

The Weekly British Colonialist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, June 27, 1868.

Confederation.

It was generally supposed, a few days since, that, in consequence of the delay which it was stated officially must occur in the final negotiations for the Northwest Territory, that Confederation for the present must be relinquished. This fact, as it gained credence in our community, had a prejudicial if not a depressing effect upon many who had not previously supported immediate Confederation, because it deprived them of the of any immediate change by which additional impetus, life life or vigor, would be given to the general condition of the Colony. Since that time, however, the telegraph tells us that, though there may be some delay in the settlement of the intermediate territory, Confederation is not to die out; but, on the contrary, it is assuming an importance in England which it has never yet assumed. The whole matter is to be brought before Parliament, where, no doubt, it will be calmly and dispassionately discussed, in connection with Nova Scotia's complaints, and the incongruous condition of the territory mentioned. This discussion, we apprehend, will do more for Confederation than anything that has yet transpired in its favor, because it will bring the subject in that legitimate form before the English people, that will both attract and compel their attention to its importance, by circulating the principal evidence in its favor. Confederation unfortunately has never, so far, been associated in England with the most attractive issues it raises for the consideration of England. It has been regarded there as a question in which she has little or no national, commercial, or pecuniary interest. This fallacy will now quickly be dispelled, and so soon as that takes place, the attention of our own capitalists will be immediately drawn to this Colony, and under their pressure red-tapeism must disappear in these terrible negotiations spoken of. For our part, we cannot see why it should be such a difficult thing to determine upon the terms of the transfer of the intermediate territory, or why the transfer should be delayed, considered in itself. We are inclined to think the practical business capacity of England, when the subject is thoroughly ventilated in Parliament, will very soon settle it as speedily as other matters of greater complexity have been settled in times past, which were supposed, at first to threaten the most serious consequences. Indeed we could desire nothing better than for Parliament to investigate the value and status of the Northwest Territory thoroughly. It will, we apprehend, be found not only in a very incongruous condition so far as its management is concerned, but also likely to create trouble in America, if left as it is much longer. The resolutions passed in the California Legislature to gain possession of this Colony; the expression of the Minnesota Commissioner, when sent out to ascertain the real value of the Red River and Saskatchewan Territory, "that it was worth fighting for;" the report of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, that the American possessions can never be complete, especially for railway purposes to the Pacific, until they possess the great basin of Lake Winnipeg entirely; and lastly the able address of Governor Marshall, delivered before the same body in April last, in which the unequalled value and importance of this territory to the Canadian Confederation is strongly set forth—are all gradually working upon our leading men in Parliament, and becoming daily more understood and appreciated. Let, then, Parliament take this question up with a determination to investigate it thoroughly and settle it immediately, and no better service can be done for Confederation. The whole question will assume a new aspect before the English people immediately, for they will learn what they do not know now, that Confed-

eration, to be made complete and thoroughly successful must be looked upon as an English as well as a Colonial advantage. As soon as that impression prevails we shall soon see a change. A few weeks ago we were rather despondent; to-day we are not; for there exists now every probability of that impression prevailing through the contemplated parliamentary action. Like all great questions based on truth, public necessity and national pre-eminence, Confederation will, we suppose, have its fluctuations; but we need have no fear of its progress and final triumph when associated, as it now soon will be, with English commerce, pride, interest and dominion, and regarded by our statesmen, merchants and populace as a national necessity rather than a colonial advantage. Red-tapeism cannot stand a day before the influence of bond-holders.

Tuesday, June 23.

AMERICAN CITIES.—The London Athenaeum remarks in the course of a review of a recent American volume: Baltimore will live in the traveller's mind as a city of lovely girls, of passionate songs and of perfect terrapin. It will keep its place when things of higher interest may have passed away, by the color of its streets, by the dash of its people, by the heat of its pavement, by the frolic of its quays. Other cities of the Union may have their charm; Boston is very massive, Richmond is very picturesque, New York abounds in riches, Chicago in enterprise, New Orleans in wickedness, St. Louis in feror, Philadelphia nobly built, but Baltimore has a charm beyond nearly all cities in America, which many a visitor has felt without being able to describe. The streets are very sunny, the citizens very gay.

PASSENGERS BY THE WRIGHT.—Amongst those leaving by this vessel—about ten altogether—are Capt. Denny, late commanding officer of the Forward, Mr Weissenburger, Eli Marks, Frank Laumeister, Mrs Crow, Jas. Burke and Thomas King. Some of these are old familiar friends, to whom in bidding good-bye we wish all happiness and success, and all hope some day to see them back. Amongst the lady passengers is Mrs Capt. Burrows and children, late of San Juan and Victoria, who is going to Portland.

REAL ESTATE SALE.—At the sale by auction of mortgaged property by Mr McCrea, yesterday, lots fetched as follows: Nos. 776 and 777, on Fort Street, \$125 each; 786, 787, View street, same figure; 960, 961, Johnson street, \$150 each; 970, 971, Yates street, \$150 do.; lot corner of Johnson and Quadra streets, \$175; do. Pandora and Vancouver streets, \$230, and lot 833 on Johnson street, \$135. Chief Justice Needham was of those who purchased.

The steamer Otter leaves to-day for the Northern coast and Stekin. For those places she takes 40 tons of freight and two passengers. In addition the Coal Company send up eleven men and Mr Landale by her, to Queen Charlotte Island to put their mine in proper form. The work for which these men have contracted will probably take about two months; and if the results are such as may be fairly at present, then a large force of workmen will be engaged permanently.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.—There was a meeting of the Executive Council held yesterday to consider the measures to be taken in connection with the recent Indian outrages on the Northern Coast. We understand a gubcoat will be despatched in a day or two—probably the Sparrowhawk will be sent. The Government are moving earnestly and promptly to discover the really guilty parties, and in the meantime it is useless to give heed to the thousand and one idle rumors floating about.

FOURTH OF JULY.—The steamer Enterprise, we understand, will be chartered for the "Fourth." She will probably run to Port Townsend to carry excursionists, who may desire to take part in the festivities set down for that town; starting from this port on the morning of Saturday and returning early next morning.

A NEW VISITOR.—One of our countrymen once asked an Indian if he knew that the sun never set on the Queen's dominions? 'No,' said the Indian. 'Do you know the reason why?' asked Mr Bull. 'Because, I suppose, like ourselves, God is afraid to trust an Englishman in the dark.'

THE STEAMER GEO S WRIGHT left this morning with 40 tons of freight and about half a dozen passengers. We are instructed to say that she will return on the 28th inst, if possible, in order to leave this port for Sitka by the 1st July.

MASONIC PICNIC.—Mr Pemberton desires all who may attend this picnic with horses or vehicles to go past Government House and through his gate. The lower fences are fast, and by going the way requested no damage can be done to them or the crops.

Cruise of H. M. S. Sparrowhawk.

H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, Captain Porcher, left Esquimalt May 25th, conveying Admiral Hastings and staff accompanied by some officers of H. M. S. Zealons, on a tour of inspection along the east coast of Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia. The first day was occupied in steaming between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, arriving there in the evening. The day was fine and the scenery in winding through the mazes of islands in the archipelago between Vancouver and the Mainland appeared very picturesque, the rocky promontories of the land about Victoria and Esquimalt being exchanged in passing up the gulf for the softer and more undulating scenery of the Islets their precipitous sandstone cliffs adding to the richness and variety of the coloring. On the northern end of Salt Spring Island considerable agricultural settlements exist, possessing excellent grazing land, while from its quarries a superior kind of sandstone, weathering and becoming hard from exposure, is procured. On San Juan Island also there are some good farms and a limestone of a very superior quality, now becoming an article of considerable export. The run through Active Pass was rather exciting, the tide being in our favor carried us through as if borne on the surface of a mountain torrent. The cliffs on each side of the Pass, which is about 1/4 of a mile broad, rise in some places to the height of about 500 feet and are composed of a recent sandstone, in many places decomposed and detached, leading to the formation of picturesque dells and hollows, and occasionally so fretted by atmospheric influences, as to resemble the portal of some old Norman keep. A few clearings exist in the curving bays, the white cottages of the settlers nestling among the trees, adding to the picturesque quality of the scenery. At the northern end of the channel, which is about 3 miles in length, on Gouzale Island, an immense boulder of Sylnitic Granite was observed, transported no doubt, at some former period, by glacial action from the Cascade range, indeed, you see everywhere indications in the grooving of the rocks and in the yellowish and varied colored clay of the cliffs, with their sand and shingle terraces traces of the northern drift the result of the universal ice action, nowhere so well marked as on this coast. From time to time a glimpse was obtained of the fertile valley of Cowichan, the characteristic divide in the central ridge of the Island marking the line of the Cowichan river and the entrance to the lake. The river is said to be about 40 miles in length, although perhaps in a straight line not more than 26 and covered with a forest of magnificent spars; its breadth being about 40 feet and navigable to within 4 miles of the lake. The lake is about 22 miles long and 1 mile wide. Silver veins have been discovered on its shores and coal is said to crop out on the banks of the river. This lake, however, like most central portions of the Island has never yet been thoroughly explored. At Nanaimo we found the schooner Hamley waiting for coal, and it was with considerable difficulty that the Admiral arranged to have 109 tons of coal put on board by the next evening, as now there is no surplus stock above ground, ships are obliged to wait and have the coal put on board as it is taken out of the pit. One of the vessels, the Hamley, wanted stiffening, viz, about 20 tons, to prevent the possibility of her turning over, and the Emily Harris required about 30 tons for the use of the Active; and as in all not more than 150 tons can be taken out daily, the mind of the Surface Manager was much disturbed. The ship or fracture in the coal seam of this mine still continues to dip vertically, and unless the borings at Chase River prove more successful than hitherto, the production of coal at least as far as the present seam is concerned must soon cease, or resort be had to the old working on Newcastle Island. This is much to be regretted, as an immense amount of capital has here been spent upon wharfs and tramways that will be entirely thrown away. No doubt a good deal of this was superfluous, as also the building of an hotel, miners' houses, &c., but the harbor is an exceedingly good and spacious one, protected as it is by Newcastle and Douglas (Protection) Island, the soundings allowing ships of large tonnage to go alongside the pier and coal from the shore; indeed, at the present time, the demand for this coal is greater than ever, being a good coal, and in point of quality not having its equal on the Pacific Coast, and more especially as Bellingham Bay has ceased to be wrought and the Mount Diabole mines are almost exhausted. The day of our stay at Nanaimo was occupied by our party going out fishing up the Nanaimo river, while a small majority, accompanied by Rev. P. Jenns, went to Fossil Point, Departure Bay, and Newcastle Island, on a geological voyage of discovery. The old workings on Newcastle Island occur in Exit Channel, close to the beach, near the north end of the Island, and consists of two seams, a few yards only apart, the upper called the Douglas, and the lower the Newcastle; the first being about 6 feet thick, the other about 3; both dipping at about 20 deg; and have

for their roof a coarse conglomerate and a floor of sandstone; the roof has, however, tumbled down in some places, and the gallery being filled with water, it was impossible to venture far with the workings. We believe coal was first discovered and worked here in 1850. After considerable difficulty and having very much overshot our mark we discovered the fossil beach, and were rewarded by a fair collection, consisting of specimens of Pectoris, Cardia, plagiostoma, &c. The sandstone here nests on traps which has in some places flowed over it, leaving prominent nodules projecting from and marking out the previous fluid condition of the trap in a most characteristic manner. On our return, about 5 in the evening (29th), we left Nanaimo, steaming during the night, and anchoring in Beaver harbor, Fort Rupert, on the afternoon of the 30th. We had a pleasant run during the night, and early in the morning passed through the Seymour Narrows with a strong ebb tide; the tide here is often exceedingly strong, running like a mill stream 7 or 8 knots an hour, the tidal junction of the waters separating Vancouver Island and the Mainland, meeting, forms here a race, the channel not being more than 900 yards in breadth, the flood tide of the North Pacific flowing in the one direction S. E., through Queen Charlotte Sound, and N. W. through the Gulf of Georgia on the other. During the forenoon we steamed along Johnstone Straits and Broughton Straits through a succession of sheltered channels, surrounded by scenery of the wildest grandeur, the Straits being pierced in every direction by numerous canals, forming a succession of sords extending far inland, enclosing numerous landlocked harbors, which when commerce becomes more extended will be more highly valued than at present. Our course lay through an archipelago studded with islands of all sizes and shapes, their shores being sometimes low and undulating, at others steep and mountainous, having in the back ground, on the Mainland side, a succession of serrated mountain ranges capped with perpetual snow, while on the Island side appeared a succession of more rounded metamorphic mountains, with here and there bosses streaked and polished, assuming the characteristic form of "Roches Montagnes," the result of ice action, while now and again a panoramic view was obtained of the Cascade range, which looked with its numerous irregular peaks like the confused waves of a rough sea, the snow-capped mountains, forming a magnificent background for the dark green belt of forest below. After passing Comox, between Cape Mudge and the Mouth of the Nimkish river the coast is densely wooded and mountainous, some of the ranges rising to 5000 feet, and with the exception of patches of delta land at the mouths of such large rivers as the Campbell and Salmon rivers, which are said to have valleys well suited for agricultural settlement, no other good agricultural land exists. The Campbell, on a former visit, was seen in one of the ship's boats, over 1 mile, and appeared to have some good land on its banks fitted for agriculture, which it is to be hoped some enterprising persons may take advantage of. From the Mouth of the Nimkish up to Beaver harbor there is a deep fringe of alluvial soil resting on a sandstone formation which here crops out and extends horizontally a short distance beyond Fort Rupert. Coal has been worked at intervals all along this ledge, cropping out in many places close to the surface, and apparently continuous with the measures at Kokeemo on the opposite coast; indeed we believe it was here the coal was first discovered in rather an amusing way. The story goes, that shortly after the establishment of Fort Rupert, the chief trader in charge told the Indians that he would show them a superior fuel to wood, and which was used by the white men, and had been brought a distance of a six months' voyage across the sea. The blacksmith's forge was set up and the Indians assembled, when it was found that coal was no novelty to them, the chief pointing to a short distance from the Fort where he said there was *hyin*. From this time it was partially worked, digging it up with hatchets and what rude implements they were in possession of. Captain Gordon, of H. M. S. Cormorant, in reporting to the Admiralty in 1846, stated that he procured 62 tons here at the expense of about 4s. a ton in presents to the chiefs. From 1849 up to the discovery of coal at Nanaimo in 1850, coal was wrought here to some extent by regular miners, and at present, at Saanunah, 10 miles south of Fort Rupert Mr O. W. Wallace is employed opening up a vein which is stated to promise well, having already, with 6 men, got out about 60 tons. The thickness of the vein varies from 18 inches to 2 feet, and runs in a N. W. direction, dipping at about 20 deg., is apparently free from faults, and is expected to improve on going deeper. Some of the men engaged here report that 8 miles up the Nimkish, a lake exists about 20 miles long and from 3 to 4 wide, at the end of which is a large valley, and rolling country of fine prairie land, the origin of several rivers and extending close to the agricultural settlement at Comox; no doubt the water-works of the Campbell, Salmon, Adams rivers, &c. Fort Rupert is now in charge

of Captain Mont, and is built after the usual typical form, square stockaded around, inside which, are the employees houses, a bastion in each corner and gallery running around and a well cultivated garden outside. The Indian village is built in a semicircle round the bay, at the north end of the fort, consisting of about sixty lodges. Very few of the natives were in the village; all, with the exception of the old people, having gone up to Shawit, at the head of Jervis Inlet, collecting their great fish harvest of the salmon, where upwards of 2000 Indians from all parts of the coast were assembled. The tribe occupying the village are the Que Quas, a few years ago numbering about 1400, but now reduced by disease and whisky to about 120, and were at this rate dying off rapidly, the women ceasing to be fertile and the men becoming a prey to galloping consumption the result of their impaired vitality. On walking round the village there was to be observed the old shot holes made by H. M. S. Ohio two years ago, and we were constantly appealed to whether King George (who, by the way, 'never dies' here) was *hyin sullockis*, and on being informed, that that amiable monarch's *sumnus* was *hyin clack* were greatly relieved. The natives here are like many in civilized life, living on their past reputation; at one time they were very wealthy and gave away a large amount of property, which is now returning to them at the various potlaches of the other tribes. In fact it is the old rule that whatever you may give away you expect a fair equivalent for. The island opposite the Fort, the burying place of the tribe, had several penons flying over new graves, and over one was placed a canoe with a figure representing the principal chief, who had died lately, what the object in thus placing canoes, guns, kettles, &c. over the graves is somewhat difficult to understand, some say it is to assist the departed in Hades, others again with a greater show of reason, believe that as we well know it is a great breach of Indian etiquette even to mention the name of a deceased person, and that his belongings are so placed that nothing can remind the survivor of his previous existence, be that as it may, this chief had been a long time ill and his 'tillious' had been devoted to their attentions. But one day he conceived the idea of sending for his relatives, and dividing his property, after which he was starved and maltreated to death, showing the phases of Indian nature and that strong resemblance to civilized life, and within forty-three minutes he was afterwards doubled up in a box (before *rigor mortis* set in) and placed in the cemetery. The winter here was not particularly severe, the spirit thermometer descending to within 5 deg. of zero. After spending a pleasant evening with Capt. Mont, we left early next morning for Bella Bella.

POLICE COURT.—Thomas Sullivan was charged by Mary Ann Clonon with indecently assaulting a little girl four years old. Remanded. A Tongas Indian with an aristocratic name thought proper to get drunk and have a general row, for which he was fined.

MR. AMATEUR ACID, who does the second class leaders in the *Morning News*, actually spelled two Latin words correctly in the last week's issue. The brilliancy of this achievement, however, was neutralized by supporting Mr Birch.

THE TELEGRAPH.—An accident of some sort has befallen the San Juan telegraph cable, which will require some days to repair. In the meantime we hope to make arrangements to secure our messages via New Westminster steamer.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.—There was a meeting of the Board held a few days since. Additional funds have been handed over for disbursement to the teachers still in arrears of salary.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—The Masonic Order attended St John's Church to-morrow at 11 o'clock. The Bishop preaches the sermon, and a collection will be made for the Royal Hospital.

MR. THOMAS BARRING, M.P., has resigned the Chairmanship of Lloyds, having held the position since 1830. Mr Goschen, M.P., will be solicited to succeed Mr Barring.

A BEAUTIFUL IDEA.—Flowers are truly said to be the alphabet of angels scattered over hills and dales, and speaking what the tongue cannot express.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Liver, Lungs and Kidneys.—A large number of internal maladies arise from obstructions, over the removal of these celebrated Pills exercise the most perfect control. A course of them is strongly recommended as a remedy for almost all chronic affections—as liver complaint, congestion of the lungs, torpidity of the kidneys, and other functional disorders which cause much present suffering, and if neglected lay the foundations of incurable diseases. Holloway's Pills are especially adapted for the young and delicate; their gentle and purifying action places them above all other medicines. In indigestion, nervous affections, gout and rheumatism, these Pills have raised for themselves an universal fame. They expel all impurities from the blood, and thus restore cheerfulness and vigour.

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interests in this... from the people of... Majesty the Queen... Governor... in June last, briefly... perior attractions of... British dominions, the... and the gradual... and humble praying... and protection; to... acknowledgement has... ple. last, at a public meet... number over four... niously declared to... the election and con... vement, which has... duly carried out—... public buildings com... the laws, provision... ctives, construction of... ble works tending to... and welfare of the... tes of the jurisdiction... proclaimed as fol... point running due... ndary line of Assini... Manitohe; thence... ruck, a straight line... e to Manitoba Port;... al line 51 till it in... ide 100. of latitude 100, to the... e United States and... dary line of the jur... of Assinibola. ndary line between... rics and the United... honour to remain, my... p's obedient servant... ident of the Council... of State of Colonial... land. the Toronto Globe... said to be a man of... and his coadjutors... high sounding titles... to exercise almost... their capacity as a... yond that, however... ot a very reasonable... et their loyalty as... ously as need be, and... disposition to join the... his proclamation of... ly a revival of a much... Manitoba is only... Portage or Caledonia... sixty-five miles from... as established fifteen... e wishes of the Hind... by the people intent... or themselves. The... any did not actively... ple established local... was successfully... years since, when... give up their inde... the Hudson Bay... enough, they have... ear now of their apai... and asking the... at to sanction their... whole story. an extract from a... tersburg, April 24... has been ordered to... ases and ports of the... th of May Admiral... thirty-two war iron... It will be seen, by... the Russian Govern... importance of being... ities. General Tot... past experience, the... the fortresses look... of efficiency, and he... reports of subordi... crochets of their... gh his own eyes and... self. We have been... time to see that the... of Fortifications, who... Bargoyne, General... need a tour of inspec... sea coast defences, ca... tion has been called... ance of the subject by... ons, the Press, and... No time should be... it in the most compre... the excuse must not... orks in question were... by predecessors, be... of an Inspector-Gen... has been done by... what improvements... ke our defences effec... If any errors have... them be corrected at... per.

RO & CO, and Wharf Streets, PORTERS OF A RIS ACCO. JOHN HENRY DURHAM, DURHAM, PORTERS Mission Merchants, Victoria, V.I. at Saint Helena, Bishop's Hat, July 1st