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NO. 26.

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THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

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WAR WITH AMERICA.

He is not a wise man who ignores the past, but he who judges the present by the standard of the ancients is certain to fall into the pool of the star-gazing philosopher. It is only in the avoidance of these extremes that we come as near as the human mind can come to that wisdom which carries nations as well as men through surrounding difficulties unharmed. When we therefore see in the European mind a tendency to depart from this middle point—an inclination to judge of existing affairs by an age long since gone by—we are constrained to believe that evil days are at hand. The maxim that "history repeats itself" may be very correct in those cases which have no point of dissimilarity; but to select one feature of resemblance between the present and the past, and while overlooking the many minor diversities, to draw similar deductions, is to commit a fallacy of the most palpable character; yet this, it would appear, is just what the leading minds of Europe are doing at the present moment.

LETTERS 21st, 1865;

Adler, J
Astrico, A
Byrnes, M W
Bennett, C
Brown, R
Benton, Mr
Blair, Mr
Bishop, C
Courtney, H C
Carter, P-2
Claridge, R J
Davis & Co
Dirimetal, V
Duvernoy, M
Ellis, T-2
Fricks, J
Fulton, T
Gambitt, Mr
Gage, W-2
Gilchrist, W
Gilmore, A-2
Hurrell, H
Hofman, J
Holden, Mr
Hinkman, C
Harris, J
Jones, J O
Jones, R
James, T
Johnson, Miss
Kane, J S
Kier, J
King, Miss
Lavery & Co
Linton, E-2
Lang, J
McDowell, A J
Mason, Mrs
Manela, M
May, C
Miles, C
McKinnon, A
McGee, N
Miller, Mrs S
Magee, Mrs
McWhinnie, W
Nicholas, C or E
Orwin, W
O'Hara, T W
Ogilvie, J E V
Perkins, M
Porter, Jas
Pardy, S W
Quine, R
Stuart, Mrs
Short, Mr
Thornton, Capt
Tunnel, C B
Taff, H
Tong Soon
Tooley, S
Wearne, E
Walden, J
Wright, W H
Wilson, G
Yates, Miss
HENRY WOOTTON,
Postmaster.

GOLD EXCITEMENT.

A LARGE NUGGET!

Yesterday the town was thrown into a considerable state of excitement by the exhibition of a splendid nugget of gold, said to have been found in a new gold region within a short distance of Victoria. The specimen was in the possession of J. G. Shepherd, Esq., Manager of the Bank of British North America, who kindly afforded us an opportunity of examining it. In shape the nugget resembles a beach pebble, and is not unlike that found by Booth at Leech river in July last, that aroused such a furore, but the surface is more rugged, and some of the interstices are filled with quartz. It weighs six ounces and a tenth, and is valued by the Bank at \$106. The locality of the discovery is kept a secret, but we were positively assured that it was a genuine island nugget, and that it was not found at the Leech river mines. The general supposition is that it came either from Wolf Creek or from a stream in the Cowichan direction. The fortunate holder of the prize we understand had about \$100 of beautiful coarse gold with him in addition. Several parties are now prospecting the new diggings, and we hope soon to be able to place something more definite and authentic before our readers. There seems to be a general feeling of confidence in the richness of our island diggings, and it is believed that this season will witness some important and satisfactory developments of their mineral richness.

STOPPAGE OF THE BANK OF ATTWOOD, SPOONER AND CO., OF BIRMINGHAM.

Liabilities over £1,000,000.

BIRMINGHAM, Friday, March 10th, 1865.
Soon after four o'clock this afternoon it was whispered here that the old bank of Attwood, Spooner & Co., of this town, had opened its doors for the last time. The business was conducted as usual up to the closing of banking hours to-day, and as usual in the case of these old banks, the last thought to enter a man's mind would have been that anything could happen to Attwood's. It is a fact, notwithstanding, that the bank has stopped.
The deposits amount to over £700,000. The current credit balances amount to more than £300,000, and there is a note circulation exceeding £20,000, so that the liabilities are more than £1,000,000. It was rumored to-night, and we give it as such only, that there are more than 2500 depositors. Some time since the bank entered into an arrangement for an amalgamation with the Joint Stock Bank (limited). The arrangement had received the assent of that proprietary. It was the investigation incident to this transfer which hastened the occurrence of to-day. Simultaneously with the closing of the bank the following appears from the firm (Attwood, Spooner, Marshall & Co.):
"It is with feelings of the deepest concern and distress we announce that we are compelled to suspend payment, and this at the moment when, after several months of negotiation, we had confidently trusted we should obtain such assistance as would enable us to carry into effect our part of the preliminary agreement for the amalgamation with the Birmingham Joint Stock Bank. In this hope we have been disappointed. Sums of money to a large amount were drawn out of the bank some years since by the family of the Attwoods. To this circumstance it can be clearly shown that the proper time our failure is to be attributed. For the last ten years every effort has been made to redeem the loss thus occasioned; but this has only been partially accomplished. The assets of the bank are, however, still very considerable, and there are real estates of great value belonging to the bank, and but slightly encumbered. We hope that in our suspending payment we shall be considered as taking the best and only step to assure a just and equal distribution of our assets among our creditors."
Such is the end of this Old Bank, in which the public of this district had boundless confidence. So sudden, unexpected, and complete a collapse has, perhaps, never before been experienced. The bank was discharging its obligations as usual up to four o'clock this evening a petition in bankruptcy was filed.
The bank of Attwood, Spooner & Co. was established in 1791 by the father of the late Mr. Spooner, M.P.; by the death of the last named gentleman in November last, and of Mr. T. A. Attwood a year ago, the only surviving partner left was Mr. Henry Marshall. The bank had a fixed issue of £26,395.
The Birmingham Post says: Mr. Henry Marshall is the sole surviving partner of the firm.

AN EDITORIAL MISTAKE—Our contemporary the Times in its yesterday morning's issue devotes an article to our remarks on the London Times and Confederation, and strangely enough falls into the blunder that we endeavored to show that recent circumstances in connection with the scheme were likely to induce the Imperial authorities to exercise a pressure in forcing British Columbia and Vancouver Island into the North American Confederation! Nothing could really have been farther from the mark—our whole argument went to prove how necessary it was, in view of certain contingencies, that union of the Pacific colonies should take place, and the probability of Her Majesty's Government exerting their prerogative in this behalf. Accordingly we said "we may put down Mr. Cardwell's opinion and determination to have union under any circumstances as an Imperial necessity," and we subsequently alluded to our union resolutions arriving in England at an opportune period.

EUROPEAN MAIL SUMMARY.

[DATES TO MARCH 11TH.]

There have been some further discussions in the highest regions of the French Government with reference to a project of M. Duruy, Minister of Public Instruction, for making primary instruction compulsory and gratuitous in France. The scheme, however, met with so much opposition that it was ultimately abandoned.
M. de Montholon has been appointed French Ambassador at Washington.
The draught of the Address to the Emperor from the Senate has been published in the Paris papers. It is chiefly a paraphrase of the Speech from the throne, and is one of the longest tissues of servile laudation that the world has lately seen. There will be a reduction of not far from a million sterling in each branch of the service for the present year.
We are happy to perceive that Prussian schemes for the virtual seizure of the Schleswig-Holstein Duchies meet with resistance at Vienna. It is at all events certain that the Austrian reply to Prussian claims which has just arrived at Berlin is looked upon as very unfavorable. The Austrian Note is believed to declare that the proposals are "entirely unfitted to be the basis for further negotiations." Probably Prussia will rejoice by putting on the Italian and Hungarian screw a little tighter, upon which poor Austria will as usual be frightened into acquiescence.
Greece goes on "fermenting." Opposition to government authority shows itself in many places. Bulgaria and the party favorable to the ex-king have formed a coalition with the avowed object of constitutional opposition.
The Austrian Government and the Reichsrath cannot come to an understanding about money matters. The government coolly intimates that the report of the House Committee on the subject "is not regarded as suitable for further discussion." Negotiations, therefore, have been broken off on both sides.
The King of Italy has returned from Milan to Florence. In the Chambers they are busy discussing a proposition for the abolition of the punishment of death. The principle is approved by the Ministry, but the moment for its application is declared to be inopportune.
The Pope seems determined to take things easily. The French Ambassador had an audience of His Holiness, in which he requested him to form an army within two years with the assistance of the Emperor. The Pope declined to do so, ignoring the Convention. As for the rest, he would leave it in the hands of Providence.
Agitation still continues among the Russian nobles. Another assembly has met at Pskoff and passed resolutions similar to those agreed to at Moscow. A deputation has left for St. Petersburg to request the Emperor to convoke the States General. They may surely reckon on receiving a very stern reception and a severe snubbing at the hands of His Majesty, who has no taste for reforms "coming from below."
The Official Gazette of Madrid, March 9th, publishes the Encyclical and Syllabus, preceded by a declaration which reserves the rights of the Crown in ecclesiastical matters, and promises to maintain the liberty of the press in the discussion of these documents.
At Lisbon the crisis has terminated in the recall of the Duke de Loule, who has at length succeeded in reconstructing a Cabinet. The new Ministry is meeting with great opposition in the Cortes.
AN "IRISH GENTLEMAN."—A curious presentment case came up for trial on Wednesday at the Kilkenny assizes, before Mr. Baron Hughes. A man named Patrick Doyle, who it appeared has lived for a long time by levying a kind of black mail through threatening and cursing the people, was presented by the grand jury as a vagrant under the statutes of Queen Anne and George III. The statute of Queen Anne enacts that "all idle, idle vagrants, and such as pretend to be Irish gentlemen, and will not work, etc., but wander about, demanding victuals, and cooing from house to house, shall, on presentment of the grand jury, be sent to gaol, and there remain, until they shall be sent on board Her Majesty's fleet, or to some of Her Majesty's plantations in America, unless they find sufficient security to be of good behavior." The jury found that Doyle "was an Irish gentleman, and would not work," and he was sentenced to find two sureties in £10 each, for his good behaviour for seven years, or to be imprisoned for that period.

Later Telegraphic News.

[FROM THE COLUMBIAN.]

New York, April 30.—The Herald's Newbern correspondent, April 27, says the lamentations of Sherman's army over the assassination of Lincoln suddenly turned to rejoicing at the appearance of Grant. The terms granted to Johnston embraced in the surrender of 4 armies of the military divisions of the West, but excluding that of Dick Taylor, lying west of the Chattahoochee River.
Among the generals surrendered is Beauregard. The principal among the Lieutenant-Generals is Hardee. Bragg, lately relieved of the command, was not surrendered.
Wade Hampton refused to surrender, and is reported to have been shot by Johnston in an altercation; but the more trustworthy report is that he has fled.
Jeff. Davis. "The number of men surrendered is 27,400, although more names are given. All the militia from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and the Gulf States are included. Johnston replied on the 16th, asking an interview for modifying previous agreement of surrendering the army. Sherman refused this, and placed the subject on the basis of the old agreement, but named the time and place where he would meet him. They met near Dunham's Station, 25 miles from Raleigh, on the 16th. Johnston was outspoken and frank in arranging the agreement for capitulation. A few minutes' conversation settled the preliminaries, and these were reduced to writing, and are the same in substance as those extended to Lee. Negotiations were conducted in Sherman's name. Johnston had no intimation of the Lieut.-General's presence at Raleigh till after the terms of capitulation were signed, when Grant quietly put his approval on the back of them.
During the interview between Sherman and Johnston the latter informally declared the war was over, and to continue longer was wrong and criminal, and that when Southern people learned he had surrendered there would be none to consent to a longer continuance of the contest. He stated openly that his troops should fight no longer if they could obtain reasonable and satisfactory terms; that he would disband and send them home. The armies were nearly 60 miles apart at the time the capitulation was signed. Sherman had removed part of his army from beyond Raleigh before the truce was agreed on. After signing the famous memorial this force was moving back to the latter city, except Kilpatrick's cavalry, which was picketed at the time in the country about twenty miles beyond Raleigh. Johnston's troops were sent back towards Greensboro, the railroads between which were in running order at the time, and the opposing generals proceeded by railroad equally distant to where the interview was held. The telegraph also was in working order through Johnston's army to Selma, Macon, Montgomery, and other Southern cities. Sherman's first intelligence of Wilson's success at these places was received over the railroad through the heart of the rebel army. Johnston even went so far as to facilitate the transmission of news from Wilson, and begged Sherman to put an immediate stop to further devastation of Southern country.
The Herald's Mobile correspondent says: Our forces captured three Generals, ten thousand stand of arms, thirty thousand bales of cotton, besides immense quantities of corn and other grain.
General Wilson was at Macon on the 20th, and virtually holds all Georgia. The chances are that Jeff. Davis cannot escape.
New York, May 1.—Gold to-day 143.
SAN FRANCISCO, May 2.—Legal tenders opened at 71½ to 71¾, advancing to 72¾ and 73, with heavy sales at the latter figures. Gold yesterday, 143 to 144. Stock market still very much depressed, without any change being noticed. Flour, with the exception of a moderate jobbing trade, remains at previous prices.

FROM THE NORTH.—THE DEERFOOT MYSTERY SOLVED.—The gunboat Forward, Lieut.-Commander H. Lascelles, returned on Saturday from the North, having proceeded as far as Cape Mudge, the habitation of the Eulataw tribe. Enquiries were instituted regarding the mysterious disappearance of the men belonging to the wrecked sloop Deerfoot, and resulted in the discovery of the fact that they were not murdered by Indians as was generally supposed. The sloop, it appears, was in a leaky condition, and, falling in with the steamer Jenny Jones, was taken in tow by her. She was, however, subsequently stripped of everything valuable and cast off. Two of her crew, it is said, remained on board the steamer, but what became of the third man who was on the sloop is not known. It seems probable, as the Jenny Jones had made her escape without being equipped for a voyage to Mexico, that the captain would stand in need of all the provisions he could collect, and was therefore glad to meet with a trading vessel laden with stores, from which he could obtain the requisite supplies. It is further intimated that those on board were intimate friends of Captain Jones. Whatever the true facts of the case may be, it is satisfactory to know that no murder has been perpetrated by the natives.

THE WRONG MAN.—We are informed that the man known as Slippery Sim, who was mentioned by the Chronicle as being one of the number of miscreants recently executed by the Vigilance Committee at Walla Walla, is now in town without any symptoms of dislocation of the spinal vertebrae. Three more of the men said by the same authority to have been suspended were left in Oregon by Sim and are supposed to be on their way hither. Amongst the number is George Bedreau.

ACCIDENT AT NANAIMO.—A pair of horses attached to a wagon, belonging to the Vancouver Coal Company, took fright and ran away, injuring the driver slightly and the wagon seriously.