

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST NEW YORK

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The Weekly British Colonist,

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## PUBLIC MEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS.

In yesterday's issue of a local print the Senior Member for this city was referred to as representing only half a constituency, and as having been repudiated by that half at a recent public meeting. Under ordinary circumstances we should have felt disposed to allow the former allegation to pass unnoticed; for there is something so puerile in the suggestion that because a member is not returned by an unanimous vote it is, before his election, to be regarded as only representing a part of the constituency for which elected. But there is something worse than puerility about the suggestion, when it is regarded as emanating from one who, not long ago, utterly failed to obtain even one-half of this or any other constituency—who was repudiated and driven from the city and finally sought refuge in a rural district! We have a word or two to say respecting the alleged repudiation of the Senior Member for this city, at a recent public meeting, and about public meetings in general. So far as our observation enables us to judge, it would not be always safe to accept the expression of a Victoria public meeting as the true expression of public opinion in this community. Nay, we feel quite justified in proceeding a step further, and asserting that, as a rule, public political gatherings in Victoria do not truly represent the sober judgment and intelligent opinion of a majority of those present. This assertion may appear paradoxical, but it is none the less true on that account. No thinking person can have attended many such meetings without having been struck with certain facts—First, the great bulk of the most substantial residents are obliged to remain away for their absence. Secondly, the majority of the more substantial of those present are mere passive spectators. Third, those who are most active in cheering or hissing a speaker are not always the most substantial or representative men. Indeed, some people applaud or hiss with so much facility as to lead one to suspect that they do so for mere amusement or want of reflection. Persons much given to hissing are rarely deep thinkers. The hissing of a flock of geese would suffice to draw words of the most profound wisdom. Hissing is not the offspring of reason, never addresses itself to the judgment. And hence it is that we have seen the most westerly shore of the Dominion, and allured encouragingly to the great political change which is soon to take place.

Among the audience we observed His Excellency the Governor, Capt. Herbert and Mist. R. N., and most of our prominent citizens. It is understood that Mr. Weston will deliver another speech at an early day, which we are sure, no one who heard him last night will fail to attend.

ONTARIO FROM A NEW YORK STANDBY.—In the New York World we find the following regarding Ontario: "It must be admitted that no Canadian administration ever appealed to the electors on such a record. It may be of interest to readers accustomed to the costly economies of Grant and Douglass, to hear that the State Legislature of Ontario has only 100 members, doing away with the Senate—but it has three clerks, while Ontario has about 1000. A shoddy log-log can be bargained by the most adventurous reporter that if you write to a minister without paying your postage, your letter is lost in the postoffice, and that every branch of the Government is administered with equal economy—even parsimony. The result is that very low rates of taxation have sufficed to maintain the Government. Public works have been aided, grants have been granted, appropriations made to clear the roads, and subsidies thereto for the convenience of settlers with little ready money, a good drainage system has been put in operation, to reclaim waste lands, 50,000 immigrants have been secured, the election lists have been simplified, chancery abuses rectified, and the subsidy allowed by the Dominion—as appropriation of 80 cents per head of the population—that has banked, affording a surplus of \$2,000,000. This surplus is proposed to expand the railways, paying a bonus of \$4000 per mile when the roads are completed, and the rolling stock loaned them."

DEATH OF CAPTAIN MELVILLE.—Captain Melville lately commandant of the American schooner Experiment, died yesterday at the Bay Hospital from the effects of a stroke of paralysis, received while bringing his vessel across the Swiss on Sunday last. Deceased was an American and had been many years on the coast. His former command, the American schooner Elizabeth, was giving British Columbia the name of its last able terms, they could be repeated through Parliament, and because he warned the people of the danger of opening up the Temiskaming watershed between the two Governments. In reply to this it was asserted that the terms were not so good but that they might have been better, that our delegates had not done as bad as began at Ottawa, as they might have done, and that Oshawa, in her anxiety to secure British Columbia, would not hesitate to undertake more, a railway between Victoria and Kamloops, for instance. The immediate result of the meeting was that the fine quo-dam were maintained almost unanimously, and their organ imploring over an imaginary appeal to the country to reject the policy of a candidate who would not pledge himself to vote against Confederation, unless accompanied by a guarantee that the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway should be finally and irrevocably fixed at Esquimalt. But it was not long before reason and common sense rescued them away. The triumph of reason and demagogism was only for a day, and it is worthy of remark that the ring-leader, the very man who appealed to the constituents to retain home, but those pledged to make the location of the railway terminus a sine qua non of Confederation, did not dare to as much as name the subject in the Legislature! Looking back at that agitation, at that proposition, in the light recently shed upon the subject by electricity, one can see more clearly than ever the dangerous ground on which we stood—the fatal mistake the country would have committed had it been guided by the sneers and threats of that public meeting—and it is permitted just to be led by such men as those, who are at this moment putting forth another effort to

mislead it. The less some people say about public meeting, the better. This constituency has not repudiated its Senior Member. It has no intention of doing so; and least of all is it likely to do so at the bidding of the rejected '68. Victoria knows too well who has been its true and steady friend to be guilty of such a blunder.

Saturday, April 15.

## THE LECTURE.

A large and highly respectable audience assembled at the Theatre last evening to hear Rev. Dr. Pusey lecture on "Macaulay and his Times." A number of clerical gentlemen occupied the platform. His Worship Mayor Robertson introduced the lecturer in a few appropriate remarks. Mr. Pusey came forward and without a single preamble went straight to his subject. To attempt a synopsis would not be doing justice to the reverend gentleman's effort. The lecture abounded in political quotations, historical figures and eloquent flights, which carried their delivery held the audience spell-bound and at their close called with hearty and prolonged applause. Each sentence was delightfully turned and the audience seemed to hang upon every word with the attention that few men have the magnetic power to engage. The lecture was more like a diorama of changing figures and views. So clearly and forcibly was every scene depicted that one almost imagined he saw before him the great historian in the successive stages of his career. "Hobson" was cited as few persons had ever heard recited. The early efforts of the hero, his struggles against adverse criticism and circumstances, and his final triumph when he had risen to the giant world by the thorn and conquered it were alluded to in such eloquent terms that it seemed as if the audience would never tire. An hour and twenty-five minutes were occupied in the delivery, and when, after the peroration, Mr. Pusey sat down, all present seemed to wish where

Mr. W. C. Ward responded to Mr. J. B. Stewart, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Pusey for his eloquent address. The vote was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Pusey thanked the audience for the attention they had paid him on this occasion, and when, after the peroration, Mr. Pusey sat down, all present seemed to wish where

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