Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JUNE 15TH, 1888.

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON REV. MR. STARR.

There was a generally expressed opinion on the streets yesterday that the remarks of Chief Justice Begbie concerning the Rev. Mr. Starr were altogether uncalled for, and objectionable in the extreme. The rev. gentleman concluded his evidence and left the court room, and it was afterwards that the presiding judge made use of the language which will be found to-day in our local columns. Whatever ground Rev. Mr. Starr may have given to irritate the Chief Justice by his languid deportment in the witness box, it certainly was not of that character which merited severe reprimand, and the language used by his lordship can only be considered worthy of one of "a vulgar turn of mind." It is but a short time since the head of the judiciary in this province went out of his way to utter an extraordinary diatribe against the local press and journalism generally. For the offence he committed on that occasion he has received just censure from the general public as well as leading journals in Canada and the United States. In the present instance his offensive comparisons were wanting in provocation, and in any event should not have been made. The public look to the bench, as well as the pulpit, for impartial and considerate treatment of all subjects brought under their notice, and as to the former it is expected that witnesses, juries and prisoners will be subjected to no indignities. But on several occasions the learned Chief Justice has permitted his temper to control his judgment; has browbeaten juries because they did not coincide with his own peculiar views, and has been grossly uncourteous and, in some cases, excessively rude to counsel, plaintiff and defendant. In this latest freak he has stepped without the pale of dignity and decency and has made a vulgar, personal attack on a witness simply because the latter's deportment in court did not happen to agree with the rule which seemed the correct one to his lordship. We cannot but regret that so exalted an official as Chief Justice Begbie should have thus transgressed, and in expressing our displeasure we but voice the sentiment of the whole community. He was a might in the land in the early history of the province in preserving order, but in the latter days—is it from advancing years and failing health?—he does not appear to exercise that common discernment between what is just, proper and decent which should be characteristic of one in his position.

## THE DANGERS OF CIGARETTE SMOKING.

From time to time the newspapers of the United States contain accounts of fatal results from cigarette smoking. The victims, sometimes two or three in a week, are chiefly boys and young men. The evil arises from two or three causes. Cigarettes are usually made from a poor quality of tobacco, often the mere refuse of the tobacco factories, colored and daintily put up to make it look presentable, and often flavored with drugs more deadly than the original compound. From the opiates contained in cigarettes arises the most ineradicable of all appetites, so that it has passed into a proverb that a confirmed cigarette smoker, like the victim of the opium or morphine habit, is practically incurable. Boys smoke cigarettes because they are cheap. Too many of them acquire the habit peculiar to cigarette smoking, of inhaling the smoke—taking it directly into the lungs, thus not only doubling the deadly effect but increasing the power of the habit. It is because of the ill effects of cigarette smoking, as we view them, that we have commended the course of the Federal Government in raising the excise duty on this class of goods. But we go further, and would like to see the weed, in any form, prohibited to boys under sixteen years of age. Whatever may be said of the habit of smoking in general, and among adults, there can be no question as to its injurious effects upon boys, and especially the use of the cigarette. On the Pacific coast, where it has too wide a popularity, perhaps from climatic influences, the diseases in weakened constitutions and sluggardly minds which it sows are only too apparent. Unfortunately cigarette smoking is not strictly confined to the male sex. It has found of late an increasing number of devotees among women and girls, in both the old world and the new. The following incident we find quoted in the United States *Review*, a reliable journal, which illustrates some other dangers that arise in this connection—the danger from fire, and of being mulct in heavy damages as well. We quote:

"The wife of a well known citizen of the United States, who was stopping at a first class hotel in Paris, went to sleep with a cigarette which she had been smoking still lighted in her hand. A fire resulted and the furniture and other property was destroyed. There is a law or custom in France which provides that in cases of fires in hotel apartments the insurance companies shall pay the landlord, and then collect the sum paid from the tenant of the rooms if it can be shown that carelessness caused the fire. Mrs. Fenton was astonished to find a short time ago that in this case the insurance company had begun suit for 80,000 francs paid to the landlord, and that her smoking cigarettes was urged as the cause of the fire."

## MANUAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

The subject of manual training in the common schools is one which is rapidly coming to the front and is likely to obtain an important position in the education of the young. The effect of the training given in the schools in too many cases has been to create a distaste for any kind of manual labor and to crowd the professions with ill-trained, uneducated people who might have accomplished something useful in the world if they had devoted themselves to other pursuits. They also crowd in large numbers into shops and offices. It is the opinion of good educationists that the introduction of manual training into the schools will counteract this unhealthy tendency; and if so the experiment is well worth trying. In Philadelphia an earnest effort is being made to work out this idea, and an exhibition held recently of the work produced by the pupils in the schools gave a very gratifying proof of the success of the movement, although it was not to be expected that any large results could be accomplished in the comparatively short time that has elapsed since the work was begun. A writer in the Philadelphia *American*, commenting on the exhibition and its promise, says that it is not enough that a school for manual training should be established here and there, but that all boys' schools should be supplied with the tools needed for ordinary joiners' work and light metal work, that every girls' school should have a kitchen and sewing room, and that in all grades and in every school drawing should be taught in a thorough and systematic manner. We believe that these ideas are very much in accord with those entertained by some of the leading educationists and public men of British Columbia though no steps have been taken as yet to put them in practice.

## VICTORIA DISTRICT ELECTION.

The meeting called by Mr. J. D. Bryant, at his own solicitation, held on Friday evening at the Agricultural Hall, South Saanich, has, in a vein of rollicking humor we suppose, risen to the dimensions of a "Convention." It is presumed that Mr. Bryant was determined that British Columbia was not to be outdone by the United States. It was gall and wormwood to his soul that the Democrats and Republicans were holding conventions in which he was not asked to share, and he said, "Lo! I will seize pen and ink; I will hie me to the office of that "independent" sheet the *Times*, and I, even I, John D. Bryant, will summon a Convention and will uphold my country's honor." The question of a scapegoat then became paramount, and Mr. J. T. McIlmoyl was found willing to sacrifice himself upon the altar of the party of Opposition. There are now two candidates in the field for the representation of Victoria District in the Local Legislature for the seat rendered vacant by Mr. Robt. John's resignation. These are Mr. James Tolmie, Government, and Mr. J. T. McIlmoyl, Opposition. We have every confidence that the first named gentleman will be elected. It would be folly for the people of Victoria District to do otherwise. The Government have been more than fair in their expenditures in the district; they have always had the welfare of the residents at heart, and deserve the confidence of the electorate expressed at the polls in the forthcoming contest. To return Mr. McIlmoyle would be to seriously affect the best interests of the constituency, and to give expression to a policy of retrogression, which cannot reflect the honest views of the great majority of the voters. To send Mr. Tolmie to the Legislature would be to continue in accord with a Government which has done much during its term of office to advance the fortunes of British Columbia, which is still striving in a spirit of enterprise to develope the Province and aid its growing industries and to elect him would be to bear testimony to the fact that the Government's endeavors for the public weal are fully appreciated by those whom they serve. The electors will do well to sift to the bottom any charges that the Opposition candidate or his friends may bring against the administration during the canvass; to remember the incidents of the last session of the Legislature, when as well on the floors of Parliament as in the local press every position taken by the Opposition was successfully assailed, and to stand firm in the ranks when they are called upon to cast their ballots for a successor to Mr. John. In recommending to the suffrages of the electors Mr. James Tolmie, we do so not only because he is a supporter of the present Government, but because he is a young man who is closely identified with the district, of honorable character and good abilities, a gentleman who will compare more than favorably with the standard bearer of a disorganized and disgruntled Opposition. We shall be disappointed, indeed, in the intelligence and patriotism of the electors of Victoria District if they should fail to choose wisely and well by supporting the present Government and its candidate, Mr. James Tolmie, of Cloverdale.

## AMONG THE CHURCHES.

The following list shows the annual expenditure for the purposes named by the Methodist churches in the United States:

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|---|---|
| Support of elders, pastors and bishops | $ 7,722,407 |
| Aged ministers, widows and orphans | 180,000 |
| Building churches, paying debts, etc. | 5,291,773 |
| Missions, including women's societies | 1,500,000 |
| American Bible Society | 25,511 |
| Tract Society and Sunday School Union | 30,725 |
| Freedmen's Aid Society | 184,500 |
| Current expenses of 19,700 churches | 3,500,000 |
| Church extension, special aid, etc. | 280,590 |
| Bishop Taylor's missions | 63,000 |
| Publications | 1,613,371 |
| Grand Total | $20,461,377 |

This is a fine showing, but the Methodists have not the whole field to themselves. Says the American *Presbyterian Journal*: "Almost half of all the money raised by all the churches of the land for benevolent work is raised by the Presbyterian church." In a recent editorial the New York *Independent* says:

There is a weight and solidity of influence which goes with American Presbyterianism such as goes with no other denomination. The Methodists and Baptists are far more numerous. The Congregationalists are better educators and are more speculative and agile, but the Presbyterians occupy the solid medium ground of combined numbers, learning, wealth and conservatism. They hold fast the form of sound words. Their colleges and schools are scattered everywhere. Their theological seminaries are the best equipped in the world. They give more money for church extension and foreign missions than any other denomination in the country. Their policy is completely representative and thoroughly republican. They represent the best average of American thought and progress, and yet they are not particularly aggressive, not very self-conscious, but they have a reserved strength, a sort of Middle States weight of bulk and sense that is pretty nearly irresistible. One feels always a sort of surprise when he recalls that the Presbyterian denomination is not the largest denomination in the country. Perhaps it can be called the leading one.

Doubtless neither of these churches envy the good things said about the other, but each will rejoice that the other deserves to be spoken of in terms of earnest praise.

## THE CHILD WIDOWS OF INDIA.

We learn from the latest census that that there are no fewer than 20,930,626 widows in India, of whom 382,736 were under 19 years of age, 207,388 under 14, and 28,976 under the age of 9 years. These figures present, to all who understand the position of these child widows, a fearful picture of human misery. The efforts that are being made by various philanthropic organizations in their behalf will, no doubt, alleviate the condition of many, but it would seem as if their best efforts for many years can scarcely make more than a slight impression upon the mountain of misery it is sought to remove. The poor little girls, despised, downtrodden, shunned, subject to every degree of hardship and contumely, will still by the hundred-thousand be regarded with horror by their superstitious friends and neighbors as guilty in some pre-existent state of crimes which caused the premature death of their husbands. The few who can be received into the homes which are being prepared for them will be as nothing to the many whose misery will still be beyond the reach of the means of the philanthropists. Amongst the various schemes for their deliverance none, perhaps, is more deserving of notice than that of the Pundita Ramabai, who has recently been lecturing in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. She proposes to strike, as far as possible, at the root of the evil, in the ignorance and superstition which begot it. Her aim is to found an institution for the education of child-widows. The members, educated from year to year, will not only be themselves raised out of a condition worse than slavery, and made capable of independent self-support, but will also become the most effective agents in the spread of intelligence and enlightenment amongst their sex. If, judging by the views of our exchanges, the Pundita is herself a fair specimen of what these Indian high-caste women are capable of becoming under the developing hand of educational culture, a few hundreds of such would soon become a power in India. The reports of the Pundita's lectures, and the opinions of those who have conversed with her, agree in ascribing to her a degree of mental acumen, and of shrewd and lofty intelligence, such as is possessed by very few of the most highly educated of her sex in Europe or America. The vein of keen, but apparently unconscious sarcasm which runs through her addresses cuts like a knife through all conventional disguises and sophisms, and lays bare the very core of the abuses which she aims to expose. Her history and her talents alike stamp her as a truly wonderful woman, consecrating her life to a noble cause.

## THE COUNTY COURT INCIDENT.

Chief Justice Begbie, while sitting in the County Court yesterday, referred to the remarks he made on the previous day, and said that the Rev. Mr. Starr was the most insolent witness he had ever known. There is a divided expression of opinion in regard to Mr. Starr's conduct in the witness box, some claiming that he gave his evidence in a becoming manner, while others state that his deportment was anything but respectful to the court. Whichever side may be correct, the Chief Justice cannot justify his remarks, for be he priest or layman, a witness is entitled to every consideration. In the eyes of the law all men are equal, and whether the Chief Justice knew his latest victim to be a clergyman or not, his weak attempt at a joke and the doubt cast upon the evidence were unjustifiable. A judge should be the last man to exhibit prejudice or offer an insult to a person who is virtually under his protection, much less to cast discredit on an honest man's testimony, as he did on Mr. Starr's. The last has not been heard of this matter. It cannot stop where it is. Steps must be taken to prevent even the possibility of a repetition.

## WELCOME TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lord Stanley of Preston, our new Governor-General, will be heartily welcomed to Canada by all classes of the people. He is a member of a family which has exercised in English politics an influence second, perhaps, to no other family. It has not for six hundred years lacked a man prominent in the affairs of the country; and more than once its representative has been the foremost man in the realm. The family has a history of unusual stainlessness. Some of its members have been prudent; none of them have been infamous. More than one has lost his life on the scaffold; none has lost it with dishonor. The earldom is one of the oldest held in a direct line. Of the family it can only be said that its origin is lost in the mists of time. Lord Stanley of Preston is worthy his high ancestry, and a brilliant successor to the line of distinguished men who have preceded him in the Governor-Generalship of Canada. He will, of course, in due time visit this portion of the Queen's dominions, as have Lord Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne and Lord Lansdowne, and when he does come he will receive as loyal, hearty a welcome as that which is now being accorded him in the East.

## MURDER IN MAINE.

The abolition of capital punishment which took place in the State of Maine five years ago appears to have placed human life at a discount, if an editorial in the Belfast *Age*, which is now going the rounds of the press, is to be accepted as reliable. That journal says:

Murder is becoming the most common crime. Within the last three months three of the most shocking and unnatural murders have been committed; and there appears to be no more apparent hesitancy in committing the crime than any of the inferior felonious crimes. And it has come to pass, that no person who had the misfortune to incur the revenge of another, is the subject of the cupidity or lust of another, feels that the law affords him or her any protection. Whither are we tending? Is the alternative coming that we must arm for self-protection; barricade our homes, test our food before eating, and look for an assassin behind every bush and stump? Our State Prison is fast filling up with murderers who, from the unconcern they manifest in regard to their punishment and the expressions they let fall, show that they have already considered without dread what their punishment will be in case of detection. Are we to go on and build new prisons till the guarding of them shall become a perilous task.

In Switzerland where capital punishment was abolished in 1870, convictions for crimes which previously merited death have since increased fifty per cent., and if the assertions of our Maine contemporary are correct the criminal statistics of that State would certainly show similar results. Other countries should ponder over these facts before remodelling their criminal laws after this pattern.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE *Times* continues to inform its readers that Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney has been appointed Minister of the Interior. He still continues to be Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories.

THE Montreal *Star* publishes a list of "the principal landlords of Montreal," which includes 6 who are assessed for over a million, 12 over half a million, 14 over $400,000, 21 over $300,000, 37 over $200,000, 84 over $100,000, 108 over $75,000, 175 over $50,000, 254 over $25,000 and 291 over $10,000.

IN addition to the various duties of Sir Charles Tupper as High Commissioner it is understood that he will promptly undertake, on behalf of the Government, negotiations in conformity with the new Dominion Loan Act; also to complete the mail subsidy, and confer with the Imperial Government respecting Newfoundland's entry into the Dominion, and the Fisheries Treaty.

THE crimes of Millman, the Prince Edward Island murderer, and his execution for it, have hardly dropped out of public recollection. His case is re-called by the news that an aunt of Millman is now declared to have seen him wash his hands at a pump near her house on the night of the murder at an hour when he claims to have been at home. This evidence did not come out at the trial and strengthens the chain of circumstantial evidence which convicted Millman, justly, as most people thought. And yet the young man met death with a lie on his lips.

THE annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal was held on Monday last. The profits this year are two per cent. less than last year. General-Manager Buchanan gave a review of the situation, referring to all its phases and reviewing the trade of the year. He uttered grave warnings against over-extension of speculation and the system of long credits which prevails in Canada, adding materially to the hazards of business. The crops prospects were not regarded as very cheering, but fortunately Canada is not so dependent on crops as she used to be, as cattle and dairy products were producing a good deal of money.

THE following is a list of Mr. Charles Tupper's predecessors in the department of marine and fisheries: Hon. Peter Mitchell, 1st July, 1867, to 6th November, 1873; Sir Albert Smith, from 7th November, 1873, to 16th October, 1878, when the Mackenzie government resigned after their defeat at the polls of 17th September; late Hon. James C. Pope, 19th October, 1878, on the formation of the present government, to 10th July, 1882, when he resigned on account of ill-health; Hon. A. W. McLean, 10th July, 1882, to 10th December, 1885, when he resigned and became minister of finance; Hon. George E. Foster, 10th December, 1885, to 25th May, 1888.

MR. CHARLES TUPPER is the youngest man who has entered the Government of Canada since Confederation. As we have already stated, he was born on the 3rd of August, 1855, and on the 3rd of August next will be thirty-three years old. Mr. Laurier was not thirty-six when he entered Mr. Mackenzie's cabinet, in October, 1877. He was born in November, 1841. Sir John Macdonald was only thirty-two years and five months old when he first became an Executive Councillor. He was born 11th of January, 1815; was elected to the House of Assembly, under the last constitution, for Kingston in November, 1844, becoming a member of the cabinet two and a half years from that date. If youth were to be considered an objection to political advancement, the services of some of the ablest statesmen in this and other countries would be lost.

WHAT Max O'Rell says about American women is no doubt intended to apply to Canadian women as well. It is the way of travellers to speak of everything on this side of the ocean as American. His opinion of American women is that they are very polite and courteous, and possess a tender solicitude for other people, combined with a strong individuality. An American woman, in his opinion, occupies a truly ideal position, and "American life of the best type radiates with the light of her beneficent influence." Altogether, Max O'Rell speaks in very complimentary terms of the gentler sex on this side of the Atlantic; indeed, there is just sufficient blarney in his estimate to justify the one-third of his name, which, he says, he adopted from an Irish ancestor. He is a wise man, especially if he be an author seeking readers, who pays compliments to the ladies, and this the gallant Frenchman is evidently able to do with all the gracefulness of the race to which he belongs.

A VERY high compliment has just been paid to a New Brunswick teacher. The late Rev. Edward Thring made the Uppingham school one of the famous institutions of England, and was himself regarded in his later days as the greatest of living teachers. When he died literary journals like the *Saturday Review* and all the great daily papers spoke of him as one of the eminent men of his day, the one teacher who had inherited the spirit and power of the former master of Rugby. The history of Mr. Thring and the Uppingham school was, of course, to be written, and the only question was for the right man to be found to undertake the work. Examination of Mr. Thring's papers answered that question. He selected for his biographer his friend and constant correspondent, Mr. George R. Parkin, head master of the Collegiate school, Fredericton. Mr. Parkin has obtained leave of absence and will spend a great part of the summer in examination of materia and prosecution of the work.

A PAPER read before the London Statistical Society by Mr. Charles Booth contains much interesting information respecting the poor of London. He calculates that there are in London 50,000 loafers, 300,000 picking up only casual and scanty earnings, 250,000 in the receipt of irregular wages and 400,000 working regularly but for insufficient pay. This is the mass out of which the sweater draws his material and makes his profits. Allowing that the population of London is four millions, we have one-fourth of the population of the British metropolis either altogether idle or working for wages which are too low to supply them with the necessaries of life.

CHURCH congresses, synods and assemblies are the order of the day at present, and the speeches, proceedings and statistics show that the various branches of the church militant have a large amount of vitality left in them yet. The speech of Bishop Merrill to the Methodist conference held at New York the other day shows that since the previous conference the membership in the branch of the church he represents has increased from 1,769,534 to 2,093,935. That branch (the northern) has now 12 theological schools, 54 colleges, and 154 academies, valued at $24,000,000. $1,200,000 are annually spent on missionary work. The progress is not by any means confined to this one denomination. The Baptists have had their assembly and the figures quoted as to the progress made show an even greater proportionate increase. Other denominations are equally pushing and prosperous, and all along the line there seems to be manifested a striking degree of ardor and activity.

A ROUSING imperial federation league meeting was held at Halifax on Monday evening and addressed by Sir Adams Archibald, Archbishop O'Brien, Revs. Dr. Gordon and Partridge, W. C. Silver, president of the chamber of commerce, Judge Molton, John F. Stairs, M.P., and others. Sir John Ross, administrator of the government, and other distinguished citizens were on the platform. Archbishop O'Brien made the speech of the evening, making a brilliant attack on the repealers and annexationists. He declared himself a loyal and devoted Canadian and unmercifully lashed the traitors to our magnificent inheritance as dazed victims of hideous nightmare. He described Goldwin Smith as a prophet of pessimism and the fossilized enemy of local autonomy. It was an insult to be told annexation was our destiny. "We Canadians, with our untold resources of wealth, our unsurpassed facilities by sea and land would be the veriest cravens that ever disgraced humanity were we to fold our hands in helpless despondency and shrink from facing the national problems that confront us." His speech will be a death knell to the Secession crusade.

SAYS the Chatham, N. B., *World*: The rapid rise of Geo. E. Foster from the teacher's desk of a village school house to the Ministry of Finance, shows that lack of wealth and family influence is no bar to the success of the young men of brains and industry in this country. * * * Mr. Foster was sneered at by aristocratic and wealthy Liberals as a poor schoolmaster, when he was made Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but the people generally thought none the less of him for that. Our pugnacious representative [Hon. Peter Mitchell, the first Minister of Marine and Fisheries] thought he was going to have a pleasant time worrying the new minister over the details of the department, but he found him armed at all points with accurate information and a clear understanding of all its ins and outs, and got more than he gave at every attack. Mr. Foster is a brilliant speaker and a good administrator, and will master the intricacies of the finance as he has mastered every other subject with which he has grappled. His rapid promotion is encouraging to every young man in Canada who

> Seeks to rise
> Out of the prison of his mean estate;
> And, with such jewels as the exploring Mind
> Brings from the caves of Knowledge, buy his ransom
> From those twin gaolers of the daring Heart—
> Low Birth and Iron Fortune.

## THE HOSPITAL SITE.

TO THE EDITOR:—I am more glad than surprised to see a disposition manifested to enquire into and reconsider the subject of the site for the Jubilee Hospital. I am led to believe that the selection of the site and the selection of the plans for the buildings were characterized by some queer doings, and I *know* that many usually liberal contributers will withhold their subscriptions upon that ground, unless there be a searching enquiry and a straightening of crookedness. I feel confident that if a vote of the citizens were taken on the question of site, a large majority would be found opposed to the selection made. CITIZEN.

## THE JUBILEE HOSPITAL SITE.

TO THE EDITOR:—Noticing a communication in your issue of this morning's COLONIST, under the above heading, by a correspondent who hides his identity under the cloak of "Citizen," I wish to point out as a member of the Building Committee that the question of site has been fought out over and over again, and as the minutes of the various meetings will show, the selection was only made after the most careful consideration and examination of the different sites suggested to the committee. The final decision was carried by a very large majority of the General Committee, duly convened for the special purpose, and the construction of the hospital buildings will immediately follow.

The gratuitous insult offered the committee by your correspondent calls for more than a passing remark. He insinuates "that the selection of the site and the selection of the plans for the buildings were characterized by some queer doings," and further, that "a searching inquiry and straightening of crookedness" are needed. Considering that many members of the committee have worked so assiduously and unselfishly with their indefatigable honorary secretary, Mr. Chudley, in order to arrive at the best results, I think it only fair to the committee and subscribers generally that your correspondent should come out in a straightforward manner and substantiate the suggestions he has unwarrantably made.

ROBT. WARD.

Victoria, June 7, 1888.

## THE JUBILEE HOSPITAL SITE.

TO THE EDITOR:—A committe of most competent gentlemen was appointed to select a site for the Jubilee hospital. That committee after much labor made a judicious selection. The views of the V. M. A. should have been advanced long ago, when all were invited to express their opinions. I fear the V. M. A. are not good architects of earthly mansions. They would have the hospital "near the centre of population where the patients could be easily visited by them." Their argument tinges of selfishness. Would they surround the patients with dark walls and dark chimney tops? Would they subject the sick to the din, the noise, the dust, the stench, the suffocation inseparable to the centres of population? Well would it have been for the reputation of the V. M. A. as sanitarians had they not attempted to convince us of the poor drainage at the new site. Suppose the new building committee were insane enough to build near habitable dwellings, who would tolerate the drainage from the new hospital? Which of the V. M. A. would elect to live by it? Speak! Disease is rife within our city. A boy now lies dead from that dreadful scourge diphtheria, within one hundred yards of one very popular hospital. Typhoid has been traced along the line of running sewage from the Royal hospital. The V. M. A. have forgotten or ignored the divine injunction that all contagious diseases should be moved "without the camp;" and as it was in the days of the Old Testament so it is to-day. The laws of God are the laws of nature. Disregard those laws now, and as of old, the same deadly train of diseases will invariably follow. The V. A. may rest satisfied that the city is growing and very soon the new hospital may be but too near the centre of population. The site is an excellent one, facing the warm south, sheltered by a high ridge from our prevailing south-west cold winds. Let us make our city healthy first, then beautiful and attractive; all of which elements are sadly needed. The arguments in favor of the present site are numerous. The objections are distance, want of water and drainage. As regards distance, the directors purpose having an ambulance so that the sick can be conveyed to the new grounds in *shorter* time than formerly to the old, while street cars and cabs will ever tend to shorten the distance for those "friends" who wish to visit the patients. The visiting clergymen too, can be conveyed thither in *shorter* time to the new site than he took to tramp to the old. X.

Victoria, 8th June, 1888.

## PROVINCIAL ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR—Kindly insert in your next issue: That I have neither *time, opportunity* or *inclination* to reply to the numerous anonymous scribblers on this question. I shall be very pleased to receive promptly the still outstanding promised donations and afford all the information required to *bona fide* subscribers.—Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM M. CHUDLEY,
Hon. Sec.

Victoria, B. C., June 9, 1888.

## MR. GARDNER REPLIES.

TO THE EDITOR:—In fairness to my many friends, the public, and myself, kindly permit me the insertion of the following in refutation of the letter signed "Chinese Merchants."

In doing so, I submit facts which cannot be gainsayed or controverted, and they are: First, that the statement in the letter in question is a base falsehood—the Yosemite did not arrive at half-past seven and nor did she for at least an hour after. Is it not a significant fact that those who try to injure me have to resort to falsehoods? Truth is so bright they are afraid to approach it! Secondly, all my duties were performed in connection with the twenty-seven Chinese—not thirty-five as your *truthful* correspondents aver—in an hour and a half from the time the boat docked. This is kindly referred to by you in this morning's issue; the Chinese agent of the C. P. R. has corroborated, and who is in a better position to know than he?

"Chinese Merchants"?—a very vague expression, indeed, not unlike the three tailors of Tooley street—"we, people of London." But the fact quite patent is, not so much "Chinese Merchants," but what is behind. I am reminded of what the town major very properly said in last evening's *Times*—something about there being or having been for a long time past, a snake, very comfortably coiled, feeding on Chinese grass. But I go further and say that when this snake is trampled upon it writhes and hisses, and emits enough poison to taint the atmosphere three miles round, so much so that it sets in motion other snakes also.

But all metaphorical language laid aside, I submit it is a fact most deplorable that a private citizen cannot bring to light certain facts which make the very angels weep, without being lied about and scandalized. But come what may—lies, plots, intimidations, persecutions, aye, even death, I shall yet be unmoved, pursuing the evil workers to the end.

JOHN E. GARDNER.

Victoria, B.C., June 8th, 1886.

## THE CHINESE REPLY.

TO THE EDITOR:—We read in this evening's *Times* a letter signed "Snowball," the writer of which asserted that no Chinaman ever wrote the "Chinese Merchants" letter in this morning's COLONIST, because he did not see the usual "you payee, or no insertee" sign of Chinese imperfection in handling the English language. Doubtless "Snowball" has been acquainted with the fact that his friend John E. Gardner can write a letter as good in Chinese as in English. But it might be agreeable to "Snowball's" pride in his friend's linguistic accomplishments to believe that no Chinaman could write as good English as Mr. Gardiner's Chinese.

The writer of our last letter might not be a Chinaman, but the complaint against Mr. Gardner made by that letter to the public and by a deputation of Chinese to Collector Hamley was, nevertheless, affirmed by a letter from the C. P. N. office. The truth was told, and that's what the public want to know, no matter whether told by a white man, a black man, or a Chinaman.

"Snowball" believes our last letter is "an attempt at retaliation after the refusal of the chief citizen of the Chinese Benevolent Society." There is no Chinese benevolent society in this city, but its chief officers are all respectable and leading Chinese merchants, and they have never been in jail. There was no release of them and, therefore, no retaliation from them. CHINESE MERCHANTS.

June 8, 1888.

## A LESSON IN DEPORTMENT.

TO THE EDITOR:—The chief justice seems to have been very indignant the other day because the Rev. Mr. Starr failed to show that profound respect for the dignity and exalted position of the court, which its worthy head thought due and proper. Perhaps he was right. But perhaps, also, those ladies whose nostrils have been outraged, and the pleasure of their afternoon promenades despoiled, by the offensive and sickening odors of tobacco smoke, puffed from a well-used pipe, are quite as correct when they assert that the public streets are scarcely the places where a courteous and gallant knight should do his smoking. Courtesy is due, not to the bench alone, but amongst Britons, to our fair sisters.

A SMOKER.

## MR. W. M. ROBSON'S APPOINTMENT.

TO THE EDITOR:—An article appeared in the *Weekly Times* of the 1st inst., containing a protest to the Lieut.-Governor, against the appointment of Mr. W. M. Robson, as Assessor and Collector for the Mayne Island portion of the Cowichan district, signed by thirty-five persons, falsely representing themselves as three-fourths of the tax-paying and voting population of the district.

A glance over the tax roll shows the number of persons paying property tax to be nearly seventy, while a further number of upwards of twenty non-property holders pay provincial revenue tax, making a total voting population in the district of about ninety.

Out of the thirty-five names on the protest published in the *Times*, there are ten names of boys under twenty-one years of age, who have never paid a tax and are not entitled to vote, and five or six names of men who have a precarious mode of living and from whom no tax has been received since they have been in the district. In addition to this, signatures of persons resident as far as Calgary and who have never seen the protest have been attached to it; so that instead of thirty-five voters, this voluminous memorial to the Lieut.-Governor contains the signatures of only about eighteen *bona fide* tax payers—just about *one-fifth* of the tax payers in the district.

The article further states that a petition in favor of W. T. Collinson's appointment, signed by three-fourths of the voters, was sent to the government, but that the government decided to appoint Mr. W. M. Robson, as Assessor and Collector. If minors and non-voters and non-taxpayers are to be taken into consideration, I have no doubt that Collinson had a goodly number of signatures to his petition, but if the majority of the *bona fide* settlers, are supposed to have any weight with governments, then I think that the present government is to be congratulated on the very wise and judicious appointment it has made.

The protest is obviously the outcome of the wounded vanity and self-conceit of Collinson, the disappointed office-seeker, who has adopted that method of venting his spleen on the government.

VERA PRO GRATIS.

Mayne Island, June 6th.

## THE 24TH OF MAY AT THE GOOSE ISLANDS.

The Bella Bella Indians, staying at the village of Esquimault, on one of the Goose Islands, for fur seal hunting, celebrated Her Majesty's birthday with a feast, games, etc. About 2 o'clock the Indians with their families turned out and proceeded to a sandy place near the village, the firemen turning out in red and a few of the local volunteers in blue, headed by a small portion of their band. After going through some drill and a few manœuvres, etc., the volunteers fired a salute. The whole of the people then gave three cheers for Her Majesty and sang "God Save the Queen." One of the chiefs said a prayer for Her Majesty and a few hymns were sung. The chief then made a speech in which he said that they were very glad to be under the Queen's flag and to have her laws, and they intended to keep the 24th of May every year in future. The Indians then sat down to their feast, which had been cooked on the beach, after which several kinds of games were played, chiefly a game of football amongst the younger Indians, and foot racing, French blindman's buff and a tug-of-war, and various other games in which the ladies, who had turned out in a good number, joined. About 6 o'clock they all went home having spent a very pleasant and happy afternoon. About 8 o'clock, on the rise of the tide, two good canoe races, between eleven old and eleven young Indians, took place. The first race was a tie, but the old men won the second race. Then a race took place between two canoes, each paddled by ten Klootchman and an Indian to steer. After which these two canoes advanced and retired twice the occupants singing a very good boating song. The band then struck up "God Save the Queen" and thus the day's amusement ended. All enjoyed themselves very much and everything went off well and quietly. COM.

## MINING ON THE HORSEFLY.

**Mr. Thaddeus Harper Expects to Take Out Half a Million Dollars Before New Year.**

Mr. Thaddeus Harper was at his placer mine on the Horsefly river ten days ago, and stated yesterday that he would undoubtedly take out $500,000 before the new year arrived. About seventy-five men are at work on the claim, and when high water subsides it is expected that gold will be taken out by the bucketful. The scheme is that of mining the bed of the Horsefly river, a strong wing-dam having been built for the purpose of turning the stream. Up to date the dam had held good against the water, although unusual thaws had swelled the river to a very fierce stream. A large pump is placed below the dam to keep the seepage water from the bed, and is driven by a steel cable attached to the power which drives the saw-mill on the bench above.

Mr. Harper thoroughly prospected the river bed before beginning the extensive work now accomplished, and considers the securing of an immense amount of gold beyond peradventure.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

**Be on your Guard**

Against sudden Colds, irritating Coughs and Soreness of the Throat. Keep Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam at hand for these prevalent troubles of Winter and Spring. It is the best safeguard. tu-th-sat-dw

The statue of Garibaldi, in Washington square, at New York, erected by Italian residents, was unveiled on Friday last. Signor Palederi, chairman of the committee, in a speech presented the statue to the city.

## PRESS COMMENTS.

(St. John, N.B., Telegraph.)

Does the inquiring reader wish to learn who Sir Matthew Begbie is? We give the answer as it is found in Morgan's Annual Register:

"Sir Matthew B. Begbie, born in England, 1819; B. A. and Wrangler (Cambridge), 1841; Fellow, 1844; called to English bar 1844; judge, British Columbia, and judge of Vice-Admiralty, 1858; chief justice, 1870; knighted, 1875."

Sir Matthew has attracted considerable attention lately by one of his judicial deliverances. In the new and yet rather crude town of Vancouver is published a small newspaper called the *News-Advertiser*, which recently copied from an Oregon journal an article reflecting upon Mr. Dunsmuir, who brought suit for libel. The suit was settled between the parties on the condition of an apology being published, and when the consent of the judge was asked it was granted with some comments upon "the deplorable state of things in this colony with regard to newspapers." He went on to point out that:

"Inasmuch as this journalism affords considerable opportunity for those engaged in it to make themselves noticeable, it is sought after by men of ambitious tone of mind, but inasmuch as newspapers exist in very great numbers it is impossible often in the interests of those journals themselves to obtain men of intelligence, capacity and education to conduct them. Therefore, inasmuch as there is a great number of them, and they pay very little, men of intelligence and capacity usually turn their attention to other courses of life and occupations which enable them to get a better return; and thus it seems that journals and newspapers are generally conducted by persons of scanty education and a vulgar turn of mind."

"Inasmuch" as Sir Matthew held and expressed these opinions as to the vulgarity and ignorance of the newspapers in British Columbia it was quite natural that his erudite mind should recall the pleasant little controversy between the political journals of Eatanswill, in his native country. He proceeded:

"The same sort of thing is satirized by Dickens in his celebrated relation of Mr. Potts and the Eatanswill *Independent* and the Eatanswill *Gazette*, and I cannot help thinking that these publications indulge in unnecessary vituperation. They drag out from any dictionary words the longest and most abusive they can find, anxious to throw and pelt perfect mud. This cannot have a healthy, but must exercise a very deleterious influence on society at large. The influence on society at large must be very great, because, unfortunately, the great mass of readers read newspapers more frequently than anything else and accept everything they see in the newspapers. * * * Ninety-nine out of every hundred people here believe what they see in the papers, and in nothing else. And the chances are ninety-nine to one against there being any accuracy in their statements or anything of the kind. * * * They consider that others are like themselves—rhinoceros-hided and accustomed to vituperation. They gloat in it, and read in the morning their lucubrations in which they pelted their mud."

Every discriminating reader of the above portrait of the Columbian editors will at once recognize in Sir Matthew a man of mark, whose love for the journalistic profession there is in no way lukewarm, and whose style has nothing of the "cheap John" about it. The kindliness and delicacy of Sir Matthew's flattery of the British Columbia newspapers is seen in that sincerest form, imitation. For instance, "rhinoceros-hided," "vituperation," and "lucubrations," in the judicial setting in which Sir Matthew has placed them, look very much like vulgar word culprits, dragged forth by some ignorant Columbian editor from as many different dictionaries in which, like Shakespeare's toad, they had gathered sweltering venom. That is, in the true, British Columbia journalistic style. And that dainty phrase, "perfect mud," not ordinary, commonplace, every day mud, mark you, but "perfect" mud, fresh from the dictionary;—in coining that phrase Sir Matthews displays real newspaper ability. "Pelt" is also a good word, taken in connection with "rhinoceros hide." Yes, we cannot but compliment Sir Matthew on the sincerity of his adulation, taking as it does the form of imitation. He has evidently been a close reader of journals of the Pacific slope.

But we must look again to gather the full force of Sir Matthews' compliments to the press. Of course there is nothing in the British Columbia newspapers but lies written by very vulgar and poorly paid scribes, but the great mass of people there read little else, and 99 out of every 100 believe everything they read in the newspapers. So says Sir Matthew, and, impressed with this one fact that everybody reads and believes the newspapers, he has done a shrewd thing. He wished his words to be read and believed, and he therefore clothed them in the verdant garb of Eatanswill and had them printed in a newspaper.