

by a Legislative Council, one half of which is elective and the other half nominated by himself as her Majesty's representative. It is now resolved that Victoria shall cease to be a political centre, and that New Westminster, near the mouth of the Fraser River, shall henceforth be the seat of Government. The island ports have up to the present been free from all fiscal restrictions, the revenue of Vancouver being derived from a tax of 1 per cent. assessed upon the market value of real property, and a trading license levied upon the principle of a sliding scale. The income of the sister colony depends chiefly on an import tariff; but it is expected, when the basis of the union about to take effect is fully adjusted, that customs duties will extend to Vancouver, and become equalized in both colonies.

Colonial society in North-West America is necessarily of a mixed description, and comprises representatives of nearly every nationality under heaven. We have counted up at least thirty-five crosses in different degrees certain to result from heterogeneous unions of the Caucasian, Mongolian, Indian, Malay, and Negro in that part of the world. What will be the effect on posterity of this commingling of races, so varied in physiological, psychological, moral, religious, and political aspects? We know that circumstances of climate, scenery, race, and natural production determine the specific mould in which the thought and life of peoples ancient and modern have been cast. What then will be the *resultant* of the manifold and unequal forces operating in the formation of distinctive national characteristics on the British North American Coast of the Pacific? Does the presence so largely of inferior races forbode the tainting of the young nation's blood, or will the vitality of the governing race triumph over the combination with which more primitive types threaten it? This inquiry is being hotly pursued by ethnological theorists in the North Pacific. There are 45,000 Chinese on these shores, and their numbers are ever increasing with the improvement of their prospects. It is argued by many that to the Caucasian race has been assigned intellectual and moral supremacy over the rest of mankind; that in proportion as inferior races in considerable numbers mix with the superior race, must its degeneracy be hastened; that as under Ghengis Khan and his successors the Kirghis and Calmucs from the North of China were hurled upon Russia in the twelfth century, so hordes of Asiatics, attracted by the gold of California and British Columbia, may, in course of time, come over in overpowering numbers and blast these new lands, not with war, but with the physical and moral deterioration supposed to be attendant on their commerce. This apprehension—whether founded or not—is shared by leading minds in California, and the civil disabilities imposed by the State Legislature some years ago to check Chinese immigration, are justified by them in consequence. It is the same dread of amalgamation with the negro that is the root of the prejudice against him. It is maintained that by intermarrying with the descendants of Europeans we repro-

duce our own Caucasian type, while by sanctioning matrimonial alliances with the other races referred to we create debased hybrids; that the primary law of nature is self-preservation, and that such protective enactments as have been adopted are essential to the well-being of the country. In these colonies, however, the coloured races are as yet eligible with white foreigners for naturalization; but even on the British side of the boundary there is a disposition to look coldly on the immigration of "celestials." It must be acknowledged, to their credit, that on the North-West Coast of America an unemployed Chinaman is seldom to be seen, and a more industrious and law-keeping class does not reside in the country, notwithstanding that in their domestic and social habits there is room for improvement, especially in respect to cleanliness. They are, for the most part, Cantonese of the lower order, and imported by Chinese Companies established on the coast. San Francisco is their central depot, whence they are distributed over adjacent British and American territory. The proper character of these associations, which form a marked feature of Chinese social life out of their own country, is something between a club and a *benefit* society. They were originally composed of persons from the same or some neighbouring district in a given province. Membership is in no way compulsory, but it has so many advantages that there are not a thousand Chinamen on the coast who are not connected with one or other of these companies. They have large houses for the reception of immigrants, in which the sick and indigent find temporary shelter and attendance, with the means of cooking. But those without funds must procure food from private benevolence. Agents are appointed by the company to find employment for new-comers, whose first savings are religiously sent home for the support of needy relatives. Nothing seems more odd to a European visiting one of these complex establishments—which include a theatre and a temple—than to find all the apparatus of a Buddhist ritual set up in the heart of a Christian community. As it is thought discreditable for the women of China to leave their own country, it may readily be imagined to what class the few belong who have found their way to America. Bonds are given to the Government of China, for the return, dead or alive, of every native that emigrates from the "Flowery Land;" and this obligation is sacredly kept. After death the corpse is left in foreign soil till considerably wasted by decomposition; it is then exhumed, and the flesh separated. When a large number of skeletons have accumulated, each of them is, we believe, duly labelled with the name and address of the deceased, and shipped to China, where it is claimed and decently buried.

There is a considerable muster of negroes in these colonies, who sought refuge from the social and civil oppression to which they were subjected in California, before the rush of immigration to Fraser River; and through the advanced value of the property they bought for a trifle, these worthy blacks soon took rank among the wealthier citizens. Nor did they

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