

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

## And Victoria Chronicle.

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**WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST**  
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During the past three weeks we have opened our columns to correspondence on both sides of the Confederation question. In doing so we have devoted a great deal of space that would otherwise have been employed in the production of reading matter of a different, and to many of our readers, no doubt, of a more interesting character. Our object has been to have the question fully and fairly discussed; to afford the friends of the scheme an opportunity of stating the benefits that in their opinion would flow from Union; and to allow its opponents an equal chance of refuting the arguments advanced in its favor. Upon the part of the Confederationists the question has been ably handled. Upon the side of the Oppositionists, almost the only argument advanced worthy to be named is that of the "same system."

The principal powers of the Confederation, in case we should be a Confederacy, we would get aside any laws of a Province in case the same may be interfering rights and privileges of Protestants to have separate schools. We would legislate respecting Intemperance; but provincial laws are to be valid only when the laws of the Dominion create a Court of Appeal for so to establish other Courts the better execution of the Dominion.

**A. DE COSMOS:**  
**Parliament Expenses.**  
The disparity between the Canadian and American (as B. Young) would quote the Canadian Parliament from a rather than from the San Francisco, any school boy who would from Victoria to Ottawa by mail route, "can answer his question:—What would be the mileage paid to the member from British Columbia?" The Commons is fixed at \$6 per session not exceeding 30 days at time, \$600 for the entire be decided, Mr. Young, in expectations upon \$3,000 he should you be elected as a member; the Canadians are not O.

**Lincoln, made by Mr. Ames** for the State House at Boston but satisfactory to the Boston state that it might represent man as well as Mr. Lincoln.

sure, and declining to avail themselves of what would appear to be the only practicable means of escape from the burthens that are weighing us down and the difficulties that beset our path. We take pleasure in saying we believe the efforts of the opponents of this great scheme will avail nothing in staying the "march of Empire" westward. If we are not greatly misinformed negotiations are already in progress between the Imperial and Dominional Governments for the transfer of British Columbia. The people have decided in favor of it. The Legislature have UNANIMOUSLY asked for it "without delay." The Governor has announced his intention of advising the Home Government to consent to our incorporation with the Dominion. We have the oft-repeated sentiments of the members of the Canadian Government to prove that they are ready to receive us. It only remains, therefore, for the Imperial Government to give its assent and the PEOPLE of British Columbia to ratify the terms proposed, and the arrangement will be consummated.

**Monday, Feb. 17.**  
**The Orphans' Benefit.**  
Dear Madam.—On behalf of the Victoria Amateur Dramatic Club I have much pleasure in forwarding the enclosed check for Four Hundred and Fifty-seven dollars, eighty-eight cents (\$457 88), being the net proceeds of the performance given by the Club on the 4th inst. in aid of the Orphans under the charge of the Sisters of St. Ann's Convent. I remain, dear Madam, your very faithfully,  
ANNIE DENNY.

**M. WALLACE:**  
GENTLEMEN.—I have handed your check for Four Hundred and Fifty-seven dollars Eighty-eight cents, to Sister Marie Providence, Lady Superior, of St. Ann's Convent, for which she wishes to return you her sincere and heartfelt thanks. She expressed the most warm feelings of gratitude when informed how generously and cheerfully the public of Victoria came forward to patronise the performance. Gentlemen, I thank you for making me the bearer of your handsome offering, and remain,  
Yours respectfully,  
ANNIE DENNY.

**M. WALLACE:**  
P. S.—I am requested by the Treasurer to state that some moneys having only come to hand some little delay has occurred in closing the Benefit. All of yours,  
M. W.

**ARRIVAL FROM SAN FRANCISCO.**—The American clipper ship, Shooting Star, Capt Peck, 10 days from San Francisco; in ballast, arrived yesterday morning. The Shooting Star is bound for Nanaimo to load with coal for San Francisco. Capt Peck reports heavy fog in the straits, which detained him three days. The Shooting Star will be towed to Nanaimo by the Isabel.

**BRIDGE ACROSS THE KOKASATHA RIVER.**  
COWICHAN.—A petition numerously signed by the settlers in Cowichan District, craving Government aid for the erection of a bridge across the Kokasatha River, on a line with the main road from Victoria to Nanaimo, is about to be presented to the Governor. The aid solicited by the settlers for this most necessary—nay, indispensable work—is very trifling, the settlers themselves offering to supply the labor and timber required for the erection of the bridge. We do trust that the prayer of the petitioners, so moderately and modestly presented, will be at once conceded, and ere another winter sets in upon us this river will no longer prove an insurmountable barrier in the way of communication with these settlements.

**St. John's Church.**—Yesterday the Rev Mr. Hamilton, of H.M.S. Zeehoop, preached for the first time in this city. The congregation was very large, especially in the evening, all classes being attracted by the reputation of this eloquent divine. The sermons were both finished productions and full of earnest piety. As an extemporaneous preacher Mr. Hamilton has certainly no equal in this colony, and it is to be hoped we shall often have the benefit of hearing him during his stay amongst us.

**The Orphans' Benefit.**  
Editor, Colonist.—An epistle has just been pointed out to me in the Morning News, from "Enquirer," stating that although ten days had elapsed since the above benefit nothing had been heard of the proceeds from the parties concerned. As one of the parties concerned permit me to say that on Saturday morning I received per mail from New Westminster a liberal check for His Excellency's box, and also a small sum due from a gentleman of this city, thereby enabling me to make up the account; and within an hour of such receipt the proceeds were handed to the other parties concerned, viz. the Sisters of St. Ann's. In conclusion I would inform "Enquirer" that I once knew a man who made a large fortune by minding his own business, and leave him to draw a moral; or, should he have no business of his own to attend to, let him join the Dramatic Club (I will propose him if he can prove his respectability) and he may then acquire a right to enquire, and see that twenty-five or thirty gentlemen do not combine to defraud helpless orphans.

**Prize Productions on Beacon Hill.**  
Editor, Colonist.—I have been intimated that some who are willing to send contributions upon this subject have been deterred by the fear that their productions may, at some time be made a matter of joke or ridicule. I take the opportunity of stating that this cannot possibly occur, as all communications are desired to be sent in with motto and initials, and that the name only of the successful competitor will be announced. On the night of award the motto of the successful candidate will be declared, and the party writing under that motto and claiming the prize, will then have to make

known the initials accompanying it, with the view of insuring the impossibility of improper appropriation. On the night of award, the Prize productions will be read and also such others of merit as the time will admit. Further particulars in due time.

**The Nanaimo Benefit.**  
NANAIMO, V. I., 13th Feb. 1868.  
Editor, Colonist.—In your paper of Saturday last I think you mentioned our concert as having taken place for the benefit of the Schools. This is a mistake. The concert was given for the benefit of our public Schoolmaster who has been over 12 months without salary. We realized after deducting expenses the sum of \$98 12. The people turned out en masse. The performers were Mr Isaac Johns, Capt. Clark, A. C. Alport, Thomas Glahalm, Thomas Jones, and Charles A. Alport, assisted by the Philharmonic Society's band in their usual style. "The Women of England," "Tom Bowline," "Twenty Years Ago," and "Joe in the Copper," and several other fine songs were deservedly encored.

If you have room to let the people know who the benefit was for, it might induce others to follow our example.  
Yours, truly,  
CHAS. A. ALPORT.

**Eruption of Vesuvius.**  
(Correspondence of the London Times.)  
NAPLES, Nov. 20.  
As yet I have done scarcely more than note the fact of the eruption of Vesuvius, but so much has it increased since Wednesday last, and so marvellously beautiful is the spectacle, that it merits a more detailed report. Unlike those terrific eruptions which have been witnessed, and which cease with one great effort, this is a lava eruption increasing ever in force and beauty, and promising a duration of some weeks, if not months. If so—and it is the opinion of those most experienced in these matters—all the world may see it as soon as the groundless fears as to the state of Naples have vanished. For the first one or two nights the mountain was modest enough in its demonstrations—tongues of fire shot up to announce its internal agitation, and a thin stream of lava trickled down behind in the direction of Oitajans, which lies on the southeast side of Vesuvius. Some friends who went up there early gave a vague idea of the scene, and spoke of eight or ten new craters, being no more than so many fissures opened by the explosive force of the mountain, and which change in number and character from day to day. For the last two or three nights, however, the scene has been as grand as can well be conceived; but, before giving details, let me describe the actual state and appearance of the mountain. Since December, 1861, it has been almost quiescent, with the exception of one or two sulky and uncertain puffs, and our clear blue atmosphere has ceased to be marked with the spiral columns of smoke. On the very summit has gaped the huge crater, measuring nearly 700 feet in circumference, around which even children might have played; being careful only to avoid certain sulphurous exhalations which were emitted at intervals. During the last two years a small cone has been formed by the matter gradually ejected from this sulphurous hole; we could scarcely see its head above the walls of the large crater, but, within the last week, like some presumptuous stripling, it has shot up above its venerable parent, and this it is which has been fuming and spluttering, and storming with all the arrogant impatience of youth since last Wednesday. It has sent forth an immense quantity of lava, converting the surrounding crater into a lake of fire. At first the high circling walls kept it within bounds; but gradually it has risen and risen until it is now flowing down in several directions where the abrupt and irregular wall admits of a passage. The result has shown that it is lower in the direction of Ottajans, on the southeast, and those who do not care to make the ascent may have a glorious view of it from Sorrento. Still there is nothing like mounting to the top, so let us be off; yet, batten still, suppose us to have been done, and that last night, Giovanni Cozzolini, was our guide, who, by virtue of having accompanied Humboldt and many of the scientific and literary men of the age, expects his own name to be enrolled in literary annals. He is, however, a very safe and intelligent guide. There was no incident to mark until we got to the foot of the main cone,

when we heard the thunder of the mountain and felt the shocks as of an earthquake at every effort made to disgorge the liquid fire. Ascending by the usual road, we were compelled, on approaching the summit, to skirt a little round to the southeast, for two reasons—first, to get on the land side of the wind, which might have brought down upon us an inconvenient shower of stones; and, secondly, to obtain a better view of the main stream, which was fed, not only by the great crater, but by another orifice opened outside, about 20 feet in diameter. From this spot the stream of living fire, fall 20 to 30 feet in width, poured down to the bottom of the mountain rapidly, where it met with no obstacles, and where it did, struggle energetically until it carried everything before it. To the edge of the crater it was impossible to approach; the heat was scorching; and what would have been the consequences had the lava boiled over and come down upon us? It was difficult, therefore, to form any fair estimate of its size, but one might have supposed that it was not over 70 feet in diameter. It was not a moment, however, for figures, when nature was exhibiting her power in one of its grandest forms. There was a roar and a shock, and then shot forth flames and stones full 1,000 feet in height, at intervals of from one to five seconds, according to the watch of one of the party. These tremendous convulsions were repeated, and then came the descending shower, composed of stones of various sizes, some certainly half a ton in weight, judging by the bulk. We could mark their course by the eye as long as they retained their red heat, but on approaching the earth they blackened, and then the ear alone could tell what was spotting and pitting the earth around. By the same person who had already acted as calculator, it was declared that the descent occupied five seconds—much in excess, I should imagine, of the actual time. Precision, of course, was impossible in the excitement of such a scene, and if we say that 1,000 feet was the height attained we shall not be wide of the mark. It was a nervous proximity to danger on which to stand, so the whole party soon decamped, and got back to Naples shortly after midnight, awe-struck by a scene which never can be forgotten. Yet, without the fatigue of an ascent, and one can from the city enjoy a spectacle of marvelous beauty only diminished in proportions as compared with that which I have just described. There is no sound, but there are those everlasting flames, across the centre of which is sometimes drawn a swathe of dark clouds, giving to their summits the appearance of greater height; and the sky is glaring with a deep red color; and mighty stones, reduced by distance, are falling like myriads of stars on the summit of the mountain, the foot of which is wrapped in darkness. What a gorgeous scene, and how much more gorgeous it promises to be!

**ADMIRAL PORTER'S** idyllic description of St. Thomas as the place of all the earth, next to Walrusia, worthy to be called the Garden of Eden, contains one or two points which should meet the attention of the Committee on Retrenchment. The Admiral says that the poets require 15-inch guns and chains, to make them frigate. We don't know how many guns will be required, but our experience of that sort of business in the Rebellion makes us dread a return to it. The one thing that costs is a gun. We must have men to handle it and barracks to cover the men, and food and transportation, and powder for salutes, and all the paraphernalia of a peaceful military occupation, which costs, and numerous bays, without wasting money on coral reefs. On the top of this comes the story that Spain wants \$150,000,000 for Cuba. How much does King Theodore want for Abyssinia? Is not Lapland for sale? Can't we manage to buy a tract of Greenland?—*New York Tribune.*

**Mrs. E. Cady Stanton** writes mournfully to a Buffalo paper:—"By some fantastic trip of your type setters, my speech in St. James Hall on Saturday evening is suddenly terminated, and so linked to that of Mr. Train's that I am made to run off in an entirely new vein of eloquence. Among many other exploits, I am made to boast that I neither smoke, nor chew, nor drink, nor lie, nor steel, nor swear; as if such accomplishments were usual among American women!" In the Buffalo Express, women are to vote for "liberty and God," instead of "freedom and equality." In a speech, not long since, wherever I refer to my honored countrymen as "white males," I am reported as having "addressed them as 'white males.' All these are good jokes if credited to the printer's devil, but not to those who represent an unpopular idea, and carefully weigh their words."