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DR. POWELL'S CIVIC BILL.

Above all the nuisances with which Victoria has been inflicted during the present year the Municipal Corporation has certainly been the greatest. In a condition wavering between life and death, it has had just sufficient vitality to consume money without power to accomplish good. It has had rent to pay, with salary of clerk and other expenses, and yet beyond getting into two or three lawsuits and losing them, it has done nothing. We cannot lay the responsibility of this state of things exactly to the members; for they have worked under the most disheartening and disagreeable circumstances, and have been impeded in every step by an Act that gives them no power but to spend the public money; but we ask these gentlemen, and we ask the inhabitants generally, if they are willing to continue the expensive farce one moment longer than it can be avoided? Are they desirous that an institution which has satisfied nobody—that an Act which has created no end of mischief—should be renewed for ever so short a period on the flimsiest of pretexts? We think not. We believe the general feeling of the inhabitants on the matter is—the sooner the useless thing is dead the better. Let it be decently interred; but for the sake of public decency let us have no resurrection that will make the sepulchre, as in Hamlet, "ope its ponderous and marble jaws," to cast the body up again.

Dr. Powell, who has been one of our most useful members, has, in an ill-judged moment, introduced a Provisional Act for the election of Mayor and Councillors when the term of the present Council expires. It is said by one party that the bill is necessary, since the Chief Justice has declared the Incorporation Act invalid, while another party with equal confidence asserts that the decision did not interfere with the election clause and that therefore there is no necessity for the measure. With the difference between our legislators on this head we have nothing to do. All parties know that the Council as a Municipal body to levy taxes and carry on public works is a worse than useless institution. It is eating into the pockets of the property-holders by an unnecessary expense; and ordinary prudence would point to the necessity of terminating its career at the first possible convenience, rather than prolonging it. To go into a new election with no more effective machinery that the present will be simply to fill the ensuing Council with the worst class of men; for no competent and respectable citizen will allow himself to be placed in nomination. We are certain Dr. Powell never for a moment contemplated such an effect from the introduction of his bill; yet we cannot see any other result.

A new Incorporation measure will shortly be introduced into the House, less cumbrous, less expensive, and more effective than the present unfortunate act. Let Dr. Powell withdraw his bill and give his valuable assistance towards the passage of the more practical measure, and he will confer an advantage upon the community. There is nothing to be gained, as we have already shown, by a new election under the present municipal disabilities. We have borne with the imperfections of the present act long enough to hail the virtual termination of its career with rejoicing. We have witnessed, under its operations, municipal institutions fall into contempt, and able men become disgusted with civic honors. All this is unhealthy and likely to result in driving respectable citizens from all active interest in local affairs. Do the members of the Assembly realize what such a state of things actually means? Have they ever lived in places where the "spoils" not the "honors" of office were the objects sought—where men had to throw off even the assumption of honesty or decency before they could become eligible candidates for municipal position? If they have not—if their experience has never brought them into contact with the lowest rabble of a city struggling with might and main for office—they have been living in a state of blissful ignorance, but one which will shortly meet, should Dr. Powell's bill pass, with an unpleasant though edifying shock. We wish to ascend rather than go down in the political scale, and to make our public positions such that the best men in the community will feel it an honor to be called upon to assume their labors and responsibilities. It is rather difficult to subscribe to the rather questionable doctrine which has been promulgated, that because we may have had inferior men in office, we should henceforward deprive ourselves of good ones; at the same time, however, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact, that once let the public positions of the country fall into bad hands, and the difficulty of applying a remedy to public abuses will be, if not insuperable, at least intensified in no ordinary degree.

Arrival of the Jenny Jones.

Later from the East.

DATES TO OCTOBER 19TH.

BATTLE in the SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

Sheridan Captures 43 Cannon and many Prisoners.

PORTLAND, Oct. 22, 1864.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 21.—Gold in New York on the 16th was quoted at 209. Greenbacks 49 to 50.

Secretary Fessenden has ordered a rigid investigation in Custom House affairs on this coast.

CEDAR CREEK, Va., Oct. 19—Lieutenant General Grant:—I have the honor to report that my army is at Cedar Creek. We were attacked this morning before daylight, by the enemy. My left was turned and driven in confusion. We lost twenty pieces of artillery. I hastened from Winchester and found the army between Middletown and Newton Bend, having been driven back four miles. I took affairs in hand quickly, and uniting the corps formed a compact line of battle. In a short time we repulsed the attack of the enemy, which was done handsomely about 1 p. m.

At three, after some changes of the cavalry, from the left to the right flank, I attacked the enemy with great vigor, routing and driving them, capturing, according to last accounts, forty-three pieces of artillery and very many prisoners. We have not yet ascertained the number of casualties or losses of the enemy. Trains, ambulances and cassions in large numbers are in our possession. The enemy burned some of the trains. Gen. Ramseur is a prisoner in our hands and severely wounded. I have to regret the loss of Gen. Bidwell, killed, and Gens. Wright, Grover and Rickets wounded. Affairs at times looked badly, but by the gallantry of our brave officers a disaster has been converted into a splendid victory. Darkness interfered and prevented greater results. We now occupy Strasburg. SHERIDAN.

The enemy's force is not yet reported, but the boldness, vigor and success of the attack strongly indicates heavy reinforcements having been sent from Richmond. With the expectation of fulfilling his boast, Longstreet has assumed command in person, and confidently hoped to overwhelm with disaster the union cause.

(Signed) STANTON.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 19—One hundred rebels under Col. Rathborn, entered Lexington today. All males between 17 and 50 are mustered into the Confederate army.

Five hundred men, under Shelby, captured Paris, in Monroe county, and are conscripting all able bodied men for the rebel service. Friday, 200 rebels entered Brunswick Eight hundred were reported at Keyesville the same day.

There is an expedition evidently against the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, with the intention of destroying it.

The garrison at Glasgon fought bravely for five hours, but were obliged to surrender.

THE FOOD OF THE ENGLISH POOR.—The *Times* publishes a very unpleasant statement, an analysis of a report by Dr. E Smith, a physicien selected by the Privy Council to inquire into the cottage dietaries of the Empire. He reports that a man wants on an average 28 600 grains of carbon and 1,330 grains of nitrogen per diem. Only one class of operatives get enough nitrogen, and as to carbon a fifth of all agricultural laborers have too little, while it is probable that among the women the proportion is much greater. In Berkshire, Somersetshire, and Oxfordshire, the people have not enough of either kind. The lords of the land on which these people live are the richest and happiest class which ever existed in history. Yet if we are to believe the *Times*, Lord Palmerston, and the old Liberals generally, there is nothing remaining to be accomplished. "Everybody in the country" said the Premier at Tiverton "is alive." Quite true, but is every man who will work *fed*? Science says he isn't, and we suppose somebody with £10,000 a year will next week expose the "exaggerations of scientific philanthropy."—*Spectator.*

ENGLISH MISCELLANY.

The working men of London propose to erect a statute to Shakspeare on Primrose Hill. Mr. Gladstone's name appears in the list of subscribers.

Steamers now run daily from Havre to Southampton, and Littlehampton; bi-weekly to Glasgow, Liverpool, and London; and weekly to Hull.

The Duke of Newcastle is in about the same state of health as when he left town. His grace is very weak, and does not take any out-door exercise.

At the Middlesex sessions, on the 7th, a man named John Barber was sentenced to six months' hard labour for indecently assaulting a young woman in a carriage on the Hammersmith Railway.

Weigh-House Chapel, Fish-street Hill, London, which is not without historical associations, is about to be pulled down, in order to make way for the Metropolitan District Railway.

Miss Nightingale, in whose health but little improvement has taken place, has left town for her annual autumnal residence in one of the healthiest suburbs of London.

The Earl of Harrowby has been speaking at Chipping Camden on middle-class education, regretting its deficiencies, and exhorting to more interest in the subject among the middle classes themselves.

Prince Humbert of Italy is expected to arrive in England on the 11th inst. During his stay he will reside with the Marquis d'Azeglio, the Italian minister in London, who arrived a few days ago from Spa in order to receive his royal highness.

On the first of November an act of parliament will take effect to amend the act for the regulation of chimney sweepers. From that day chimney sweepers are restricted from employing children under ten years of age, and are not to be accompanied in their occupation by persons under sixteen years old.

There is no truth in the report which has been circulated of the intention of Mrs. Yelverton (formerly Mrs. Forbes) to commence proceedings against her husband for a judicial separation. They are living together; but it is said to avoid curiosity they have assumed another name for a short time.—*Court Journal.*

It is said that the conductor of n Richmond (London) omnibus is a young man of high social position, who from some unexplained circumstance has taken to the road. Be it as it may, it is quite clear that the report has got widely circulated, the omnibus being much patronised by romantic young ladies, and to see them looking out for a "bus" is a little curious. The competition for a seat is great.

About sixty of the South African clergy, almost all in the dioceses of Capetown and Grahamstown, have signed a memorial addressed to their Metropolitan and to the Bishops of South Africa, in which they protest against Dr. Colenso resuming his episcopal functions, and declares that they cannot recognise him as a Bishop of their church, or hold communion with him should he return to his diocess.

Professor Anderson, the well-known conjuror, has returned to London after seven years' absence. His repertory of "magic" is of course more extensive than ever, but the speciality of his present entertainment is that he produces as professed illusions the phenomena on which so called spiritualists rest their claims to credence for their system. In short, he does esoteric and with certainty what they do clumsily and only under "favorable circumstances,"—i. e., when detection is not impending.

On Monday night, the 5th, about 12 o'clock, the merchantmen in the channel at Plymouth were startled by hearing loud firing, which was occasioned by Admiral Dacres having ordered the whole of the ships forming the Channel squadron to beat to quarters and open blank fire. Although the orders were given at midnight, every man was at his post, and the decks cleared for action in six minutes after the order had been telegraphed to the various ships.

The bonded debts of the Corporation of London amount to £1,772,100.

The *Record* states that Mr. Spurgeon has retired from the Evangelical Alliance.

From an official document just issued, it appears that by the last return there were as many as 1,142,624 insane paupers.

Alterations are being made in St. James' park with a view to provide a ride for horsemen such as that of Rotton row in Hyde Park.

It is shown by a document just printed that last year 9,701,349 gallons of spirits were charged with duty.

One of the great features of the next season at Drury Lane will be the revival of "Cymbeline" The revival of that play was also one of the great features of the Drury Lane season a hundred years ago, which commenced in September, 1764.

In a week from this date Mdlle. Victoire Balfe (late lady Crampton) the daughter of our great composer, will espouse a grandee of Spain, who unites with his title of duke and a large fortune the best qualities of head and heart.

"Intelligence has been received at Lloyd's of the total loss of the Russian steam frigate Sadinich, Admiral Cyralloff, off the coast of Uando. Three officers and 20 seamen were drowned; the rest of the crew were saved with difficulty. The frigate is a total wreck.

The Archbishops of Canterbury, York, Armagh, and Dublin have puolished an earnest appeal for the church in the colonies. They give extracts from the letters of colonial bishops asking for assistance, pecuniary and clerical, and the archbishops "beseech our brethren of the clergy" to preach one sermon annually and make a collection for Church of England missions.

There are five colonial bishops of the Established Church now residing in England, viz: Dr. C. H. Bromby, the recently consecrated Bishop of Tasmania, who is collecting funds and making other arrangements for the future welfare of his diocese; Dr. Hills, Bishop of British Columbia, who will return to his see at the close of the present year; Dr. G. Smith, Bishop of Victoria (Hong Kong); Dr. Austin, Bishop of Guiana; and Dr. J. W. Colenso, Bishop of Natal.

THE TELEGRAPH.—By the last of next week it is expected the telegraph will reach Seattle. From thence the main line will follow down the beach on the east side of the Sound to New Westminster. This course is taken as it avoids the necessity of cutting a trail through the timber, and is not so liable to be injured by fire, besides it can be put up and kept in repair with boats. Mr. Haines is now engaged surveying this part of the line, and they intend having it completed to New Westminster by the 1st of January. Here it will connect with the great Asiatic American Telegraph. From Seattle's branch line will be run to the principal points on the west side of the Sound to Victoria.—*Pacific Tribune.*

THE SAANICH CONSTITUENCY.—It was stated in town yesterday that Mr. John F. Pidwell had expressed his intention of offering himself for the vacancy in the district of Saanich.

LARCENY.—James Scott was yesterday sentenced for six months to the chain gang for stealing a vest the property of Samuel Harris.

A NEW ZEALAND CROMWELL.

[FROM THE MELBOURNE HERALD.]

Dunedin has just been the theatre of a popular demonstration, which verifies the adage that it is but a step from the sublime to the ridiculous. An attempt has been made to coerce the local Government and Parliament of Otago into a kind of wholesale retrenchment, in the form of the immediate dismissal of all the Government employees, and the expenditure of their salaries in finding work for the unemployed miners, mechanics, and others now suffering distress in that part of New Zealand. This attempt took the form of an open-air meeting, at which a person named James Gordon Stuart Grant was the leader of the movement, and its chief spokesman and journalist all in one. He led the crowd first to the superintendent's, or deputy governor's residence, and next to the Legislative Council, in the expectation of carrying his novel plan of instantaneous financial reform by a *coup de main*. But the little Parliament was not to be bullied by this sham hero, and they quietly gave him the alternative of a very humble apology for his silly escapade, or of fine and imprisonment. Grant has a small weekly publication in Dunedin, which he calls the *Saturday Review*, and from this paper we give a few extracts describing the scene. There had been two meetings—one on Monday, the 6th of June, at which resolutions affirming the necessity of the reform in the Government expenditure already referred to were passed, and these resolutions were taken by Grant at the head of the crowd to the superintendent, who transmitted them to the Legislative Council. The latter body declined to entertain them, and this brought Mr Grant—to use his own language—down upon them *a la* Cromwell. We shall narrate the rest in his own words: "We then, thus escorted, proceeded to the Council Chamber. It became very soon full to overflowing. The men behaved themselves very decorously. We waited till the members took their seats—till prayer was offered up by the Speaker, and till the minutes of the preceding day were read and ratified. Then we rose, and Cromwell-like, turned round to our body-guard, and reminded them of their vows. The decisive crisis had just arrived. We were filled with a variety of contending emotions. We were anxious to avoid any sort of disturbance. We trembled lest any acts of violence on the part of any hot-headed man might ensue. We also had doubts of the moral courage of our supporters. We, therefore, did just what Cromwell did two centuries ago, we turned round to the men in the body of the hall, and concisely said—'I am now going to present your most peaceful and especful memorial.' By this action we wished to convey to the council that it would be their wisdom to allow us to read the resolutions, and allow them to be put on the table of the House. We humbly conceive that this action was a stroke of a masterly and pacific policy. The council had thus an opportunity of seeing the hopelessness of offering any obstructions to us or arresting us. After these few words addressed to the men who filled the body of the hall, the Speaker cried out, 'Order, order,' in a military tone of voice. We made an attempt to speak. We began to say, 'Your honor.' 'Sit down, sir,' rejoinded the Speaker. We again tried to speak, and said, 'Your honor, I am going——' 'Serjeant-at-Arms,' said the Speaker, 'take that man into custody.' Now was the decisive moment. Had Cromwell's light dragoons hesitated for one moment after the Speaker ordered the Serjeant-at-Arms to take that man into custody, all would have been lost. We again began to say, when the Serjeant-at-Arms was approaching us, 'I am in the pursuit of my duty and I call upon you to protect me.' We were then escorted out of the hall and conveyed to a room below, in charge of the Serjeant-at-Arms. We were thus sacrificed in the presence of the men who vowed to protect us. Beyond hisses, stamping and groaning, after we were conveyed to custody, no efforts were made to protect us." After the lapse of an hour, the prisoners were taken to the bar of the House, and the hero in fustian made a very humble apology. Commenting on this occurrence in his *Saturday Review*, Grant says:—"Now that this agitation has come to a peaceful termination, so far as we are concerned, we candidly confess that it was an error of judgment on our part to expect sufficient moral support and personal protection in these colonies. It is not safe for any man to attempt to benefit his fellow-creatures in any such daring manner in a city of only 20 000 inhabitants. In London, and in London only, can a true patriot rely on the intelligent support, moral and physical, of the people."

REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—Wm. Gingell, a laborer in the service of the London Victoria Dock Company, was brought before Mr. Paget at the Thames police office, charged with stealing 43 cigars. The prisoner, who was much affected, was formerly a gentleman of fortune, and in four years squandered a fortune of £15 000. After several vicissitudes he became a day laborer. His family at home are in great distress, and his wife was confined only four days ago. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labor.—*English Paper.*

RUSH FROM PORTLAND.—The steamer Sierra Nevada carried down from Portland over three hundred passengers. The upper mining country will soon be depopulated at that rate.

A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER was given by members of the Victoria Rifle Corps on Thursday evening at the John Bull Hotel to Color-sergeant E. C. Waddington on the eve of his leaving for England.

THE EXPLORATION COMMITTEE will meet to-day at 12 o'clock, to receive the final report of the expedition and wind up the undertaking for this year.

PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

A tremendous union demonstration came off in San Francisco on the evening of the 15th inst., of which the city papers contain long accounts. The city and shipping in the harbor were decorated with flags and banners, deputations from the neighboring towns swelled the crowds in the streets, and the whole city seemed given up to general rejoicing. At 5 o'clock all business was suspended, and at 6 o'clock a salute of 100 guns gave the signal for the assembling of the people at the appointed rendezvous on Market, Kearney and Montgomery streets. The *Bulletin* has the following graphic description of

THE PROCESSION UNDER WAY.

This movement was the signal for a general blaze of rockets, Roman candles, blue and red lights, all along Kearney, Dupont, Stockton and Washington streets, lighting up the murky atmosphere more brilliantly than ever, and the thousands of flags that streamed and fluttered in every direction. A car drawn by four horses carried a small cannon named the "Swamp Angel," which was fired occasionally under the direction of Capt. Harvey Lake, and led the column. Following was a body of 100 horsemen, escorting Gov. Low, Maj. Gen. McDowell and staff, and Mayor Coon, and led by Col. J. W. McKenzie, the Grand Marshal of the occasion, and a body of aids. Then came a fine brass band. After that the members of Howard Engine Company, in their fire caps and capes 108 strong—only one member of the company being absent. The Howards were partly mounted. Next the Union Central Club, and State and County Central Committees. The twelve District Union Clubs followed in their order, making up the first four divisions, each division led by its Marshal and a band of music, the men marching four abreast and the horsemen six abreast The remaining four divisions were composed of the Hibernian and Lincoln and Johnson Clubs; Spanish American and German Union Clubs, bearing the colors of their different nationalities besides those of their adopted country; the Italian fishermen, with a felucca on wheels—its sails spread and colors flying; St. Francis Hook and Ladder Co.; a large band of sailors and coasters; Commodore Poore and Lieutenant Seeley, of the United States war steamer Saranac, with 70 of her crew, the guests of the shipmasters and sailors; a delegation of nearly 300 from Petaluma; a delegation from Oakland; the carriers of the Union newspapers of San Francisco, nearly 80 strong; the expressmen and teamsters of the city, mounted, about 400 strong, and making a splendid appearance; the workmen at the Miners' Foundry, who bore a transparency, saying "Navy broom;" the Grant Club; the 2d Cavalry California Volunteers; discharged Soldiers of the United States; a number of deputations representing various Trades, some bearing appropriate emblems; the State Guard, about 100 strong; Members of the Board of Supervisors and Education; various public officers and many ladies in carriages; an omnibus filled with young girls representing the States, and singing patriotic songs, a number of trucks bearing various illustrative designs, such as wooden guns from Manassas, loads of brooms for sale cheap, &c. The rear was brought up with a large body of horsemen and a long string of carriages. The union and its defenders, the President and his associates, the Army and its generals, the Navy and its gallant captains, the battle-fields and victories of the war, the hopes, purposes and principles of the loyal masses, were all inscribed on their luminous banners. One transparency was in the shape of a huge ball, and kept revolving over the prostrate form of bogus Democracy. It is impossible, in the space at our command, to attempt a description of the ingenious devices and pertinent mottoes on those transparencies; suffice it to say that they expressed in manifold fashion the common determination to re-elect the present Administration, and to fight the war through till treason is subdued and the Union is restored and made free for all, while the utmost scorn and contempt was expressed for all who would surrender to traitors or consent to the dismemberment of the Republic. There were borne in the procession besides many hundreds of Chinese paper lanterns of a ruddy color, printed with the American eagle. There was hard on to 8,000 persons in the procession, and nearly half of them carried torches, Roman candles, and bengola lights, while others carried the starry flag, which streamed in glory above the transparencies or fluttered in miniature in the hands and hats of the men in the ranks. Rockets were discharged at frequent intervals from many of the vehicles. In short, there was nothing lacking to make the pageant far the most splendid and imposing ever seen on this coast, and one seldom if ever surpassed in the cities of the Atlantic. But no Eastern city could turn out such an array of manliness in proportion to its population. No other town of 100 000 souls could put into a procession such a magnificent display of physical vigor, moral worth and political soundness

FORTIFICATIONS AT THE MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA.—General Alvord and staff accompanied General McDowell to the mouth of the Columbia river and inspected the fortifications at Cape Disappointment and Fort Stevens, near Point Adams. They were found in a very satisfactory state of progress. Fort Stevens is named in honor of the late Gen. Isaac I. Stevens, of Washington Territory. We are informed by Gen. Alvord that Capt. Elliott in his work at the mouth of the Columbia has performed valuable services, very important to the State of Oregon and all the Territories bordering on the Columbia river. The fortifications of Scarborough Point, opposite Point Adams, will be the work next commenced.—*Pacific Tribune.*