

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, April 3, 1869

EVERYONE who knows anything about commercial affairs understands how very seriously uncertainty affects the most sensitive of all branches of industry. The absolute destruction of credit, or the failure of a great enterprise, are not more fatal to it than the probability of any sudden change one way or another. We were told when the Drawbacks Bill was sent home that it would be returned in three or four months, but how? Can anyone say that it will be assented to by Her Majesty's Government, with the remarks which doubtless accompanied it? We think not, and thus we shall be hanging on the tenter-hooks of suspense for the time above stated, or what is very probable—a much longer period, and then may be met with a blank refusal. If the Executive think that such treatment will be borne, they are mistaken. We have a striking instance of the fallacy of such conclusions in the notice of removal, this morning, of one of our most enterprising citizens, who sends his milling machinery to California. Can anything more strikingly impress us with the stolid perversity of a Government apparently lost to every sense of justice and treating the opinions of the citizens that support them with the most profound contempt? Had the Drawbacks Bill been in force, grain could have been imported and manufactured for export, but with the present duties to pay, no sane person would attempt to compete with the millers and manufacturers over the Sound. Frequent and vain have been the efforts of our citizens to secure to our city the benefits arising from profits on manufactures which our Government as persistently forces us to pay to foreigners. We hear a great deal about the obstructive old-fashioned Government on Downing Street; never was there a greater mistake. The Government in London is based on the most modern ideas of political economy, and no new theory is started that is not thoroughly ventilated, and it found to possess any features entitling it to public favor they are immediately adopted. The notion that our abortion of a Government has anything in common with the English political system, is about the greatest absurdity ever hatched in human brain. If corruption exists in American political circles they have at least perception enough to see that the richer they make the nation the richer they themselves are likely to become. Another glaring instance: Our waters will soon be thronged with whalers, and it is well known that there is not a whale boat, a swivel gun—nay, not even a whale line in the city; and why? Because by the time importers paid the duty chargeable here, they would be unable to sell the articles at the price at which these adventurers can buy them over the Sound when brought from San Francisco. If the Drawbacks Bill had been in force stocks of these articles would have been here; all the vessels would have come here for the necessary implements and taken in their supplies, most likely come here for their entire outfit, as there are many articles which they could obtain cheaper here than at any other port on the Pacific. We may mention iron work as another instance. It is well understood along the whole coast that the workmanship on iron in every form is better done here than elsewhere, and although mill owners and others on the other side have taken our iron work and paid very high duties, the United States authorities have at last determined to prohibit its importation, and have raised the duties so high that it is simply a question between their own bad workmanship and none at all. Thus, with proper custom-house facilities and our numerous advantages in material and workmanship in the various forms required about ships and their appurtenances, we should be the most favored port on the Pacific. Are our citizens prepared to lose those advantages without a murmur?

Later from the West Coast—More about the Mysterious Wreck—The Whaling Expedition.

The schooner Alert, Capt. Carleton, arrived from the West Coast yesterday afternoon. Captain Carleton visited the scene of the wrecked bark John Bright and buried the bones of the woman, which lay on the beach. The remains lay on a bank about 30 yards above highwater mark. The Indian who professed to have first discovered the wreck, and kept its existence a secret ten days, says that he found the woman lying dead in the very spot where Capt. Carleton found the skeleton. The body, when first discovered by the Indian was fully dressed. The remains of the man Capt. Carleton did not see; but he discovered the wreck of a ship's boat, which, the natives say, came ashore full of men's clothes in bags. The Indians said that another boat came ashore near where the man's body was found; and that no other bodies were discovered. The natives have any quantity of articles belonging to the wreck among them. Capt. Carleton brought with him a few blocks which had belonged to the bark. He went aboard the wreck, the hull of which is entire and filled with lumber. It lies broadside on the bold shore where there is considerable surf. The Indians were greatly excited, being fearful of a visit from a man-of-war.

Capt. Carleton left the whaling party of Capt. Roys in Badger Cove on Saturday last. They had been outside several times in the steamer Emma and had killed one whale, which, however, got away, and was subsequently picked up by the Indians and appropriated to their own use.

The Alert brings a quantity of oil.

Mr. Kriemler, Secretary of the Whaling Adventurers' Company, received a letter from one of the hands. The weather has been very rough. They had been out whaling five times; saw many whales, but could not get near them, owing to bad weather. Killed one large whale; harpoon broke and lost him; fired at and missed another. Expect in the course of a week to do something big. The party were in excellent spirits. The house for the use of the Company's men had all been erected.

The Proposed Entertainment to Admiral Hastings and Officers of the Fleet.

Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the Citizens' Committee was held at the Mechanic's Institute, Dr. Tolmie in the chair. The Secretary (Mr. G. I. Stuart) read the following letter from Admiral Hastings, which caused a universal expression of regret from those present:

ZEALOUS, AT ESQUIMAULT, 30th March, 1869.

GENTLEMEN—I waited until the arrival of this mail, so as to be able to fix the latest day on which I could accept the invitation for the Officers and myself, which you so kindly proffered me the other day in the name of the Citizens of Victoria; but I regret to say that I have received immediate orders by this mail to proceed to Valparaiso, and as these orders will admit of no delay, I am obliged in the name of the Officers and myself to decline with many thanks the invitation you offer us; but tender our best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of yourselves and the Citizens of Victoria, and remain gentlemen your very sincerely

GEO. F. HASTINGS, Rear Admiral.

To Dr. Tuzo and Messrs. Stuart and Drummond, Victoria.

Mr. Fell, seconded by Mr. McLean, moved that the Secretary be instructed to express the regret of the Citizens of Victoria at the early departure of the Fleet, and the consequent inability of the Admiral and Officers to accept the invitation which was carried unanimously, and the meeting then adjourned sine die.

In this connection it may be as well to state that Admiral Hastings' orders require him to proceed at once to Valparaiso, Chile. The Sparrowhawk is also ordered away and for a few weeks, at least, there will be but one ship of war and a gunboat on this station. The Boxer, gunboat, is said to be on her way out. The Zealous will sail about Friday of next week.

ANOTHER GRIST MILL TO BE SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA.—We understand that Mr. Bunker intends to send his grist mill to California. The duties upon wheat and flour relatively do not admit of a sufficient margin for profit in manufacturing flour in the Colony. Imported wheat is used, and the prospects for a sufficient supply of wheat from Colonial farmers on this side of the Cascades seems yet too remote to encourage the retention of the mill in the Colony.

DISMISSED.—A charge against Stephens, of the Hall-way House, Spanish Road, was yesterday dismissed by the Police Magistrate, upon the proving of Messrs Courtney and Bishop that the information was informal—the date of the alleged infraction of the law having been omitted.

AN OLD SETTLER.—Mr. St. Germain, died at Pomphrey's Landing, Washington Territory, on the 25th March, having attained the remarkable age of 107 years. He was indeed an old settler.

In an attempt to arrest a blue-jacket for fighting last evening, officer Kehndy was violently assaulted by the man, Jack, who finally led to the barracks and looked up.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK.—Mr. Dudley Evans, of Wells, Fargo & Co., has been appointed agent for this Company in British Columbia.

PETITION.—The inhabitants of Lytton have petitioned his Excellency the Governor to cause the Public Schools' Ordinance to be applied to the town of Lytton.

At the last ball given at the Louvre, in Paris, a most wonderful effect of illumination was obtained by the use of the new oxy-hydrogen light.

A Large mail for the West was burned on one of the Pennsylvania railways on the 20th March. Five letter bags for California were saved.

TEN tons of delayed mail matter reached Sacramento on the 24th March. It had been detained by the snowdrifts on the Plains.

European News and Miscellany.

A WARNING TO THEATRICAL MANAGERS.

The following circular has been addressed by the Lord Chamberlain to the managers of all the London theatres under his jurisdiction:

The Lord Chamberlain presents his compliments to the manager of the ——. He has learned with regret, from observations in the press and from other sources, that there is much reason to complain of the impropriety of costume of the ladies in the pantomimes, burlesques, etc., which are now being performed in some of the metropolitan theatres. He has noticed for some time past that this evil has been gradually on the increase; but he has been most unwilling to interfere in a matter which he considers ought more properly to be left to the discretion and good taste of the managers themselves. Now, however, that the question has been taken up by the press, and public opinion is being expressed upon it, he feels himself compelled to call the serious attention of the managers to the subject; for he cannot but remark the discredit that now justly falls on the stage, and the objections which are being raised against it by many who have hitherto frequented the theatres, but who now profess themselves unwilling to permit the ladies of their families to sanction by their presence such questionable exhibitions.

The Lord Chamberlain, with every anxiety to promote the interests of the stage, trusts that he may confidently appeal to the managers to assist in abating the evil complained of, which threatens to become a public scandal.

SPAIN—THE ASSASSINATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF BURGOS.

A letter to the New York Herald, dated Madrid, January 27th, says:

The cruel and cowardly assassination of Senor Don Gutierrez de Castro, Civil Governor at Burgos, day before yesterday, continues to be the sole event discussed all over Spain. It is safe to say that the nation has never been more thoroughly shocked than by this intelligence, and a feeling of the deepest indignation has arisen everywhere that cannot be easily appeased. The horrible crime was marked by so many features of cowardly brutality and a savage barbarity that one might well think that the American Indians had plied their favorite weapons in the glosters of the grand old Cathedral of Burgos, instead of a band of priests and countrymen, who did their work with the cross in hand and to the cries of "Viva la religion!" The atrocities committed on the remains after death again recall the treatment of their dead enemies by the Sioux or the Pawnees. The inanimate body must afford a revenge that life itself was not deemed sufficient to satisfy. So with the savages of Burgos. The foul deed was not unpremeditated and not the work of a moment's passion. It had been arranged beforehand, and it was carried out with a coolness and completeness that proves the thorough understanding of the instruments.

Senor de Castro had been informed weeks before that the neo-Catholic party had sworn to put him out of the way, and he had taken extraordinary precautions to guard against any attempt. He slept in different places, and never remained in the same house two nights in succession. During the day he always had sufficient force about him to protect himself against a sudden attack. Thus he had escaped the machinations of his enemies and the enemies of the Government until he undertook to obey the orders of superior authorities to make an inventory of the artistic, literary and scientific riches of the cathedral, which are to be placed in the Government museums. From Sunday the priests had been exceedingly busy in circulating the false reports that the Government intended to seize and sequester the holy jewels and ornaments of the cathedral, and on Monday, early in the morning, groups of men assembled

in the Plaza del Arzobispo, displaying great excitement. At noon the Governor, accompanied by the Secretary of the Government and the Chief of Public Order, proceeded to the cathedral, when he met the dean and three other officers of the church, who accompanied him for the purpose of aiding in the preparation of the inventory. When once in the cathedral the doors were closed and a few Guardia Civile were placed before them. The authorities then began their task; but meanwhile the crowd increased in numbers in the plaza of the Archbishop, and the excitement grew more intense.

The Ayuntamiento immediately assembled and the volunteers of liberty rallied at headquarters and both pushed through the crowd to the middle of the Cathedral, but nothing could be seen of the Governor, who was in the cloisters, wholly unconscious of what was going on the outside and even inside the cathedral, for the mob had followed the deputation in and a portion of it rushed at once to the cloisters, where the Governor was found. They immediately set up shouts of "Viva Carlos VII., Viva la religion," and precipitated themselves on the Governor, stabbing him in many places and killing him on the spot. The Secretary escaped, but the Chief of Public Order was wounded.

One of the party carried a cross and urged the murderers on. Not satisfied with this, they dragged the body out into the Archbishop's square and satiated their vengeance upon it. The head was cut open with a hatchet, the eyes were torn out, the ears cut off, the heart torn out, and the body covered with cuts and blows. It was mangled beyond all description by the fanatic fiends, and when the soldiers had cleared the square and found the corpse it could not be recognised except from the clothing, or that small portion it had on. The church dignitaries escaped harm, of course, and it does not appear that they made the slightest effort to save the Governor or to protect him in any way. Possibly it was not in their power to do anything. The situation was so alarming that the city was placed under martial law, all the volunteers placing themselves under the command of the military Governor. An investigation was at once instituted and a large number of arrests have been made. More than seventy persons were taken into custody, among them several priests and other ecclesiastics. The Archbishop was brought up and made a deposition, the contents of which are not known. The examination of witnesses will be promptly carried on, and the trial of the guilty parties, whom they are satisfied they have found, will be pressed through and a punishment inflicted that will in its celerity and completeness prove that the taking of life is not to be tolerated even in Spain.

ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONS OF FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the New York Herald insists that the relations between France and Prussia are still most critical, and that war is liable to break out at any moment. He says:

A well informed correspondent writes from Paris that active preparations for war against Germany have been carried out for the last 2 months. He speaks more especially of that system of espionage which almost always precedes the outbreak of hostilities. To carry out this system a number of officers were sent several months ago to all points of military importance in Germany to inquire into and report upon their respective strength. He further asserts that these officers, having done their utmost by all sorts of contrivances to possess themselves of the requisite information, the military staff is well posted upon those points. Referring more particularly to one of these spies, he proceeds to observe that he has heard from his own lips the tricks that have been employed to obtain accurate information as to the strength of the two fortresses of Coblenz and Ehrenbreitstein. This individual pretended to be drunk, and staggering over the parapets at Ehrenbreitstein, apparently rolled over and over down the declivity until noticed by the sentinel, who kindly assisted him into the guard room, where he was allowed to sleep off his simulated intoxication. Nobody had any idea that this spy had a tape measure in his pocket, which by the cunning trick alluded to, he made the most excellent use of. Of course, these officers have also sent in their reports as to the fighting qualities of the Prussian army and political opinion prevalent throughout Germany. They assert that the French and Prussian armies, as regards arms and tactics, are on a nearly equal footing. The Prussian officers are admitted to have a more thorough theoretical training than their French colleagues, while for the French private it is claimed that he has a much more inherent activity and a greater facility in adapting himself to unforeseen contingencies. On these grounds, then, France is stated to be in a position to

undertake an immediate contest should it become necessary. As for the political position, there exists but little sympathy with France in the Rhenish provinces; but it might be easily aroused by proving to the inhabitants that French taxes fall considerably short of those paid by them at present. There was also much dissatisfaction prevalent in the annexed provinces, which would readily side with France in the event of a rupture. Admitting that the correspondent has somewhat exaggerated the aspect of affairs, yet if we take into consideration the complications in other countries, especially in Austria and Russia, we must consider the present position as eminently serious. As a sign of the times we have to notice the various coast fortifications which are being pushed rapidly forward in every direction—more especially those on the Elbe, on the Hanoverian side, near Butz-fleth, while France is displaying a feverish activity in her great naval arsenal.

THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Daily News (Jan. 26th) discusses the question who is to be succeed Lord Malmesbury as leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords. Unless the House of Lords is to receive recruits from the Commons, Lord Cairns is the only possible man. Lord Stanley's leadership would do something to restore the intellectual balance between the two parties in the House of Lords. But under his guidance the Conservative party would be very doubtfully Conservative. Lord John Manners, though without force of character or intellect, is personally amiable; he is fluent in speech and not without readiness in reply. He would do well enough. If Lord Stanley and Lord John Manners both elect to remain in the Commons, the choice will lie between some duke's coronet and Lord Cairns's brains. The Conservatives do not like parvenus in the House of Lords, though they are obliged to put up with them in the House of Commons. If this feeling has way, a ducal *roi fainéant*—Marlborough will do as well as Buckingham, and Richmond as well as either.

With Lord Cairns as Mayor of the Palace, may be the form taken by a compromise between blood and brains.

OPENING OF THE SPANISH CORTES.

The Constituent Cortes formally opened its sessions in Madrid, February 11th, with great ceremony. The city was profusely decorated in honor of the event. Crowds of people were in the street, flags were flying, and the day was regarded as a holiday. The President of the Ministry Marshal Serrano, delivered a congratulatory address on the assembling of the Deputies. He said that the nations of Europe in attaining a higher degree of civilization threw off the traditional bonds which fettered the public mind. Spain delayed for a long time following the example of her neighbors. She now calls on her representatives to construct a new edifice. The resolution has achieved a bloodless victory. The strength of the nation has not been impaired; but the extravagance of former administrations has disorganized and embarrassed its finances. The Government relies upon the Cortes to remedy this by economical reforms and changes in the administration, by wise legislation in regard to the public debt and the payment of the interest thereon, and by economizing the expenses of the army and navy. The fundamental principles of radical liberalism which had been adopted in relation to religion, the press and education by the Provisional Government must now be consolidated by the action of the Deputies. Our revolution here is not responsible for the rising in Cuba. That is due to the errors of past governments. He expressed the hope that the insurrection there would be speedily extinguished, and that tranquility, based on reform, would be durable. He predicted that slavery would be abolished without precipitation and without compromising the prosperity of the Antilles. In conclusion he congratulated the country on the good relations with foreign nations, now more intimate than ever before.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PEERS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The list of Roman Catholic Peers of the three kingdoms is as follows: The Duke of Norfolk, the Earls of Denbigh, Buchan, Fingall, Granard, Kinmare, Orford, Dunraven, and Gainsborough; the Countess of Newburgh; Viscounts Gormanston, Taaffe, and Southwell; Lords Beaumont, Camoys, Sturton, Vaux of Harrowden, Petre, Arundell of Wardour, Dormer, Stafford, Clifford of Chudleigh, Herries, Lovat, Trimbleston, Louth, French, Howden and Bellaw. To these must be added the Marquis of Bute, who apparently "succeeded" after the sheets of the *Registrary* were sent to press. It may be interesting to know that the list of Roman Catholic Peers in 1769, just 100 years ago, included only eight English and six Irish Peers.

The inhabitants of Nice are preparing a petition for the suppression of the gaming institutions at Monaco.

A Mr. JOEL, an Israelite, has been appointed judge at Stralsund, being the first instance of a Jew being called to the bench in Prussia.