

# THE BRITISH COLONIST.

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## THE BRITISH COLONIST

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### THE FRASER MINES VINDICATED; OR, THE HISTORY OF FOUR MONTHS. BY ALFRED WADDINGTON.

The above is the title of a work just issued from the press, written by a gentleman not unknown in literary circles. The work treats, as its title indicates, of matters concerning the interests of Vancouver Island and British Columbia; gives a short history of the times, and the blunders which have been committed by various parties, and to which, in a great measure, may be attributed the slight depression in our affairs; and suggests a number of remedies which, if applied at once, will assist materially in bringing back the thousands who have left our shores.

We give below one or two rather interesting extracts from the work spoken of, which is neatly printed, and well worth a perusal:

"Every candid reader will now be convinced, (and I am speaking to those abroad, for those here know it well), that the disappointments attending this unfortunate gold crusade have had nothing to do with the existence of the gold itself, and that in presence of the numerous obstacles which have had to be contended with, the quantity so far extracted may compare most favorably with the beginnings of any other gold field, and is of itself a sufficient proof of its abundance. Indeed the state of the country has done wonders a much greater quantity from being taken out; and the steady increase in the amount coming down, and which will probably amount to near 500,000 dollars for November; though with a relatively small number of miners, and all the impediments of the winter season to compete with, adds a new proof to the fact. If the above calculations could have been carried down to the present date (Nov. 13) this would have been still more apparent; but it is becoming every day more difficult to obtain the real amount exported, for every other store deals now in gold dust, besides which many get their friends to take it down at a small premium, to avoid the expense of the Express.

"Moreover, and with respect to the future yield, hardly a spot beyond the bed of the river had been prospected in the whole country, and now within a fortnight bank diggings have been discovered extending on both sides of the

Fraser to the foot of the mountains, including thousands of acres. These are in fact a species of dry diggings, but it is beyond doubt that the other kind of dry diggings exist plentifully in the north; and indeed they have been found wherever the miner has been able to search for them with any persistency. Again, leads of gold quartz are well known to exist on Pitt river, and quite lately course gold has been discovered 40 miles up the Squamish river on Howe's Sound, leaving little doubt that gold will be worked before long on the coast range north of the city. So much, however, has been said on this subject, and though invidious frontiersmen may still find some months as in their rivals, Port Hope, and the two which so much has been done. Where in so short a time there been so many streets laid out, and some of them graded, macadamized, plankd, and even lighted up, as in Victoria? Eight substantial wharves carried out into the harbour, two brick hotels and other brick buildings, numerous frame houses and stores, besides those going up; twenty orthirty restaurants and coffee houses, steamboats built and launched, in short all the beginnings of a large city. Where a more orderly population, or more law-abiding? Where in the United States a city without taxes, lawyers, or public debt? Where in the United States the town or city, where there is more money to be made, even now, by the industrious trader or craftsman who is at all decently started in his business, than in Victoria? And as a proof, rents are higher at this moment than in San Francisco, and in spite of the sudden revulsion in business and the departure of so many jobbers and traders, there are scarcely six business stores empty. A proof, by the bye, that the prosperity of the country could do without them. Could San Francisco boast of as much at the end of four months? And yet she had at her disposal a whole territory possessing the greatest possible facilities for internal communications and commerce, without restrictions or monopoly to cope with, or a neighbouring hostile press to calumniate her and drive every body away from her shores."

In the following paragraph the author makes a thrust at the army of scribblers who infested the country a few weeks since, and who seemed to delight in misrepresenting every thing connected with our advancement:

"It is to the newspapers of San Francisco that, with one or two exceptions, we owe our bad name abroad, and the consequent check on foreign emigration. If I recollect right there exists in San Francisco an association, which has not been over successful, for the promotion of immigration. The newspapers have done better than the association, for they have succeeded not only in stopping all our immigration, but in keeping it to themselves. Much could be said on their way of treating every thing in this country, but their strictures have been so evidently tinged with jealousy that it would be hardly worth while; and as to their correspondents, some of their letters are so ridiculous, not to say rather suspect they must have been written with rum. It has been enough to give recourse to the most of the different and difficult would short his- quered with ed a brighter

reasons, had or be otherwise, and that our dreams of prosperity, our castles in the air should be roughly interrupted and destroyed. We have been brought to our senses, and some of us have been taught the lessons of adversity. Over speculation is at an end, and land agents in despair. A flock of men, the scouts of civilization, and who would have converted this country into a second California, have left our shores. Many immigrants too, of a much better class, but who were not suited to the country, have left us. Men who wanted impossibilities—Miners who have their wives and children, their homes, their claims with which to gain an independence, and all the comforts of a congenial climate in California, were not the men to stop here. Besides they had been spoiled, and no ordinary gains could satisfy them. Nordid we want so many jobbers and importers. Where goods can be thrown into the market from San Francisco in a fortnight, speculation is out of the question; and instead of 50 jobbing houses (about as many as in San Francisco,) all that is wanted for the present trade with the mines and back country is a small number of wholesale merchants.

"We have then reason to be thankful, and if our short sighted disappointments have been a severe trial to all, we have still a good aftergrowth of hope before us. The truth is already spreading abroad; all the assertions of those who have left us will not diminish one ounce of the gold in our mountains, and those who are gone will soon be replaced by

another population as active, more hardy and less ambitious. Let that population once reach our shores, and measures be taken to encourage them, foreigners or not. Let miners be allowed to make their own bye-laws and regulations for each bar or district, subject to the approbation of a council of miners; instead of starving them out, let the country be entirely thrown open, so that provisions may be as cheap as possible in the interior, and let the tax on goods be modified, so as to be levied on the superfluities and not on the necessities of life. Let every one be allowed to buy land at American prices and not at five dollars an acre; and instead of throwing obstacles in the way of the colonist, give the poor bona-fide settler a right of pre-emption, and a premium of land, taken from the wild waste, to the deserving father of a numerous family. Above all, let us have no tardy measures to drive emigrants away once more and make us lose the advantages of another year. Let all this and more, if possible, be done, and the progress of this favored country will be as sure as it will be rapid."

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Tories and Liberals are working usury for the "haves and fishes." The late election for two members of the Lower House, resulted in favor of the Liberals. W. Forman, Chief Engineer of the Railroad, has been removed, and Mr. Laurie appointed in his place. The Government charge him with incompetency. The Opposition say he was removed for interfering in the Hants election, which ended unfavorably to the government.

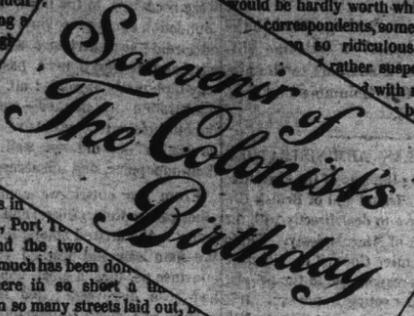
Religious feeling is enlisted in support of each party. A Protestant alliance is ranked on the side of the Liberals. The Catholic influence, one-fifth of the population, supports the Johnston administration.

The Hon. Dr. Tupper, Hon. R. B. Dickey and W. A. Henry, Esq., have been appointed delegates to England on the subject of an Inter-Colonial Railway.

It appears that just now there is great excitement in Canada. The Bowmanville Statesman says:

"Never since the troublous times of 1856-'57 was the province in such a state of political excitement; and most assuredly there never was greater cause for alarm than at present exists."

HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.—We have sufficient authority for stating that the British Government will guarantee the interest on money enough to build the above Railway—to be constructed by the Company which was recently represented at the Colonial Office by Lord Bury, Mr. Curard, etc.—St. John News!



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