

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, February 5, 1867.

English Mail Summary.

The great Reform demonstration in Beaufort House grounds proved a very great failure, and is so pronounced by even the Reform organs. The highest estimated number present, according to the Times, was 25,000, which fell just 175,000 short of the number expected. All the Trades were represented but the Printers, who wisely declined to allow their Union to be converted into a political machine. The proceedings were conducted in a very orderly manner; but on the way into the park a crowd of roughs were allowed to gather near the gate of Beaufort House, and a number of carriages, in which were seated the speakers, were assailed by the crowd and the occupants plundered of their hats, breastpins, watches, their clothes torn and themselves roughly handled. The police were powerless, but the mounted farriers who were in the procession made a few of the thieves feel the force of their brawny muscles. Some of the speeches were quite unique. A Mr Leicester, a glassblower, was very violent, and in concluding his address remarked that the object of the agitation was to drive "the devil out of the House of Commons, and let God Almighty in," omnipotence not being represented there in Mr Leicester's absence. Mr Bright, was as usual, forcible and full of menace, and Mr Ayrton spoke so slightly of the Queen, because Her Majesty "did not think it worth her while to enjoy the spectacle of looking upon her loyal people," adding that he thought "she should feel the duty of sympathy with the living as well as an affectionate reverence for the memory of the dead,"—that he was shamed from the platform. The great case of Dr Hunter vs. the Pall Mall Gazette, was decided for the plaintiff—damages one farthing. Hunter, who is an American, professes to cure consumption as a speciality, and was called a "quack" and an "impostor" by the Gazette. The Fenians, according to the papers, were attracting a fair share of public attention, and much activity was observed in the military and naval departments. Stephens was reported to be in two or three places at once; but we all now know that the miserable cheat, instead of being in Ireland preparing to raise the standard of revolt, was all the time skulking in New York city to escape the vengeance of his deluded countrymen, whose patriotically-subscribed money he had appropriated to his own use. Daylight has at last been let into the affairs of Overend, Gurney & Co. It appears that the firm was previous to 1860 netting a profit of about £190,000 a year, but in 1861 Mr Gurney found the London partners embarked in business so dangerous that he stopped all dividends. Nevertheless, in 1866 they had advanced £3,500,065 to twelve companies and their own railways, and had granted exceptional loans to the total amount of £4,199,000, out of which Mr Gurney believed £3,117,000 was totally lost. No fortune could stand such a shock, and Mr Gurney and his partners therefore sold the business, and pledge their whole property, estimated at £3,805,060, as security for the loss. Nearly a million of this property consisted of undivided profits in the bank, profits which were, in fact, mere matters of account; but the new directors revealed nothing of any part of the transactions, but told the new shareholders that they had bought Overend Gurney's business for £500,000. Some terrible domestic tragedies have occurred. In one instance at Newbury, Berks, a butcher destroyed his paramour and a man with whom he found her in company, and then drowned himself in the canal. The London journals also record the death of a wife at her husband's hands, and the subsequent suicide of the man. The wife was suspected of infidelity and at last confessed her crime, whereupon she was instantly strangled by her enraged husband, who lay by the corpse all night, and at 6 o'clock in the morning took a small cannon

belonging to one of his children, loaded it with a Minié-rifle ball, rested the cannon on his dead wife's breast, and blew a hole through his body. The agony of grief into which the family are plunged by the dreadful event may be imagined. Frequent mention is made in the papers of the dreadful colliery explosions at Barnsley, Yorkshire, and Talk-o'-the-hill, near Hanley, Staffordshire. These deplorable casualties were announced here by telegraph. The most painful feature connected with the first-mentioned calamity is, that while parties were humbly exerting themselves to rescue the victims of the first explosion, a second explosion took place, involving the rescuers in the same fate. The mine, which was on fire, was to be flooded with water. The 1st of December was a "dark day" in London: One man in a fog walked into the river. Another walked into a ditch. Both were drowned. The omnibusses ran over people in the streets. The next day it was still worse. The river could hardly be navigated at all. The greatest confusion prevailed amongst the shipping in the Lower Pool and in Greenwich and Blackwall Reaches, in consequence of a large number of inward-bound vessels having brought up in those places, and the shipping outward-bound, in dropping down the river, got athwart hawse of the tiers, inflicting serious damage. It was a dismal time indeed. Vice-Admiral the Earl of Lauderdale, K. C. B., has been appointed First and Principal Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, in the place of Admiral Sir Walter Parker, G. C. B., deceased.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday, Jan. 31st. TIN WEDDING.—The residence of Mr Lewis was the scene of joyous merriment on Friday evening. It being the tenth anniversary of the marriage of Mr and Mrs Lewis—their "Tin Wedding"—their friends had prepared a surprise party to celebrate the happy event. The bride presents consisted entirely of tin articles, the presentation of which and the wearing of the same by the happy couple caused much amusement. The presents not only displayed great taste but remarkable artistic skill and ingenuity in getting them up. Among the many articles was a tin hat for Mr Lewis, moulded in the latest style, a collar with the Bean Bromellie, a pair of spectacles and a walking cane, all of which were very becoming to the wearer. The presents to the bride were innumerable; among them two fashionable scoop bonnets, elaborately trimmed, a watch and chain, bracelet and brooches, hair combs, waterfalls, opera glass, card case and cards, boquet-holder, two prettily shaped cake-baskets, napkin rings, two picture frames containing the pictures of the bridal pair, with cords and tassels, all made of tin. After the presentation and exhibition, music and dancing began and was followed by an elegant supper; everything passed off in a most delightful manner.—Oregon Herald.

KOOTENAY.—Several parties have lately arrived in Walla Walla from the Kootenay country. They report that mining operations had been suspended for the winter. The work on the "big shaft," from which so much has been expected, had stopped, owing to the water-wheel freezing fast. The winter in the Kootenay country had been unusually mild, and miners are calculating under an early spring. Provisions were in rather short supply, and as a consequence prices are ruling high. Flour was quoted at \$50 per hundred; bacon, at \$1 per pound, and other articles in proportion. About five hundred persons would winter in the mines; three-fifths of these are Chinamen. The gentleman from who we (Oregon Herald) derive the above expresses the opinion that during the last season Kootenay yielded at least one third more gold than in any former year. He is sanguine that the coming season will show a still larger yield.

ARRIVAL OF H. M. S. MUTINE.—H. M. S. Mutine, 17 guns, 200 horse power, Commander Wm. Swinburn, left Valparaiso 1st November, touching at Pitcairn's Island on the 28th; arrived at Papeete, Tahiti, on the 7th December; left on the 16th, touching at the Islands of Starbuck and Maldon on the 23rd and 26th respectively, having passed over the assigned positions of Bauman, Roggevein and Teinhoven. From Maldon she proceeded direct to Honolulu, arriving on the 8th January, and left again for Vancouver Island on the 13th instant; having been detained off the entrance of the straits Juan de Fuca by a fog, for a day and a half, anchored at 1 a. m. yesterday off the Figgard Lighthouse, and entered the harbour of Esquimalt at 9:30 a. m.

FROM THE FRASER.—The Enterprise returned from the Fraser last evening with about 30 passengers. There is no news from the upper country. The Council was to meet at 3, yesterday. The Marsh troops played to a fair house, and gave satisfaction. The Enterprise met with a dense fog in going up the river, and had to feel her way carefully for some time. At New Westminster bells had to be rung and guns fired; and the wharf proprietor hammered a tin can to pieces in making a noise, before the steamer could find a stump to tie up at.

THE "METROPOLIS."—Advices received by the Mutine, from Honolulu, of date 8th January, state that the bark has been sold, and placed under the Hawaiian flag, with the name altered to "Lono"—the title of one of the ancient Hawaiian Gods, and the name that was also given to Capt. Cook, when he first visited the Islands. The Lono sailed for this port a day or two before H. M. S. Mutine, which arrived here yesterday, and is therefore overdue. Her cargo, consisting of sugar and coffee—will be sold immediately on arrival, at auction.

NAVAL.—By the last Gazette we learn that the iron-clad Zealot, sailed from England for the Pacific station, on the 8th of December last. The Reindeer had already started for same destination. H. M. S. Olio was at Honolulu, where the officers have enjoyed themselves greatly, and were to have a theatrical performance. She would leave shortly and touch at various of the South Pacific Islands before arriving at Valparaiso.

SUPPOSED WRECK IN THE STRAITS.—On Thursday last a ship's boat, painted white, and a box filled with apples, portions of a vessel, and a few pieces of lumber came ashore at Clallam Bay, W. T., near the Fuca Strait coal mine. There was no clue as to the vessel to which the articles and fragments belonged, but it is feared that a ship bound south with lumber has met with disaster.

THE CHASSEPT MUSKET.—The Patrie gives a few additional details respecting the Chassepot musket; it weighs only three kilograms (6 lbs.), and it can discharge as many as 50 bullets in four minutes; but on an average a man in the ranks can only fire ten shots a minute. This is very satisfactory, if true.

THE "ACTIVE."—The steamship Active arrived at 7 1/2 o'clock yesterday morning, after a splendid run of 3 1/2 days from San Francisco. The Active brings 26 passengers, a fine freight and the mails. The run down from this port was made in five days—weather disagreeable for the first three days. The Active will sail for San Francisco at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning.

VICTORIA DANCING ASSEMBLY.—The regular monthly Soiree Danseante of this well-known and popular institution will take place on next Monday evening. All who have attended these sociable reunions entertain pleasurable recollections of the enjoyment experienced, and will, we doubt not, attend on the forthcoming occasion.

WHITE PAPER.—The Active brought us a large supply of English white paper, from bond at San Francisco, and we shall take care not to run short again in a hurry.

THE SHIP REVERIE, from San Francisco for Nanaimo, arrived yesterday morning and will be towed up by the Isabel.

SALE OF AN INSECT.—At noon, to-day, Mr McCrea will sell at his rooms the well-known steamer "Fly," terms cash.

LECTURE.—Commander Porcher of H M S Sparrowhawk, will deliver a lecture before the Mechanics Institute this evening.

A HOAX.—The reported earthquake at Fort Klamath is all a hoax.

THE FIDELITER sailed from Portland yesterday.

Australia.

A new gold field of great extent has been discovered at the Weddin mountains, about 280 miles from Sydney. The Government officials report that it will give employment to a large number for three or four years; sinking is about fifty feet through hard soil, and the holes bottomed are yielding an average of five grains per dish. About 8,000 miners are already on the ground.

The Legislature was still in session, passing the estimates. The lower House has negatived a proposal made by the Government to deduct one-twelfth from the salaries of all the civil servants.

The Hon. Robert Johnson, member of the Legislative Council, died very suddenly on the 6th of December.

Clark's gang of bushrangers are still continuing their depredations in the southern district. They robbed two mails during the month. One of the robbers, named Cornell, has been captured and fully committed for trial.

The customs receipts for the month of October reached £64,322, or nearly £20,000 in excess of the receipts during October, 1865.

The yield of the gold fields, as indicated by the escort returns, shows that a falling off has taken place during the present year, as compared with that of last year, the amount being; 1865, 230,934 ounces; 1866 194,937 ounces.

Several failures have taken place during the month, chiefly amongst houses in the breadstuffs trade. Amongst them are G. A. Lloyd & Co.; Dibb & Co., (who have a branch house at Valparaiso); M. A. Vonnau

in the American trade, and H. H. Eldier, Chilean Consul.

The receipt of contributions to the Paris Exhibition has ceased. The number of exhibitors is larger than on any previous occasion.

The first general Synod on the Anglican Church commences its sittings on the 10th. The new Roman Catholic Bishops of Dentlam and Goulburn, have been well received at their new spheres of labor.

VICTORIA.

The Inter-Colonial Exhibition has proved a great success, and attracts visitors from all parts of Australia.

Barke, the bushranger, has been hanged at Melbourne, for the murder of Mr Hunt. The "Barb" won the Melbourne Cup, the second longest race of the year. "Smuggler," carried off by "Fisherman," won the Queen's Plate.

The wheat harvest has already begun in the northern districts, and promises to be unusually large.

Representatives of the riflemen of three colonies are now in Melbourne to compete for the challenge shield and the rifle championship of the colonies. They were entertained at a public banquet.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Government having decided to abandon their efforts to establish a colony on the shores of Capricornia, they have despatched a steamer to bring away the settlers now located there.

Major Warburton has returned from the 8th attempt to explore the northwestern portion of the continent; want of water compelled this step.

Field, a notorious highwayman, who for months baffled the ingenuity of the police, has been captured and sentenced to be hanged.

Very heavy floods are reported in the newly settled districts in the far north.

Harvest prospects are as good as anticipated, and the wheat crop will leave fully 100,000 tons surplus over requirements for local consumption; flour, £12 to £14; wheat 4s 7d to 4s 8d.

QUEENSLAND.

The Government are issuing Treasury bills value £1, to meet the crisis which has arisen, through the failure of the Agra Bank to carry out its engagement to negotiate a loan.

Governor and Lady Boncom are visiting New South Wales; her ladyship's health is precarious.

Traces of Leichardt have been found on the Gulf of Carpentaria, and part of a skull close to a tree marked with the lost explorer's mark.

H. M. S. Salamander has recently discovered several fine harbors on the northern coast.

Cotton and sugar planting is being carried on more extensively this season than ever before.

A meeting of the Legislative Assembly has determined to petition His Excellency to assemble Parliament as soon as possible.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Hokitiki gold fields continue to yield very largely, and all the miners are reputed to be doing well.

A disastrous fire occurred at Christchurch on the 6th of November, resulting in the destruction of property to the amount of £35,000.

A soldier of the 14th was tried by Court martial, at the camp Otauhau, New Zealand, for being in the presence of his officers, uttered a violent invective against Her Majesty the Queen; he was sentenced to be drummed out of the regiment and imprisoned for five years.

Platinum has been found to exist in considerable quantities amongst the iron sand on the sea coast of Southland, and in which sand gold is also obtained.

The East Coast rebellion has been more promptly put down than any native outbreak that has ever occurred in the Colony. The Governor himself took command of the troops raised amongst the settlers, and one by one the Maori strongholds fell without the interference or aid of the imperial forces. About fifty rebels were killed and a large number captured. The latter have since been shipped off to the Otago Islands and their lands confiscated.

The Tauranga quarrel about the confiscated, or rather the ceded block of land, seems likely to produce a regular war in that district, and will only be ended by a fight of the same kind as that at Te Ranga, and the wholesale confiscation of the rebels' land.

The twentieth session of the Auckland Provincial Council was opened on November 25th, in the Council Chambers, by his honor and Superintendent, Frederick Whitaker. There was a large attendance of members, and the strangers' gallery was crowded by persons anxious to hear the opening address of the session.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand opened its annual sitting in St. Andrew's Church, Auckland. There was a large congregation assembled.

A warrant has been issued for the apprehension of Mr James, the defaulting clerk of the New Zealand Steam Navigation Company. The amount of his defaultations had not been ascertained.

Mexico.

New York, January 22d.—The Herald's Vera Cruz correspondence says a force of fifty negroes and Algerines had burned the villages of Jamapa and Cataste under orders from the French Commandant at Vera Cruz.

A severe conscription is going on at the Capital. Maximilian intends going to Madera (Madaira) in case a National Congress does not sustain him.

Maximilian had issued another proclamation condemning in the strongest terms the conduct of General Sedgewick.

Both the French and Mexican flags wave over the Fort and Custom House at Vera Cruz. The Liberals are encamped within twelve miles of Vera Cruz. There have been no hostilities.

A Man with a Grievance!

Messrs Editors:—It appears from this morning's paper that the President of the Elocution and Debating Class of the "Literary Institute" has a "grievance;" it is the way with some people, to parade their re-xtations and annoyances to the whole world; others prefer to keep those matters in the bosom of their own family. What necessity there was for the President of the Elocution and Debating Class to rush into print and place before the general public his feelings of annoyance with reference to the introduction of political matter at the Rooms of the Institute, I know not; one would have thought the simple announcement of the fact, in a communication addressed privately to the Secretary, would have answered every purpose. There is a pompous parade of the circumstance before the general public of Vancouver Island and the wide world, as if the matter was really one of some importance. Suppose Mr President Cochrane may consider he is showing his solicitude and anxiety for the welfare of the Institute, which has done him the honor of placing him in an honorable and prominent position amongst them, in acting as he has done. For my part, I prefer open hostility to such exhibitions of friendship. From the patronising position that Mr Cochrane takes up, coupled with his expressions of regret, for having to express his mind, it might be supposed the class was in a highly flourishing condition—instead of which, no debate has taken place during his Presidency, and the Elocution class, for some weeks past, has fallen into disuse; and now what has been the great offence that has been committed that has called forth these animadversions of Mr President Cochrane? The simple circumstance of the Governor's speech being read before the class, followed by critical remarks, with the view of reviving the dormant interest of this section of the Institute! And had Mr Cochrane taken a playful view of the matter, without allowing his dander to get up as he has done, the whole affair would have passed off pleasantly,—nobody hurt, and some considerably entertained and informed. It is a matter of regret that when Mr Cochrane left the chair in such disgust on the night in question he had not altogether left the room, and not remained in the camp as a spy, where he had left as a deserter. Why put forth before this community the eccentric observations of Mr Fell about the desire of Englishmen in this place to rush into the "arms of uncle Sam" because disgusted with British rule, and leave out much valuable comment that took place. Mr Cochrane, unless deaf or blind, must have noticed that there was no genuine endorsement of the sentiments expressed by Mr Fell. It was anything but fair or ingenious of Mr Cochrane to lug in this matter, neck and heels, as a fair sample of the character of the evening's remarks: We are sorry to lose Mr Cochrane, for we believe in the main he is a very good fellow, but we will endeavor to get on without him.

A MEMBER OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Politics in the Debating Class.

Messrs. Editors:—Permit me through your paper to make a remark or two in reference to the communication of Mr John I. Cochrane in yesterday morning's issue.

Mr C. feels called upon to resign his position as President of the Literary Association in consequence of the political discussion of Monday evening. It is sufficient to say that for the last three seasons political discussions have been common in the association, and that nothing in its constitution, by-laws or rules of order is found to prohibit them.

Under these circumstances, Mr C. must have been lamentably ignorant of the laws and usages of the institution he undertook to govern on becoming president, and consequently unfit for that responsible position, or else he, being familiar with these things, and yet opposed to them, he did both himself and the class an evident injustice in assuming the presidential chair.

As regards the injury likely to arise to the Institute from the discussion of political subjects, it is well known by every member that up to the present time only when discussions of that nature occur is any interest exhibited, and the results so far have been beneficial.

It is not true, as Mr C. states, that the subject of annexation was discussed last Monday evening. A gentleman, in the course of his remarks, observed that he was having the effect of causing people to talk of annexation, and this was the only remark made by any member upon the subject. If Mr C. calls this discussing the subject of annexation, he calls it something which is of other sane man in the community would call it.

Mr C. tenders his resignation. He might have spared himself the trouble. His term of office has about expired, and he may rest assured that he will not a second time be called upon to fill the honorable position, the gentleman who so promptly took the chair upon its being vacated by Mr C. having by that act established his claim to the favorable consideration of the class.

AN EX-PRESIDENT.

Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, Dec 29.—Heavy gales from the southeast since Thursday night. Telegraph poles have been prostrated and other damage done. Several vessels have been damaged at the wharves.

There were no cases before the Police Magistrate yesterday.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Confidential Advice.—To all persons who suffer from bilious headaches, disordered stomach, biliousness, or flatulency, these Pills are most strongly recommended as the safest, best and quickest mode of obtaining ease, without weakening or irritating the nervous system. Holloway's Pills are especially useful in clearing away any excess of bile, which usually produces fever, unless remedied by these pills, and which, if not removed, may be followed by inflammation of the lungs, and by purging and regulating the circulation, they effectually prevent relapses. By rousing the liver to its secretions of bile, and quickly carrying it from the system, these Pills ward off low spirits, listlessness, and those distressing feelings often called "nervous."

The best Remedy for Purifying the Blood, strengthening the Nerves, Restoring the Lost Appetite, and removing all Impurities from the System. FRENCH'S HAMBURG TEA.

It is the best preservative against almost any sickness, and is especially useful in cases of cholera, dysentery, and all other diseases of the stomach and bowels. It is equally good for the young and the old, and is sold in all the principal cities of the world. Full directions in English, French, Spanish, and German, with every package. Price 1/6 per box. For sale at all the wholesale and retail drug stores and grocers.

EMIL FRESS, Wholesale Druggist, Sole Agent, 410 Clay St. San Francisco, Cal.

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"Facts and Acts."

In the Governor's late speech we perceive that mention is made of several Acts that in the opinion of His Excellency should be repealed, and others that should be extended over the United Colony. There are, however, several other Acts still in force on the Island to which no allusion has been made, and which, we think, might be beneficially amended and extended to the mainland. Among the laws which we refer there is none that possesses more real importance than the Homestead Act. The old Colony of British Columbia was not blessed with a measure of the kind; but if it is not too proud to take a lesson in legislation from its more advanced, though not so unwieldy consort, it has a glorious opportunity offered it of in some degree repairing the faults of past legislation by extending the provision of the Act over the length and breadth of its limits. As perfection is not to be expected on this mundane sphere, it would be idle to suppose that the production of Vancouver lawgiver can be faultless. Even Vancouver statesmen are not infallible, for we find that the Act allows an irresponsible bachelor the privilege of registering homestead of the same value as the allowed a man of family. Now, we have no objections to bachelors and bachelors; in fact, we have a great respect for many of them, believing that most of the unfortunate fellows can furnish good reasons for not wishing to enter a state of doubleblessedness; but we do not think that a man without a family should enjoy the same privilege under the Homestead Act as a man of family, or that he is entitled to the same consideration and protection. Take, for instance, any single man in the Colony, and see how light his expenditure must be in comparison with that of a man with a wife and five or six children dependent upon him for food and raiment. The original idea of a Homestead Act was to prevent families suddenly reduced in circumstances from sinking into a state of utter destitution. The law was intended to shield the wife and children of the bankrupt from want, and the clause that exempts the property of a single man from seizure prevents the object had in view by the framers of the first Homestead Act. In the same law we find a clause that compels a party registering a homestead to reside upon it. Now this clause is also faulty and unjust. We know more than one family in Victoria who own property remote from their place of business, and who are compelled to reside near the centre of town and lease their homesteads to others; were they to fail tomorrow the creditors could seize and sell every stick they possess. This is another palpable injustice, and one that should be remedied. A married man should be allowed to record \$2500 worth of realty as a homestead, and whether he resides upon it or not, the property should be sacred from his creditors, provided it were shown (as the Act provides) that he was solvent when he effected the registration. With the exceptions we have pointed out, we believe the provisions of the Homestead Act may be extended over the entire Colony with beneficial results.

The want of a Lien Law has always been seriously felt by mechanics and working men in both sections and the passage of a proper bill should early engage the attention of the Council. We are in favor of having the rights of the employers protected to their fullest extent; but we do not want to see the protection all on one side of the fence. Working men have as much right to protection as employers, and while we would not place in the hands of a dishonest, discontented workman, the power to ruin the contractor, we would pass a law to prevent the latter from obtaining an advance on work and swindling the poor man out of his earnings. If the party for whom the work is being performed is silly