

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

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NO. 8.

## THE BRITISH COLONIST

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(Sundays Excepted.)

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THE PAST AND FUTURE.

This morning ushers in another year. Eighteen hundred and sixty-five has disappeared like its predecessors among the long roll of the past. Let us hope that it has not disappeared in vain. Let us hope that we are all wiser, that we are all better, that we are all more charitable than we were a year ago—that prosperity has made us vainglorious, self-sufficient and intolerant, nor adversity less patient, less industrious and less hopeful. The mutability of earthly things should teach the one class the necessity of humility and the other the uselessness of repining. Taken altogether we have not, if we look at the past year in a purely commercial light, much to thank it for. We have suffered beyond all former precedent; our losses have exceeded all former losses; but we have failed principally through our own shortsightedness; and here we hope that with our financial misfortune some wisdom which is generally the most because it is dearly bought we have learned the lesson which teaches us simply endeavors to teach us will more than compensate us for the failures of the past, and to direct us in the better way of the future.

Let us, therefore, instead of lamenting the unsuccesses and the catastrophes of the last twelve months, gather up our energies for a renewal of the contest, and put forth our strength not in the old exhaustive way, but with a knowledge of our force as well as of the most effectual method to apply it. If we only approach 1866 in this spirit we have nothing to dread, but everything to hope. In a little while we shall be on our old vantage ground. We are passing through "the winter of our discontent" it is true, but it is only the necessary prelude to a glowing spring. Let us take heart from nature herself. Our trees and shrubs, leafless and bare, wear a more desolate aspect in the dreary January blast than the most unfortunate amongst us whose wealth has been rudely swept away by the reverses of the past year; but we know that buds will come forth in due time and that leaves will shoot out—we know that the scraggy bush which gives rather a weird than kindly aspect to the landscape just now, will in a few short months be clothed in beauty, exhaling its perfume in the morning air, and lending a sweet radiance to the surrounding scenery. Let us, therefore, accept our financial condition as we do our seasonal one and rely as firmly on more cheerful times. We have however well-grounded hopes, beyond analogy and comparison, in our immediate prospects. The mineral wealth of the neighboring colony is beginning to unfold itself in a manner the most profitable as well as the most attractive. Over the length and breadth of British Columbia the gold miner will shortly be plying his vocation, opening up the country gradually for more permanent settlers. But in this as in many other things, nature demands the energy of the human mind and the industry of the human body. Leaves may come to trees and shrubs by the sheer force of natural vitality; grass may grow without the aid of man, but if we want to produce the staff of life we must sow in order that we may reap. We must give every nerve to the service of nature, if we would desire a fitting recompense. Thus it is—although the present year of 1866 is buoyant with bright hopes—although the future beckons us onward with a gladsome smile—it is not that we should, as we have done, emulate the recklessness of the boy after the butterfly, and crush in our hands the brilliant hues which spread their attractions before us; but rather that our progress should be the steady gait of men who have a definite object in life, and whose

experience teaches them not to follow the fictitious and ruinous pathways of fancy, but the solid road that leads to general prosperity and national wealth. We have dealt, like youth, a great deal too much in general castle-building; we have speculated beyond all legitimate bounds, and have supported a Government ambitious and reckless enough to crumble the pillars which sustain it into dust. It is needless to say we shall have to retrench our steps and start on a different track—politically as well as commercially. Let us therefore do the old way justice, and read in the past indications of the future.

By the way, our own little colony has

war in the American republic has ceased—the hosts of freedom have come out of the struggle victorious, and human slavery is for ever crushed. In many other parts of the world there have been political upheavals, and wrongs perpetrated under the aegis of might; but withal it has been a year of advancement—a year of progress. The human race to-day is better off than it ever was before. With all the increasing desires of man—with all his avarice and aggrandizement, benevolence and charity never formed so large a feature in public or private life. Science has also contributed its quota to the general weal, reducing by degrees the mere manual drudgery, elevating the human machine to higher walks of industry, and inaugurating telegraphic projects for the transmission of human thought and new lines of steam communication for the extension of human enterprise. The old year has gone but it has not departed alone. The sacred dust of Lincoln has been carried in its embrace, Cobden the Great is gone, and Palmerston has been added to those that are no more. That 1866 will like 1865 make its exactions, and tear from the palace as well as from the cottage its long list of victims we must expect; let us however endeavor by our actions to be prepared for all and every eventuality, and with the earnest hope that we may be so, we wish our readers one and all a "Happy New Year!"

A CHINAMAN'S ESTATE.—AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.—The following is a genuine copy of a list of debts handed into Court by a Chinaman who keeps a restaurant in this city, and is destined to stand up his affairs:

December 21st, 1865.—For money and eating:

A butcher owes.....\$18 00

Captain of a schooner.....50 00

Cook in a ship's galley.....8 00

Red shirt man.....27 00

Man comes late (a Printer?).....10 00

Cap man.....8 50

Leak man, white man.....20 00

Fat Frenchman.....30 62½

Captain, tall man.....20 00

French old man.....8 00

Whiskers man.....18 37½

Blacksmith.....49 00

Barkeeper.....5 00

Workman.....5 50

Whiskers man's friend.....6 25

Double blanket man.....6 50

Little shirt man.....10 00

Double blanket man's friend.....15 00

Lame leg man.....40 00

Fat man.....9 25

Old workman.....8 00

Red whiskers.....7 50

Steamboat man.....18 00

Indian Ya.....4 62½

Dick make coal shoveler.....28 00

Yea Yap carings.....25 00

Flower pantaloon man.....16 00

Shoemaker gone to California.....15 00

A man, butcher's friend.....39 00

Stable man.....16 00

Get tight man.....7 00

Total.....\$540 00

We pity the unfortunate person who may be charged with the collection of the above claims.

GRATITUDE.—We cheerfully publish the following letter, dated England, November 4th, as such instances of a proper feeling of gratitude for past favors, particularly in the young, are as rare and pleasing as the oasis in the desert to the parched Arab. The writer of the letter, it will be remembered, was disabled at Leech River, and by the assistance of sympathizing friends was enabled to proceed to his home:—"It is with great pleasure and feelings of gratitude I express through your valuable medium my best and warmest thanks to the gentlemen and citizens of Victoria for their kindness in giving me the means of returning to my friends in England. I am happy in being able to state I arrived safe in Liverpool on the 25th of October, and met with an affectionate reception from all my friends. I have since my return had my leg examined by a very eminent medical gentleman, who says that by undergoing a slight operation my leg can be made perfectly straight and useful to me, but the knee joint will remain stiff. I trust, dear sir, those whom I class amongst my best friends in Victoria will please accept my heartfelt thanks for their benevolent kindness—a kindness which will never be effaced from my memory—and in which my parents and friends here most cordially join. In the hope you will please insert this letter in your valuable paper, I am, yours truly and gratefully, SPILSBURY HALL BUTLER."

## Our London Correspondence.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CABINET.

Whoever dies, the sun still shines in the middle sky, and the world must still go on in its usual round. Lord John Russell, though a man of great talents, is not a statesman; he is a man of letters, and his place must be filled by a man of more practical ability. The reconstruction of the Cabinet is a matter of great importance, and it is to be expected that Mr. Gladstone will not serve under him, and many were the rumors of discontent and disinclination to go on with him which this portion of the press teemed. Differences, however, have been allayed. Everyone in office adheres to his place; and no department remains unfilled, but that of the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, from which Lord Clarendon has been removed to take the Foreign Office Seal, which the new Premier had to resign. No programme has yet been issued, but the new administration—if the Palmerston Cabinet without that noble lord can so be called—is believed to be making preparation for the approaching Parliamentary campaign with considerable earnestness. Public feeling is, however, far from being with the Government. Lord John Russell is distrusted, and Mr. Gladstone is feared. Measures of Reform are reported to be in contemplation, and the Treasury whips are said to be employed in sounding the more extreme Radicals, whether they will, by either joining the Ministerial phalanx officially, or by giving it Parliamentary support, help them in their present dilemma. Reform is the rock ahead. The new M.P.'s who were returned at the last general election as the supporters of Lord Palmerston are free from their obligations by reason of his death. Foreign politics do not run smoothly, and everybody more or less believes that the race of the Whig administration is very nearly run out. The political finger points steadily to a general break down, as soon as Parliament meets, and nothing puts it down. The wind bag of Aolus is once more opened, and no member of the present Government has either the power or influence again to bind the storm it has let loose. There is no intention to call Parliament together until the next time, so that for three months at least there will be no change of man and measure.

THE CHINA QUESTION.

There has been a great deal of talk about the China question, and it is to be expected that the Government will take some steps to settle it. The Chinese are reported to be in a state of great excitement, and it is to be expected that the Government will take some steps to settle it. The Chinese are reported to be in a state of great excitement, and it is to be expected that the Government will take some steps to settle it.

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## Judge Keogh will preside, who, although a staunch Roman Catholic, will not shrink from doing his duty. It is not likely, however, that there will be hanging in the punishments. Contempt, with a small infliction of imprisonment, will go much further to crush the attempt at rebellion than any force could bring about.

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## orders were to bring me alongside of the ship. I told him it was all right and that I was ready. I was not allowed to stay on board of my own vessel; they took me and my crew and put us into an open boat, without food or blankets. We were two nights and a day before we got alongside the ship, and were almost perished. The next day I asked the Captain why I was detained, and he told me it was Duncan's orders, and that he was expecting me there. At last I got on board, and at last I saw my friends. The Captain and crew of the schooner were first to be tried. There was no witness to show why they were detained, but the Duncan said he should help them, and he could not evidence in court. The Captain of the Clio said that he would take the evidence, and he would take the evidence, and he would take the evidence.

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