

Tuesday, March 26, 1867.

American Affairs.

Every measure that President Johnson has recommended calculated to reconcile the conflicting elements of the country and restore peace, has been voted down by a hostile Congress...

CONFEDERATION MEETING.

The theatre was filled last evening by citizens who had met upon the call of the Mayor to consider the question of Confederation.

Ex-Mayor Lumley Franklin, upon motion of Mr. Powell and with the unanimous consent of the meeting, took the chair and called the meeting to order. Mr. Seelye was chosen Secretary.

Mr. Franklin briefly stated the object of the assembly, which was to consider the advisability of this colony joining with the older provinces in a Confederation, and forming an Empire having control of its own destinies.

That this meeting views with great pleasure and much satisfaction the scheme which is now before the Imperial Government for the Confederation of the Colonies of British North America.

Mr. Powell came forward to move the second resolution. He fully recognised the importance of the question, and did not believe that any great good could be accomplished by any country without union.

He believed that Confederation would draw the colonies still closer to Mother England. The speaker denied the charge that the Confederation movement was anti-English.

Mr. Powell then proceeded to expatiate upon the agricultural resources of the country, but met with some marks of disfavor from the audience. He then showed the advantages of Confederation in constructing the overland railway and telegraph.

The resolution having been read a second time, Mr. Bishop asked if the movement was intended for the Hudson Bay Company.

Mr. Young—I am speaking, as one in whose veins flow the pure blood of both.

Mr. Seelye read an extract from the New York Tribune, foretelling that 20 years would find British North America one of the most commercially powerful nations in the world.

was in it he would do the best he could for its interests. The only advantage to be derived from Confederation would be a road across the country.

The resolution was then put and carried by an immense majority. The chairman stated that the committee had telegraphed to Canada for information as to the provisions in the Confederation Act for the admission of this Colony.

Dr. Powell came forward to propose the second resolution, which was as follows: That the Colony of British Columbia would be greatly benefited, its progress and permanent prosperity secured by its admission into the proposed confederacy of British North America upon fair equitable terms.

Dr. Powell pointed out that the terms under which we would consent to join in the Confederation must be fair and equitable and explicitly stated. He denied that this was an attempt to alienate the Colonies from the Mother Country, and read the draft of the first Confederation Bill prepared by the North American delegates.

Mr. Young, in explanation said, his knowledge had been taken from the same source as Dr. Powell had derived his information from, and there was not a word about Responsible Government (oh! and cheers).

The Chairman here read the telegram to the Colonies, published elsewhere, giving the resolution unanimously passed in the Legislative Council, which was received with a storm of applause.

Mr. Robertson seconded Dr. Powell's resolution in an excellent and telling speech in favor of Confederation, pointing out the means it would afford us of changing our present unpopular form of Government for one more in keeping with the spirit of the age.

Dr. Carroll, in a few well timed remarks, in which he congratulated the meeting, by its endorsement of the previous resolution and action of the Council, in having done that of which they and their descendants would feel proud.

Mr. Waddington, who was loudly cheered, seconded the resolution confining himself to a subject which he has studied for some time—the Overland Route. There could be no connection without communication.

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The speaker made a few appropriate remarks in favor of the scheme, jokingly twitting the obstructives, who were as necessary in every community as the breaks on a wheel, and who desired popularity some way or other, if not by proposing anything themselves, then by opposing what others advanced (applause).

Mr. Bishop replied and while declaring himself in favor of confederation, moved an amendment to the effect that a committee be appointed with a view to the consideration of the subject and report to a public meeting after hearing the terms on which the Colony may be admitted to the Confederation.

Mr. Fisher seconded the amendment, disapproving of the meeting committing itself to such a resolution without reflection or understanding its consequences. He dwelt upon previous political blunders and spoke generally against the scheme, maintaining that sufficient arguments had not been advanced in support of the movement.

The amendment was lost and the original motion carried by a large majority, when on motion of Dr. Powell, the Hon. Helmcken DeCosmos and Pemberton were named the committee to wait on the Governor.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting dispersed in a most orderly manner.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday March 19

The Two Ports.—Over and over again has the truth loving editor of the Columbian endeavored to injure Victoria harbor in the eyes of foreign shippers and insurers, by calling it a "miserable duck pond," incapable of admitting ocean steamers and ships.

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SIXTEEN tons of copper from the wreck of the bark Deceatur, near Gray's harbour, W. T., have been taken to one of the mills on the Sound. The wreck was sold to the auctioneer, who was the only person present at the sale, for \$5.

DESIGNS.—Six designs compete for the premium of \$100 offered by the Rector and Churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church, From San Francisco, 1; New Westminster, 1; Victoria, 4.—Examiner.

MR. DICKENS has commenced a war upon publishers who send their books out with uncut leaves, and ridicules the parsimony which dictates the slovenly practice for the sake of saving a little paper.

SOONER THAN EXPECTED.—His Excellency on Monday told the Confederationists that the Legislative Council would probably be prorogued on Saturday week.—Examiner.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday, March 21.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE VEN. ARCHDEACON GILSON.—The usual crowd which assembles to witness the sailing of the mail steamer was swelled yesterday afternoon by the congregation of St. John's Church to bid farewell to the Archdeacon, their faithful pastor, and Mrs. Gilson, who left for England.

Mr. Gilson was endeared him, not only to his congregation, but to the community at large, inasmuch that we do not envy the task of the reverend gentleman's successor. In a community like this, where ecclesiastical power is virtually unrecognized, it is no mean accomplishment in one fulfilling a high office in connection with the mother church, to secure the cordial sympathy of those outside of the sphere of his labors.

NANAIMO.—The schooner Black Diamond, Capt. McCullough, arrived from Nanaimo yesterday morning, after an extraordinarily short passage, with a cargo of coal. We are indebted to Capt. McCullough for a Nanaimo paper. The ship Silas Greenman is loading at Nanaimo. The bark Scotland, which left here seven days ago, was off Stuart Island on Tuesday, not having accomplished half the distance.

A PLEA IN BEHALF OF POLYGAMY.—The New York Times in an editorial condemns the interference of the Government with the Mormons at Salt Lake, and says that no reliance should be placed in the statement that that Mormon imperil the safety of Gentile life, or interfere with Gentile enterprises or industry.

THE WRECK OF THE BARK GEORGE WASHINGTON.—There have been two arrivals from the wreck of this bark since Sunday last. The hull and standing rigging have been sold for \$900 to the firm of Spaulding & Harris. The vessel having been lately coppered at San Francisco, will prove a valuable prize to the purchasers.

ST. PATRICK'S BALL.—The pressure of news on our columns we regret precludes more than a passing notice of the anniversary ball, given in the St. Nicholas Hall last night. The large room was well filled and the company, inspired by the excellent music furnished by Messrs. Sandrie, Palmer, Bushell, Maguire and Wilson, appeared to enjoy themselves to the utmost.

RETRON OF THE ENTERPRISE.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt. Swanson, returned at 6:30 o'clock last evening from New Westminster with twenty passengers, amongst whom we noticed hon. Capt. Stamp, J. Bosowitz, Mrs. W. A. G. Young, Baie Brothers, and Captain Irving. The Cariboo news by this arrival was anticipated by the telegraph.

DEATH OF A FORMER RESIDENT.—Dr. J. L. Gumbinner, a former well known resident of Victoria, died suddenly of heart disease, at San Francisco, a few days ago. Deceased, who was highly respected, leaves a family dependent upon the cold charity of the world.

MR. SALA is corresponding with the London Telegraph, from Rome. His fine library was lately disposed of at public auction.

THE NEW TARIFF will go into operation today.

Tuesday, March 26

The Confederation

It is more natural than the proposed admission of the Colonies into the Confederation. British North America, as proposed by professed seceders or unwilling to be to the popular measure is healthy; it is as necessary as the well being of the body and drink to the body of in fact, the true and where the life blood of reform is strengthened checking abuses, preventing and pointing out the sands on which the sh through over zealous action would be liable to wreck. The opposition of Monday night was fee resolutions were carried one voice; yet would it be close our eyes to the arg against the extension of the west of the Rocky Mo if they fail to carry w placed in the balance w advantages that this Coli rise from becoming the of the chain, they will at us to avoid the folly of a confiding our interests in and to hesitate before we any other than "fair an terms." It is superficial again over the now well b and to reiterate the benefi country will derive by th

change. It must be too every thinking man that of a free and liberal form—the Government of by the people—for the hy tion we now possess; the of our Colonial debt, am some \$150 per head, by th of the federal population; reduction of taxation by with an extravagant civi suture and certain complet great overland route, and

quent influx of population are blessings that will an flow from the golden oppo within our reach. On ea heads the speakers at th spoke convincingly. We fore confine ourselves to so arguments used by the opp the measure. And first fo That gentleman called upon to weigh the pros and before giving its assent to To this there was no dis reminded them of the disc sequences of previous hast advised legislation. In th

occurred. Having delivered this specious little exhorta ratiocinative powers of the gentleman were exhausted then he thought him of the trapery of "Hudson Bay C Hero was a bugaboo the

startle the auditory. The alarm was sounded with leg sis, and "took" for a few Encouraged by cries of Bishop, "pitch it in," &c., th grew bold and warned the the whole scheme was a Ha movement, got up by the for their especial aggrandis that by making ourselves a it we should only let oursel the trap they were laying Now to all who have watche conversant with the movem

its inception to the meeting gates, and the framing of th scheme, the absurdity of th tion must be too appare Company, it is true, might b to dispose of the Red River to advantage, but, on the oth would not the opening of t section of country between

For San Francisco.—The steamer Active left yesterday at 4 p.m. for the Bay City with about 50 passengers, among whom were the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Gilson, U. S. Consul Francis, Mrs. Leighton, Mrs. Pike, Messrs. E. Marks, Wolf, H. Andrew, Edwards, Chambers, Capt. Howe, &c.

AN EX-CONFEDERATE.—The New York Tribune's London correspondent says that Judah P. Benjamin is now a full blown English Barrister, bewigged and begowned, and is one of the counsel engaged against the United States in the suit against the Protean.

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