

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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THE BRITISH COLONIST
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TERMS:
No Year, (in advance) \$10 00
Six Months do 6 00
Three Months do 3 50
One Week do 0 25

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PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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AGENTS.

Calcutta & Barrow	Nanaimo, V. I.
do do	New Westminster
do do	Yale B.C.
do do	Lytton
do do	Yanville
do do	Riohfield
do do	Barkerville
do do	Camasontay
do do	Olinnton
do do	Olympia, W.T.
do do	Seattle, W.T.
do do	Port Townsend
do do	New York
do do	London
do do	San Francisco
do do	San Diego
do do	San Jose
do do	San Antonio
do do	San Luis Obispo
do do	San Bernardino
do do	San Francisco

National Education.

The question of National education is doubtless susceptible of party treatment. Indeed there are few questions which have served to evolve more party acerbity. But it is in no party or controversial spirit that the subject is now approached. If there be any matter which especially requires breadth of view and catholicity of feeling in handling, it is that of educating the masses. Look in what direction one will, the great truth that 'Knowledge is power,' stares one in the face. Why do we see Prussia occupying a front seat among the Great Powers? Is it the needle-gun that has placed her in that proud position? Will anyone hesitate to attribute it to the superiority of her educational system, by which the poorer stratum, as well as the richer, is completely permeated with knowledge? That 'Knowledge is power,' in a national as well as an individual sense, we take to be an indisputable proposition. It is not necessary to go into statistical proof of what is sufficiently patent to the most superficial glance. The converse of this proposition stands equally out in national history. Take any country where the residuum (to use a modern phrase) of ignorance, undisciplined habits, and unformed, or, in too many instances misformed, character, is so large as to predominate, and we find that 'Ignorance is weakness.' Thus far, at least, all will be agreed. Let us make a practical application of the doctrine. The British colonists on the Pacific are engaged in laying the foundations of future empire. It would, therefore, appear to be of supreme importance that these foundations shall rest upon the eternal truths that it is Righteousness that exalteth a nation; and it is Knowledge which can alone make a people powerful; for unless the foundations be so laid we cannot hope to build up a great and powerful empire on this continent. It may be imagined by some that however true these doctrines may be as regards older countries and denser communities, yet their application to this Colony is premature. This is a mistake too common. The full importance of a good start, first things, beginnings no matter how small, is far too seldom realized. An error in laying the foundation is always difficult of correction. It may prove fatal to the whole structure. Leaving the former of these great truths in the hands of theologians, let us proceed to consider the latter in its practical relations to British Columbia. The first thing that occurs to us to remark is that the present condition of the cause of education in this Colony augurs ill for the future of the country. In the principal community the halls of public education are closed and the rising generation, upon whom so much must depend, are in great part growing up in ignorance and wickedness. In other communities in the Colony the case is only a degree better. This is a most alarming condition of things—one which will project its pernicious consequences farther and more largely into the future than many dream of. What is to be done? It has already been intimated in these columns that the country can hardly look to the approaching session of the Legislature for anything like a large and complete educational system,—that, in view of the peculiar character and mission of the Council and the nearness of great changes, all that can be well expected is some measure of temporary relief. An ample appropriation of public money, and an amendment in the present School Act, providing for the proper disbursement of that money is

probably all that can be expected from this session. But the appropriation ought to be sufficient for the sole support of the public schools; for it is greatly to be feared that any reliance upon local revenues to be raised under the very incomplete and unworkable provisions of the present Bill can only result in disappointment and continued embarrassment to all concerned. There can be no doubt that the people—those from whose pockets the revenue comes—desire that ample provision should be made for education; and we see no reason why the Executive—the mere trustees of the revenue—should hesitate. Let the Estimates of 1871 be prepared, and let it no longer be said that the public schools of British Columbia are dead or dying.

Tuesday Dec 20, The Legislative Council.

An extraordinary edition of the *Government Gazette* was issued yesterday, containing the list of the new Council and the Governor's Proclamation summoning the same to meet for the dispatch of business on the 5th day of January next.

The following are the six appointed members:

- The Hon. Philip James Hankin
 - George Phillip
 - Joseph William Trutch
 - Wymond Ogilvy Hamley
 - Augustus Frederick Pemberton, Esq.
 - Edward Graham Alston, Esq.
- The following are the nine elected members:
- Henry Nathan, Esq.
 - The Hon. John Sebastian Holmeken
 - Amor DeComos, Esq.
 - Arthur Buxton, Esq.
 - Rugh Nelson, Esq.
 - Clement Francis Cornwall, Esq.
 - Thomas Basil Humphreys, Esq.
 - The Hon. Robert William Weir Carr
 - Robert James Skinner, Esq.

PUGET SOUND ITEMS.

The N.P.R.R.C. have entered at the Olympia Land Office twelve thousand acres of land, mostly on the north side of Peon's Cove, on Whidby Island. The second Dr. Rheim is understood to be still skulking about Seattle, seeking a clandestine interview with the young woman who unfortunately fell into his net. The winter session of the University of Washington Territory has just opened. Rev. A. T. ...

GOOD TEMPLARS' BALL.

The Good Templars appear to have made a very wise selection of a Managing Committee, if the elegant and appropriate design of the decorations, be a test of ability. The sombre interior of St. Nicholas Hall has been made to don a festive garb. Long branches of evergreen and holly are pendant from the ceilings, or are festooned against the walls. Flags of several nations ornament the arch at the entrance of the ball room, and wreaths of flowers surround the gas-jets and banners. Those among us who imagine that austerity and solemnity are the natural results of teetotalism, will learn tonight that a jolly without the impelling influence of the contents of the flowing bowl. Dancing will commence at 8 1/2 o'clock.

PHIL SMITH, one of the early traders of British Columbia, has become violently insane at San Francisco. He left this port, in very bad health. At one time Smith was one of the most prosperous dealers on the Harrison-Lillooet route, but when the Yale-Lytton road won the supremacy and secured the bulk of the traffic, he was forced to abandon his business. Lately, Smith has kept the Pony Saloon on Government street.

HOLIDAY TOYS AND GOODS.

In making selections for Holiday Presents, the Fancy Goods Emporium of Mrs E A Clark, on Fort street, must not be passed by. Mrs Clark's stock not only comprises numerous articles to amuse and interest the young, but she has on hand goods suitable for buyers of more advanced years at very low rates. The public should call and inspect the stock.

FROM PUGET SOUND.

The U. S. mail steamer Isabel, Capt. Starr, arrived from Port Townsend about 10 o'clock last night bringing 40 passengers, Wells, Fargo & Co's Express and a large English mail. She will sail this a.m. at 11 o'clock. Perser Parker has our thanks for late files of Oregon and Puget Sound papers.

ACROSS THE SOUND.

Passengers report business at the principal towns on Puget Sound as excessively quiet. Every interest is dependent upon the location of the terminus. Public expectation at each place is at fever heat and the report of the committee is anxiously awaited.

WHISKEY SELLING.

William Bailey, George Hughes and John Scott, were severally tried and convicted at the Police Court yesterday for supplying liquor to Indians in violation of the law and were each sentenced to pay a fine of \$250, or in default to suffer six months imprisonment with hard labor.

The Concert.

The grand Amateur Vocal and Instrumental Concert attracted to the Theatre last evening a large and fashionable assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. At an early hour of the day the dress circle was all engaged and many were forced to secure seats in the parquette—a circumstance which shows that this community have learned the luxury of doing good and delight to encourage the noblest impulse generous minds can feel. Much interest, also, attached to the concert by the reason that all the vocalists were amateurs, who had generously—we may say, nobly—lent their services for the relief of that meritorious institution, the Mechanics' Literary Institute. The concert was under the able direction of Mrs J. A. ...

although two or three of the vocalists did not receive the enthusiastic applause which is seemed to us they were entitled to, and although others, again, did not seem to throw sufficient energy or life into the selections, viewed as a whole, the pieces were successfully rendered. Some of the lady singers gave evidence of the possession of musical talent of a very high order. The chorus of 'Awake the Slary Midnight Hour,' was powerfully rendered. It was followed by 'Oh! When Night,' which was given by Messrs Wilson, White, Austin and Redfern. 'The Village Blacksmith' by Mr Austin was well executed, but fell coldly upon the auditors—who, in truth, were shivering with cold. The charming song of 'The Spill is Broken,' delivered in Mrs Kent's best style, broke the ice and the warm plaudits became an enthusiastic encore, and the song was repeated amidst acclamations. Selections from Norma by Messrs Palmer (piano), Haynes (violin), and Beahm (bass viol), were executed in a style truly artistic and in every way creditable to the gentlemen, who were encored. In the 2d part the same gentlemen gave selections from 'Il Trovatore' in a style equally artistic. Mr Lamley Franklin in a rich tenor, sang the beautiful solo of Fra Poco admirably and was rewarded with deserved applause, and an encore, 'Blow Gentle Gales,' by Mrs Rhodes, Miss Rhodes, Chief Justice Begbie and Messrs Jeddern and Poocek, is a beautiful selection and was obarmingly sung—the ladies, especially, acquitting themselves most creditably. 'Haste Crimson Morn,' came next in order. It was a duet by Mrs Powell and Miss Branks. The manner in which the song was executed took the house by storm. The power and sweetness of Miss Branks' voice are wonderful, yet not more so than the perfect control she has over it. A rapturous encore was accorded. Mr White, in a full, clear tenor, sang 'Who So Contended is?' and the chorus of 'The Indian Maid,' accompanied with part songs from Mendelssohn, which were followed by a ballad—'Fragrant Flowers,' sang by Mr Redfern, which was among the best things of the evening. A duet in Italian—selection from Bellario—was next given by Mrs Rhodes and the Chief Justice. The delightfully clear soprano of the lady, blending with the basso profundo of the gentleman, produced a most pleasing effect, and we were not surprised when the audience demanded a repetition. 'The Lover and the Bird'—a solo, was sung by Miss Rhodes in a manner which pleased and delighted everybody. The effort was loudly encored, when Miss Rhodes sang 'Annie of the Banks of Dee' very effectively. The 'Red Cross Banner'—a madley song, was given by Mr Ward. It was encored and again demanded, the gentleman substituting a fresh piece at every call. 'The Singing Lesson,' by Mrs Powell, Miss Branks and Mr Austin; and 'After Many Years,' by Mrs Kent, were severally encored, and the performance ended amidst the heartiest acclamations—with the chorus of 'Ye Spotted Swains.'

THE COMPANIONS.

The accompaniments were mostly by Miss Pitt, Mrs Macdonald, Miss Redfern and Mr Digby Palmer. The programme, though not too long in itself, was stretched by the encore so as to cover three hours, and the absence of footlights detracted seriously from the effect. However, the artistic character of the entertainment could scarcely have been better.

MAKING A MEDICINE MAN.

The Songish tribe are engaged in making a medicine man and the sound of their orgies reaches far beyond the village. Yesterday a number of whites stood near the ferry on Wharf street, gazing at the antics of the natives. 'What are the red devils doing?' asked one. 'Making a medicine man,' returned another. 'How do they do it?' persisted the querist. 'Why, he has to eat a dog alive,' quoth the other. He meant, perhaps, that the candidate for a Siwah medical diploma had to devour a live dog, but he didn't say so.

THE STEAMER OLYMPIA.

The steamer Olympia, Capt. Finch, arrived from Puget Sound yesterday at 3 30 p. m. with 53 passengers, a large number of hogs, sheep and other freight. She will return to the Sound to-day at 10 30 a. m. Perser Finch has our thanks for customary favors.

AGAIN REMANDED.

Thomas George Smith under arrest on a charge of being implicated in the murder of Baker, was before the Police Magistrate yesterday, and was again remanded for three days.

THE HOLIDAYS.

Christmas and New Year's Days falling upon a Sunday, the anniversaries will be observed here upon the 26th inst, and 2d of January.

No LONGER 'HONOURABLE.'

The 'six-by-nine Constitution' has, amongst other things, deposed the elected members of the title of 'Honourable.' The two elected members who have seats in the Executive still retain the title.

ANOTHER HOLIDAY SALE.

Mr Franklin will hold a sale of fancy goods suitable for presents, also choice wines and liquors expressly imported for the gay and festive season, to-morrow.

AND STILL ANOTHER.

Mr Pickett will hold, on Friday, a sale of elegant fancy goods, to close business. Be on hand to obtain great bargains.

COLD.

Yesterday morning the mercury stood 31° above zero—the coldest of the season.

LOOK OUT FOR THE GREAT SHAKES.

The 20th and 22d inst. Astronomers say the earth will have a severe attack of fever and ague.

WINTER HAS SET IN EARNESTLY.

IN THE UPPER COUNTRY, FROM 4 INCHES TO 3 FEET OF SNOW NOW COVER THE WAGON ROAD FROM QUANSELMOUTH TO BARKERVILLE.

THE CALIFORNIA SAILED ON SUNDAY MORNING FOR PORTLAND.

Among the passengers were Mrs and the Misses Pixley. Wells Fargo & Co shipped \$6 336 for Portland.

THE DISPLAY OF FANCY GOODS AT THE LONDON HOUSE CONTINUES, AND NUMEROUS BUYERS THROUGH THE PREMISES.

Many choice articles of elegant design remain undisposed of.

ALL EFFORTS TO REPAIR THE BROKEN ATLANTIC CABLES HAVE FAILED.

The Wells Wells trail branches off from the one to Port Sheppard at the point where ...

ELECTIONEERING TOUR OF A DEFEATED CANDIDATE.

WRITTEN FOR THE BRITISH COLONIST. (Continued.)

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CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 17.—All the banks will be closed on the 26th of Dec, and the 2nd of January. The business firms will do the same.

The report that the directors of the Marysville lottery has entered suit for \$6,000 damages against the policeman Alfred Clark for seizing and holding tickets from Goodman, San Francisco agent for the concern, proves correct though suit was entered at Marysville instead of San Francisco.

Twenty-five lemons picked from a single tree in Alameda county are on exhibition here and are pronounced superior to those from Los Angeles grown varieties.

E. Morrison sues the San Rafael R R Co. for \$5,000 damages by being run over by the company's cars.

LOS ANGELES, Dec 17.—At 10 o'clock this am 300 armed men assembled in Stearns' hall and elected Mr Sigourney president, after which they proceeded to discuss the case of Miguel Lachanias for the murder of Jacob Bell last Wednesday, and other murders which he is known to have committed.

After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to hang him. At 1 o'clock the Vigilants divided into 3 companies and marched to the jail being joined on the way by nearly 1,000 men, the majority of whom echoed the cry of hang him. They arrived at the jail grounds and guards were stationed at different points to prevent any interference with their work. The party then commenced battering down the jail and after 2 1/2 hours work an entrance to Lachanias cell and a rope was placed round the prisoner's neck and he was led into the street. The Vigilants surrounded and conducted him to a cart 2 blocks distant where they hung him. Previous to his execution he confessed his crimes but expressed his regret. The Sheriff and his deputies made all the resistance possible but were unable to raise a man to assist them, all believing in the fitness of the Vigilants' action.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 17.—Wheat—Liverpool 2d. The steamship Wm Tabor is receiving freight for San Diego at the Market street wharf.

The weather is cold.

Mr Hixon a well known and wealthy merchant for 44 years a native of England was sent to the insane asylum to-day. R H Stebbins was appointed guardian of his property.

The committee of Odd Fellows charged with the selection of a site for the Odd Fellows Home and College held a meeting to-day to consider an amendment to a proposition for the location at the Old Mission, San Jose. This proposition is considered so favorable that it is quite probable the question will be settled so far as that site. Final selections will be made on the 26th inst.

at about 3 p.m. During the last decade Vancouver has wonderfully improved; but the Portland of '50 was only an insignificant village when compared with the really fine city of to-day. Then there was not a single church in the place worthy of the name, but now the tall and graceful spires of six or seven splendid edifices speak volumes in favor of the religious feeling and Christian generosity of the Portlanders. Then the only forest extended down close upon Third street. Now street after street, lined with the palatial residences of wealthy citizens, and magnificent public buildings stretch away far up the foot hills at the back of the city. East Portland, on the opposite bank of the river, is rapidly improving. With the street car, and the railroad in full operation to Albery, together with crowds of farmers and others arriving from the country daily with produce, the streets of this city have such a prosperous and business-like aspect as cannot be elsewhere found north of San Francisco.

Nothing need be said about the road, or rather Slough of Despond, from Monticello to Olympia. One trip over it at this season of the year will be more than enough for a traveller during his life time, as nothing but sheer necessity will induce him to repeat the experiment. The Sound people, however, are fully of the opinion that before another muddy season their railroad to the Columbia will be in operation. Then paying stage fare from Monticello to Olympia, 90 miles, and walking three-fourths of the distance knee-deep in mud will be among the things that were.

In these papers, the writer could not conscientiously avoid animadverting rather severely on the British Columbian Government; but he wishes it to be distinctly understood that past administrations—the late one particularly—are those indicated as blameable for wanting such large sums of public money on useless trails. A small amount of business tact and careful observation at the proper time would have given us trails to Big Bend and Kootenay that might easily be made into wagon roads; but upon a further opening up of the interior they must, like the Harrison-Lillooet route to Cariboo, be altogether abandoned. At present we are under an administration of 'one idea.' Fortunately that idea—namely, Confederation (with Responsible Government added by the people)—is a good one and will be a panacea for all the political ills that this poor, suffering, down-trodden colony has been heir to for many years past. With this great change successfully carried out, the Managere Government will deserve and obtain the gratitude of all and all future generations.

Perhaps the writer may be asked to say in conclusion that he is not in any way applying to the Government for a mission on board, trusting that his past career as a private citizen will be sufficient guarantee that in all future struggles he will be found on the side of right, and not the first to go over to the enemy or abandon the vessel.

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