Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1887.

THE TOWN JESTER.

Our jocose evening contemporary may always be relied on to ridicule everything which tends to assist in the development of the city of which he is a resident. If he ever does say a word in Victoria's favor it is so half-hearted as to lead to the impression that it is most reluctantly dragged out of him. The Chinese steamers are a case in point. It has been boasted in a portion of the mainland press that the Abyssinia and her sister steamers would give Victoria the go-by and the rumor has been circulated throughout the city, emanating from a very high source. We gave a reason, an incontrovertible reason, why the Chinese steamers should call at this port (one that our facetious contemporary probably knew nothing about), and that was because Vancouver was not a port of registry and consequently the Chinese could not land there, and that this being such a port the Abyssinia would be obliged to come here to land her Mongolian passengers. Our statement could not be denied, but from it our contemporary makes insinuations which are quite worthy of him. Of course, he displays his usual ignorance and that lack of truthfulness which we have always predicted would eventually lead him into trouble. He must know that the Mongolian who are coming to Victoria will come anyway, whether the steamers touch here or not. In emphasizing our previous articles on the necessity of the steamers calling here from a business and general standpoint, we have acted in the best interests of the city in whose progress we are bound up by showing that legally they are compelled to do so. Once the Abyssinia touches here we need have no fears of the rest following in her wake. It is regrettable that our contemporary should for some reason or other, which at present we cannot divine, be so blinded by prejudice as to jest in his own silly way over a matter which affects the gravest and most vital interests of Victoria.

BLAKE'S RESIGNATION.

It is at last announced that the Hon. Edward Blake has definitely resigned the leadership of the Reform party. This action on his part is no doubt a carefully considered one. Just prior to the meeting of the house it will be remembered that he addressed a "private and confidential" letter to his supporters announcing that he was obliged to resign the honorable position to which they had appointed him, and that he was finally prevailed upon by his followers to reconsider his resolution. It was then arranged that to lighten his labors he should be assisted by representative members of his party from each of the provinces, Mr. Watson, the only liberal elected at the last general elections in the Northwest territories or British Columbia, keeping his party of one in line and attending to the varied interests of that large section of country. This scheme has not apparently worked satisfactorily and the debates of the Commons show us that Mr. Blake has as usual been obliged to perform the lion's share of the work. In the nature of things such a division of labor could not be expected to result successfully as far as the Opposition is concerned. It is just different with the government. Sir John speaks for his party on great questions not affecting the details of the various departments, which after all embrace the work of the House. The different ministers attend to these and in this way a satisfactory division of labor is attained, allowing the Premier a comparative cessation from really hard work. Mr. Blake has, as his friends well know, long ago grown weary of active political life. He has only occupied the high place he has so long and, we may add, worthily filled through the pressure brought to bear upon him by his party and the exigencies of the case. Fighting an always losing battle, does not tend to make one satisfied with his environment, and it is quite generally understood that Mr. Blake is very sensitive on the question of the last general elections. He reproaches himself to some extent with the disaster which fell upon his party. Never had they a better show for victory, since various circumstances conspired to lead them to believe the pulse of the people was beating with them. What with Riel's manpower in Quebec, secession raising its hideous features in Nova Scotia, the antagonism of the government's once powerful newspaper organ in Ontario, hostile local governments in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the countless other causes which tended to lead the Liberal party to believe that victory was perched on their banners, they may be, perhaps, excused for that vain-glory which was characteristic of them prior to the 22nd day of February last. The persistency with which they hoped against hope with that famous majority of "one" still ringing in our ears evidenced the great surprise with which they viewed the triumphant return to power of the Old Chief and the Liberal-Conservative party. No wonder that Mr. Blake felt sore over his crushing defeat and attributed the result in some measure to himself. But after all he did his best. He worked with all his might for his party and his eloquent voice was raised night after night throughout Ontario. The strain upon his mental and physical energies must have been very great indeed and his endurance was really remarkable. His change of base on the Protection question in the now celebrated Malvern speech was certainly calculated to do him injury, but the source of his defeat must be looked for from other than his own individual failures. The great cause was the fact that his party had no policy to place before the people, no scheme to offer them showing a broad statesmanlike grasp, which as an alternative to that offered them by the liberal-conservative party appealed to their reason and their patriotism. Without any defined policy they went to the country, and without any party cohesion since they preached one doctrine in the Maritime provinces, another in Quebec and quite a different one in Ontario, and under such circumstances they could not fail to follow a losing game. Here was the real cause of their failure to convert the electors to their own way of thinking. With belief in Protection and in a powerful party which has shown its faith in the future of this Dominion, the people could not do otherwise than lend them that powerful endorsation which retains them in the control of the destinies of Canada for another term of office.

Mr. Blake is personally a gentleman of the most unimpeachable character, and intellectually one of the most gifted men in Canada. He has failed, however, so far to show any great political foresight or any of the qualities which go to make up the successful statesman. In retiring from the hurly-burly of political life he will find a better field for the exercise of his abilities in the profession of which he is so distinguished an ornament and as a special pleader without a peer. Only a genuine regret can be felt by both political parties that he is incapacitated by illness from further discharging the duties of leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, and the hope will be generally expressed that in the quiet of private life he may soon be restored to good health. Who will succeed him? Who is there to succeed him? Sir Richard Cartwright is the only figure in view at present, and he will hardly be successful in leading a party, many of the members of which are not in the fullest accord with him. He will never be a leader of men.

A GOOD MEASURE.

Dalton McCarthy, one of the ablest men in parliament, although pretty much taken up with his law practice, usually finds time to bring forward each session a usual bill of some kind or another. For two years he fought for the establishment of a court of railway commissioners which led to the appointment of a royal commission to enquire into the subject of railway rates. This year he comes forward with a bill for the protection of railway employés. It provides, first, that on every line of railway in the Dominion the frogs shall be filled with packing, and secondly, that there shall be on the roofs of all box freight cars running boards at least thirty inches wide. These boards are to be rather longer than the car, and there is to be placed along them a railing or chain supported by uprights two feet high and strong enough to bear the weight of a man. The third provision is that the oil cups for the oiling of locomotives shall be within the cab. The bill protects three classes of railway men from accidents to which they are liable, the yardman from being caught in frogs, the brakeman from being swept off the top of the car and the engine driver and stoker from the danger incurred in oiling up while the locomotive is in motion. Where an accident occurs in consequence of non-compliance with the act the railway company shall be liable to a suit for damages, and the injured party shall recover not more than the equivalent of his estimated earnings during the five years preceding the injury of a person in the same grade of employment. All suits must be entered within three months of the accident.

REVISION OF VOTERS' LISTS.

The government's bill proposing to suspend the revision of the Dominion voters' lists this year will effect a saving of a quarter of a million dollars. Probably not a member of the house but what was glad to see the proposal made. The opposition, though willing to save the expense, objected to the arrangement on the ground that the lists are imperfect now and that they will become still more so as time progresses. This being the case, it is claimed that the bye-elections must be fought on defective and unfair lists. Several members intimated that many of the revisers have already commenced the work of revision and that they (the members) have been put to expense in the protection of their interests. Hon. Mr. Thompson stated that the revisers are to be notified at once not to proceed with their labors.

"C" BATTERY.

The announcement of our special correspondent at Ottawa that the government intend instituting "C" battery during the present year will prove reassuring to our citizens, who had long hoped against hope. Like the barracks it was mooted year after year with no practical result, and it cannot be wondered that we had long ago grown weary of waiting. Now we have every reason to believe that the battery will be established and that our defences will be placed on a proper footing. The proposed visit of the minister of militia and General Middleton to this city during the summer cannot fail to awaken them to a sense of the necessity of making our defences strong and sure and we have no doubt that as a result of their coming extensive works will be built in and around Victoria. The building of the barracks ought to be begun at once and the appropriation of $10,000, entirely too small for the department will find out, expended. If this amount is again allowed to lapse we shall feel like bidding it a regretful good-bye forever.

THE JUBILEE.

Acting on our suggestion arrangements have been made to extensively advertise the Queen's jubilee. In a few days it will be well known along the Sound, in Portland and east of that city, along the line of the Canadian Pacific railway, and wherever the fact can be circulated that Victoria intends to do itself proud in honor of the jubilee year of our most gracious Queen. We apprehend that the city will be crowded with visitors, and we trust that our American friends will swell the number. They have recently shown such nobility of soul in responding generously to the cries for assistance from the sufferers by the Nanaimo disaster that we feel like according them a hearty welcome to our city, and assuring them of our gratitude and good will. The mainland will be down *en masse*, if we can judge by reports which reach this office, while it is not improbable that San Francisco will be well represented. The committee are working strenuously to make the affair an entire success, and we have every reason to believe that they will not be disappointed. Indeed, we have little doubt, judging by present appearances, that the celebration will eclipse anything that has ever taken place on the North Pacific coast. No pains are being spared to secure this result.

ANOTHER VIEW OF IT.

The Chicago *Tribune*, a strong advocate of the annexation of Canada, is much shocked at the frankness of the New York *Sun*. The *Tribune* explains to its too candid contemporary, that there can be no objection to letting commercial union precede political union, since the former would only bear to the latter the same relation that courtship does to marriage. The *Tribune* puts the matter this way: "Commercial union must precede political and be its John the Baptist. So long as trade relations are in a partial suspense and what little traffic there is must pass through custom-house gates and be pawed over by government inspectors fraternal feelings cannot develop a union sentiment, and the United States wants no unwilling territory any more than a self-respecting man wants an unwilling wife. When Canada becomes tired of bearing her heavy burdens of debt and desires to come into the American union she is entirely welcome, but not as the result of a clubbing. The *Sun* puts political union in advance of commercial union, which, to pursue analogy, is putting marriage before courtship." The *Tribune* then proceeds to compare the North American continent to Germany, and argues that as the Zollverein preceded German unity, so commercial union between Canada and the United States must precede political union. It concludes: "It is much the same on this continent as it was in Germany. Prussia could have got on well enough without the Zollverein, and was steadily pushing to the front, but the petty principalities were too insignificant to be seen by the naked eyes. The present commerce between Canada and the United States amounts to about thirty-five or forty millions a year, but with reciprocity it would be more than doubled the first year, and that enlarged commercial prosperity secured, both countries could well afford to let political relations adjust themselves. But it forgets in its analogy that those parts of Germany over which waved the flags of Russia and Austria neither joined in the Zollverein, nor yet in the empire. Canada is now a component part of a commonwealth of which the United States would form only a respectable province. Its position is in no way analagous to that of those small and weak German principalities which Prussia, by combined diplomacy and force, unites with herself and called the German empire.

THE DECREASE OF CRIME.

There are more agencies in operation in the world for the suppression of crime and for moral and religious evolution than have ever been known before. Coming right to the main point, there are more believers in the cardinal truths of Christianity than at any other period of the Christian era. These adherents, nominal and real, are practically controlling the affairs of the world. It is not claimed that they are the majority of the world's population or that they shape the religious policy of some of the older nations which have a decaying civilization like that of China. But nominally Christian nations hold in their hands the great moral and physical forces of the world. Much as they dissent on minor articles of belief they do hold in common many religious principles, and are more or less influenced by them. There is an enlightened conscience, clearer convictions of right and wrong and acknowledged rules of conduct on the side of justice and humanity. Look at the great body of international law. On what is it founded? Primarily on the precepts and principles of religion. It has to a large extent been evolved from Christianity. There is hardly a principle or rule of international conduct laid down which does not accord with an enlightened religious conscience. It recognizes that there will be controversies in the world, great conflicts—wars among nations. But it lays down principles for the mitigation of these evil, just as far as possible. The old time barbarities are not longer tolerated. Property is not to be wantonly destroyed. Prisoners are not to be cruelly treated. Persons engaged in religious and sanitary work in time of war are to be protected. In short, while the most enlightened religious conscience cannot wholly prevent wars, it was never so influential in mitigating the evils of war. In modern times the great crimes of the world have unusual publicity. This fact alone tends to increase the impression among many that great crimes are increasing, while if anything can be deduced from history, ancient and modern, what is called the wickedness of the world is actually decreasing. The world is better than it was ages ago. It will be better ages hence. The moral forces of the world are not weakening. The modified statements of religious belief here and there are not a sign of lapsing and decadence. They are rather a sign of earnest inquiry and intelligent thought. It is not the increase of great crimes, but the wider and more universal publicity, which, to some extent, ministers to a religious pessimism, and seems to furnish the basis for a conviction that the world is going to the bad. What do we know about the great crimes that prevailed among ancient nations, save as to the uncertain light shed by a few fragments of history? But to-day we have the moral and religious data of the world. And these do not show lapsing and decadence, but such progress as to justify the hope that by the agencies now in operation crime will be diminished, and there will be a slow but constant mitigation of the greater evils of the world.

LEGISLATING FOR DEADHEADS.

The Toronto *Mail* twits Senator McInnes, over his little bill to compel the railways to carry legislators and judges free. This, we understand, is the only measure that has originated in the Senate during the current session, and it favors of boodle. The *Mail* remarks pleasantly:

"The country takes good care that its legislators do not suffer in pocket when they travel on public business. They are paid ten cents per mile for their trip to Ottawa, and ten cents per mile for their return journey. This means for a legislator who lives in Toronto an allowance of $52.40, as the Auditor-General's report shows, for the run to Ottawa at the beginning of the session and the return at the end. For Senator McInnes the arrangement secures no less a sum than $688 as mileage from New Westminster, in addition to his indemnity of a thousand dollars. As the expenses of the legislators are paid so liberally out of the public funds, it would be rather overreaching for the country to require that no portion of the money voted to meet the cost of travelling shall be handed over to the companies who provide the means for transportation. Whereupon the Montreal *Herald* (liberal) is moved to remark: "Admitting the propriety of Mr. McInnes' movement to redeem the senate from the odium of legislative stagnation, may be a visionary idea the originality of Mr. McInnes' proposition, it must still be confessed that he has got hold of the wrong end of the deadhead question. Besides, the bill is unnecessary. There is a strong belief that legislators and judges are travelling over the railways free at the present moment, and although Mr. McInnes may be an exception to the rule, this, we take it, is an exception which makes the rule. If there had not been an exception, the senate might not have had this bill before them, but still the exception does not justify the bill."

We do not say that Mr. McInnes' proposition is without merit. It may be a good thing to compel the railway to carry, say, our legislators free, and thus make the question of railway influence, provided they have not wives or sisters or cousins or aunts. If the bill is to go through we would have it amended in this sense: If there is a Canadian legislator, standing alone in the world, and who would not under any circumstance request the railway managers to extend the deadhead principle to his mother or his mother-in-law, his sons or his daughters, or any of his relatives of either sex, we think it would be a good idea to legislate in his behalf and remove all danger of his being corrupted by railway influence. It would be quite proper, too, for so unique a bill to originate in the senate.

THE METLAKAHTLA INDIANS.

The Metlakahtla troubles seem likely, says the Montreal *Witness*, to terminate in a manner equally unlooked for and undesirable. Efforts are being made to secure from the United States government the free gift of a location in Alaska to which to transfer the Metlakahtla Indians and sufficient interest seems to have been secured already to give promise of success. This proposed removal is the suggestion of Mr. William Duncan, the missionary whose labors on behalf of the *aborigines* of British Columbia, and of the Metlakahtla Indians especially, have been rewarded with such eminent success. It will be a source of regret to many of Mr. Duncan's most earnest friends and admirers that he has been unable to find any other solution of the troubles that would be certain to prove really enduring. But no one knows so thoroughly as himself the difficulties in the way, while the confidence in him of the Indians themselves is seemingly boundless. For nearly forty years he has been their guide, counsellor, friend and in thus retiring with his *proteges* altogether from the scene of the late disputes, he leaves but a barren victory indeed to Bishop Ridley, his clerical adversary. What there is to-day of good in these Indians is almost solely the effect of the labors and devotion of Mr. Duncan, as even his detractors admit. The local verdict, in a few words, is that this lay missionary has ever been a hard-working, most useful and thoroughly practical Christian, and that, in spite of his lack of submission to the clerical *regime* at variance with his own, he has solved the Indian problem as no other has done and has carried on a mission which might well be a model to others. He has been successful in putting a stop to the liquor traffic. He taught them, too, to be law-abiding under injuries to which few white men would have submitted. He broke down their tribal system and organized them into an industrial community.

CANADA'S DEFENSES.

CHICAGO, May 28.—The *Times'* Halifax (N. S.) special says: Extraordinary precautions have lately been taken by the military authorities which render admission to the citadel by ordinary citizens more difficult than ever, while even those supposed to have business there are under certain restrictions. No person, whether a British subject or not, can obtain entrance unless holding a pass from the brigade officer stating that there are reasons for his or her admittance, and no one is to be allowed inside if the visit is out of mere curiosity. No foreigner of whatever nationality can be admitted unless he has a special permit issued by the war office in London. Even the officers of the army stationed in Halifax are not permitted to pass the gates if they happen to be dressed in plain clothing and without the necessary pass.

A communication received from the home authorities this week contained orders that the new rules were to be enforced with the greatest strictness. The reason for the measures taken to so rigorously exclude the public is said to be because newspaper correspondents have been granted so much freedom inside the citadel in the past that they have been enabled to give minute descriptions of the works, guns, etc., and this the authorities do not appreciate.

TO KEEP DRAIN PIPES FROM CLOGGING WITH GREASE.—Place a lump of sal soda over the aperture and flood frequently with boiling water.

MR. STARR'S FAREWELL.

His Congregation and Sunday School Children Tender Him Kindly Remembrances.

Our eastern exchanges contain the following account of the Rev. Mr. Starr's farewell:

At a large meeting of the members and attenders of Berkeley street Methodist church last night the retiring pastor, Rev. J. E. Starr, received substantial recognition of the regard in which he is held by the people who have listened to his pulpit utterances during the past three years. The proceedings opened with divine exercises, after which the choir and Sabbath school children entertained the audience with several sacred selections. On behalf of the Quarterly Official Board, Mr. Hamby presented Mr. Starr with a copy of a resolution recently passed by the board. The resolution was in the form of an address, artistically illuminated and handsomely framed, and read as follows:

We, the members of this board, on the eve of the departure of our beloved pastor, Rev. J. E. Starr, after closing a three-year term with us, take the opportunity of expressing our regret at the severance of ties that have been of the most pleasant and delightful nature. As a church we have been greatly blessed by his ministrations, which under Divine guidance have not only increased our spiritual weal but added materially to our membership. The example continually set us by Bro. Starr of implicit trusting in God has inspired us to place greater faith in Him whose ways are mysterious, love unbounded and power and willingness to save unfathomable.

Bro. Starr endeared himself to our people by his cheerful manly wise counsels and keen sense of duty, never hesitating to commend right or condemn wrong, while he is deeply beloved for his sympathy with the afflicted, and received in return comfort and consolation, in various ways our pastor's usefulness was extended by his sympathy with the sorrowing, cheerfully into church work, and ably seconded his many efforts to contribute to the advancement of our church.

Our earnest prayer is that Almighty God may take Bro. Starr under His special guidance, while laboring on the Pacific slope, and that his work in that portion of the Lord's vineyard will result in the salvation of many souls and the extension of His Kingdom. We also pray that God's choicest blessings may rest upon Bro. Starr's household while in the Far West, and that he, Mrs. Starr and their child may not only enjoy all earthly comforts, but be spared to resume, in the not distant future, that relation ship with our church which is now about to be severed—a prayer that finds an echo in the heart of every member of our congregation.

W. J. HAMBLY,
Recording Steward.

SUBSTANTIAL APPRECIATION.

Mr. Coatsworth, city commissioner, then ascended the platform, and, after reading an address from the congregation, tendered Mr. Starr a purse of $260 in gold, and confided to his keeping a gold watch and chain for Mrs. Starr, who evidently is as great a favorite with Berkeley street church-goers as her husband.

Mr. Wm. Gooderham spoke a few words and told Mr. Starr he would be calling to see him, as he intended taking a trip west. The children sang a verse while the pastor was recovering from his surprise, and then Mr. Starr spoke as follows:

While the children were singing I was trying to think what to say. I feel to-night something like I felt on the afternoon of the day I was married, when I was asked to respond to the toast of the bride. I was completely tongue-tied. I suppose it would be orthodox for me to say that I am surprised, but really I am. I never knew until now that you knew that my wife spoke of me as her husband. I think, too, I can say for her that she also is tongue-tied. If ever I felt before, I don't talk much about her. I am not like Sam Jones, always bringing out my precious wife, but still water runs deep, and this watch will be the guarantee that I will keep her safe. I didn't think you were so willing to get rid of me as to pay my expenses. I am surprised, the more so as I understand that after the organ collection was taken up the congregation was strapped. Then I notice by observation, and by reading the *Gazettes* when I do read it—that these presentations are generally made in circuits where there's been a row or where there is a deficiency in the salary, or where one-half of the congregation is against the minister and the other fellows get ahead by presenting a purse. But I don't think we ever had a row here, and that's why I am sorry to leave. If we'd had a row then I'd be happy to get out. When a man has received indications—by the cold shoulder and other way—that he's not acceptable, it's an easy matter to go. I am surprised that this has been kept so quiet, especially when there were so many knife in the secret. (Laughter.)

However, I don't value this presentation so much as if it had taken place in your hearts, and I believe this present is indicative of your feelings. Perhaps when I come back from British Columbia an Indian church will have me, and then you will have to take me again. (Laughter.)

The proceedings were brought to a close by singing the doxology, after which scores took a final leave-taking of Mr. and Mrs. Starr, who leave in a few days for the Pacific slope with the best wishes of many warm friends.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

Great Britain's representative institutions have long been its pride. They have been both a bulwark against tyranny and the nursery of freedom. They have protected the country from violent revolution. In them the voice of the people has always been heard, and they have carried the wishes of the majority into effect. They have not always moved with the regularity of clock-work and they have never been theoretically perfect, but they have succeeded in preserving and developing the power of the people and in giving them just laws adapted to their character and condition. But of late years the working of Parliament has not been satisfactory. Although it more faithfully represents all classes of the people than ever it did, it has not been able to do the work of legislation as speedily and as effectively as the necessities of the country require. It has too much work of a comparatively unimportant nature to do, work which municipalities can more better and more quickly done by local representative bodies. To make matters worse in this respect means have been found to use the most valued privileges of the minority for the express purpose of blocking legislation. Obstruction has become a science in the House of Commons and many of its members glory in their power to impair the law-making functions. In a strain of bitter, biting pleasantry, for which Lord Salisbury was noted when he was a young man, the Premier, at the Royal Academy banquet, alluded to the present position of Parliament in the following language:

We live in a period of which we have reason to be proud. It is not merely that we are the Ministers—as has been proudly indicated—of an Empire on which the sun never sets; it is not merely that we inhabit a country sheltered to a great extent from all the dangers of modern times, when all other nations around us are watching anxiously the auguries of war; but we live also at a time when representative institutions have been brought to their highest perfection. We have recently completed our representative machine. We have made it as simple as possible, and we have broadened the pedestal on which it stands. We are now proudly and anxiously watching the excellence with which it performs the duties which are assigned to it. (Laughter.) Of course, different estimates of the nature of that excellence will be formed. It is being anxiously watched by foreigners. One of the most eloquent observations ever made to this assembly by an eminent man was that England would save herself by her energy and save Europe by her example. I have no doubt that the admirers of representative institutions are fully convinced that we now saving Europe by our example in that respect. (Laughter.) Of course, it is easy to mistake the functions of those institutions, and not to see the excellence of the work they are doing. (Laughter.) If you imagine that their function is to give effect to the will of the majority, it is obvious you are mistaken. Again, if you imagine that it is their function to add much legislation to the statute book, it is obvious again that you are entirely mistaken. (Laughter.) They are really meant for testing some of the highest qualities of man. They are meant for testing physical strength, endurance and patience. (Laughter.) They constitute a great struggle between those who are able to talk and those who are able to endure (laughter); and those will win who can sit the longest listening to the dreary drip of dilatory declamation, and can see beyond the exhausting labors to which they are called the victory which lies perhaps somewhat in the future.

SMOTHERED LIVER.—Lard a calf's liver with strips of pork, brown nearly a quarter of a pound of butter in a stewing-pan roll the liver all over in it, add salt, pepper, onions, carrots and herbs, with some wine, cover very tightly and cook two hours and a quarter. Shake the pot frequently so that the liver will not stick to the bottom. Half an hour before removing the pot from the range add some carrots cut into long square strips and a few little onions. Serve with the liquid and vegetables poured over as a sauce.

ELECTRO-CELERNAVIR.

The Wonderful Boat of the Future.—A Sunday Letter.

(Written for Sunday's COLONIST.*)*

The many uses to which electricity has been put during the last few years are almost without calculation. The brilliant but soft, illuminant; the whispering telephone; the clicking and lightning-like telegraph, are at present the most useful of its multifarious applications, but we hear of it being applied in almost every art, science and profession; its ranges of work being so infinitely varied that it can be used to locate a bullet imbedded in the tissue of a living body; to fire the pent-up energies of masses of dynamite; to rack whiskey; to chronicle the time; to fuse metals; to detect burglars; to lock safes. In fact it can be applied in thousands of ways to be of use to man, who has imprisoned the lightnings of Jove, and made them subservient to his will.

Among the myriad duties of this subtle force has been that of propelling boats, using the energy stored up on shore by fixed dynamos, in turning the wheels and propellers of sea-going craft. This has heretofore been found to be too costly a form of propulsion to warrant any extensive application of the plan. It also limited the length of voyages of such craft, as the quantity of stored energy could not be made large enough to supply the electro-motors for a lengthy time, and although the system has been found to work satisfactorily as to speed and easy means of controling it in small vessels, it has not as yet been used in larger craft. In those few which have already been built it has been remarked that the freedom from the dust, smoke and smell of the ordinary engine is one of the greatest features of the plan, and this lack of smoke, and the other attendants of coal consumption would make the electric boat of great service in time of war, as the enemy would not be able to discover the whereabouts of the vessel by the tell-tale black cloud which now accompanies all steamers which use coal as a motive force.

It has been known, however, among scientists, that the elements contain electricity in the greatest abundance. The secret has been though, to extract it at an economical rate so that its force could be used in place of the combustion of coal. It has always been the custom to generate this electric force by means of dynamos, driven either by steam or water power, and there is a loss of power in storing up and using again in just the proportion of the friction of the generating and motive machines, and the resistance of the conducting wires to the electric current. Taking these losses into consideration, the practical value of electricity as a motive power for boats has not as yet been given to the world.

But unceasing thought and study have accomplished the thing at last, and mental power has succeeded in wresting the secret from nature, who has so long guarded it, and if reliance can be placed on what follows, we may expect ere long, a complete revolution in the maritime traffic of the future. The ponderous and expensive engines, with their coal-devouring boilers, will give place to a silent and powerful force which at a minimum of expense will propel the ship of the future at a speed which has never been dreamt of by naval architects. Perhaps the idea and its application may be a visionary scheme. Of that we will have naught to say, only giving the report as we have received it, and leaving the discussions as to its possibilities to abler and better-informed people, who may have made a study of the subject.

The following is a letter which has been received by a resident from an old friend and college chum, which is to say the least, marvellous. We give it, but use reasonable caution in accordance with the request of the recipient:

MARITIMOS ISLAND, May 12th, 18—

Dear friend Jack:—It is almost an age since we parted in the spring of 18— at the time of our graduation from the college of R—. Since then we have not heard from me, except that I went away on a cruise to the southern seas. In fact, neither has any one else of our old acquaintances, and no doubt you have all given me up for dead, as the vessel in which I departed has never returned, and at the present writing I am on an island in the South Pacific, far out of the track of merchant traders, and in fact totally known to navigators. I send you this by a Spanish brig, which by stress of weather was drifted near the island, the sight of her inspiring me with longings to communicate with the outer world. The brig will sail to-morrow, she having made everything shipshape, and her crew are in perfect ignorance of the great work which is being carried out on this island, they having only seen me, and think that I am some strange recluse who has in this manner buried himself far from the world. But to explain. You no doubt recollect Thursby, who was in the class of 18— with us; you remember his great fad was electricity, to forward his studies of which he neglected other branches of education, but graduated to acquiesce in the wishes of a wealthy uncle, his heir he was. After our college term had been finished, you may remember that I went to Thursby's home in respose to a hearty invitation from him, he having from the first conceived a great friendship for me. Upon our arrival at his uncles we found the old gentleman fast failing in health, and from every appearance not long for this world. Thursby soothed his last days, and the old man breathed his last a month after the nephew's return from college. After the funeral Thursby came to me and said that the dream of his life could now be gratified, as he, by his uncle's death, had inherited the vast estates of which he had been the master, "yes," said he "I will now put my plans in to execution." What they were you shall hear. The having turned all the property into cash, purchased an immense amount of machinery of a most expensive class, metal-smelting apparatus, etc., being among it. When he had completed his purchases, he chartered a good-sized schooner which was laden with the machinery etc., and which cleared from Philadelphia, ostensibly for the coast of South America. But that was not to be her destination, as after we had been a few days at sea, Thursby having persuaded me to accompany him in the vessel, he unfolded his plans to me. They were strange, and at first seemed visionary, but I have since found out that they were not altogether impreba ble. Thursby's idea was that the electric force was dormant in the elements, and chiefly in the water of the sea. He had always wished to experiment in confining and making useful this vast store-house of power, and this trip was for the furtherance of those experiments and labors. I found that we were to proceed to an island in the South Pacific, where the cargo of the schooner was to be discharged, and the crew to assist in the erection of the heavy parts of the several machines, when Thursby would there be able to prosecute his experiments undisturbed. In the course of time we reached our destination, and the work of landing the cargo was commenced. Several iron-working machines were discharged and put up, and also the iron hull of a small steamer, with propeller, etc., complete, but minus engines or boilers. After everything was landed the schooner left, five of her crew, however, remaining with us, but as the schooner or no other vessel has since visited us with the exception of the brig which takes this letter to you, the probabilities are that the schooner was lost on the passage back, and so, for seven years, we have been isolated here, and such has been the will and controlling power of Thursby, that we who have remained with him have never regretted it, and in fact, we have become so engrossed with the results of his experiments, that we would fain wait and see them brought to a completion. We will not have long to wait now, as the theory of propulsion has been solved, and it only remains to fit up our little craft so that she can stand a run of about 3,000 miles, when we will return to civilization again.

Thursby has, after infinite pains perfected his method, which may be briefly described as follows: The hull of a vessel is covered, much in the same manner as the copper sheating of wooden vessels, by an alloy of a peculiar kind. This alloy, has the power of generating electricity by merely passing through sea water. The bottom of a vessel being covered with this alloy, thus generates the electricity to drive her, the electric force being utilized by a dynamo which is used to turn the shaft, in place of the usual engine. A small storage battery is placed on board and charged once from a fixed battery or dynamo on shore. This is to enable start the propelling dynamo of the vessel, which, after gaining headway, supplies the required amount of force, it being generated by the passage of the alloy, before spoken of, through the water. Paradoxical as it may seem, the faster the vessel moves, the more power is generated, and so it is seen that the limit of speed is only controlled by the strength of the vessel to withstand the rush of the water as she tears her way through it. Our small craft has easily attained a speed of 60 miles per hour, in smooth water, and Thursby says a hundred could be gained, had he a heavier boat. The amount of electricity generated is also far in excess of that needed for propelling, the overplus being used in steering, lighting and heating the ship, and also in recharging the small storage battery used to get the initial motion on the vessel.

Thursby hopes, too, soon have all necessary arrangements complete for a run to the South American or Australian coasts, when larger vessels will be constructed, which will prove the wonderful efficiency of the system to the world. More definite particulars I cannot write, but when we again reach civilization, you will learn the whole modus of the ship of the future. For the time I will wish you all prosperity till I see you again.

Yours, etc., JAMES L—

We await further news pertaining to this wonderful boat, which is to work such a revolution in traffic. Experts have informed us that the idea is not altogether improbable, and might be possible. Should the experiment become a fact, it will upset all known means of maritime transportation, and in a few years the present magnificent steamships will be obsolete and forgotten. The naval power, too, which is the first to adopt the system to its men-of-war, will have the supremacy and sovereignty of the seas, as a fleet which possessed such marked advantages as it would confer would be in a measure invincible, combining, as it would, such a swift and silent mode of attack, together with the fact that it could be independent of coaling stations, which are at present a necessity, without which fleets are powerless.

A FEARFUL REVENGE.

LONDON, May 28.—Madrid has been very much interested in a remarkable criminal trial which has just closed. A physician of Archidana was engaged to a beautiful girl in his locality. The doctor was handsome and popular with the ladies. One day he changed his mind about marrying, and went away for a stay in Panada. While there he heard that his former betrothed was receiving attentions from one of his friends, a tax collector. Jealousy made his former love revive. As soon as he returned home he returned to Archidana. He found the tax collector under his dulcina's window. The doctor at once disclosed himself and challenged his sweetheart to decide between her old lover and the tax collector. She chose the doctor, and the two were married within the shortest possible time, greatly to the fury of the discarded one. The marriage was happy and undisturbed. A year after a female child was born to them.

Meanwhile the rejected lover had become apparently the most devoted of friends. One day, some six months ago, the neighborhood was shocked by a terrible explosion. It was thought at first that it was a powder magazine, but it proved to be in the doctor's cottage. That morning a box had been received by the railroad express. It contained an infernal machine, and on opening the box the machine exploded, and both the doctor and his wife were killed. The crime was slowly but directly traced to the tax collector, and a dispatch from Madrid announces his condemnation to death.

THE ORIENT.

Hongkong dates to May 5th and from Yokohama to May 13th, give the following news:

CHINA.

Chinese capitalists are said to be taking away business of the foreign banks at Foochow by lending at an extraordinarily low rate of interest, the rate being given as from 7-10 to 9-10 of 1 per cent. per month.

British residents at Amoy have resolved to erect an hospital of one ward capable of accommodating six foreign patients suffering from epidemic diseases, in commemoration of the queen's jubilee.

The prospectus of the new Chinese railway company has been issued. No officials are to be concerned in its management, which is looked upon as a hopeful sign.

News has been received from Yunnan that there has been much popular opposition to the erection of the telegraph wire at Ta-ting-fu, where some of the native workmen have been wounded and the foreign constructor threatened.

The Chinese have declined to subscribe the money for the new railway, as they have taken the promoters, and the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris has contracted to lend the Chinese government 3,000,000 taels for this purpose.

Chinese troops have been stationed in force at Shing-King or Monkden, Turkestan.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of Chinese arrivals from San Francisco of late. On the other hand, the departures have been especially numerous—over five thousand—and it is apparent that the Chinese fear that the new treaty being negotiated by Minister Denby will curtail some of their privileges. They are, therefore, hurrying forward to get into the States before the door is locked.

Russian traders who went on a prospecting expedition to Thibet last winter have opened a shop there, and are disposing of the wares they brought with them. English traders from India were refused admission to the country.

JAPAN.

It is stated that there have been twelve cases of cholera in various parts of the empire this spring.

The total capital of eight railways that have recently received or applied for official sanction in Japan, amounts to 19,725,000 yen, and there are more looming in the near distance.

The total amount contributed by the public towards the coast defense fund from the 14th of March to the 30th ult., is about $557,000.

The makers of foreign style dresses in Osaka have steadily increased in number, there now being 256 of them. On the 9th inst. they are to meet at the chamber of commerce and arrange for forming a guild.

A home for seamen is to be established at Yokohama and another at Nagasaka.

It is proposed by the naval department that the standing fleet consist henceforth of fifty war ships and several cruisers, involving the expenditure, including the cost of torpedo apparatus, armament, etc., of about $30,000,000.

At a general meeting of the Union Church of Japan it was decided that all the churches in Japan should unite for the purpose of extending the field of their labors.

COREA.

It is reported that the Corean government has concluded a contract with Messrs. Meyer & Co. for three iron steamers. It is also said that Mr. Stripling, one of the commissioners of customs, has started out to find a favorable place on the northwest coast for a new harbor.

When we walk toward the sun of Truth all shadows are cast behind us.

How much better is the love that is ready to die than the zeal that is ready to kill.

JOHN BRIGHT IN OLD AGE.

An Illustration of How a Great Career May be Almost Blotted out—His Friendship for Daniel O'Connell and his Protest against Coercion in 1847—The Cause of his Downfall.

A London correspondent writing to the New York *Sun* says: "There is a strong old man sitting in House occasionally who illustrates how a great career may be turned backward. He has been in the House forty years, and has sat for one constituency twenty-eight years. Far back in his stock there were Jews. From Hebrew to Quaker seems a long stride. When he rambles with his stout stick through the lobby men generally take off their hats. When he entered the House in past days he was often greeted with a cheer. Now, fewer men than ever uncover to his shelf, firm step. Now when he enters the House no attention is paid to him.

He sits, if he can, in one of the seats below the gangway, near the aisle. He sits often with both hands clasping his cane and his chin on his hands, reflecting deeply and paying only indifferent attention to what is going on about him. His shoulders are slightly stooped. His chin is slightly protruding. His lips purse like a petulant child's. His large, kindly blue eyes are weak and lusterless. His abundant hair, white and disposed to wave and crinkle, falls down over his brow. His beard is frothy, like splashes of white surf. He sits silent, sullen or placid, as if living in much in the past. When he takes his habitual attitude, his pose rather than his figure recalls a familiar picture of Sir Walter Scott. All his critics concur in the opinion that, like Brougham and Lord John and O'Connell, John Bright has outlived his career, and that his last years are marring a splendid renown won on the aids of the people, in support of progress and liberty.

This is the man who really introduced agitation as a means of political progress in England. O'Connell had taught it to him. O'Connell had been stirring Ireland for forty years before John Bright came into the House of Commons. Bright did not shirk the utterance when the truth came to his lips that it was only when O'Connell's agitation had brought Ireland to the verge of civil war that Catholic emancipation was granted. For long after the great Dan's death Bright delighted to recall their intimate personal relations. He boasted of their friendship, and has often said that O'Connell was right on every great question, meaning particularly free trade, religious equality, the abolition of slavery, and parliamentary reform. The tactics which O'Connell employed Bright adopted. His witnessing the great Peterloo massacre in his childhood gave him an intense detestation of repressive measures against the people who by agitation seek redress of grievances.

The platform upon which Bright first stood up in public life consisted of few planks, but they were stout timber. Abolition of State church, abolition of protective duties, abolition of war, re