

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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## THE BRITISH COLONIST

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## THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

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NOTICE.

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## WAR WITH AMERICA.

He is not a wise man who ignores the past, but he who judges the present by the standard of the ancients is certain to fall into the pool of the star-gazing philosopher. It is only in the avoidance of these extremes that we come as near as the human mind can come to that wisdom which carries nations as well as men through surrounding difficulties unharmed. When we therefore see in the European mind a tendency to depart from this middle point—an inclination to judge of existing affairs by an age long since gone by—we are constrained to believe that evil days are at hand. The maxim that "history repeats itself" may be very correct in those cases which have no point of dissimilarity, but to select one feature of resemblance between the present and the past, and while overlooking the many other dissimilarities, to draw similar deductions, is to commit a fallacy of the most palpable character; yet this is what appears, in just what the leading minds of Europe are doing at the present moment.

That celebrated oration of Louis Napoleon—the Life of Julius Cæsar. With Napoleon there is the belief that all nations founded on popular Government must occasionally become so rickety, so imbecile, or so entirely lost to all sense of order and propriety, that the times create a demand for a vigorous mind and a bold tactician to seize hold of the reins of government and guide the nation by the mere force of imperious, or rather probably Imperial will, to a position of strength and safety. Our English statesmen do not go so far as their by no means, in this particular, disinterested neighbor; but they seem to view matters from the same standpoint and to declare that republics are in perpetual danger of being converted into despotisms, under the control of a military dictator—that what happened to Rome under the rule of Pompey and Julius will take place in America in the days of Johnson and Seward, and that another Cæsar will arise to assume supreme power. We see this mode of viewing matters—of blindly applying past events in an uneducated and half-civilized age to the occurrences of an enlightened era—in all the commentaries upon America since the war began. Although in every instance the predictions hitherto have been falsified—although the North instead of breaking into half a dozen small confederacies became more and more intact, more and more cemented as the war progressed—although the people, instead of running riot and insubordination to the general Government, became most law-abiding, most patient, and most yielding to the demands made upon them—and although the South did not become a nation, but was obliged to surrender to the force of Northern arms—yet in spite of these humiliating blunders, we find the guides of public opinion and the statesmen of the nation continuing to indulge in the same crudities and the same absurdities in reference to America's future.

Now that the war is coming to a close—now that the union, which was declared never to be again cemented, is becoming rapidly cohesive—now that the four years' trial of the Republic in the ravages of intestine strife, has neither brutalized the people nor given the country over into the hands of military despotism—that it has in fact disturbed nothing but the rotten pillars of the nation—now that everything that has been predicted,

## GOLD EXCITEMENT.

Yesterday the town was thrown into a considerable state of excitement by the exhibition of a splendid nugget of gold, said to have been found in a new gold region within a short distance of Victoria. The specimen was in the possession of J. G. Shepherd, Esq., Manager of the Bank of British North America, who kindly afforded us an opportunity of examining it. In shape the nugget resembles a beach pebble, and is not unlike that found by Booth at Leech river in July last, that aroused such a furore, but the surface is more rugged and some of the interstices are filled with quartz. It weighs six ounces and a tenth, and is valued by the Bank at £1000. The locality of the discovery is kept a secret, but we were positively assured that it was a genuine island nugget, and that it was not found at the Leech river mines. The general supposition is that it came either from Wolf Creek or from a stream in the Cowichan direction. The fortunate holder of the prize we understand had about \$100 of beautiful coarse gold with him in addition. Several parties are now prospecting the new diggings, and we hope soon to be able to place something more definite and authentic before our readers. There seems to be a general feeling of confidence in the richness of our island diggings, and it is believed that this season will witness some important and satisfactory developments of their mineral richness.

## A LARGE NUGGET.

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## STOPPAGE OF THE BANK OF ATWOOD, SPOONER AND CO. OF BIRMINGHAM.

Liabilities over £1,000,000.

Atwood, Spooner & Co., Birmingham, Friday, March 10th, 1865.

Soon after four o'clock this afternoon it was whispered here that the old bank of Atwood, Spooner & Co., of this town, had opened its doors for the last time. The business was conducted as usual up to the closing of banking hours to-day, and as usual in the case of these old banks, the last thought to enter a man's mind would have been that anything could happen to Atwood's; it is a fact, notwithstanding, that the bank has stopped.

The deposits amount to over £700,000. The current credit balances amount to more than £300,000, and there is a note circulation exceeding £20,000, so that the liabilities are more than £1,000,000. It was rumored to-night, and we give it as such only, that there are more than 2000 depositors. Some of the depositors have entered into an arrangement with the Joint Stock Bank (limited). The arrangement had received the assent of that proprietary, but it seems that contemporary history teaches these men nothing and that they must go back for their inspiration to the ante-Christian period.

All this is bad, and may really lead, as stated above, to the engendering of hostile feelings on the part of both countries. No people are less inclined for war than that great class which gives wealth and stability to England, and it would be beyond all reason to suppose that a nation that has already had war brought home to it in so expensive a shape as the United States should be thirsting for new fields of blood and new absorbents of treasure. For the association of the calamity in the minds of the people of both countries, may do much towards making it an easy leap from armed watchfulness to active hostility, and men who have nothing but good feeling for each other may be forced by the imprudence of newspaper writers and public speakers on both sides of the Atlantic into deadly conflict. We do not anticipate so great a disaster to the human family as war between England and America; but we cannot overlook the fact that if it did come the British possessions on this side of the continent would be the most vulnerable point in Her Majesty's dominions. Our space will not admit of enlarging on this important part of the question to-day, but we shall take the first opportunity to recur to it.

## AN EDITORIAL MISTAKE.

Our contemporary the Times in its yesterday morning's issue devotes an article to our remarks on the London Times and Confederation, and strangely enough falls into the blunder that we endeavored to show that recent circumstances in connection with the scheme were likely to induce the Imperial authorities to exercise a pressure in forcing British Columbia and Vancouver Island into the North American Confederation! Nothing could really have been farther from the mark—our whole argument went to prove how necessary it was, in view of certain contingencies, that union of the Pacific colonies should take place, and the probability of Her Majesty's Government exerting their prerogative in this behalf. Accordingly we said "we may put down Mr. Cardwell's opinion and determination to have union under any circumstances as an Imperial necessity," and we subsequently alluded to our union resolutions arriving in England at an opportune period.

## EUROPEAN MAIL SUMMARY.

[DATES TO MARCH 11th.]

There have been some further discussions in the highest regions of the French Government with reference to a project of M. Duroy, Minister of Public Instruction, for making primary instruction compulsory and gratuitous in France. The scheme, however, met with so much opposition that it was ultimately abandoned.

M. de Montholon has been appointed French Ambassador at Washington.

The draft of the Address to the Emperor from the Senate has been published in the Paris papers. It is chiefly a paraphrase of the Speech from the throne, and is one of the longest tissues of servile laudation that the world has lately seen. There will be a reduction of not far from a million sterling in each branch of the service for the present year.

We are happy to perceive that Prussian schemes for the virtual seizure of the Schleswig-Holstein Duchies meet with resistance at Vienna. It is at all events certain that the Austrian reply to Prussian claims which has just arrived at Berlin is looked upon as very unfavorable. The Austrian Note is believed to declare that the proposals are "entirely unfitted to be the basis for further negotiations." Probably Prussia will rejoice by putting on the Italian and Hungarian screw a little tighter, upon which poor Austria will as usual be frightened into acquiescence.

Greece goes on fermenting. Opposition to government authority shows itself in many places. Bulgaria and the party favorable to the existing form have formed a coalition with the avowed object of constitutional opposition.

The Austrian Government and the Reichsrath cannot come to an understanding about money matters. The government coolly intimates that the report of the House Committee on the subject "is not regarded as suitable for further discussion." Negotiations, therefore, have been broken off on both sides.

The King of Italy has returned from Milan to Florence. In the Chambers they are busy discussing a proposition for the abolition of the punishment of death. The principle is approved by the Ministry, but the moment for its application is declared to be inopportune.

The Pope seems determined to take things easily. The French Ambassador had an audience of His Holiness, in which he requested him to form an army within two years with the assistance of the Emperor. The Pope declined to do so, ignoring the Convention. As for the rest, he would leave it in the hands of Providence.

Agitation still continues among the Russian nobles. Another assembly has met at Pskoff and passed resolutions similar to those agreed to at Moscow. A deputation has left for St. Petersburg to request the Emperor to convoke the States General. They may surely reckon on receiving a very stern reception and a severe snubbing at the hands of His Majesty, who has no taste for reforms "coming from below."

The Official Gazette of Madrid, March 9th, publishes the Encyclical and Syllabus, preceded by a declaration which reserves the rights of the Crown in ecclesiastical matters, and promises to maintain the liberty of the press in the discussion of these documents.

At Lisbon the crisis has terminated in the death of the Duke de Loule, who has at length succeeded in reconstructing a Cabinet. The new Ministry is meeting with great opposition in the Cortes.

AN IRISH GENTLEMAN.—A curious presentation case came up for trial on Wednesday at the Kilkenny Assizes, before Mr. Baron Hughes. A man named Patrick Doyle, who it appeared has lived for a long time by jerrying a kind of black mail through threatening and cursing the people, was presented by the grand jury as a vagrant under the statutes of Queen Anne and George III. The statute of Queen Anne enacts that "all loose, idle, vagrants, and such as pretend to be Irish gentlemen, and will not work, etc. but wander about, demanding victuals, and cooing from house to house, shall, on presentment of the grand jury, be sent to gaol, and there remain until they shall be sent on board Her Majesty's fleet, or to some of Her Majesty's plantations in America, unless they find sufficient security to be of good behavior." The jury found that Doyle "was an Irish gentleman, and would not work," and he was sentenced to find two sureties in £10 each, for his good behaviour for seven years, or to be imprisoned for that period.

THE WEATHER.—For the information of our readers abroad, we may state that our delightful summer weather, although late in making its appearance, has now fairly set in, and we are in full enjoyment of a climate certainly unsurpassed in any other part of the world. The days are clear, warm and bright, agreeably tempered by the gentle sea breeze, and the nights are just cool enough to make sleep thoroughly enjoyable. Vegetation under the genial influence of the late rains is progressing with great rapidity, the green sward being carpeted with flowers and the crops of the farmers shooting up almost visibly. Fruit trees of all kinds are covered with blossoms, promising an abundant yield, and farmers are generally highly pleased with their prospects for the season.

ACCIDENT AT NANAIMO.—A pair of horses attached to a wagon, belonging to the Vancouver Coal Company, took fright and ran away, injuring the driver slightly and the wagon seriously.

## LATER TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

[FROM THE COLONIAN.]

New York, April 30.—The Herald's Newbern correspondent, April 27, says the lamentations of Sherman's army over the assassination of Lincoln suddenly turned to rejoicing at the appearance of Grant. The terms granted to Johnston embraced in the surrender of 4 armies of the military divisions of the West, but excluding that of Dick Taylor, lying west of the Chattahoochee River.

Among the generals surrendered to Beauregard. The principal among the Lieutenant-Generals is Hardee. Bragg, lately relieved of the command, was not surrendered.

Wade Hampton refused to surrender, and is reported to have been shot by Johnston in an altercation. But the report is not confirmed.

John Davis, a member of the Legislature, died on the 27th inst., although more names are given. All the militia from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and the Gulf States are included. Johnston replied on the 16th, asking an interview for modifying previous agreement of surrendering the army. Sherman refused this, and placed the subject on the basis of the old agreement, but named the time and place where he would meet him. They met near Dunham's Station, 25 miles from Raleigh, on the 16th. Johnston was outspoken and frank in arranging the agreement for capitulation. A few minutes' conversation settled the preliminaries, and these were reduced to writing, and are the same, in substance as those extended to Lee. Negotiations were conducted in Sherman's name. Johnston had no intimation of the Lieutenant-General's presence at Raleigh till after the terms of capitulation were signed, when Grant quietly put his approval on the back of them.

During the interview between Sherman and Johnston the latter informally declared the war was over, and to continue longer was wrong and criminal, and that when Southern people learned he had surrendered, there would be none to consent to a longer continuance of the contest. He stated openly that his troops should fight no longer if they could obtain reasonable and satisfactory terms; that he would gladly send them home. The armies were nearly 50 miles apart at the time the capitulation was signed. Sherman had removed part of his army from beyond Raleigh before the truce was agreed on. After signing the famous memorial, his force was moving back to the latter city, except Kipkirk's cavalry, which was picketed at the time in the country, about twenty miles beyond Raleigh. Johnston's troops were sent back towards Greensboro, the militia between which were in running order at the time, and the opposing general, surrounded by friendly equally distant to where the interview was held. The telegraph also was in working order through Johnston's army to Selma, Macon, Montgomery, and other Southern cities. Sherman's first intelligence of Wilson's success at these places, was received over the railroad, through the heart of the rebel army. Johnston even went so far as to facilitate the transmission of news from Wilson, and begged Sherman to put an immediate stop to further devastation of Southern country.

The Herald's Mobile correspondent says: Our forces captured three Generals, ten thousand stand of arms, thirty thousand barrels of cotton, besides immense quantities of corn and other grain, and a vast amount of other stores.

General Wilson was at Macon on the 29th, and virtually holds all Georgia. The chances are that Jeff. Davis cannot escape.

New York, May 1.—Gold to-day 143.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 2.—Legal tenders opened at 7 1/2 to 7 1/4, advancing to 7 3/4 and 7 1/2 with heavy sales at the latter figure. Gold yesterday, 143 to 144. Stock market still very much depressed, without any change being noticed. Flour, with the exception of a moderate jobbing trade, remains at previous prices.

THE NEWS.—The Denver Mailer, Solvay. The gunboat Edward, Lieut. Commander H. Lascelles, returned on Saturday from the North, having proceeded as far as Cape Anclage, the habitation of the Esquimaux tribe. Enquiries were instituted regarding the mysterious disappearance of the men belonging to the wrecked sloop Deersfoot, and resulted in the discovery of the fact that they were not murdered by Indians as was generally supposed. The sloop, it appears, was in a leaky condition, and falling in with the steamer Jenny Jones, was taken in tow by her. She was, however, subsequently stripped of everything valuable and cast off. Two of her crew, it is said, remained on board the steamer, but what became of the third man who was on the sloop is not known. It seems probable, as the Jenny Jones had made her escape without being equipped for a voyage to Mexico, that the captain would stand in need of all the provisions he could collect, and was therefore glad to meet with a trading vessel laden with stores, from which he could obtain the requisite supplies. It is further intimated that those on board were intimate friends of Captain Jones. Whatever the true facts of the case may be, it is satisfactory to know that no murder has been perpetrated by the natives.

THE WAGON MAN.—We are informed that the man known as Slippery Sim, who was mentioned by the Chronicle as being one of the number of miscreants recently executed by the Vigilance Committee at Walla Walla, is now in town without any symptoms of dislocation of the spinal vertebra. Three more of the men said by the same authority to have been suspended were left in Oregon by Sim and are supposed to be on their way hither. Amongst the number is George Bodren.

## LETTERS.

Med. April 21st, 1865.

Adler, J. A. H. W. W. W.

Astic, A. H. W. W. W.

Byrnes, M. W. W. W.

Bennett, C. W. W. W.

Brown, R. W. W. W.

Brown, M. W. W. W.

Bishop, C. W. W. W.

Courtesy, H. C. W. W.

Carter, P. W. W. W.

Claridge, R. J. W. W.

Davis & Co. W. W. W.

Drumtel, Y. W. W. W.

Dunbar, M. W. W. W.

Ellis, T. W. W. W.

Falk, J. W. W. W.

Falk, T. W. W. W.

Gambit, M. W. W. W.

Gage, W. W. W. W.

Gilchrist, W. W. W. W.

Gilmore, A. W. W. W.

Hurrell, H. W. W. W.

Holman, J. W. W. W.

Holmes, J. W. W. W.

Hinkman, C. W. W. W.

Harris, J. W. W. W.

Jones, J. O. W. W. W.

Jones, B. W. W. W.

James, J. W. W. W.

King, J. W. W. W.

King, Miss W. W. W.

Lavery & Co. W. W. W.

Linton, E. W. W. W.

Lang, J. W. W. W.

McDowell, A. J. W. W.

Mason, M. W. W. W.

Manly, M. W. W. W.

May, C. W. W. W.

Miles, C. W. W. W.

McKinnon, A. W. W. W.

McCoe, N. W. W. W.

Miller, Mr. W. W. W.

Magee, Mrs. W. W. W.

McWhinnie, W. W. W.

Nicholas, C. W. W.

Orwin, W. W. W.

O'Hara, W. W. W.

Ogilvie, J. H. W.

Perkins, M. W. W.

Porter, Jas. W. W.

Pardy, S. W. W.

Quine, R. W. W.

Stuart, Mrs. W. W. W.

Short, Mr. W. W. W.

Thornton, Capt. W. W. W.

Tunnel, O. B. W. W.

Taylor, H. W. W. W.

Tong, S. W. W. W.

Tooley, S. W. W. W.

Wearne, E. W. W. W.

Watson, H. W. W. W.

Wright, W. H. W. W.

Wilson, G. W. W. W.

Yates, Miss W. W. W.

Henry Woodrow Postmaster.