Point yesterday, where a picnic was indulged in. The day was the anniversary of the organization of the Lodge. The weather was delightful and the enjoyment of the participants unbounded. A band accompanied the party, and upon nearing the wharf on the return played the National Anthem.

REDUCTION IN GAS.—The Gas Company announces a discount in the price of gas of five per cent (37½ cents per thousand feet) to consumers burning from one to two thousand feet of gas weekly, and of ten per cent (75 cents per thousand feet) to consumers burning two thousand feet or upward.

LIVE STOCK SALE.—Mr Backus sold at auction, yesterday, at Stelly's Yard, Johnson street, about thirty fine hogs, which realized very satisfactory prices. The sale was numerously attended by farmers and others desiring to improve the breed of this class of stock.

REAL ESTATE SALE.—We beg to direct attention to the extensive sale of city and suburban property to-day, by Davies & Co auctioneers. Some of the lots include desirable residences, and are worthy the consideration of intending buyers.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—This body met last evening. A report of the proceedings is crowded out to-day. When the vote of \$26 for refreshments furnished the Fire Department came up, Councillor Lewis vacated his seat and explains his action in a card.

BENEFIT OF MISS SOLEDAD.—We understand that the Bianchi Opera Troupe have generally tendered a benefit to Miss Soledad, the pleasing young actress, danseuse and vocalist, and that the performance will come off on Saturday evening.

BIANCHI OPERA TROUPE.—The concert last evening by this talented troupe was the finest of the series, and the vocalists were frequently encored. We reserve further remarks until to-morrow.

TOBACCO AND CIGARS.—Frank Campbell, veteran tobacconist, announces the receipt of a large invoice of choice brands of cigars and tobacco. In passing the Adelphi Corner, drop in and try a sample of each.

FUCA STRAITS COAL MINE.—Mr Edgar, from Clallam Bay, reports that the work is being vigorously prosecuted, and that great confidence is felt that a great seam of fine bituminous coal will shortly be reached.

SILVER VEIN.—It is reported that a rich vein of silver ore has been discovered between the Straits and Gray's harbor by some parties who were cutting a trail. Specimens have been brought out for assay.

ACCIDENT.—A Mr Vanwormer was dreadfully injured on last Sunday morning by falling down the hold of the British ship Cleaveland, lying at Port Townsend.

SOLIERE.—Maguire's Band will give one of their pleasant (and first of the season) soirees, this evening, commencing at 9 o'clock, at the Germania Sing Verein Hall, Yates street.

BRISK.—Eleven lumber vessels arrived at Townsend harbor on one day last week. Business is very brisk at all the mills on the Sound.

HEALTH OFFICER.—We learn that Dr. Trimble has been appointed health officer of this colony. The appointment could no been more worthily bestowed.

A RUSSIAN BEIG from San Francisco anchored in Esquimalt harbor last evening. She will load with coals at Nanaimo for Sitka.

Paris Letter.

(Special Paris and Continental Correspondence.)

PARIS, July 26, 1867.

"HIT HIM HARD—HE HAS NO FRIENDS."

Poor M. Roubert, it is said, notwithstanding the beautiful diamond cross he received from the Emperor for having so bravely withstood the pummelling from M. Thiers and M. J. Favre on the Mexican question, wishes to retire into private life; but the Emperor will not hear of it, and His Majesty is 'moving heaven and earth' in order to persuade, what is now called his Vice-Emperor, to remain in office. One of the favorite modes of attack adopted by our opposition in the Corps Legislatif is to endeavor to prove that the Imperial Government is in contradiction to itself. And yet what it reprehends so strongly from time to time in the conduct of the ministry it was guilty of itself in the discussion of Monday on the budget, when Mons. Garnier Pages affirmed that Germany, as at present constituted, ought not to cause any disquietude to France; whilst M. Jules Favre (whose nose, by the way, is always bleeding), on the contrary, declared that a state of things now existed on the other side of the Rhine which might become dangerous to French interests. However, the language of both these opposition leaders was moderate as compared with that of some preceding discussions. M. Garnier Pages (here called *l'homme aux longs cheveux*, or the man with the long hair) communicated to the Chamber the impressions of his visit to Berlin.

ROYAL VISITS TO THE CHAMPS DE MARS.

The royal pilgrimage to the Champs Mars still continues; but as the Imperial Court is still in mourning for the unfortunate Emperor of Mexico, and cannot receive any guests for the present, the royal visitors are forced to keep the strictest incognito, a circumstance which must assuredly be a great comfort to them, as they are thus enabled to visit the wonders in the Champs de Mars with as much liberty as either Mr. Brown or Mrs. Smith. They will not be subjected as were the Czar, the King of Prussia and the Sultan, to the mobbing of the ill behaved crowd. It is asserted that the Viceroy was so annoyed at being followed about at the Exhibition that he bought a *gibus*, which he took with him under his coat, and when at the Exhibition he popped his *peg* into his pocket and put on the *gibus*, by which means he passed unheeded through the crowd and was able to look at the exhibits without being worried by the exhibitors.

LOLA MONTEZ—LOUIS OF BAVARIA.

The veteran ex-King of Bavaria, the protector of the well known Countess of Leidsfeld, better known as Lola Montez, is now in Paris, and, like the rest of his royal brethren, is doing the Exhibition. Though upwards of eighty years of age, His Majesty is strong and active, and it is very evident that when going through the galleries of the Exhibition he is more than a match for many of his suite, who show signs of fatigue.

THE REAL STRAUSS IN PARIS.

Those who love music should have gone to the Circle International at the Exhibition, as Strauss—the real Strauss, and not the clown who wields the *baton* at the balls of the Opera in the winter—has been delighting the visitors to the Exhibition by his brilliant manner in which his band has been executing waltzes by his father.

NADAR AND HIS BALLOON.

Nadar, who undertook so perilous a journey last year and came down in such a sorry plight in Hanover, is again amusing the Parisians on Sundays by ascensions from the Place des Invalides; but his popularity is on the wane.

NOTHING LIKE IMPUDENCE.

Only the carriages of royalty are admitted within certain portions of the Exhibition of the Champ de Mars. The other day Mlle. Schneider, the popular actress, went in her carriage to visit it. The officer on duty stopped the carriage immediately, upon which Mlle. Schneider said, "I am the Grand Duchess of Girelstein." The worthy functionary, who is not very learned in aristocratic matters, touched his hat with great respect and humility, apologized and allowed the carriage to proceed. The Duchess de Girelstein is a character which Mlle. Schneider is now playing with great success at the Theatre des Varietes, on the Boulevard de Montmartre.

THE REAL SIMON PURE.

The Empress was not quite so successful on her last visit to the Exhibition as Mlle. Schneider. Her Majesty wished to see the representation of the new route through the Suez Canal; but it being before the time the Exhibition was usually opened the officer refused to allow her admission. The Empress told him she was a friend of M. Lesseps, and she was certain he would allow her to go in if he were there. The Dogberry was inexorable, and the Empress, not wishing to disclose her rank, would have had to go away if one of her ladies had not assured the officer that the lady was really a friend of M. Lesseps.

THE POLISH ASSASSIN.

The world will by this time know that the would-be assassin of the Czar has been found guilty of murder, with extenuating circumstances, and sentenced to hard labor for life. It is not yet known whether he will be sent to Cayenne or to the new French penal settlement of New Caledonia. This mitigated expiation of a crime which has caused Russia to quiver in her utmost fibre, will, it is feared by many, produce a disagreeable impression in "All the Russias." Others, looking at the matter from a Western point of view, congratulate themselves and Europe on a result which, refusing to the perpetrator of the attempt near the cascade in the Bois de Boulogne the *prestige* of the scaffold, clothes him and his crime in the vulgar ignominious living of the convicted felon; but it is scarcely to be expected that this view will be taken in Russia. The people of that country, still primitive in their ideas, no doubt, do not imagine that the gallows or the guillotine can ever serve as a pedestal to fame, or that a criminal is less guilty for having fired upon a man because that man happens to be an Emperor. The French jury decided according to its conscience, and it is not for the public to discuss its verdict, standing as it does on inviolable ground; but if ever a reason of State ought to prevail it is certainly in a case like this, in which one of the greatest principles of social conservatism and mutual guarantee between peoples was at stake.

GOOD HAMLET! CAST THY HYBRID COLOR OFF.

The Court mourning for the unfortunate Maximilian will soon come to an end, and it is asserted that at the expiration of the same some festivities will take place in honor of the young Kings of Bavaria and Portugal, now staying in Paris "doing" the Exposition. I must remark, by the way, that the rain has been coming down in torrents for the last ten days in Paris, and an excursion to the World's Fair is now more like a water party than anything else. Those who wish to enjoy the sights in the so-called park must be provided with either galoshes or stilts, like the peasants in the South of France, for a quarter part of the grounds are at present under water; the pools and puddles made by the dripping from the verandah are innumerable.

THE RECLUSE OF MIRAMAR.

Less cheering is the picture at Miramar. Our correspondent from Trieste informs us that the visit of the Queen of the Belgians to the Empress Carlotta does not appear to have produced the good effect which was expected. Since the interview the august sufferer absolutely refuses to leave the chateau, to resume her daily walks in the grounds, or even to take nourishment.

DUNDREARY.

The great dramatic event of the week, for those who understand the Anglo-Saxon language, has been the debut of Mr Sothorn at the Salle Vendouur, where he intends playing for a limited number of nights. For many weeks past the public of this Capital have been what the French call intrigued, by the life-sized portrait of a gentleman with a glass stuck in eye and counting his fingers. This portrait, which is evidently a magnified photographic *carte de visite*, has been pasted on almost every wall in Paris, pretty much in the same manner as the immense American circus poster, which shows us the most extraordinary, and one would say, impossible feats of horsemanship, and which meets one's gaze in every street of the French capital.

M. Sothorn may fairly say, "Veni, vidi, vici!" To say that his success here will bear comparison for a moment with his tremendous popularity in England and America, would be hazardous; but the great English actor may be quite sure that the British and American residents in Paris, the nomad tribes which have flocked here from the uttermost corners of the earth, and the intelligent portion of the Parisian population who are somewhat better versed in the English language and literature than the critics who instruct them, will ensure him a delightful audience for the brief period that he can be spared from his English and American engagements. It was an easy conquest for this consummate artist to convulse his countrymen with laughter; but it was no slight triumph for him to have produced the same effect on his French admirers, whose droll incoherency must have been increased by the stammer, which is an indispensable attribute of the very soft class.

TRAIN OF CARS ON FIRE.—From the Buffalo Express of July 30th, we take the following account of the burning of a train of cars laden with oil on the Lake Shore Railroad:

On Saturday night, about ten o'clock, a freight train of forty-six cars, on the Lake Shore railroad, a part of which were laden with petroleum, met with a

serious disaster about three miles from Brockton, one of the cars taking fire from some unknown cause, and bursting forth with such force as to throw three or four others from the track. The concussion was so great as to burst the tanks, and the oil was poured upon the track and into the gutters, flooding each side for a distance of a thousand feet or more. The blazing oil at once spread along the track, communicating with the cars laden with casks of crude oil. By well directed efforts the conductor of the train was enabled to detach all but some twenty cars and relieve them from danger, some of which were also laden with petroleum. The balance of the train was entirely consumed by a fire of terrible intensity. As near as we could ascertain, being on the spot at six o'clock in the morning, some twenty or more cars were entirely destroyed, together with some five or six hundred barrels of oil, and all the other property on board that was not saved by the timely efforts of those in charge of the train, in extricating a portion of the cars on each side of the fire.

The fire spread with fearful rapidity along the track on each side for nearly a quarter of a mile, and until the oil reached the culvert and left the road, consuming in its way fences, telegraph poles, and every other destructible article that came in its path. Indeed, the liquid fire spread with such frightful rapidity that a shanty occupied by a poor woman some distance from the scene of the disaster, was lapped up by the flames with so little ceremony that the occupant barely escaped with her life. The debris of the wreck and that portion of the track upon which the cars were consumed show the intensity of the fire. Heavy rails and even car wheels were melted and bent in every shape. The ties and rails of the track for a distance of several hundred feet are so used up as to render it necessary to replace them before the road can be operated there.

[COMMUNICATED.]

EDITOR COLONIST—I feel it due to the public, and especially to my constituents, briefly to explain the reasons why I vacated my seat at the City Council last evening after the vote was passed that the sum of \$26 should be paid out of the Municipal funds for refreshments furnished to the Fire Department on the 3rd inst. Consistently with the duties I have sworn to discharge, I do not believe that any money can be appropriated by the City Council unless it had been previously discussed and agreed to at a regular meeting of the Council. Apart from my opinion as one of the City Council, as a taxpayer I object to the appropriation of the public funds in any manner not authorized by the Incorporation Act.

Yours respectfully,

RICHD. LEWIS.

Councillor for Yates street Ward.

The Alexandria started for the river yesterday morning with freight and passengers. She will return to-night.

The Board of Education will meet to-day at 12 m., to receive the resignation of Mr Waddington and to name his successor.

CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM and Mr Brew left Quebec on Monday morning, and probably reached William Creek the same evening.

COLD IN SPITZENBERGEN.—No description will furnish an idea of the rigor of the six months' winter of this part of the world. Stones crack with the noise of thunder; in a crowded hut the breath of the occupants will fall in flakes of snow; wine and spirits turn to ice, the snow burns like caustic; if iron touches the skin it brings the flesh away with it; the soles of your stockings may be burnt off your feet before you feel the slightest warmth from the fire; linen taken out of boiling water instantly stiffens to the consistency of a wooden board, and heated stones will not prevent the sheets of the bed from freezing. If these are the effects of the climate within an airtight, fire-warmed, crowded hut, what must they be among the dark, storm-lashed mountain peaks outside?

GENERAL GRANT IN NEW YORK.—"Burleigh" writes as follows to the Boston Journal:

General Grant has been spending a few days in the city. He has gone to Long Branch as the guest of Chas. A. Stetson, Jr., where a grand ball is to be given in his honor on Thursday night. He has kept very quiet since he has been in New York. He dislikes parade and attention. He says he never gets into a carriage on great occasions, when crowds surround him and shout his name, but what, mingling with the pageant, are the groans of the wounded, the sick boys in the hospital and dying on the battle field. He has two or three cosy nooks in New York into which he retires with a few friends to enjoy a confidential chat. He is very peculiar in his habits. It is said he has not drunk a glass of spirits since he was appointed Lieutenant General. He is breaking himself of his inordinate use of cigars, sensible that in the inaction of peace the custom hurts his health. Nobody can get anything of him by asking questions. He seldom answers any that are put to him; but if left to himself he will talk freely and clearly on all public matters. He is not without his solicitude in regard to public events. He considers matters more critical than before the surrender of Lee.

By Electric Telegraph. SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH

Eastern States. New York, Sept. 10.—The President is strong for the removal from the Cabinet.

Steadman assures the President not a candidate for the Ward. President informed Steadman that no change will be made in the Freedmen's Bureau at present. Granger should have the place.

BELFAST, Sept. 10.—Four Deputations are elected from the Republican majority here reduced to 1300.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Sept. 10.—Five spice mills of C. J. Fellburned to-day. The loss heavy. The Herald's Havana special says that Admiral Tegehoff arrived on the 25th of August. Santa Anna still continues to at San Juan d'Ulloa.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 11.—to-day was the Hayes-Higgin procession. Long before the time arrived, Montgomery street thronged with men, women. Every widow, roof and balcony appropriated by crowds of people witness the proceedings. From 6 o'clock the procession moved street down Montgomery. With his hand organ, was proceeding in which rode Messrs Sweeney. Close behind him officer Bloomer, carrying a small money on his shoulder. Then band. A large force of police Chief Crowley, accompanied excitement knew no bounds, and uproar of the vast throng of around the performer and above, the music of the little pipers heard more than forty feet. Arms were brought to the collection principal part was thrown in Hall-dollars and packages of flying from every direction, and crowd would pick it from the throw it over to the carriage, clothing, books, &c., came through the windows, roofs and balconies of the crowd beneath. They the carriage in which the rest this hour the result has not been but the cash receipts approximated \$10,000. The century plant at Oakland blossomed, the stalk having about 40 feet. The Bank of California have usual monthly dividend of aggregating fifty thousand dollars.

MONEY MARKET.

Gold was 144½ in New York this morning. Exchange 109½. Tender market has declined, 70 selling, with but little done. Drafts have advanced 28 per cent.

PRODUCE MARKET.

Flour—City brands, super 190 lbs, \$5.00; extra 1st 180 lbs, \$4.80; 2d 180 lbs, \$4.60; 3d 180 lbs, \$4.40; 4th 180 lbs, \$4.20; 5th 180 lbs, \$4.00; 6th 180 lbs, \$3.80; 7th 180 lbs, \$3.60; 8th 180 lbs, \$3.40; 9th 180 lbs, \$3.20; 10th 180 lbs, \$3.00; 11th 180 lbs, \$2.80; 12th 180 lbs, \$2.60; 13th 180 lbs, \$2.40; 14th 180 lbs, \$2.20; 15th 180 lbs, \$2.00; 16th 180 lbs, \$1.80; 17th 180 lbs, \$1.60; 18th 180 lbs, \$1.40; 19th 180 lbs, \$1.20; 20th 180 lbs, \$1.00.

Eastern States.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 12.—Fever is still raging with severity here, and also at Portland, Me., Sept. 12. Linn is elected by one or two majority. The Republican since last year.

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.—The Roberts Fenian attempt has Meade, on his recent visit failed to discover a single Fenian.

Canada.

MONTRÉAL, Sept. 13th.—Friends will institute a serenade to show that 5000 francs were polled.

MONTRÉAL, Sept. 12.—Eduard Lord Monck as Governor next June. Gen. C. W. Mendenhall as Commandant the Canadian forces.

The International Bazaar.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Sept. 12.—The great International Bazaar opened between the Ward brothers at St. Johns, Newfound yesterday. The Wards' opponents one minute eight seconds.

Europe.

ATHENS, Sept. 12.—France had sent a joint note urging the Government to further hostilities while the maintains neutrality with Crete.

BERLIN, Sept. 13.—The Parliament of the North meets to-day formally. King's speech said that with the rest of Germany by treaties, and assured that the financial condition of Prussia is in an excellent condition.

MADRID, Sept. 10.—The