Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1885.

"JOHN GRANT, SECRETARY" OF THE LEATHERS & THORPE SWINDLE.

The other evening there appeared in the Coalarbor Times—a paper which by some blunder of its projectors has a location on Government street instead of on the shore of *False* creek—an article connecting the name of the editor of this journal with the Leathers-Thorpe swindle. That the public may be fully informed as to the nature of that charge a brief narration becomes necessary. Early in the fall of 1876 two strangers, who gave the names of L. L. Leathers and Col Thorpe, visited California. They bore with them what purported to be a valuable patent for making artificial stone. They made the stone in Oakland, San Francisco and Sacramento, and received in each place flattering certificates from public, scientific and practical men as to the value of the invention. From California they entered Oregon, where in every town of importance they made the stone and sold the patent. The press and public men everywhere endorsed the invention as being of great value. At Seattle they met with a similar reception—the papers and public men unanimously agreeing that the stone could be produced and shaped at a tithe of the cost of the natural article. When they reached Victoria they gave a practical test, and among other things laid the walk in front of Kurtz & Co.'s factory which, by the way, has lasted till the present day without presenting the first evidence of decay. In the course of a short time a meeting of leading citizens was called, of which Mr. JOHN GRANT, present member for Cassiar and chief owner of the Times, was appointed secretary. In the presence of these citizens (as will be seen by reference to the certificate signed by "JOHN GRANT, secretary," satisfactory tests were made. Subsequently the invention was sold to a local company, who gave money and notes to Leathers & Thorpe, which notes the latter suddenly disposed of and left the country. During their stay they employed the columns of the newspapers to a considerable extent; and as the invention was endorsed by leading tradesmen of California, Oregon and Washington Territory, the mayors of cities and other prominent men, not the slightest suspicion was entertained by any one, so far we know, that the invention was other than it was represented. The characters of most of the men whose names are attached to the certificate which appears in another column, would seem to be a sufficient endorsement of the test. Two cabinet ministers, Mr. A. R. (afterwards Judge) Robertson, Mr. A. S. Farwell, surveyor general, Dr. Powell, Indian commissioner, are included in the list of those present. When the parties went away no one was more surprised than their barrister, Mr. Robertson, and the proprietor of this paper. Neither Mr. Robertson, *The Colonist* proprietor "JOHN GRANT, secretary," joined the company—the first named gentleman because he deemed that the holding of stock would be incompatible with his position as legal adviser of the company, the second because he was not pecuniarily able and the latter for reasons best known to himself. All we know is that when the firm absconded they owed us a considerable sum for printing, which has not since been paid. Before consenting to endorse the invention the editor was shown certificates from leading men in California, Oregon and Washington Territory testifying to its value. These certificates may or may not have been genuine; but they were in the possession of many and a printed copy of them, which has been preserved, was seen by us yesterday and can be produced at any time and place to establish the *bona fide* character of the transaction so far as we were concerned. Every possible precaution was taken to guard against endorsing a worthless invention and we have no reason to suppose that "JOHN GRANT, secretary" to Leathers and Thorpe, was any more aware of the fraudulent character of the men than we were; but the public, who will read the certificate which appears elsewhere in this issue, will agree with us that if "artificial stones" are to be thrown by any one, a person who took so prominent a part in the affair as "JOHN GRANT, secretary," should be the last to indulge in the amusement, lest he smash his own glass house beyond the hope of repair.

AN INFAMOUS HOUSE.

Certain facts which came out at the recent sitting of the licensing court concerning the manner in which the "Hotel" is conducted would appear to justify its denunciation as one of the most morally corrupt places of resort on the coast. Situated on the very edge of the beautiful Beacon Hill Park—overlooking, in fact, the pleasant walks and drives which daily attract crowds of visitors—it is well calculated to deceive the innocent and unwary. On stated occasions so-called balls—which, however, are nothing better than drunken orgies, where the most depraved scenes are enacted—are held at this "hotel." Sometimes the orgies are carried on far into the morning. On a recent occasion the dawn of the Sabbath witnessed the mad revelry still in progress. Many of the *habitues* on these occasions are very young men who hold responsible positions in town. Others are young girls, scarcely in their teens, but who are utterly depraved and lost. When the "balls" break up the roads leading from the park are lined with half-drunken men and girls wending their way towards town. Respectable citizens who live in the vicinity are scandalized by the shouts and profanity of the revelers; and although these facts are notoriously known to the police no effort, so far as is known, has been made to suppress them or close the "hotel." There is said to be sufficient evidence in the hands of reputable citizens on which to found a charge of keeping a disorderly house against the proprietress with a reasonable prospect of obtaining a conviction. The mayor recently referred to this and similar houses in scathing terms and a drastic step is certainly necessary to put an end forever to the disgracefully immoral scenes.

HERAT.

Herat, the city in Afghanistan that the Russians would like to possess in opposition to the wishes and interests of England, has extraordinary advantages as a stronghold. The great high roads from Kabul, Teheran, Balk, Bokhara, Khiva, Meshed, Seistan and Kandahar, all meet in it. It has a splendid climate and lies in a fertile valley. What is of most importance is that it is surrounded by the greatest earthworks ever seen, the origin of which, like the origin of the place itself, is lost in remote antiquity. The town, which is a small square, is surrounded by an earthen parapet, if one may call it so, which measures 250 feet at its base, and is 50 or 60 feet high and surrounded by a wall 9 feet thick at the base and 18 feet high. In addition to this there is a wet ditch 45 feet wide and 15 feet deep. In fact, if the Russians got into it, it would be almost impossible to get them out. The Persians tried to capture it in 1838 under a Russian leader, Borowski, but were beaten off by the Afghans under Eldred Pottinger. In 1856, the Persians occupied it, also under Russian inspiration, but were compelled to evacuate it the following year, under pressure of British invasion of Persia itself, in which the Persian army was ruined in a single engagement. Abdurrahman Khan, who is on very friendly terms with the English, will probably now be subsidized for garrisoning it with a heavy force and be supplied with improved guns, or he will be paid for letting the British occupy it. Otherwise there will be no sleep for the unfortunate British taxpayer, for whom the morning news from every quarter of the globe is now so full of terrors.

BEHOLD THE HEAVENS.

The admirers of the starry heavens will be very much interested in watching in our eastern skies the giant planet Jupiter in his approaches to the beautiful star Regulus. These will be in proximity through the month, but will be in conjunction on the 14th, passing 51' north. By watching the star fixed in its position, the wanderings of the planet will be plainly perceptible. Jupiter will be east of the star till the 14th, and then on the west. The planet is in Leo Major; Regulus is a star of the first magnitude, often called the Cor Leonis from its position in the constellation near the heart of the Lion. The position of Saturn in Taurus is very beautiful, surrounded as he is by a galaxy of the most beautiful stars that adorn the heavens. In this part of the heavens, which so beautify our winter nights, there are no less than six stars of the first magnitude, and many of the second, besides the Pleiades and the planet Saturn in the midst. This part of the heavens is getting every night more to the west, and will soon be out of sight till next December. Venus will soon be hidden in the sun's rays, as Mars and Mercury are at present.

LEATHERS AND THORPE'S SECRETARY.

The galled jade winces. "John Grant, secretary" to Leathers & Thorpe, spreads himself over a half-a-column of the last night's False Creek Times in a vain effort to explain his connection with the artificial stone business. But he is ill at ease. His anxiety runs away with his reason, and his rage makes him forget his good manners—if he ever had any, which is extremely doubtful. He endeavors to make it appear that at the solicitation of a number of leading citizens he became secretary to Leathers & Thorpe. This is the transparent invention of a disturbed mind. Would a body of leading citizens ask the member for Cassiar to act for them in any capacity where a thoroughly honest and reliable person was required? "He who excuses himself accuses himself" is a saying which Mr. John Grant's last article fully exemplifies. We did not charge that he profited by the transactions of Leathers & Thorpe; but his vigorous denial last night warrants the suspicion that he did. It is plain, however, that he has profited from some occult source, for the ink is scarcely dry on his last application in bankruptcy before he arrays himself in purple and fine linen and blooms as a leading speculator in unproductive Coalarbor and False Creek town lots, and loses $9,000 in a vain effort to sustain in Victoria a paper that is devoted entirely to Burrard Inlet interests. The editor of *The Colonist* disclaims all knowledge or connection with the fraudulent features of the Leathers and Thorpe patent, of which John Grant was secretary. He invites now, as he did years ago, the fullest and closest scrutiny into every detail of his connection with that transaction. He asks no consideration, waives all the immunities that the element of time might otherwise convey and will not plead (as John Grant has pleaded) that the "the debt is outlawed" to escape payment. The charge brought against us in this connection was one of several which began with the accusation that we had been bribed by Mr. Edgar (a monstrous falsehood, which Mr. Edgar can refute under oath at any time when called upon.) Should the inquiry take place and should we fail to prove that we are at least as innocent of wrong-doing as "John Grant, secretary" to Leathers and Thorpe, we shall at once retire from public life and never again indite or dictate a line for a public journal.

Answer to "Free Will."

TO THE EDITOR:—A writer in yesterday's Standard is a fair sample of the antagonists of any moral reform. He rates the Blue Ribbon executive for answering a communication which questioned their veracity and terms them hypocrites and dilapidated d. and d.'s for calling the attention of the licensing court to a place of which, to use his own words, he knows nothing. The Blue Ribbon Club have never interfered with any person carrying on business in a legitimate manner. If the liquor traffic could be suppressed in a legal manner they would put forth every effort to attain that end. Their present occupation is the education of the masses, and the number of members, nearly 1,000, show that success will eventually crown their efforts.

"Free Will" cannot substantiate any of his statements respecting the well known resort. Let him visit that place when a grand dance is in full blast; let him observe the class of visitors frequenting the "necessary adjunct" where, to use the words of the hostess, everyone is accommodated. Let him visit Beacon Hill when the pale moon is shedding her rays o'er nature's grand work and listen to the drunken orgies of a number of drunken men and depraved women making the night hideous with their unearthly cries. "Free Will" enter where those angels of sin are breaking God's commandments by carousing on the Sabbath day and then, if he be a respectable man, let him say that the masses require such places in their midst.

BLUE RIBBON.

General Gordon.

TO THE EDITOR—General Gordon has been styled a Christian soldier; but certainly if he can be regarded as a Christian at all, his Christianity was of a very heterodox type, as the following extracts from letters written by him will show:

"The Christianity of the mass is a vapid, tasteless thing, and of no use to anyone."

"There would be no one so unwelcome to come and reside in this world as our Savior while the world is in the state it now is. He would be dead against nearly all our pursuits, and be altogether *outre*."

"You can form some idea of what Christ was like. Do you know any single one of his pretended successors, clergymen or dissenters, who are like him? Pure religion and undefiled, to visit the poor and afflicted, and to keep unspotted from the world. Tell me one you know who professes to teach you, who does this."

"Nothing can be more abject and miserable than the usual conception of God."

"We credit God with attributes which are utterly hateful to the meanest of men."

Gordon felt that there was a wide difference between orthodox Christianity and his own religion. He rejected fundamental doctrines of Christianity such as that of eternal torture and the necessity of belief in Christ for salvation. Unbelievers and pagans he held would not suffer for their heresy.

Gordon's fatalism, and his genuine trust in God and resignation to the divine will, accorded much more thoroughly with the ideas and beliefs of Islam than with those of either ancient or modern Christianity.

His idea of immortality was Buddhistic, rather than Christian. He believed in transmigration of souls, for he held that "this life is only one of a series of lives which our incarnated part has lived." He had "little doubt of our having preexisted, and that also in the time of our pre-existence we were actively employed." Similarly he believed we should be actively employed in a future life, and should "go on towards perfection, but never attain to it."

It seems, almost, that spiritualists have more claim to regard him as of their belief than the orthodoxy.

Japanese Children.

Japanese children have their heads shaved, with the exception of four little tufts—one before, and one behind, and one on each side. They wear bright and many colored clothes, their loose jackets having very long sleeves, almost to the ground, in each of which there is a pocket. They are odd little mites, sometimes going about in clogs, with their little bald heads shining in the sun. Some wear short stockings, but not all, and these are made like a mitten, with one division for the big toe, round which the sandals of the clogs are fastened. Custom requires that these clogs be removed before the child is taken into a room.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway.)

A motion was introduced yesterday by the opposition that the Government should make some equitable recognition to the volunteers of 1837 and 1838 residing in the province, for valuable services in defence of their country, but was lost by a bare majority of four.

LONDON, March 8.—Mr. John Dawson, County Auditor and Clerk of the township of West Williams, died in this city on Saturday of inflammation of the lungs, aged 54 years. Deceased was a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He had lived for 30 years in the village of Sylvan, North Middlesex.

QUEBEC, March 9.—L. G. Bhillage has donated $10,000 to a local university to found a "Sacred and Profane" chair.

BARRIE, March 9.—David and Shel don Brooks, wealthy farmers, were arrested on a charge of setting fire to the barns, stable and shed of James McQuay, their brother-in-law. The arson is supposed to be the result of a family grievance.

MONTREAL, March 9.—The Pioneer Free Throught Club asks the Quebec Legislature to amend the code of civil procedure, so that any one who conscientiously objects to take an oath may make an affirmation.

Mr. Henshaw, ex-president of the Board of Trade, stated to-day that he had been informed by Sir John Macdonald that no bankruptcy law would pass Parliament unless it contained a relief clause, giving all bankrupts who had acted honorably and concealed nothing and gave up everything a discharge.

Tasse, M. P., of La Minerve, has been sentenced to pay the fine of $50 and costs for libelling Mercier.

TORONTO, March 11.—A meeting of the Toronto Electoral Temperance Union decided that the city is not yet ripe for the submission of the Scott Act, and there are also not a sufficient amount of funds on hand to open the campaign.

The Scott Act campaign has been opened in Haldimand, Peterboro' and Ontario counties, leaving Wentworth, Haliburton and Welland the only counties in Ontario in which the temperance party are not organized.

Aymong, traveller and collector for the Toronto Brewing and Malting Company has skipped to the States after robbing his employers of three thousand dollars. Poker was the cause of ruin. He has written from Buffalo acknowledging the offence and hoping to be able to refund.

A cablegram has been received announcing that the offer of Toronto officers to raise a regiment for service in Afghanistan has been accepted. One officer left on a cable from the war office ordering him to join his regiment. Others have been ordered to hold themselves in readness.

OTTAWA, March 11.—The bankruptcy committee to-day. Some rather astounding revelations came out to-day at a meeting of the public accounts committee. Mr. Blake some time ago said that no explanation other than vouchers would satisfy him as to upwards of three thousand dollars expended by Sir John Macdonald for secret service money. To-day he added that Parliament should be called to provide this sum before the executive could spend it, less a case of emergency. Sir John replying, said that threats of public buildings to be destroyed by dynamite had been received not only from private parties, but from British and United States authorities. The Government therefore had to take precautions. Threats against the lives of public men had been made, and they too had to be watched. In this way the money was spent. Although in most cases the Government did not put any belief in the danger, yet an intance showed that they ought to be on their guard. Prior to the blowing up of the Parliamentary building in Quebec the Government was advised that such was contemplated. They did not believe it, and did nothing. It turned out that one of the parties whose name was mentioned in connection with the affair was afterwards concerned in an attempted murder in New York. Sir John alluded to Phelan. The Premier also said that the names of the parties given him personally and privately would never be divulged.

WINNIPEG, March 10.—The reform association has called a convention for the support of Provincial rights, to meet here on March 31st. The feeling throughout the Province is strong against the Norquay terms.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., March 11.—While some boys were rabbit shooting at the whirlpool on the American side to-day they came across the body of a man in the whirlpool bush near the Leveaux College. The body had apparently been dead three weeks. A revolver laid by his side and a bullet through his brain. The body was dressed in a suit of dark clothes, black silk hat and sealskin gloves. A silver watch gold chain and diamond pin were found on his person.

LONDON, March 10.—Last fall Marshall Piggott mysteriously disappeared from his home in that township, and he has not been heard from since. He was the possessor of a farm of 50 acres and in fairly good circumstances, and no motive for his disappearance could be found so that the affair was shrouded in mystery and almost sank into street east, and while there were implicated in robbing a man named James Patton, from Stratford, of $70. Somerville has been on the force ten years and Beatty three years.

Miss Goulding, a young lady residing at 120 St. Patrick street, while riding home in a street car from Parkdale last night, fell forward and almost immediately from heart disease, and it is supposed her chase after the street car before she overtook it accelerated the fell disease.

Harry Hughes, a carpenter, while livion; but the excitement has now been renewed by the arival in the vicinity of John Piggott, brother of the missing man, who intends to fully investigate the matter. He believes that his brother was murdered and his body cast to the waves. In the latter part of December a body was washed ashore at Lougne Point and Mr. Piggott believes it ta be the body of his brother. No motive for the murder, if the missing man was murdered, can be assigned beyond the fact that prior to his disappearance he borrowed a considerable sum of money.

Wm. Potter, a merchant of Tottenham, has assigned to C. B. Armstrong, of this city, for the benefit of his creditors. Assets $45,000, liabilities $25,000.

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TORONTO, March 12.—At the London Presbytery meeting yesterday Rev. Jas. Ballantyne, son of Mr. T. Ballantyne, M. P. P., Stratford, accepted the call to London South church at a salary of $1000. His induction will take place April 7th.

It is rumored that there are to be some changes shortly in the distribution of the Quebec Cabinet portfolios. It is said that it is the intention to abolish the present commissionership of railways, and to divide the present commissionership of agriculture and public works into three portfolios, one of agriculture, to be retained by Mr. Premier Ross, and the other of public works, which will be taken by Mr. Flynn.

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Yesterday's developments in the Dorchester mystery case point strongly to the conclusion that Dr. Moore eloped with a servant girl.

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Tuesday morning a domestic lighted a fire in the stove, not knowing anything about the contents of the oven, and soon an explosion took place. The stove was blown to atoms. The front windows were blown out, and very considerable damage done to the ceiling and walls of the room The furniture was much damaged, and the servant received rather severe cut on one of her limbs, which was struck by a fragment of the stove.

HALIFAX, N. S. March 10.—About half-past eleven o'clock to-night two alarms of fire called nearly the whole city brigade to the scene of the burning of Bellevue house, a building of almost continental fame, and in its time the scene of some of the most brilliant social gatherings ever witnessed in this country. The place which is situated on the corner of Spring-Garden road and Queen street, burned for nearly three hours, and was rendered almost a complete wreck. It was built about the year 1770, and during the Duke of Kent's stay on this side of the water was made his headquarters. After his leaving this country, and until within the last few years, it was occupied by the commanders of the Imperial forces of the British North America station, and lately it has been used as the quarters of the officers in the garrison. General O'Grady Haley, one of the most popular commanders ever stationed here spent his last hours in the building. The property belonged to the British Government, and was not insured. The occupants were Capt. Swans, Lieut. Cliff, and Lieut. Fox Stangways, who lost their effects. The property a few years ago was estimated to be worth $50,000. The orgin of the fire is a mystery, and will be investigated by the Imperial representatives here.

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RUSSIA'S SECRET. ALLY.

In Ayoub Khan in the Muscovite Camp.

The English Government was supposed to have rapid and accurate information of Russia's progress towards the Afghan frontier until the recent sudden irruption of troops of the Muscovites upon Herat opened its eyes to the folly of its complaisant confidence in its Central Asia spies.

How is it that the Russians have been enabled to advance their light outposts without the British Government being apprised in time to stop their movements? They must have had a raison d'etre for their advance upon the Western capital of Afghanistan. What was it? Was it because Persia connived at the movement? Was it because Russia overcame by force Persia's objections to allowing European power to wedge itself between her Eastern frontiers on one side and surround her with hungry hordes of enemies on every other? There is a hitherto unexplained mystery. One theory upon the subject has not even been broached by any English journal, although it is so important that it deserves consideration in the present extremely critical position of affairs between England and Russia.

Where is Ayoub Kahn? Where has he been lurking for the last two years? Does England know? When in 1868 the Sirdar—"Sirdar" is really a chief, tain of horsemen—Mahommed Yakoob Khan defeated the troops of Azzul Khan, seized Kandahar, and proclaimed Shere Ali his father, by virtue of his victory the Ameer of Afghanistan, everybody was led to believe that upon the death of Shere Ali, Yakoob Khan would succeed him upon the throne of Cabul. Shere Ali took unto himself a new wife, who bore him a son which was named Abdoola Jan. This boy became so great a favorite with his father that Yacoob, the first son, and Ayoub, the second, were entirely ignored. So far did the old man's fatuous fancy go that he issued throughout Afghanistan a proclimation to the effect that in the event of his death, Abdoola Jan should be the successor to the throne of Cabul. This naturally displeased both Ayoub and Yacoob, and the latter went into open rebellion against his father. The Government of India, which always believes its interests to be chiefly concentrated in the politics of Afghanistan, saw trouble in the situation, and protested at Shere Ali's discrimination against the succession of Yacoob, the eldest born, and a man who has proved himself a very able and gallant soldier. The Ameer, however, was obdurate. He refused to see serious consequences ahead which he was unable to overcome, and Abdoola remained the nominee to the Afghan throne. Yakoob fled to Herat, where he remained in open revolt against his father. Events moved rapidly in Afghanistan. Abdoola's nomination took place in 1873. In the following year Yacoob was enticed to Cabul by his father with promises of entirely satisfactory terms of reconciliation, and was, with characteristic Afghan treachery, thrown into a grass widow named Dernshaw, who has also disappeared.

MONTREAL, March 11.—L'Etandard states that a curious story is being circumlated by the priests in the city relative to a miracle which is said to have taken place in Acton Vale some twelve days ago. A man while threshing grain swore very badly. On some bystanders reproaching him he replied: "If there is a God let him punish me." He was at once seized with paralysis, and was fixed in the position he stood. Not only so, but he became rooted to the ground and could not be removed. His neighbors had to cover him with rugs to prevent him from being frozen, and although they offered him food he could not take it. It is further reported that Mgr. Fabre is to visit the place, presumably to try and restore him.

TORONTO, March 10.—Constables Somerville and Beatty were summarily dismissed from the police force yesterday and were afterwards arrested and tried at the police court this morning and remanded till the 13th. The charge against them is that while in plain clothes they last Wednesday night visited a house of ill-fame on Queen St. working at his bench in the Credit Vally workshop this morning dropped dead. Apoplexy is supposed to be the cause.

Some one put a flask of powder into the oven of an unused stove in the house of Mr. Robert Hall, Dunville,

A SILLY GIRL.

She Marries a Dude While Engaged to a Merchant.

BALTIMORE, March 11.—Last week 300 invitations were issued to the wedding of Miss Gertrude Kingsland, aged 19, a former popular Virginia belle, and Edgar O. Prescott, a wealthy young dry goods merchant of this city. To-day letters were sent to all invited guests stating that the wedding would not take place, but assigned no reason therefor. Investigation developed that on Wednesday last, while young Prescott was attending the inauguration of President Cleveland, a young man named Wallace Oliver, an old sweetheart of Miss Kingsland, persuaded the young lady to go to a minister with him and they were quietly married. The matter was kept quiet until Sunday, when both Prescott and Oliver met Miss Kingsland as she was coming from church. Both joined the young lady and walked all the way home with her and both entered her residence and endeavored to sit each other out. At last Oliver asked permission to accompany Miss Kingsland to church in the evening, which the latter willingly granted. At this point Prescott exercised his authority and peremptorily forbade his intended wife to go to church with another gentleman five days prior to their wedding.

A quarrel occurred, during which Oliver informed Prescott of the secret marriage. A terrible scene ensued and Prescott left the house in a rage. Miss Kingsland's uncle, with whom she resided, ordered Oliver and his wife to leave the house, and at once made arrangements to withdraw the invitations to the wedding issued by Prescott. The latter is quite wealthy and is a sterling young business man. Oliver is a dude of the first water and penniless. He has great expectations, he says, and considers his marriage to Miss Kingsland a good joke. The friends of the young lady severely condemn her for her conduct. She came to Baltimore from Virginia two years ago and she has $20,000 in her own name.

A Mate for Albert Victor.

The knowing people—it is astonishing what a lot of them are about just now—have not lost much time in seeking out a wife for the eldest son of the heir apparent. He only came of age a few days ago and now they say he is going to marry the Princess Clementine, daughter of the King of the Belgians. As the young lady in question is, however, only 12 years of age, Albert Victor will have to "bide a wee" if he seeks an alliance in that quarter. There may be some slight foundation for the rumor, but nothing yet can possibly have been definitely settled, although the sisters of the Princess were betrothed at an early age—15, I think. The marriage would be very popular in Belgium, and scarcely less so here, for the English people are rather tired of seeing their royal families invariably ally themselves with portionless Germans. If Prince Albert Victor were eventually to marry the Princess Clementine, the lady would probably have to change her religion; but small difficulty is to be anticipated about that, as royal princesses have seldom allowed theological considerations to stand in the way of their social advancement. What France and Germany would say about such an alliance remains to be seen. Both powers cast longing eyes upon Belgium and Holland, and the marriage of a future King of England with a daughter of the King of Belgium would probably be relished neither by Prince Bismarck nor M. Ferry. *London Cor. Philadelphia Telegraph.*

The Mormons and Polygamy.

SALT LAKE, March 19.—The church organ breaks silence to-night for the first time on the rumor of the coming abrogation of polygamy at the spring conference. It argues against it, but does not absolutely deny it, admitting at the same time that a portion of the church favors the step. It closes a long editorial by saying:

"Members of the church who feel and talk favorably for the abrogation of doctrinal points are the reverse of 'strong.' They probably belong to a class who believe in the fullness of the gospel as restored through Joseph Smith, who wish them to be, if they did not, or at least that it was not true. They would like to do the will of God providing it was strictly in accordance with their own. They desire to adhere to the church, because they cannot rid themselves of the conviction that it is the power of God unto salvation, but they would like its doctrines and way to be more in conformity with those of the world, that every species of friction which causes discomfort and temporal disadvantage, might be avoided. In fact, they are conservative Mormons, another term for men who, if the church of Christ were constituted by them, would doubtless adopt a policy of giving up religious rights piecemeal, until every distinguishing feature between the saints and the world would disappear, and they would be loved all over the earth, because they would be swallowed up by the world, which loves its own. It would result in another universal apostacy, similar to that which took place shortly subsequent to the time of Christ's earthly mission. But, coming back to the starting point, all anticipations and predictions regarding the reception of revelations to the church are necessarily premature. The faithful who seek to know and do the will of God, will not be shaken of their purpose, neither will they abandon their religious principles in whole or in part, under any kind of pressure whatever. They will hold to their integrity in the full expectation of sooner or later beholding the salvation of God."

Hendricks and Voorhees Snubbed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12.—Vice-President Hendricks and Senator Voorhees have had an interview with the president, in which they tried to persuade him that he ought to move promptly in putting republicans out and filling their places with democrats. They presented all the arguments of party policy and of the doctrine to the victors belong the spoils. President Cleveland heard them through and then told them plainly that he intended to carry out the propositions he had set forth in his letter on the civil service and the declaration of his inaugural on the same subject. He held the party by its civil-service law to be bound to an honest effort to carry its principles into effect. Both Mr. Hendricks and Senator Voorhees dissented most emphatically from the positions of the president, and especially from the purpose he announced of making changes very slowly and except in those classes of offices which everyone expects to change almost at once with an administration, making them only for causes. The president's views, if carried out, will not, speaking generally, give the offices to the democrats much faster than commissions expire.

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THE ISLAND RAILWAY.—The McLellan contract is being pushed with great rapidity.

The Major's Playful Way.

One evening in the autumn of '56, word reached the major that a party of prospectors had jumped the "Nip and Tuck" claimed by him. The next morning the major buckled on his favorite bone-handled revolver and started out to expostulate with the boys in his peculiar way. Expecting to find them at work in the tunnel, he walked carelessly toward its mouth. "The boys were laying for him." As he reached the dump-pile commanding a view of the tunnel, he saw the muzzles of three guns frowning through a clump of bushes at its mouth, and threw himself backwards just as the boys blazed away. The ambushing party rushed out elated to look at the fallen terror of the mines. Jim Turner, a wild Texan, who feared not even the major's aim, being in the lead.

The major, who sat upright at the foot of the dump-pile unhurt, with his revolver ready, "pinked" him promptly. The discussion which followed was concise and somewhat technical. "Gentlemen," said the major, turning to the other two assailants who stood with unloaded guns, "I see your blind and straddle it; I hold a 'full-hand' (nodding toward his favorite bone handled), and here (producing another) is my straight flush." "Major, bedad, I pass!" said Tom Burke, a man from Galway, dashing through the *chaparral* (thicket). "I chip," said the major, still speaking in gaming-table slang; and as he spoke the man from Galway yelled at the sting of a bullet where it ploughed deep but broke no bones. "Boney, where'll you have it?" said the major, turning to the crestfallen assailant. Boney had prudently disappeared in the depths of the tunnel.—*The Manchester Times.*

Social Walls in England.

The wall across the way is ten feet high, and in the hard mortar on its top a murderous layer of broken glass had been fixed. Beyond it the upper branches of the graceful trees beckon futile invitation, and in summer the perfume of invisible flowers steals over the grim barrier to haunt and vex the fancy. A fairly good type of various conditions of English society; with various orders fenced off from one another by artifical partitions made very high and contrived to sorely wound any one attempting to surmount them. A well-educated merchant tailor of Edinburgh tells me that this affable lawyer customer, before the counter there, though under numerous professional obligations, would not dare, five minutes from now on the street, give him the commonest token of recognition. My friends advise me, setting out for service at Great St. Mary's Cambridge, to whisper to the verger that I am a master of arts, if I care for a good seat. A certain rector is announcing his week-day Bible classes; gentlemen and ladies are respectfully invited to the rectory on such an evening; men and women will come to the vestry on another evening. I find a little book dated 1800 at Oxford, bearing the suggestive title, "A Gentleman's Religion; with the Grounds and Reasons of It." Expressing our surprise at the length of our landlady's cucumbers, we are assured, with a shake of the head, that "them that's rich has much longer ones." Yes, and "them that's rich" have half-crown days at the exhibitions, first-class cars, first-class refreshment-rooms at railway stations, and even first-class postal cards. The central passage of the Arcade Triomphe used to be reserved for royalty in its approach to its earthly paradise, the Bois; but that a gentleman's way to heaven should differ from any other man's, is a curious development of feudal ideas. "Grounds and reasons," indeed! They are badly needed. Perhaps Englishmen themselves, of all others, however, have uttered the most searching sarcasm against caste in religion. This from "Guesses at Truth," for instance;

What is the use of the lower orders?
To plow . . . and to dig in one's garden . . . and to rub down one's horses . . . and to feed one's pigs . . . and to black one's shoes . . . and to wait upon one. Nothing else! Oh, yes; to be laughed at in a novel, or in a droll Dutch picture . . . and to be cried at in Wilke, or in a sentimental story. Is that all? Why, yes; . . . no . . . what else can they be good for? except to go to church. Ay! that is well thought of. That must be the meaning of the words: "Blessed are the