

Semi Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday, September 8, 1869

Nature's Highway—Man's Inaction.

Not long ago the late Governor fitly remarked that Nature had done everything for British Columbia. In so far as the means of intercommunication with the outside world is concerned this is still literally true. Nature has provided a magnificent highway; but as yet we have placed no "rolling stock" upon it; we have acted almost as if nature were expected to stock the highway as well as make it. Not even a mule-cart have the people of this Colony placed upon the only international highway they possess. Up to the present moment we have been content to rely upon our neighbors for a ride; and they have picked us up, sometimes upon a butcher's cart, sometimes upon an old, rickety bread-cart, or even upon Paddy's carriage (a wheelbarrow), and have carried us whither they listed, and not infrequently whether we would not. For all this, of course, we should "rest and be thankful;" no, not rest, but only be thankful. But seriously, it is scarcely creditable to this Colony that in the, say, fifteenth year of its history it should still be dependent, entirely dependent upon a foreign neighbor for the transmission of its mails, its people and its merchandise. Not only is this condition of things discreditable, but, what is, perhaps, of greater consequence, it is incompatible with prosperity, absolutely and utterly ruinous. Unsatisfactory as have been the means of communication between this Colony and San Francisco in the past, it has become infinitely worse of late. The system of "wiring" and "sealing," now being rigidly enforced by the Customs authorities of the United States, has so intensified the evil, exerts such a ruinous influence upon the best interests of this Colony, that longer forbearance not only ceases to be a virtue, but becomes absolute sin. It is already tolerably well understood that, owing to the Customs regulations to which we have alluded, those running steamers between San Francisco or Portland and here find it decidedly to their interest to call at the various ports on Puget Sound before touching at this port. The result of this is that the mails, passengers and freight destined for this Colony are taken several hundreds of miles out of their way, pass, in fact, right under our nose to return by way of Puget Sound in the course of four or five days, thus making the passage from Portland to Victoria almost equal to a journey across the continent! Take, for example, the case of the steamer Gossie Tellair: She passed this place on Monday morning, went the rounds of Puget Sound with our mails, passengers and freight, and only arrived here on Thursday evening, making the passage from Portland occupy six days! Now, it is perfectly clear that the interests of British Columbia must suffer so seriously from such a condition of affairs that we cannot, in fact, afford to permit a continuance of this state of things. We cannot attach the slightest blame to the gentlemen controlling these steamers. They are in all this merely obeying the "eleventh commandment," a commandment which many know-days put first. Indeed, if they were the most unselfish creatures in the world (which we fear they are not) they could scarcely act differently, so long as this most obstructive and vexatious wiring and sealing system is enforced. Well, what is to be done? How are we to help ourselves? It appears perfectly clear to us that it has become an absolute necessity, essential not only to prosperity but to self-preservation, to very existence, in fact, that we should become, to some extent at least, independent of these people as regards our ocean carrying trade. How this can best be done is, perhaps, a more legitimate subject for the Executive than for the Press; and yet we venture to express the opinion that the time has come when we must have a steamer of our own—one either belonging to, or under the absolute control of the Colony, regularly plying between here and San Francisco. We are not quite so sanguine as to think that such a steamer would be self-supporting, at least for some time to come; although we feel convinced that with such preferential patronage on the part of the commercial and traveling community as it would not be unreasonable to expect a moderate subsidy ought to enable it to run and to adopt a tariff for freight and passage in some degree conformable to the interests of the Colony. We may be told that preferential patronage from

the commercial people is not to be depended upon. History would, indeed, appear to justify the remark; and yet it is difficult to understand how commercial men could be so blind to their own interest, to say nothing of the larger Colonial view, as to refuse preferential patronage as a necessary means towards so very important an end. But we are by no means wedded to this, or indeed, any other particular mode of keeping a steamer on the route. There are those who think that it would conduce more to the interest of the colony if we had a steamer so liberally subsidized by Government as to leave commercial people free to support opposition, and thereby keep rates of freight and passage so low as to greatly benefit the Colony indirectly. We are by no means prepared to differ with this view. Doubtless one result certain to follow the placing a steamer on the route between San Francisco and this port in the immediate interest of the Colony would be to superinduce an opposition, and that of the most spirited and determined character; but that is a consequence we are not by any means disposed to regard with alarm or disfavor. It is now more than two years since copies of correspondence between the local Government and the Colonial Office were placed before the Legislative Council, showing the Imperial Government held itself prepared to pay one-half of any subsidy necessary to secure to this Colony an efficient mail service. Whatever change the Colonial policy of the Empire may have undergone since that time it is to be presumed the Colonial Office would not be altogether disposed to break faith with us in this matter. If that promise could still be made available we should certainly experience no difficulty in establishing an efficient means of communication. Whatever difference of opinion may exist respecting the best means of attaining the desired end, there can be none as to the necessity for immediate and effective action.

Sunday Sept 5

Prince Alfred among the Kanakas.

Captain Calhoun, of the British brig, Byzantium, gives from personal observation, a very amusing account of the grand levee held at Honolulu, in July last, by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, on the occasion of his recent visit to the Sandwich Islands in his ship Galatea. The news of the presence of a son of Queen Victoria spread like a prairie fire over the island, and the natives came swarming in by thousands to pay their respects to the Prince; and here came empty-handed; men, women and children, all brought presents of greater or less value; from the family pig down to a bunch of bananas or a couple of sweet potatoes. The Prince stood upon a sort of stage or platform which the King had caused to be erected near his palace. He was surrounded by his own suite, and accompanied by the King and his suite; and there, for two or three days, stood His Royal Highness, a large umbrella held over his head, shaking hands with and graciously receiving presents from the ten or twelve thousand natives who eagerly sought the honor of an interview. Amidst the squeaking of pigs and the cackling of poultry, there stood the sovereign beloved Queen, with a sweet smile and a pleasant word for every comer, until, amid heat and almost overcome by fatigue, the King wrought little damage to the crops on the Lower Fraser. A great deal of grain has been raised in Chilliwack this year. McLearn and Franklin have 100 barrels of cranberries ready for shipment. The ship Cape Horn has completed her cargo at Morley's, Barrard Inlet. The new Wesleyan Church at Chilliwack and Samas will be built by Mr. Pennington from plans furnished by Mr. Troncoe.

FROM THE ZEALOUS.—A private letter from our board H. M. S. Zealous, writes at Callao, announces the sailing of the gunboat Boxer for Equinatal on the 20th July; she will be due about the 25th inst. The Charybdis sailed several days before the Boxer. The Zealous left Payta, Peru, for the second time, on the 24th July and arrived at Callao on the 10th. The officers and men were well. Many of the officers visited Lima and found it a large city. The Zealous was to leave Callao in a day or two after the date of the letter, and expected to arrive at Valparaiso in September.

THE TEST QUARTZ MILL.—We learn that the order for the test quartz mill for Cariboo has been sent to California for fulfillment. Colonial manufacturers were not even asked what they would build it for. This seems scarcely a proper course to pursue. Surely men who have invested their means in the country are entitled to, at least, tender for the work, instead of being given the "go-by" in this manner. If their charges exceed those of the California manufacturers, let the latter have the work; but it scarcely seems the correct thing to pass them by with cold contempt.

CLOSED AND OPENED.—The contract for constructing a good way over the head of James Bay having been let to Mr. McDowell, the present travelled way was closed against the public last evening and will be opened to the public on Tuesday.

ASIAN ARRIVAL.—It is stated that the Emperor of China, a lad of sixteen, with fifty odd wives and concubines, has refused to receive His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, because, probably, the "outside barbarian" is not of sufficient dignity in lineage and position to authorize so great a favor. There can be no doubt that our national intercourse with the "Flowery Kingdom," has scarcely been of a nature to impress its subjects with becoming respect for Britons. With the exception of the diplomatic dash displayed by the late lamented Lord Elgin, a few years ago, there has really been little hope to impress these singular people with the superiority of the civilization, religion, and political economy of the Anglo-Saxon race. It is stated that the British residents in China are greatly exasperated on account of the insult offered to the son of their Queen. The China Mail speaks out boldly upon the subject, and contrasts the arrogance of the Emperor with the conduct of the Mikado of Japan, who will not only receive his Royal visitor in person with the attention due to his rank, but has sent down to Hongkong for two carriages and six horses in order to be able to accord him a more comfortable mode of progress than that in vogue among the Japanese. "Yet the wretched little boy of sixteen," says the Mail, "with the harem of fifty odd wives and concubines, who is supposed to occupy the throne once filled by such as Kien-lung and Kang-hi, is, forsooth, too sacred to be viewed by the 'barbarian eyes' of a son of the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India!"

A GIANTIC ENTERPRISE.—Few undertakings equal that of the British Government in regard to the telegraphic scheme, whether considered as to its great scope of policy or its largeness in a financial point of view. The scheme may be thus briefly summarized:—There will be 3,367 lines instead of 1832 now served by telegraphs and railways, and 1842 instead of 247 branch offices, as at present. There is now one telegraph office to every 13,000 of population, while the Government will have one for every 6,000 people. Letter boxes and pillar boxes will also be placed in convenient locations. The total cost to be met by any part of the kingdom for twenty words. The amount paid to the companies is over \$28,500,000, but the increased facilities will bring the whole cost up to \$35,500,000, which is expected to yield a revenue of \$3,500,000 annually, with an expenditure of \$2,000,000, leaving a net profit of \$1,500,000 which will pay the interest on the purchase money.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster last evening, bringing 20 passengers. Mr. Stevenson's men have repaired the Kootenay train from Hope and removed the burnt timber. A colored man named Evans has been sentenced to three months hard labor for giving a Siwash liquor. If the article was good, we can't see the immorality of the gift. Mr. Stronss has seven trains at Yale waiting to be loaded for the upper country. 60,000 lbs will leave Yale immediately for Cariboo. The people of Chilliwack, Samas, Hope and Yale have petitioned for a road to Kootenay, for the removal of the Sister Rocks and to have the trail between Chilliwack and Hope repaired. The late rains wrought little damage to the crops on the Lower Fraser. A great deal of grain has been raised in Chilliwack this year. McLearn and Franklin have 100 barrels of cranberries ready for shipment. The ship Cape Horn has completed her cargo at Morley's, Barrard Inlet. The new Wesleyan Church at Chilliwack and Samas will be built by Mr. Pennington from plans furnished by Mr. Troncoe.

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BRILLIANT DISPLAY.—On Friday night Victoria was favored with a grand display of the aurora borealis or northern lights. A well-defined belt extended from the north-eastern horizon to the zenith. The belt appeared more like a long, white lace veil, edged with vari-colored ribbon, than anything else we can compare it to. The belt remained for a long time stationary in the heavens, and separated and faded away entirely about midnight.

STAMP VS B. O. & V. I. MILL CO.—The Guardian, of New Westminster, says that it is rumored that the affidavits have been filed for a new trial in this case before Chief Justice Begbie. The rumor is incorrect.

THIRTEEN COUNS, supposed to announce the arrival of the harbor of the English brig Coquette from London, were heard last night at 10 o'clock.

JEWISH NEW YEAR.—Ceremonies incidental to the Jewish New Year will commence at sundown this evening and continue forty-eight hours.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor departed for Camp San Juan yesterday morning.

The Nuptial Bath.

The Fremdenblatt, of Vienna, publishes the following as a warning to young husbands: "How often does the pleasure so keenly desired, so long wished for, turn out to be illusory when it is realized? Few in this world but have experienced how true is the reflection; and quite recently a new married couple in Vienna have received the first and not very agreeable experience of the truth. Scarcely had they left the church when the happy pair departed in a carriage to enjoy their 'moon and honey for two,' in that delicious country called the Switzerland of Saxony. Arrived at Schandau, where they proposed to make their first halt, they learned to their dismay that a morning excursion train had flooded the place with visitors, and that every room was occupied, in every inch of the place. They had therefore the pleasing prospect of passing the wedding night in the fields, when a benevolent hotel keeper, pitying their blank looks of dismay, conceived the bright idea of putting a mattress in the only bath the inn possessed, and thus turning the bath-room into a temporary nuptial chamber. As a poet would say, Morpheus had already closed every eyelid in the hotel, when at the witching hour of midnight, when ghosts delight to take their diversion abroad, cries of distress were heard issuing from the bath-room. 'What can be the matter?' said the other guests, 'Good heavens, what tragedy is being enacted?' Lights flew from window to window, one old lady—there is always some nervous female of the kind in every dwelling-house—screamed 'fire,' and still more dreadful things, at the top of her voice, while three blooming damsels, who acted as chambermaids, rushed in very scanty attire to the mysterious chamber. What was the matter? Well, this. The young bride, wishing to ring the bell for a maid, had caught hold of what she supposed to be the bell rope, and pulled it smartly. Unhappily for her and her spouse, it was the cord of the showerbath above their heads, and forthwith down plumped such a deluge of cold water as would drown a damper upon the most devoted honeymooning couples. Her husband, in his dismay, caught frantically at another cord on his side of their extemporized couch, but the only response was an equally liberal deluge of water, this time nearly boiling hot. The unhappy pair then screamed in unison; and the bride, in the excitement of the moment, uttered sentiments anything but complimentary to her fond spouse. When the servants came, they were just in time to rescue the unlucky pair from drowning, for the room was already half-full of water, and the wife was perched like a monkey on her husband's back, uttering lamentable cries, while her good man was fumbling in the dark to find the door. Let us hope that the subsequent wedded life of this unfortunate couple may be happier than its commencement.

"How She Loved Him."

Madame de B., of Paris, is a lady on the sunny side of forty, rich, good-looking, and bohemienne. Her husband, some score of years her senior, was ordered six months ago to Algeria, where he holds an official post. Madame de B., whose health did not permit her to accompany him, remained in her villa on the banks of the Seine; she continued to keep open house, gave balls and parties, and appeared to be no way grieved at the cruel separation from her liege lord ordained by the official Fates. Things went on some time in the most irreproachable manner. At length, however, the solitude of single bliss began to weigh on the lady's mind and, needless to go into particulars, ended in a liaison with a dashing Lothario of thirty summers. One fine morning she announced the decease of her husband, producing at the same time a forged certificate of death. The funeral services of the lamented deceased, who had been buried in Algeria, were scarcely over when the friends of the widow received une lettre de faire part announcing her marriage with the Lothario aforesaid. The honeymoon went off as sweetly enough, and the couple had entered on what the French call la lune de miel, when the French call la lune de desenchantement, when husband No. 2 received a letter from Algeria informing him that husband No. 1 was not dead, and was en route for France. Madame de B.—thereupon decided to dispose of the obnoxious old man in a summary way, and hired a ruffian to give him a kindly thrash as he entered the house. Everything went off as well as a play. The old man arrived from Algeria, alighted at his country villa, and was going up stairs to his wife's room when he suddenly gave a shriek and dropped down dead. The only thing now to do was to get rid of the body before the authorities could hear of the affair. Husband No. 2 was enlisted into the service, and in obedience to the fascinating entreaties of his guilty party, amused to look the body tied up in a sack and threw it into the river, but unfortunately fell in himself at the same time and was drowned; neither of the bodies were ever discovered. It now turns out that Madame B.—had sewed the sack containing the body of husband No. 1 to the coat of No. 2, and thus killed two birds with one stone. The villain who stabbed M. de B.—while in a state of vino veritas, gave himself into custody a few days ago, and confessed all, but the lady is supposed by this time to be in the backwoods of Australia with another adventurer.

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A Death Kiss.

THE NEEDLE OF A YOUNG MAN'S SWEET HEART PIERCES HIS HEART WHILE KISSING HER LIPS. A young gentleman, named Mr. W., a very respectable, industrious, quiet, good-looking fellow, of about 18 years of age and a resident of Germantown, went to South Nashville on Saturday night to visit his lady love, Miss Barnes. He had been frequently to visit her before at various times. They were engaged to be married. He found her in the parlour sewing, as a proper young girl should be. She was anxious to finish the article, and therefore concluded not to throw it aside when he entered particularly as he complimented her on her pretty appearance, with her beautiful face, bending over her slender fingers as she plied the stitches with as much grace and rapidity as other girls display when skimming over the keys of a noisy piano. He took his seat beside her. They chatted very gayly. After waiting a few minutes, which to him seemed hours, he became impatient and longed to imprint a chaste kiss upon her ripe and pouting lips. With this view of carrying out his design he laid his arm circle her waist firmly, and as he was drawing her close to himself, she objected to being disturbed until her little work was finished; but he insisted. She made a motion to shove him off, as girls are said to generally. This motion proved fatal to her happiness and to his life. He became impatient and drawing her to him with much violence the needle which was caught in her tresses got between them, the point towards his heart. It entered, and as he was about to imprint a kiss of love upon her lips, his own became very painful. His vigorous grasp relaxed, and then the fire of love died out, as if by a celestial puff, at the moment of contact. He sickened, fell back upon the sofa quite helpless. The young lady was much alarmed, and ran for assistance. The family all ran into the room, and proceeded to open his shirt collar, thinking he was in a fainting fit, and that the usual restoratives would suffice. In undoing his vest it was found that the needle had penetrated his side very deeply, a circumstance which the young lady never noticed in her fright. The doctor was sent for. He administered what remedies he could. Partial consciousness was restored, and the young fellow, enabled to talk. The scene between him and his first, last love, was extremely affecting. She wept like one who feels that all happiness is lost, and he seemed to regret her loss and not his condition. He consoled her by saying that she would soon get another lover to fill his place; who would be more worthy of her than he could hope to be, and who would make her happy. This bit impressed her more. She sank down upon the floor beside him, and cried aloud. When he was becoming worse, and the doctor gave the emphatic opinion that he could not live, she started suddenly to her feet, and running into another room, swallowed a heavy dose of laudanum which was kept there for the use of a young member of the family that was sick. It was some time before she was discovered, and she came with the utmost difficulty she was able to make to consciousness. The first word she uttered was, "Oh, where is he? Let me go to him; I will be with him." At the same instant the young gentleman was resigning his spirit into the hands of his Maker in the adjoining room. He died about ten o'clock. She is still in a precarious condition, and evinces symptoms of insanity. Nashville [Tenn.] Press.

A SINGULAR DEATH.

On Saturday evening Mrs. Gustave Reis was sitting in the parlour engaged in conversation with several friends, when she was bitten on the face by a fly. The wound was very slight, but at first gave the lady intense pain, and a physician was summoned, but before his arrival the pain had subsided, and for the time being Mrs. Reis forgot all about the occurrence. On Sunday morning, however, her cheek was very much swollen, and the pain continued to increase, until evening, when she became insensible and continued so until she breathed her last on Sunday night. S.F. Chronicle

eam Carriage. ygraph describes a new ch seems destined to play The first point which body who went to see it was this—that there was capable of carrying 66 average freight of railway and cartering at the rate round a small garden half an acre in extent, been another carriage to passengers added to a whole train would have the sharp curves of the perfect ease. Now, in begin to work railways, great towns, it is import- just the wheels of a train curve which has a radius or is it less important to in country places where round renders sharp turns which are now avoided by tunnelings and viaducts. to Paris have been invited ner at Secaux, and must be the clever but compli- by which the train, ar, turns round in an ex- space. It is one of the ways. But according to exhibited last week in a ed to the Hatcham Iron- contrived by very simple made in a much smaller ich the station at Secaux adapted to any railway to this, by the adjust- on the different wheels, s to get rid of an enor- dead weight which be- traints, which wears out and which adds prodigi- of every railway. He have solved the problem enabling us to have a such lighter construction to provide for carriage great saving of cost, experience will prove anticipations are well he seems to be on the and by the exhibition of engine and carriage last d a strong presumption vious were resorted to ball (the splendor be talk of Paris) to New figures were after-supper cotillion, slopes were distributed, opening them, sades-e inside, with pected to crown their es containing pieces ere also pulled, be- one of the dances, n had to wear the their share. In what eplechase dance the ad laus bearing the wn race-horses, and le similarly inscribed. k up, each gentle- discover the lady on ten the same name other fantastic no- struction of hoops en, one to each six. to a lady, carrying a them, and on touch- lenly imprisoned the lady's partner, sitors and the native o be much amused by ries? COLONIST.—While the out the Levathan rab- take the dredger and They are just rating ar very eyes and in a orth anything to any- the Sir James Douglas; expenses and wear- Mint machinery at New several thousands of dol- idle for nine years. in f it, Why shouldn't e Assay Office pay to e Government Printing superfluity; and who sent Gazette besides of- and others wouldn't as anything in it to in- t for the items in your eep off anything and pay or is not wanted? ENQUIRER. will be glad to know punts are to be sold, ters referred to in his ngage the attention of n as possible.—Ed.] for Wives and there, STER'S STOMACH BITTERS correctives, as a remedy for ous affections, and all com- able as a preventive of ma- bial; but perhaps it is not so ingredients of this famous tra- tise a powerful and most numerous and distressing many thousands of delicate uncomplaining victims. The commencing with the dawn of over a period of from thirty daily and certainly relieved ible vegetable preparation, mon to both sexes, for which le. The attention of mothers in these peculiar cases a critation, which when neg- the health and shorten the use is no need for the power often resorted to in such restorative action of the BIT- hat nature requires in its ously, and the vast amount to the sex, if they placed some vegetable invigorant, and discarded the pernicious rant and mercenary charac-