

## The Weekly British Colonist.

AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, December 25, 1866.

## American Affairs.

The Constitutional Amendment, the issue of the recent elections, and the Mexican imbroglio, continue to absorb the attention of political parties in the United States to the exclusion of almost every other topic. The Fenians come in for their share of notice, but they become of secondary consideration when discussed with the other more important objects. Gen. Halpin—a "bould soldier boy" of the Irish Republic—has been chosen Registrar of New York city by what the *Tribune* terms a "magnificent majority" of 20,000. The fierce struggle between the Republicans and the Democrats appears to be about over. The Democrats have at last found out that the North is terribly in earnest in the matter of impartial suffrage, and are "unyielding in the determination that intelligent negroes shall either vote, or Southern representatives shall not sit in Congress. A very influential Democratic paper in Chicago has startled its friends by boldly advocating impartial suffrage on the grounds that the negro vote, by any test of intelligence, would be small, that the whites would control it, and that the colored race on this continent is destined to extinction. Add to this the concession already made that impartial suffrage is inevitable, and the argument ought to be convincing. It has met with a favorable reception from the leaders of the party. The New York *Tribune* gloats over the defeat of the Johnsonites, and makes merry at the expense of the opponents of the Rad party. It also puts forward its editor for the United States Senate, and it is not unlikely that he may become the candidate of the Republicans for the next Presidency. Greeley advocated the cause of the black man at a time when it was dangerous to the life and limb of any who had a word to say in his favor. Thus far, there has been no important movement in any of the Rebel States in favor of the Constitutional Amendment, unless we except the attempt to elect General Dookery in North Carolina, as a representative of its principles. There is certainly an earnest party in the South which approves it, and includes not only Loyalists but the more moderate of the late rebels. In North Carolina, Governor Worth was elected by a majority of over twenty thousand on a platform which repudiated the Amendment; in South Carolina, Governor Orr advises its rejection; in Mississippi, Governor Humphreys has taken the same ground; in Georgia, Gov. Jenkins, in his message, described it as a degradation the South could not endure, and the Legislature will certainly reject it; in Texas, it has been formally rejected by a vote of 70 to 5. Thus five of the ten ex-rebel States have in effect refused to accept the terms offered, and the tone of the press in the others leaves but little room to doubt of their rejection by all. The Mexican Commission, it appears, is vested with the extraordinary power of treating with Juarez and the Imperialists at once. It will determine nothing, but will report all proposals to Washington for the consideration of the President. Every suggestion made will therefore be deliberately weighed at the national capital, and perhaps in Cabinet council. Some of the papers denounce this Mexican business. They declare that Mr. Johnson, finding that his Southern policy has rendered him infamous in the eyes of Americans, is about to divert public attention from domestic entanglements by creating foreign complications, and that he is endeavoring to regain lost ground by inaugurating a "vigorous foreign policy." Be this opinion as it may, Napoleon is certainly getting out of Mexico as rapidly as he can, and we are not sorry to see it. He had no right there after the Mexican Government had guaranteed the French claims, and had he turned back at Vera Cruz with

the English and Spanish armies, he would have saved millions of money and 100,000 lives, expended in a vain attempt to place a bankrupt Austrian Archduke upon a throne supported on the very uncertain foundation of French bayonets. The American Government, while it presses for the withdrawal of the French troops from Mexico, finds time to urge the Alabama claims upon the attention of Lord Stanley, and hope is now felt that the claims will be allowed as an act of justice. The British Government committed a grave error when it suffered the Alabama to put to sea; but it committed a graver error, after the true character of the ship had been ascertained, in not sending out a war-vessel and suppressing her.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

**A MARRIED WOMAN DROWNS HERSELF IN A WELL.**—Mrs Mary A. Havelock, wife of Mr Henry Havelock, one of the proprietors of the New Westminster Examiner, committed suicide yesterday morning by drowning herself in a well at the rear of a cottage occupied by her on Quadra street, near the corner of Meares. From the evidence of deceased's daughter, a girl of about 13 years, it appears that the unfortunate woman was laboring under mental aberration. About ten days ago she endeavored to hang herself with a clothes line, and subsequently tied a belt around her neck and threatened to put an end to her existence; but was induced to abandon the idea for the time by the persuasions of her daughter. Several times subsequently she threatened to drown herself in the well, but the vigilance of her daughter—who was in the habit at night of locking the back door and placing the key under her pillow—prevented her carrying the threat into execution, until yesterday, when, about five o'clock a.m. she was missed from her daughter's side in bed, and at seven o'clock was found dead in the well. Dr Ash was sent for, but deceased was past resuscitation; life had evidently fled some hours before. Mr Pemberton held an inquest over the body yesterday afternoon, and the jury returned a verdict of "suicide while laboring under temporary insanity." Mr Havelock was telegraphed for, and arrived on the Sir James Douglas. The sad end of his wife has deprived three interesting children—one an infant of five months—of a mother's care, and has rendered desolate a hitherto happy home. The children have been taken in charge by Mrs J. W. Williams, who, in a kind and Christianlike spirit, will attend to their wants until the arrival of their natural protector.

**THE BRITISH VOLUNTEERS IN BELGIUM.**—About 1600 British Volunteers were present at the Belgian "Tir National," and met with a magnificent reception, the whole nation seeming most anxious to do honor to *Les Anglais*. As a grand climax to this ever memorable event in the annals of the British Volunteer service, our volunteers carried off some of the first prizes, which were of a magnificent and costly character. The prizes were presented on the 22d October, several hundreds of the English volunteers being present to do honor to their successful comrades. The Minister of the Interior having offered a few congratulatory observations to the English volunteers on the excellence of their shooting, proceeded to distribute the prizes in the order in which they stood upon the list. The King's prize, value 1000*l.*, and the portrait of the winner of the same value was won by Colour Sergeant Curtis, of the 11th Sussex, and on that gentleman ascending the dais to receive the honour he was loudly and enthusiastically cheered. Mr. Hooper, winner of the Queen's Prize, a purse of 1000*l.*, and the portrait of the winner in life size in photograph. Several other valuable prizes were awarded to members of the English Volunteers Corps.

**ANIMAL MAGNETISM.**—The second lecture of the series was delivered in the Mechanics' Institute last evening on the above subject by Mr Alfred Waddington, and was listened to with considerable interest and gratification. The lecturer was evidently master of the subject and displayed great research. As might be presumed, the theme admitted of the introduction of numerous entertaining anecdotes, which served to enliven the audience for an hour and three quarters. The following were the heads under which the lecture was divided, Mr Waddington stating that he reserved the most interesting portion of the subject for a future occasion:—General account and history of animal magnetism, with a few words on the odic force or fluid; Somnambulism, both natural and evoked, or Telekinesis; Biology and Electro-Biology; Spiritualism or table turning, and Levitation. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr Waddington, and the President announced that the third lecture would be delivered on next Thursday week by Commander Forcher, R.N., on the Coral Islands of the Pacific.

A telegraph line will be built between the United States, Brazil and Cuba. The gunboat Forward has gone to the rescue of the Leviathan.

**MISCHIEVOUS.**—We notice that the letter recently published in the *Bulletin* purporting to have been written by a member of the Vancouver Island Legislature, and a late prominent Government official, to a professional friend in San Francisco, traducing this country generally, and the mercantile community in particular, and preaching annexation as the only antidote to general bankruptcy, is being copied into foreign journals. We hope the author, (who is pretty generally spotted) feels gratified at the prospective success of his laudable efforts to injure the very people whose suffrages placed him in power and whose interests he was pledged to the utmost of his power to support.

**THE RUSSO-PRUSSIAN ALLIANCE.**—The *Posen Journal* of October 25th says: "The Cabinet of St. Petersburg, feeling uneasy at the recent attitude of Austria in Galicia, has, within the last few days, proposed to the Government of Berlin to give up to Prussia the left bank of the Vistula, provided Prussia consented to the annexation of Eastern Galicia by Russia, and allowed the Cabinet of St. Petersburg freedom of action in the East. The *Posen Journal* calls on the *Invalide Russe* and the *North German Gazette* to deny the news, of which it asserts the perfect correctness."

**HIGH TIDE.**—The tide yesterday was higher than it had ever been known to rise by "the oldest inhabitant." They pilots say there were 20 feet 6 inches, and upwards on the bar, and part of Indian Rancheria in the vicinity of Bolton's ship yard was inundated. It remained high all day, indicating the prevalence of heavy southerly gales outside the straits.

**FROM THE MAINLAND.**—The Sir James Douglas steamer came in from New Westminster at midnight. She reports the Enterprise at anchor in the river's mouth, with 90 passengers, \$150,000 in gold dust, and Dietz & Nelson's Express. Among the passengers by the Douglas were Colonial Secretary Birch, Harbourmaster Cooper, and Messrs Robertson, Havelock and Conway.

**MASONIC.**—At a meeting of Vancouver Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, on Wednesday evening, the following officers were elected: R.W.M., R. H. Adams; S.M., Thos. Lowe; D.M., J. R. Stewart; S.W., E. C. Holden; J.W., M. W. Waitt; Secretary, H. Seelye; Tyler, P. J. Hall.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEA-MEETING.**—The Children of the Cathedral Church Sunday School will be entertained in the Boys' Collegiate School, at tea to-morrow afternoon at four o'clock. At six p.m., the Magic Lantern will be exhibited to the children, and to those who may wish to attend.

**HOLIDAY GOODS.**—Mr McCrea is opening a handsome invoice of holiday goods suitable for presents, which he will sell to-morrow at his salesrooms. The goods are of new pattern, and worthy the attention of Christmas buyers.

The following melancholy advertisement appears in a Canadian paper: "Will the gentleman who stole my melons on last Sabbath night be generous enough to return me a few of the seeds, as they were a very rare variety."

**DAVIES' CATTLE MARKET** is quite an extensive affair; commodious sheds and stables have been erected, a well is being dug, and yesterday we noticed a number of fine cattle, sheep, &c., which will be sold to-morrow.

**VICTORIA DISTRICT SCHOOL.**—The examination of the pupils connected with this school (Mr Burr's) came off yesterday. It was well attended, and the result is said to have been in the highest degree satisfactory.

**CENTRAL SCHOOL EXAMINATION.**—The Central School (Boys) will hold its half-yearly examination this day, commencing at nine o'clock. A number of visitors are expected to attend.

**FIGURED SILKS** are coming into fashion again, the Empress Eugenie having ascertained that the Lyons silk operatives would starve if the production for which they are most renowned were cast aside.

**FOR SAN FRANCISCO.**—The steamer Active will leave, weather permitting, this morning, at 9 o'clock, with passengers and mails for San Francisco.

Burning soot in a chimney of the London Hotel caused an alarm of fire last evening.

The Sound steamers were detained yesterday by the high wind.

**STEAM CARRIAGES ON COMMON ROADS.**—We learn that a locomotive, drawing a train on ordinary roads, has just arrived in Paris from Nantes. It is thus described:—"The engine has a tubular boiler, with tender, &c., and is provided with a guiding apparatus worked by one man, and accomplishes its revolutions with great facility, and can turn on curves of very short radius. On a level road, or where the gradient does not exceed 3 in 100 in addition to the weight of the trucks, it draws a heavy load at from four to six kilometres (3/4 mile each) per hour. Its greatest speed is limited to 20 kilometres per hour. The trucks are specially constructed, and are attached to each other indiscriminately as on an ordinary railway, and provided with an apparatus which guides them in turning, so that they all follow the course of the locomotive."

## NEWS SUMMARY.

(PER CABLE AND MAIL.)

## Canada.

There is considerable excitement in the neighborhood of Belleville, C. W., about some gold diggings recently discovered there. The place is already filled with persons come to visit the diggings. Several kegs of ore have been shipped per express to Boston, which have proved to contain a large percentage of gold. A Boston firm has made some heavy purchases in that locality and will shortly commence operations. Returned California miners who have visited the place speak most favorably of the prospects.

Intelligence has been received in Montreal, that owing to the failure of the fisheries at Labrador, the coast inhabitants on the north shore will be rendered destitute, unless relief is immediately provided. The herring fisheries are said to be a complete failure, and the prospect to be fearful to contemplate. The Canadian Government has placed a steamer at the disposal of the charitable for the transportation of supplies, which will leave Montreal in a few days. Aid in any sort of money or goods may be sent to the Rev. Mr. Bolwood, Quebec. The Mayor of Manchester, England, sends by the cable authority to draw £1000 sterling, and the London Committee also authorizes drafts to the amount of £4,000 more, making in all £12,000 sterling from London and Manchester. The Queen has also written a letter to Mr. Watkins, Chairman of the Relief Committee, sending £300, and expressing deep sympathy.

The mutrain has broken out among the cattle in Canada. QUEBEC, Dec. 11.—There is no warrant for the impression that prevails in the States that the Fenians under sentence of death will not undergo the penalty of that sentence. The whole question yet remains in abeyance, waiting the developments of the movements of Fenian leaders, now believed to be on foot.

**SWITZERBOURGH.** C. E. December 11.—The effect of the decision of the Executive Council results in the entry of a *notre protest* in behalf of twenty-one Fenians, on the indictments which implicated them in acts prior to the passage of the statute of June 8th. It also has the effect to withdraw the indictments against fourteen other Fenians, being the whole number charged as a ten citizens.

Toronto, C. W. November 13.—A meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Upper Canada took place to day. The Directors submitted a report to the shareholders in which they say, after mature consideration, and acting by the advice and with the consent of the Government that the Directors have executed, under seal of the Bank, a deed of assignment, appointing the following gentlemen to wind up the affairs of the Bank: Thomas G. Patterson, Robert Cassel, Hugh C. Barwick and Peleg Howard. The Directors are of opinion that, under careful and judicious management, a considerable surplus will ultimately remain, for division amongst shareholders, after the whole liabilities of the Bank have been paid.

## Central America.

By the steamship Constitution we have Panama dates of November 29th:

The anniversary of the Independence of Panama from the Spanish yoke was celebrated on Nov. 28th.

The Royal Mail Company's steamer Danube reached Aspinwall on the morning of the 22d November, with 60 passengers. There were three fatal cases of yellow fever during the voyage.

The news from Santa Martha and Bogota is important:

The troops intended for the Isthmus were still at Santa Martha, waiting for the Colombia, which had not arrived there. It is rumored that instructions had been issued to detain these forces at Santa Martha until intelligence had reached there of trouble having broken out on the Isthmus.

The dispute between the Executive and the Archbishop had reached a climax, and the Bishop had been expelled from the Republic. At last accounts he was at Santa Martha, awaiting the arrival of the French steamer to convey him to Europe. The Executive had taken possession of the Archbishop's palace and the archives.

Considerable political excitement appears to exist in Bogota. On the night of the 15th November a mob paraded the streets, shouting "Viva Tomas the First!" "Death to the Archbishop!" "War against Antioquia and Panama." A document has been circulated suggesting the assassination of Mosquera.

## South America.

By way of Panama we have Valparaiso dates of November 3d and Calao dates of Nov. 14th:

**CHILE.**—The Radical party during the past fortnight proposed a vote of "want of confidence" in the Cabinet, calling upon the President to dismiss the Ministers. The resolution was discussed in secret session, but the policy of the government was approved of by a majority of twenty votes.

The same party have also proposed another measure for conferring the rights and privilege of Chilean citizenship on all the citizens of Spanish America, and to have free trade with all the Republics. This is a step in the right direction and will tend to bind the Allies more firmly together.

**PERU.**—The Calao correspondent of the *Panama Star and Herald* writes: "The returns from all the Provinces have not yet reached us, but it is known for certain that the Liberator of Peru, Col. Prado, has been all but unanimously elected President of the Republic." General Machuca and Colonel Balta have been deprived of all military honors and their names erased from the army list. General Castilla has been sent to Chile, to prevent any further plotting on his part.

**ECUADOR.**—Business continues dull at Guayaquil; there is great scarcity of money on account not only of the paralysis of the trade caused by the war, but also on account of the redemption of the paper currency by the government, which has left the market without almost any currency at all.

Mr Arista, General Flores' brother in law, has been brought forward as the candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, with all the odds in his favor. The remains of General Flores have been ordered to be transported from Guayaquil to Quito with great veneration.

## Australia.

(Dates to October 5th.)

The British brig Ingarnia had been wrecked on the 18th of August, on a reef hitherto unknown, in lat. 12 deg. 31 min. S., lon. 123 deg. 15 min. E. All hands were saved and had arrived at Coesang, where they were well taken care of by the Dutch Government. Another British vessel, the *Conqueror*, had also been wrecked in Bligh's Channel, leading into Torres straits. The Ingarnia had met the boats and supplied the wants of the crew with bread and water before she herself was lost.

The Danish brig Danneveke, which arrived in Sydney October 4th, reports having been chased and boarded by a Chinese pirate, while on the voyage between Hongkong and Saigon. The vessel was robbed of the most valuable portions of her cargo and then released.

A submarine cable was to be laid across Bass Straits to Van Diemen's Land. Very dry and unfavorable weather was prevailing in New South Wales, and the winter report great present and prospective injury to the grain crops in a number of sections.

The question of arming the defences of Port Jackson with 6 American 450 pounder Rodman guns was being agitated in New South Wales.

The different colonies of Australia will be largely represented at the World's Fair in Paris.

## Sandwich Islands.

(Dates to November 29th.)

A libel has been filed in the Court of Admiralty by a native seaman attached to the ship *Cornelius* Howland, averring cruel treatment by Capt. Homan in the Arctic seas. His feet are so badly frost bitten as to cripple him for life. Damages laid at \$5,000. Defendant was held to bail in the sum of \$6,000.

There is a scarcity of water in the Honolulu reservoir.

Honolulu complains of a short season, the necessary repairs on the whaling fleet having been executed with unwonted despatch.

The Masonic fraternity and merchants attended the funeral of the lamented Dr Ford in a body.

The Honolulu market is entirely depleted of guineas. Fevers have used it up. The market is also very poorly supplied with vegetables.

J. A. Woodhouse, Consul General and Commissioner, arrived out on the Comet. Henry B. Rouse, Esq. represents the American diplomatic interests near the Hawaiian Government during the temporary absence of Minister McCook in San Francisco.

Deputy Sheriff Wille had arrested two natives, supposed to be the murderers of Henry Clark, at South Kona.

## China.

LONDON, Nov. 11.—The American brig *Luba* was boarded by pirates on the coast of China (no date). The captain and two men were killed and several wounded.

A United States company has got the consent of the Emperor of China to lay a cable from the Western Union Extension Company's lines on the north to Shanghai.

A fearful typhoon had occurred between Japan and Szechuan. No disasters to the shipping, however, had been reported.

The French Admiral was awaiting the arrival of his squadron at Shanghai, in order to proceed to Corea.

**ARSENIO EATING.**—Dr La Rue (we learn from the *Lancet*), the professor of Legal Medicine in Laval University, Quebec, read a paper before the Medical Society of that city, in which he recounted the case of a consumptive patient, who of his own accord had frequently eaten large quantities of arsenic, as much as two ounces in six or eight weeks. Dr La Rue, doubting the man's statement, administered to him on several occasions two grains, which he sometimes doubled, of arsenious acid, chemically pure, and taken from his own laboratory; this was placed on his tongue and swallowed. He was closely watched; and the doctor adds that he could not perceive that it had the slightest effect on the man, who was forty-seven years of age, and of good constitution, although his father died at the age of thirty-nine of consumption, of which disease he had lost four paternal uncles and several of his cousins.

It is said that Napoleon, when he was asked by Doctor O'Meara if he really thought he could invade England at the time he threatened to do so, replied in the following anagram: "Able was I, ere I saw Elba." Whether this is true or not, it certainly is a most ingenious and complete anagram, reading the same backward or forward.

## Nova Scotia.

Locke and Geizer have been tried in Halifax for the murder of an unknown man and acquitted. The girl Susan McKenzie persisted in her strange story, and was unshaken by the cross-examination. No body of a man could be found in the neighbourhood, and the testimony of other witnesses served to some extent to prove that no murder was committed. The whole affair is still a mystery. The girl McKenzie is apparently in full possession of her senses, and the Judge declared it to be almost incredible that she was able to get up such an ingeniously concocted fabrication. —*Recorder*.

## New Brunswick.

The death in Carleton is announced of Robert Stackhouse, Esq. of the well known firm of McLachlan & Stackhouse; Mr Stackhouse was one of the best draughtsmen in his particular line of this business this country has produced, and the vessels which his firm built have added much to the fame of New Brunswick. His partner, Mr McLachlan, is now absent in England. Mr S has been ailing for some time. He leaves a wife and family. —*Globe*. The wife of ex-Chief Justice Carter has died in London. A paper mill is in successful operation in the Province.

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## The History of the Union Bill.

We present elsewhere a despatch from Lord Carnarvon, furnishing explanation of the motives by which Her Majesty's Government have been actuated in taking steps for the complete Union of the Colonies, in which the Secretary of State thought it necessary to place upon record, "lest they [the motives] should be thought to involve any want of consideration for the then existing Legislature of Vancouver Island, should be attributed to any other intention than the desire to complete promptly an arrangement with the Secretary of State, believes to not more in accordance with the interests of the two Colonies than with their wishes, and to terminate a state of uncertainty of which Lord Carnarvon feels convinced the chief is not overstated by the Assembly of Vancouver Island." The noble Earl first refers to the views entertained by the Duke of Newcastle, far back as June, 1863, on the subject of Union, and the three strong objections to which such a course was opposed, viz., the prevalent feeling against the spot; the impossibility of granting Representative Institutions in British Columbia while they already existed in and could not be withdrawn from Vancouver Island, except by strong exercise of Parliamentary power, or by an intimation on the part of that Colony that it was willing to place itself in the hands of Her Majesty's Government; and lastly, Commercial Policy of Vancouver, and being opposed to the imposition of Import Duties, on which the Government of British Columbia was obliged to rely for its revenue. In significant words which we have italicised lies the gist of the whole thing. From the outset, we demanded the obsequious, humiliating unconditional resolution, engineered through the House by a section dictatorial politicians, as highly politic and dangerous in its tendency. The sequel proves too forcibly the truth of the ground we then took. On the then House of Assembly, collectively, but on the self-inflated tacticians who fathered the notion in particular, rests the overlast discredit of the present order of things. This the Secretary of State proceeds definitely to point out. On the 2d March, 1865, says the despatch, "difficulty hitherto existing was dispelled by the Assembly of Vancouver Island and the words of the resolution pressing for immediate Union, under a constitution as Her Majesty may please to grant, are then quoted their original deformity. Further Lord Carnarvon remarks that the assembly, on December 13th, 1865, although expressing their preference representative institutions, and what is termed Responsible Government, endorsed the previous resolution reasserting that immediate Union necessary, beyond any other means to restore confidence, and referring the willingness already shown them to accept whatever constitution Her Majesty's Government might please to grant. These addresses adopted at an interval of nine months the Home Government were just in accepting as the deliberate expression of public opinion, and the consolidation of all difficulties in favor of Union, even at the sacrifice of Representative Institutions, while the tea could meet with no reasonable objection on the part of British Columbia. Accordingly a bill was prepared by the late Government, and while in course of process through Parliament the celebrated 187 resolutions of June last reached the Colonial Office by telegraph, unaccompanied by official report, again asserting the importance of Union and the indefiniteness on both Colonies by the existing state of uncertainty, although asking in general terms a constitution representative in character, not specifically withdrawing the previous pledges. Her Majesty's Government did not, however,