

## The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday January 22, 1870

## Relations of the Colonies to the Mother Country.

At a recent meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science Mr. Thomas Briggs read a very interesting paper upon the subject of "The Relations of the Colonies to the Mother Country." The paper itself, as well as the discussion to which it gave rise, have been published in pamphlet form, for a copy of which we are indebted to Mr. Rhodes. It is not our present purpose to review the pamphlet, but merely to allude to a few passages.

The wonderful success of the United States is, we think, not unjustly attributed in a great measure to the liberal land policy and homestead law of that country. "The Homestead," says Mr. Briggs, "leads to fix them (the settlers) to the soil, cements their affections to the Government, and the country who have placed them in the position to enable them, in every sense of the word, to reap the fruits of their own labour."

It also tends to create thirty women slaves, lovers of law and order, always ready to come to the rescue when their adopted country may by any chance need their services. It also tends to make broad acres wave with corn side by side with gold fields. Well might Cobden, when he heard of the American Homestead Law being passed, exclaim, "That is well, virtually depopulating Europe." When a man severs himself from his native country, from family circle, and all that is dear to him, and settles down in a land thousands of miles off, a land requiring the hand of man to convert it from a "howling wilderness into a fruitful field," can it be a matter of doubt in the mind of the rulers of that country that this man is entitled to claim so much of the soil as will suffice for a homestead for the subsistence of himself and the family he brings with him? \* \* \* \*

If there be any truth in the above plain statements, (alluding to the doctrine that colonial Crown lands are held by the Sovereign in trust for the people of the British Empire at large,) and I contend there is not only truth but also the very essence of economy, justice, common sense, and sound policy; then I contend as do my brethren of my fellow workmen, who have thought the matter over without party or personal prejudice, that every honest Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman, on setting his foot on the shores of a British colony, no matter how, so long as he lawfully gets there, has the inalienable right to a free grant out of the undisposed of Crown lands, sufficient in quantity and quality to maintain himself and family in comfort, so long as he is willing to settle down, clear and cultivate it, and conform in all other respects to the law of the local and general government. \*

Let our government and those of our colonies recognize the principle that it is a grievous wrong and a scandalous policy to seek to raise revenue out of the first alienation of the waste Crown lands of the colonies, and it is equally wrong to grant large tracts to one individual as a rule. Let them also recognize the fact that intercolonial free trade is the only intercolonial bond of peace and amity; and that universal free trade is the only bond of universal peace; they will then find a way, as there is also to be found a way to inaugurate an era which the post is to view when he comes.

**STEAMSHIP CHARGES.**—The *Gusie Teufel* will arrive from Portland in time to connect with the beautiful new steam communication, reliable and steady. *Collision* from San Francisco. This beautiful new steam communication, reliable and steady, is a success, will succeed the *Gusie Teufel* on the Portland route while *cause*, being the beauty, new etc, etc, is destined unsafe to the wind weather and placid seas of Southern California; therefore she is perfectly safe in the wind and adverse gales which the winter months bring along the rock bound coast of the North Pacific.

**THE OMINEX MINE.**—A private letter received in news from Van Winkle, Curacao, states that the writer, one of the prospectors on his way back from Omineca and asked him if he thought the new mine would prove a second Calico. Man said the prospector, exulted, "there's a second California there, eye, and my Australia piled on the top of it."

**OXINECA.**—As we stated yesterday, the meaning of the Indian word *Omineca* is whortleberry, a staple article of food with the Peace River Indians. It is pronounced as if spelt *o-min-e-ka*—the emphasis being placed on the second and last syllables. Pronounced thus the word has a sweet, musical sound.

**ON THE WATER.**—According to our late Canadian exchanges the revolt in the Red River country showed indications of waning. Many of the half-breeds had gone home, convinced of the insufficiency of the movement. It was thought that by the time Mr. McDonald was ready to go in as Governor all opposition would have disappeared.

The steamship *Otter* will carry a number of adventurous spirits to Nass River on the 15th of this month, whence they will attempt to cross the divide and reach Peace River as soon as the weather moderates. There are frozen toes in store for that party.

**SCHOOL REOPENING.**—The public Free School will re-open to-morrow at 9 o'clock. A regular attendance is requested from the reopening.

**MADAME PETIBEAU'S SCHOOL** for young ladies will be reopened to-morrow. The attendance at this excellent school is increasing. There will be full benches during the re-opening quarter.

**THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF REVISION OF THE REAL ESTATE TAX** will hold their first sitting on Monday the 31st day of January.

better time coming. The long night of British colonization ignorance is coming to an end, and there are numerous takeable indications that the home mind gradually awaking to the true value and use of the colonies and their proper relations to the territorial question of Pauperism. British Columbia has a homestead law of a more liberal character than that possessed by the neighboring Republics, but it is evident that the "Social Science" people are in profound ignorance of its existence. Indeed, it is questionable whether anyone outside of the colony knows of its existence. In truth it is to be feared that the most profound ignorance exists abroad, not only regarding our homestead law, but regarding the salubrious climate and enormous resources possessed by the country. And how can it be otherwise, when no effort has been made to disseminate information?

Saturday Jan 8

BURN'S ANNIVERSARY.—The anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, will be observed by the Caledonian Society in a (Colonial) novel and interesting manner. Supper will be served at the Albion at 7 sharp. The orchestra and commemorative recitals will be drawn and songs and poems will be sung.

THEATRE ROYAL.—There was another brilliant scene at the theatre last evening,

and might Cobden, when he heard of the

American Homestead Law being passed,

exclaim, "That is well, virtually de-

populating Europe." When a man severs

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**PRIVATE SMALL POX HOSPITAL.**—Upwards

of a year ago, when the destroying angel

in the form of the small pox stalked

through our midst, claiming victims on every

side, a number of gentlemen met and

subscribed £5 each to fit up a wing to the

Female Infirmary as a small pox ward

where, in case of any of the subscribers were

attacked by the loathsome disease, they

might be carefully treated and nursed. As

it happened, none of the subscribers was

attacked, and a meeting is called for Tuesday

afternoon at Mr. J. R. Stewart's office, to

consider what disposition shall be made of the funds on hand.

**PROBABLE LOSS OF THE SCHOONER DISCOVERY.**—The schooner *Discovery*, Capt. Rudlin, which left here a few days ago for Thesla Island, to load with freestone for the new French Hotel, was sunk near the quarry, Friday, with 20 tons of stone, to 14 feet of water. The schooner is supposed to have struck a rock and had her bottom crushed in. The *Discovery* belongs to Brodrick & Co., by whom she was purchased a few weeks ago. The cargo belongs to Klossman & Styles, contractors for the erection of the hotel.

**THE OMINECA MINE.**—A private letter

received in news from Van Winkle, Curacao,

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Mr. Baker himself told me this story. He said it was me, not this unlikely I have known William Henry Baker personally for a number of years, and I am inclined to think he has been a man in all his life told the truth. Now it is so manifestly improbable that the most constant man should neglect a long and useful career of study, as to such an extraordinary limit, without some person telling the truth by sheer mad venture, that it is quite likely Mr. Baker may have committed suicide to this instant. At least the time has arrived for human nature to ascertain, according to the doctrine of averages.

Only once, gentlemen, said Mr. Baker,

had he ever been asked about his eyes.

"Well, I said, and pale as a turnip, Why,

"You have asked me, when I had diamonds

in my eyes when it had puffed up.

Talking to me over the jeweller suggested that Mr. Block getting into difficulties, the first thing the old man did was to place supplied with paste jewels, finely, and had pawned it himself with the Jew as pasturing. Well, William Henry, said I to myself, "the Jew has given you and the club has charged you, and you may consider yourself upon, after the manner of speaking."

But the jeweller will tell you, Did the jeweler let diamonds or beryl?

He did not tell me used to come.

Would he have a certain alteration which I suggested made in my ring? I asked.

It is a common error to have hysterics and fits of depression by reason of a condition of brain which is exceedingly dangerous. In public life, women are far more sensitive in regard to criticism than men. One of our most noted singers used when the boy career to have hysterical attacks of everyadvise change. Recognizing this dominant susceptibility to opinion, it is quite easy to conjecture what the women will do when they enter the political arena, the dirty pool of the field whereof sides. If we are to have hysterics and scrabbling out of eyes and pulling of hair, every time a newspaper speaks what on the world.

Mr. S. Smith is pitied by the *Weekly Register* and metamorphosed

annihilated when Gen. Jane is dissected by the keenly sarcastic knife

of the *Amputator*. The universal doing away of the whole female sex might also be the result, and it is mortifying to confess that in this age of progress we have yet learned to live without fear in the darkness of our own sex.

They are as independent as possible, don't care snap of the finger for rose-leaf conveniences.