H. Bay Co.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1864. NO. 6.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED

EVERY MORNING

(Sundays Excepted)

AT VICTORIA, V.I.

TERMS:

Annum, in advance $20 00
For Six Months, ... 5 00
Per Week, payable to the Carrier, ... 25
Single Copies, ... 10

Advertisements inserted on the most reasonable terms.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST

furnished to Subscribers for $6 a year; $3 for six months; $2 50 for three months; payable in advance.

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PUBLIC OPINION IN ENGLAND.

A few numbers back we gave the gist of two very important speeches lately delivered in England by Mr. Gladstone and Lord Stanley. Taking them together they probably approach nearer than anything else the enlightened public opinion of Great Britain. As emanations from men representing to a certain extent the interests of the two great conflicting political parties in England—Liberal and Conservative—they are interesting indices of the gradual dwindling away of the old party lines. Both statesmen agree in the necessity of diminishing the national burdens—of curtailing rather than extending the Empire, and of reducing the military forces by withdrawing them as much as possible from the colonies and dependencies. Both agree in the policy of non-interference in foreign affairs, and in devoting more care and attention to matters nearer home—all of which would indicate that the reign of diplomacy is to be superseded by that of statesmanship. It is complimentary to the financial genius of Mr. Gladstone to find his policy, generally speaking, approved of by so able a Parliamentary opponent. Lord Stanley believes in a reduction of the income tax, but not in the popular cry of "sweep it away altogether," for two substantial reasons: first, that it would destroy the balance of direct and indirect taxation, and throw a heavier proportion of the burden on those who do not at present contribute to the income tax; and second, that it would destroy the most effective machinery in the country for raising a large revenue on any national exigency. The Customs duties, he thinks, have been reduced almost enough already. He approves of a high tax or duty on spirits, on the score of morality, and opposes any considerable reduction on tobacco, principally because he thinks it undesirable to promote the consumption of the "weed" indefinitely. On the principle of simplifying taxation he believes in abolishing all trifling duties, where the amount raised is not very large. Lord Stanley is a decided unbeliever in exclusively direct taxation. His objection to the doctrine is "that, in the first place, it is utterly impracticable—the public won't have it; and, in the next place, it is utterly unjust." It would be exempting in practice three-fourths of the nation from all taxes, and throwing the whole of the burden upon the remaining fourth. If these ideas should make any progress in the public mind he might have a great deal more to say about them; but at present they are in the nature of speculation only, and he thinks they will long remain so.

On the great question of extending the franchise, Lord Stanley thinks to some extent as Mr. Gladstone, but is inclined to await the action of the people on the approaching dissolution of the House of Commons, which will take place next spring. There are other questions which, in his opinion, demand the attention of Parliament. "The English law," he considers, "even after modern reforms—perhaps the most cumbrous and complicated in Europe—wants to be consolidated and simplified. That is a process involving, no doubt, labor at the hands of persons to whom Parliament shall entrust it; but otherwise, the task is not especially difficult. There is that extraordinary system of purchased commissions in the Army, which he firmly expects to see done away with, at least, so far as regards the higher grades. There is the question of parish or union rating for poor-law purposes; and, connected, with it, that intricate problem, the law of settlement. It is known that the administration of the public charities is faulty, and he could not conceive of a better investment for the time and labor of a member than would be a Parliamentary inquiry into at least the chief of them with a view to utilise the vast funds at their disposal. There is the licensing system, which satisfies nobody, and the reform of which was recommended by a committee of the House of Commons ten years ago. In Ireland and Scotland the laws which regulate marriage are in a state only fit for a barbarous country. It cannot be said that what is called the private legislation of Parliament is in a condition altogether satisfactory; though it is easier to say that than to suggest a remedy. Then, the patent laws want amending, if the privilege of granting patents for inventions is to be retained, and that itself is a question for very serious discussion. A commission has been issued, and upon which he has the honor to sit, to inquire into the laws relating to capital punishment. Whatever opinion may exist as to the limits within which such punishment shall be inflicted, he thinks almost every one agrees as to the inexpediency of having cases tried over again in private at the Home Office after they have been publicly tried by a judge and jury."

It is a great proof of the stability, as well as the progressiveness of England to see her rising Statesmen apply themselves zealously to reforming abuses and legislating for the wants of the country, and the gratification is enhanced by knowing that this active principle for good is springing from that class of politicians who have been heretofore rather encumbrances than stimuli to progression. Probably the principal cause of this state of affairs is the increasing power of public opinion. Lord Stanley himself acknowledges that whoever may administer affairs it is opinion that governs. "Opinion is the stream, and politicians, with all respect to them, are the straw that float upon it." Public opinion, however, takes a wider range than what is ordinarily understood as politics. It is now happily directed to improving the social and political condition of the people. It is devising expedients for making the filth of cities a fertilizer of the soil instead of, by poisoning the water, a generator of disease. It is calling in the aid of science to provide more nutritious food for the masses without any additional expense—to build more healthy habitations and to attend more thoroughly to the sanitary regulations generally. There is, however, no limit to its range. It discusses the last trial of the Whitworth and Armstrong guns, and goes seriously into the question suggested by the obese Banting—whether five ounces of sugar taken weekly produces the marvellous quantity of one pound of fat. Nothing is too abstruse—nothing too practical. Nothing too great—nothing too insignificant for the public mind. If there is, in fact, any country in the world that is ever likely to reduce eating and drinking, killing and creating political power and political economy, to a mathematical rule, that country is undoubtedly Great Britain.

THE LADY'S REPENTANCE.—In the life of Dr. Raffles, just published, the following story was told in connection with a preaching journal in 1814. On our way from Wem to Hawkestone we passed a house, of which Mr. Lee told me the following occurrence:—"A young lady, the daughter of the owner of the house, was addressed by a man, who, though agreeable to her, was disliked by her father. Of course he would not consent to their union, and she determined to elope. The night was fixed, the hour came, he placed the ladder to the window, and, in a few minutes, she was in his arms. They mounted a double horse, and were soon at some distance from the house. After a while the lady broke silence by saying, 'Well, you see what a proof I have given you of my affection: I hope you will make me a good husband.' He was a surly fellow, and gruffly answered, 'Perhaps I may, and perhaps not.' She made him no reply, but, after a silence of some minutes, she suddenly exclaimed, 'O, what shall we do? I have left my money behind me in my room.' 'Then,' said he, 'we must go back and fetch it.' They were soon again at the house, the ladder was again placed, the lady remounted, while the ill-natured lover waited below. But she delayed to come, and so he gently called, 'Are you coming?' when she looked out of the window and said, 'Perhaps I may, and perhaps not;' then shut down the window, and left him to return upon the double horse alone. Was not that a happy thought on the lady's part—a famous joke?"

VIEWS OF NANAIMO.—Captain Leslie, of the Fideliter, has shown us some very good photographic views of the principal buildings of Nanaimo, taken by Mr. Tarvet, of the Vancouver Coal Company's service. Among them are the company's station, the Episcopal church and parsonage, the Wesleyan chapel, Mr. Franklin's residence, the railway station, &c. The views although taken by an amateur, are very well executed, quite equalling the ordinary professional efforts.

NEW YEAR'S FESTIVAL.—The good people of Nanaimo, whose public spirit, energy and hospitality are proverbial in this colony, intend to hold a grand New Year's Festival on the 1st January. Tea, speeches and dancing will be among the attractions of the occasion.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

By the arrival of the present mail we Standard, Oct. 21, have advices and papers from Bombay to the 28th ult., and Calcutta to the 20th ult.

His Excellency has summoned the members of his Legislative Council to meet in Calcutta on the 4th of November, which city is still to enjoy the title and honor of being the seat of the Imperial Government. His Excellency was desirous that the honor should be divided, and that Simla should enjoy it for six months out of the twelve: he made overtures to the Secretary of State for India on the subject, and requested that a Government House and Offices might be built there. These overtures have been rejected, but the Viceroy has been informed that during his incumbency Simla may be the headquarters of the Imperial Government for the six hot months of each year.

The army head-quarters camp will form at Umballa on the 5th of November, and march with the commander in chief, via Delhi, Meerut, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpore, Seetapore, to Lucknow, where there will be a great camp of exercise.

Bhootan is to be attacked. After every effort to secure the submission of the Bhootan chiefs, or some amends for their barbarous treatment of the British mission, has proved abortive, orders have been issued by the Government of India for the formation of such a force as will soon bring them to reason. The Bhootan field force will be as follows:—Two regiments of Bengal cavalry, of which the 5th, now at Julpiguree, is one; five regiments of Native Infantry; the 11th N. I., from Negode, the 12th N. I., from Cawnpore, the 13th N. I., of Julpiguree, the 25th Punjaub N. I., from the Presidency, and the 30th Punjaub N. I., from Benares. The Artillery will be—Captain Griffin's Battery of Mountain-train Artillery Armstrong 4-pounders of the Punjaub Irregular Force and the Eurasian Mountain-train Battery of Cheera Poonjee, the former being now on its march down country, and the latter ready to cross Assam to the Bhootan frontier. Two companies of sappers and miners, now ordered down country with all possible dispatch, will accompany the force, and the corps of Engineers will supply four officers, at least, for service in the field. Four commissariat officers will join, the senior being Captain A. McKenzie, just relieved from the Benares charge by Major Dunbar, and who has been ordered to proceed at once to Salibhgunge, and collect carriage for the field force. The Bhootan field force will be divided into two columns—one to be commanded by Brigadier General W. E. Maloney, now commanding in Assam, and the other by Colonel H. F. Dansford, C. B., with the rank of Brigadier General, lately commanding in the Cossyah Hills and Assam; with a general officer, Major General Showers, C. B., commanding the Presidency division, to command the whole force. It is intended to penetrate the Bhootan country from the frontier at four separate points; and we should think that the above-described force will, if ably directed, be amply sufficient to carry out all the objects and wishes of the Government, and put matters with the Bhootanese on a satisfactory footing.

Affairs have taken a new turn in Afghanistan. The Ameer of Cabool has made prisoners of his rebellious brother, Ufzul Khan, his son, and most powerful adherents. The following letter gives an account of the manner in which Ufzul Khan was made prisoner:—On Friday, the 22d, Rubbee-col-awwull (26th August), Sirdar Mahomed Ufzul Khan, with Mirza Ahd Khan and Nazir Haider, arrived in the Ameer's camp; and on being asked by Sirdar Mohamed Rafeek Khan, on the part of the Ameer, for the loan of a few thousand gold mohurs, Ufzul Khan replied that the revenue of Toorkistan consisted of goats, wheat and tunkas, a coin equal to four annas, and not of gold mohurs, and therefore he was sorry that he could not meet the Ameer's wishes. Sirdar Mahomed Rafeek Khan went to the Ameer and told him of the reply he had received from Ufzul Khan. On this the Ameer took Sirdar Ufzul Khan, Mirza Ahd Khan, and Nazir Haider prisoners. Ameer Shere Allee Khan then wrote a letter to Abdoolrahman Khan, son of Ufzul Khan, telling him that if he surrendered he would receive his allowance as before, otherwise the fort would be taken by force, and he would be put to the sword. Abdoolrahman Khan sent a verbal answer by Mohamed Sumeer Khan, who had been deputed by the Ameer, that he would send a decided reply after five days. In the meanwhile, Abdoolrahman Khan was taken prisoner, and the fort of Talkhte Bool, and the valuable property of Ufzul Khan, given up to plunder. The Ameer is now completely master of the situation.

The Viceroy has conferred the Star of India upon the Rajah of Kuppurtolah. The Rajah did good service in the mutiny, is a Christian, and a man of considerable ability.

The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned an increase of 60,000 rupees to his pension, amounting to five lakhs of rupees a year, formerly granted to his highness the Maharajah of Dhuleep Singh.

Gen. G. St. P. Lawrence, who is about to leave Rajpootana, was informed that the chiefs wished to present him. [illegible] meant. He replied that the [illegible] of the manner by which [illegible] willing to take of their above [illegible] the nature darbaric would be [illegible] agreeable. Orders were [illegible] throughout Rajpootana in [illegible] with the desire thus expressed.

Maharajah Jung Bhadoor [illegible] government for leave to send his [illegible] to the military schools to be educated [illegible] Allowed. The government of [illegible] that these schools were only [illegible] were qualifying themselves for [illegible] service.

A scheme relative to the [illegible] land communication between [illegible] provinces and Bankok, and [illegible] thus avoiding the voyage round [illegible] Peninsula, is now before the Government of India, and will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for final decision.

The question of the appointment of an Ordnance Minister for India, instead of as at present an inspector general for each of the three presidential governments, is now before the Government of India.

Punjaub coal has been tried in the locomotives of the Punjaub Railway, and found to answer 'as well as any English.' Its combustion was nearly perfect, leaving but very little clinker.

The faulty part of the telegraphic cable on the Massendem to Guador section was found buried on the ground, and has been separated from the cable. The section will shortly be in working order again.

Shah Abbas, son of the late ex-King of Delhi, a state prisoner in Rangoon, has been released on condition that he shall pass the rest of his life at Rangoon.

Feroze Shah, one of the sons of the late ex-King of Delhi, who took a prominent part in the rebellion of 1857, and for whose apprehension the British Government offered a reward of 10,000 rs., has made his appearance in the Serony Jungles.

It has been notified in the *Gazette of India* that non-combatants are only allowed to share in prize distributions when their presence under the enemy's fire may have been expressly required by proper authority.

Lunatic Asylums are to be established throughout India in almost all the principal towns.

His Excellency Sir Hope Grant, commander-in-chief at Madras, has met with a serious accident, caused by a fall from his horse, but is now doing well.

A sum of ten thousand rupees (£1,000), has recently been stolen from the Bombay Mint, and three persons of the establishment have been suspended from office on suspicion of their being implicated in the robbery.

A gang of coiners has been discovered in the north-west provinces, who had coined gold Mohurs which were palmed off on the Viceroy as nuzzers at the late durbur held at Simla.

Her Majesty's 77th Regiment of Foot have been almost entirely decimated by cholera at Allahabad, the deaths for about a fortnight averaging ten or twelve daily. None of the officers had, however, been attacked.

The fall of rain up to the present time in Bombay is upwards of 20 inches short of the average, and there is very little probability of of our having much more at this advanced period of the season. The weather reports from the districts in many cases complain of want of rain, and it is feared there will be a short cotton crop in consequence in Guzerat and the Southern Mahratta country.

THE PRIZE RING.

THE MACE (AND COUSINS TRAGEDY)—LETTER FROM HARRY BRUNTON ON THE MACE'S STATEMENTS AND VERACITY.

To the Editor of the London Advertiser:—As Mace has published letters in the sporting journals, in which he reflects upon my self, and as you are considered the daily organ of fair sporting, I trust to your impartiality for the favor of inserting this reply. Mace says that "Mr. Brunton never found a shilling." A truthful statement of facts will be the best answer to this. I was appointed to receive all moneys to be staked on Mace's behalf, and the proof of my having done so is that I hold the receipts for the money placed in the hands of the stake holder. It is not to be supposed, nor have I ever asserted, that I found him the £600, but I did my best towards it. The sporting gentlemen placed their money in my hands, which I duly forwarded to *Bell's Life*; and since his letter, I have asked several who they were "standing" money with, and their answer has uniformly been, "with you, Brunton." If I did not actually put the £600 down for him, it was deposited and raised by and through me. I am sorry to express that which should have been secret, but in my own defence I must remind Mace that when a forfeit was imminent, and when only £160 a side had been posted, I went and made good the £40 on my own responsibility and risk, not knowing, if the match had fallen through, whether I should get back a farthing. Is not this finding money? Again, another peril assailed the progress of the match, and sooner than that it should be off, one of Mace's best friends advanced £45 beyond the £55 he had already given, at my most urgent appeal. Is not this "finding" or getting the money? In the list that gentleman will be found for £95 instead of £50. These are facts that Mace or his writers cannot gainsay. And now as to the Dublin affair. My leaving him without a shilling is simply false. Mace told me that he had plenty of money to get him to the ring side; be that as it may, I paid the hotel bill amounting to £12 14s. 6d., out of which £11 2s. 3d. was for himself, Milner and Mr. Montague (Mace's Secretary.) To say that I left him without a shilling is ungrateful as well as untrue, as I can, or, as I suppose it will prove, gave him £5. When Milner came to the choice of the referee, I certainly would not give the vote out of my hands, having a due regard for those who had found the stakes and deposited them in my hands. I named the representative of *Bell's Life* for referee, and of course, I objected to a Mr. Bowler, whom I did not know; who was not present; and when I asked to see him he was not forthcoming. No possibility of the match coming off, I then told that I had done with the affair, having a proper regard for those gentlemen who had found the money on the understanding that it was a fair, straightforward contest, and as I left it, I did not leave those gentlemen, as I have proved, in one farthing of mine that he showed in public or put down with bygone characters. I went from place to place, and did my best to bring off the match, I expended £8 10s. being £5 of that with me to forward Mace's interest. This I do not regret; but I think it wrong that truth should be perverted. Moreover I did not find a shilling, as I repeat, I left the members for the state of the stakes at Public Rooms, and if any of the gentlemen who have found the money with myself do not receive their own again, it will be no fault of your obedient servant,

HARRY T. BRUNTON.

Beach Street, Barbican, October 8, 1864.

AN AMERICAN OPINION OF THE ENGLISH—From a London *critique* on Ticknor's Life of Prescott, the great American historian, we extract the following paragraphs taken from that celebrated writer's chapter on the English character:

"On the whole, what I have seen raises my preconceived estimate of the English character. It is full of generous, true and manly qualities; and I doubt if there ever was so high a standard of morality in an aristocracy which has such means for self-indulgence at its command, and which occupies a position that secures it so much deference. In general, they do not seem to abuse their great advantages. The respect for religion—at least for the forms of it—is universal, and there are few, I imagine, of the great proprietors who are not more or less occupied with improving their estates, and with providing for the comfort of the tenantry, while many take a leading part in the great political movements of the time. There never was an aristocracy which combined so much practical knowledge and industry with the advantages of exalted rank."

"There are however defects which are visible even in his most favored circumstances. Such is the (the Englishman's) bigotry, surpassing everything, in a quiet passive form, that has been witnessed since the more active bigotry of the times of the Spanish Philips. Such, too, is the exclusive, limited range of his knowledge and conceptions of all political and social topics and relations. The Englishman, the cultivated Englishman, has no standard of excellence borrowed from mankind. His speculation never travels beyond his own little—*great little*—island. That is the world to him. True, he travels, shoots lions among the Hottentots, chases the grizzly bear over the Rocky Mountains, kills elephants in India and salmon on the coasts of Labrador, comes home, and very likely makes a book. But the scope of his ideas does not seem to be enlarged by all this. The body travels, not the mind. And, however he may abuse his own land, he returns home as hearty a John Bull, with all his prejudices and national tastes as rooted as before."

A SERMON STARTING BUSINESS.—The Santa Rosa *Democrat*, of 26th November, says:—On Friday evening of last week, a strange and most remarkably inexplicable occurrence took place at Geyserville, in this county (Sonoma), at the private residence of Dr. E. S. Ely. Mr. Cousins, an old and respected citizen of that vicinity, clubbed the wife of Dr. Ely under the following strange circumstances. Mrs. Cousins, against the consent of her husband, had left home and been spending a day or two at the house of a neighbor, and on Friday evening, returning with Mrs. Ely, stopped at the house of the latter. Soon after they entered the house of Dr. Ely, Mr. Cousins arrived, and went into the room where the ladies were, evidently laboring under great excitement. The room was quite dark, and after some exciting conversation which is reported to have taken place between Mrs. Ely and cousins, the latter inflicted several severe wounds upon the person of Mrs. Ely, and one upon the neck of his own wife, with a pocket knife. Mrs. Ely was reported at first to be in great danger, but we are glad to hear is recovering. The cut upon Mrs. Cousins was very slight. Mr. Cousins is reported to have been subject to temporary attacks of mental debility, caused by a fracture of the skull which he received several years ago. Cousins was examined before a magistrate and committed to jail—Dr. Ely's family and that of the prisoner had been on the best of terms.

SINGULAR OF THE SCAFFOLD.—The execution of the French murderer, Latour, was attended with singular circumstances. The *Opinion Nationale* gives these particulars:—"When informed that his last day had arrived, he refused to hear a word from any priest, and uttered the most dreadful blasphemies. He had announced that he would compose a series of verses on the occasion, and sing them from the prison to the scaffold. Accordingly he never ceased throughout the whole distance (about three hundred and fifty yards) singing out in a loud voice the couplet in question. He appeared, the stage of the [illegible] above, [illegible] attitude, he [illegible] the following lines:

[illegible]

Being then that is the plain and blunt in the usual horizontal position to enter to be brought under the knife, he still went on singing [illegible]

A heavy sound was then heard, and all was over. The crowd dispersed as soon, [illegible] horror and [illegible] such a revolting display of cynicism and even [illegible]

People arrive at [illegible] Chancellor said the [illegible] Commons [illegible] Mr. Disraeli [illegible] the House of Peers [illegible] time, for the [illegible] Mr. Gladstone [illegible] Mr. Disraeli [illegible] Monday [illegible] Tuesday [illegible] year. The [illegible] and Parliament [illegible] manner [illegible] practice [illegible] November [illegible] the [illegible] Commons [illegible] suddenly in [illegible] the House and editorial rooms have an approach from both Government and Langley street.