

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday December 29, 1869

Wilfully Blind.

It has been said that there are none so blind as those who will not see. We are greatly disposed to apply the saying to some of those in this colony still found opposing Confederation. For instance, in his leading article of Wednesday the editor of the *Guardian* sets out with the following extraordinary assertion:—“Those who profess to believe the British North American Act to contain the conditions upon which the Dominion of Canada, deny their own professions by constantly agitating for terms.” Now, we have always stated what it is fair to presume every colonist of average intellect must be perfectly well aware of—that, although there are certain fundamental necessities fixed by the Organic Act, yet there is a large class of conditions which would form the legitimate subject of negotiation between the contracting parties; and it is to the consideration of this latter class of subjects that we have been urging the colonists to give their early and earnest attention, warning them, at the same time, that continued silence on their part might result in these terms being arranged for them. Nor are we aware that anybody has ever advanced views upon the subject which could possibly be construed to justify the ludicrous position assumed in the above extract. Indeed, we are sometimes tempted to think that these misconstructions and misstatements are purposely indulged in by the enemies of Confederation, with a view to mystifying the public mind, preparatory to misdirecting it. And, yet, there is little danger to be apprehended from such attempts. In Newfoundland, where designing persons succeed in ‘cramming’ the people with all sorts of nonsense, even to making the women believe that the Dominion Government would place a heavy tax upon babies—serious injury might possibly have resulted from the line of misrepresentation indulged in by a few persons in this colony; but, with an intelligent community like this, such a course can only bring those pursuing it into ridicule. It is just possible that we may be wrong in imputing such motives; yet we cannot think so ill of these men as to believe them so deplorably ignorant as the other view would necessarily imply.

Herie Hase in the *Indian Daily News*, tells the following story: ‘By the northern shores of the lakes where poets have dwelt, who like Wordsworth have borne the name of ‘lake poets’ there is a Bengalee woman, the wife of an engineer-driver. The cold Cumberland hills face her now instead of those within whose shadow she was born at Raneegunge. She was a virgin-widow. The engineer-driver did not rescue her from the burning pile; but a poor Brahmin who was time-keeper in the same yard as the engine-driver worked at, often spoke of the widow; and the man who drove an engine at the rate of forty to fifty miles an hour, swore at station masters and firemen, ran over bullocks, and was cool in all dangers, convinced the idea of marrying this woman. The Brahmin consented; the woman the girl I should say—agreed; and one evening, after a quiet baptism, the Cumberland man took to his home his Bengalee Brahmin wife. Two years after he returned to England, with him a hearty happy woman now working hard, learning fast, a perfect lioness amongst her husband’s friends.

How to keep butter sweet.—It is the easiest thing in the world. Simply put it in clean jars and cover with a strong brine. This will keep pure butter a year fresh and sweet, as we know from experience. It is almost equally good to put in oak casks, headed tight. This is equivalent to canning fruit. The brine in the case of the jar acts as a heading, keeping the air out. But butter should be made well; we have never experimented on poor butter. Work out the buttermilk until you have only pure heads clear as rain water; but do not work so much as to break the grain, in which case you have a tough, heavy article in winter and grease in summer. Such butter we advise no one to try to preserve.—*Rural World*.

Robert Hall did not lose his power of retort even in madness. A hypocritical condescender with his misfortune once visited him in the mad-house, and said in a whining tone: ‘What brought you here, Mr. Hall?’ Hall significantly touched his brow with his finger, and replied: ‘What will never bring you Sir; too much brain.’

Gentleman (to boatman)—You must not, I should think, get wet—do you not? Artless Boatman—Yes, yer honor, we does, werry wet, werry wet, indeed; but I’m werry dry just now, yer honor, and no mistake.

‘How do you manage to get along in Paris without knowing the French language?’ inquired a gentleman of Mrs. Shoddy. ‘Oh we had an interpreter with us,’ complacently replied the old lady.

Resurrection of the Dead—Life Restored to a Decapitated Criminal.

From the *Pail Mail Gazette*, London, 1869. A Florence newspaper, *L’Italia*, extracts from the *Annales de la Medecine et de la Chirurgie Etrangere*, the following extraordinary history. The Italian paper, for reasons easily to be gathered does not give implicit credence to this statement, nor lend it the editorial sanction.

On the 18th of April, 1863, in the prison of Villarcia, (province of Minas Geraes), in Brazil, two men named Aveiro and Carrioes were executed at the same time. At Brazil executions take place with closed doors, in the interior of the prison. Dr. Lorenzo Carmo, of Rio Janeiro, well known by savants for his remarkable works on electricity applied to physiology, his surgical skill, and his success in autoplactic operations, obtained permission to profit by this event in order to experiment on the power of electricity, and illustrate its analogy with some of the phenomena of life. The numerous experiments hitherto attempted have been made on the head and trunk separately. Dr. Lorenzo Carmo’s design was, if possible, to unite the head and neck after decapitation. The heads of the two criminals fell within a few minutes of each other into the same basket; first that of Carrioes, then that of Aveiro. Immediately after this second execution a compression was effected by a pupil of Dr. Lorenzo on the carotid arteries of one of the heads so as to stop the hemorrhage. The body was then placed on a bed already prepared, and Dr. Lorenzo stuck the head as exactly as possible on the neck and kept it in that position. The cells of a powerful electric pile were applied to the base of the neck and on the breast. Under this influence, as in former experiments, the respiratory movements were at once perceptible. As the blood, which penetrated in abundance through the surface of the neck, threatened to stop the passage of air, Dr. Lorenzo had recourse to tracheotomy. Respiration then ensued regularly. The head was fastened to the body by sutures and by a special apparatus. The physiologist wished to ascertain for how long a time this appearance of life could thus be artificially maintained. His astonishment was great when he saw at the end of two hours that not only did respiration still continue under the influence of the electric current, but that circulation had even resumed a certain regularity. The pulse beat feebly, but sensibly. The experiment was continued without intermission. At the end of sixty-two hours it was evident, to the astonishment of every one, that a process of cicatrization had commenced on the lips of the section. A little later signs of life manifested themselves spontaneously in the head and limbs, till then deprived of motion. At this moment the director of the prison arriving to the first time in the experiment room, observed that by a singular mistake due to the haste of the operation the head of Carrioes had been taken for that of Aveiro, and had been applied to the body of the latter. The experiment was continued notwithstanding. Three days later the respiratory movements produced themselves and electricity was suppressed. Dr. Lorenzo Carmo, and his assistants were stupefied, frightened at a result so unexpected, and at the power of an agent which in their hand had restored life to a body whose rights to exist the law had forfeited.

The learned surgeon who had only had in view a simple physiological experiment employed all his skill to continue this work, which science, aided against all expectation by nature, had so singularly commenced. He assisted the process of cicatrization, which progressed under most favorable conditions by means of an esophagean probe, liquid nourishment was introduced into the stomach at the end of about three months the cicatrization was complete, and motion, though still difficult, became more and more extended. At length at the end of seven months and a half, Aveiro Carrioes was able to rise and walk, feeling only a slight stiffness in the neck and a feebleness in the limbs.

So ends this remarkable story. Who can tell the results of scientific investigation carried on so far? In families natural defects may be remedied by remedying heads and bodies not originally proportioned for each other, and human beings dissatisfied with their sex may, under the benevolent system of Dr. Lorenzo Carmo repair the error of their origin. It will be a question for lawyers to determine to what nationality these future beings are to belong if head and body have previously owed a separate allegiance. But if the system holds good in violent deaths, surely it may be applied to death, as the coroners’ juries have it, from natural causes. In this case we might preserve our statement and celebrities for ever. Opponents of the system would, however, be found in the air.

Jonas Bliss has retired from the Bench of Nova Scotia full of years and honors. In reply to an address presented to him by the Bar, he said:—

‘Many changes have taken place since I became a Judge. Some have thrown a dark shadow around me; I have seen every one of my early associates on the Bench with whom I lived in the closest intimacy, pass away—and valued friends from among yourselves removed by death. I may also remark as another result of my extended term of office, that not a few are now in practice who were not born when I first occupied a seat upon the Bench.

‘It was, however, time for me to retire. Infirmitates increasing with increasing age and broken health, had rendered me unequal to the labors of my office; and much as I loved my profession and reluctant as I was to leave it, a sense of duty demanded that I should make way for some other better qualified to fill my place. Could I have accomplished it, my retirement would have taken place some years earlier.’

M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, of Suez Canal celebrity, is about to be married to a young and beautiful Creole long resident in Paris.

Good mucilage can be made by mixing gum tragacanth with water in a vial, and set in a warm place twelve or fourteen hours. Its appearance will be like starch, and it can be made thick or thin, to suit by the quantity of water used.

“An English country paper” gives the following from an anonymous correspondent: ‘I had a dog, sir, that I think beat all the dogs I ever heard of. I trained that dog to sit up at meals, drink wine, use a knife and fork, and tell the hour by the clock. Among other things, I taught him to go to the post-office, three miles off, and bring my paper and letters every morning. He would bring the different ones at the doors of the different owners; and I never knew him to make a mistake in the directions, not even when we had visitors at the house, whose names he never could have seen before. One day, sir, he brought the letters but no papers; I sent him back, but he returned again with no paper. After breakfast, I rode over to the post-office, and asked the postmaster why he would not give the dog my Times. ‘Well, sir,’ he replied, ‘they didn’t send the Times’ to-day, and I offered the dog the *Daily News* and *Standard*, but he wouldn’t take either.’

WOLVES IN THE BATHING STATIONS IN EUROPE.—In the good hunting country of the Ardennes, France, wolves have been already seen. A cold winter and the sport was expected. Last winter, in the month of November, a strange animal gave much annoyance to the wolf hunters. It spread terror in the neighborhood of Vionville. It was larger, stronger and more intrepid than a wolf, with an enormous head and a square jaw. In short, it was a cross between a large male wolf and a powerful dog-bitch. It stood fiercely at bay and disabled seven or eight dogs before a rifle ball hit it low. The Pyrenees will also be full of wolves. The bathing stations, when buried under snow, present a curious aspect. The inhabitants have abandoned them, the houses are shut up and the wolves roam through the streets with mournful howls. This spectacle is to be witnessed even at Bagneres de Luchon. There are frequent fierce struggles between the wolves and the formidable Pyrenean dogs, whose coat and power remind one of the finest Newfoundland. The necks of these guard dogs, the country houses are protected by those iron collars, bristling with sharp spikes, which are specially manufactured in the Pyrenees and so carefully and well finished that some of them are almost works of art.—*Le Sport*.

There really is nothing new under the sun. The paddle-wheel for boats is seen on the Assyrian slabs and in more than one old European fresco. The bicycle seems to have been known in China more than two centuries ago and the velocipede was probably known even before that in Europe. Among the ancient painted glass in and about the once noble church of Stoke Poges may be seen the representation of a young fellow who is astride the mute but active horse; he is working his way along with the aid of a rider who has introduced a novelty and is being looked at by admiring spectators. It is one of the most curious illustrations of ancient times in the painted glass windows of this interesting church.

The ex-Queen of Spain has serious thoughts of retiring from the gaieties of Parisian life. The *Gazette* states that her Majesty has bought a little property near Genes in the department of the Seine-et-Oise, where Sister Estrelin and a score of nuns are going to set up an establishment. The original landlord of the property is said to have been a retired rag picker of Paris, who has gone to his native town to enjoy his *quintum cum dignitate*. The idea of a Queen buying property from a chiffonier is certainly suggestive of the vanity of all things human.

STRANGE accounts are given of the healing properties of a new oil says the *North German Correspondent* which is easily made from the yolks of hen eggs and is said to be much employed by the German colonists of South Russia as a means of curing cuts, bruises, scratches, &c. The eggs are boiled hard, the yolks removed and crushed and then placed over a fire and stirred carefully till the whole substance is on the point of catching fire, when the oil separates and may be poured off.

A LITTLE STORY OF MR. LINCOLN.—Mr. Lincoln was much pestered by office seekers. A gentleman of Illinois, who thought himself peculiarly fitted to represent the country abroad, followed Mr. Lincoln with great pertinacity, button-holing him at all times and in every place, without the slightest mercy. Finally, the President with a pleasing smile, asked if he could speak Spanish. ‘No,’ ‘Well, learn Spanish,’ and I will tell you of a good thing you can get. After three months’ hard study, the would-be diplomat returned to the charge, reminding the President of his promise, and assuring him he had thoroughly mastered the Spanish language. ‘Well,’ said Mr. Lincoln, ‘I promised to tell you of a good thing, you could get. Get Don Quixote and read it; it will make you laugh.’

In a school examination a lady, appealed to the self-consciousness of the children and tried to teach them a little about their senses. ‘They knew that they saw and heard,’ but it was a revelation to them that saw with eyes and heard ears. So the lady said to them—‘You have noses; what are they for?’ There was a dead silence, and at last one adventurous urchin replied, ‘Please ma’am—to be wiped.’

The mineral statistics issued by Robert Hunt show that Yorkshire has 441 collieries, the produce of which during the year 1868 was 9,740,510 tons of coal.

An Earl’s brother advertises in the *Times* for a loan of £100, promising as security to admit a lady or gentleman into his family circle to board and lodge.

An anatomical observer asserted a few days since that there were 489,981 feathers on the wing of a butterfly. ‘I don’t believe it,’ said one of his hearers. ‘Then count them for yourself,’ was the reply.

‘You don’t love me; I know you don’t,’ said a young married lady to her husband. ‘I give you credit, my dear, for a keen penetration,’ was his consoling reply.

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GREENHOUSE PLANTS,

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Many years ago, the writer of these lines and an invalid physician, while visiting the Island of St. Croix for their health, experienced and witnessed many surprising and beneficial effects of the Rum there produced upon many of the invalids, who were (like ourselves) seeking health; and, upon inquiry and investigation, obtained a full history of its medicinal virtues. He was delighted and surprised, and after his own recovery, which soon occurred, determined, if possible, to procure the sole right to manufacture and sell it in the United States.

The result of his labors was a glorious success for himself and suffering humanity, for the celebrated PLANTATION BITTERS was thus made known to the world. PLANTATION BITTERS being an article of real merit, founded upon new principles, and relying wholly upon the vegetable world for its medicinal effects, worked a rapid revolution in the history of medicine, and became as a household word all over the civilised world. The cabalistic S. T.—1860—K. was a talisman of health, and the demand for the PLANTATION BITTERS soon far exceeded the abilities of the proprietors to supply.

Notwithstanding the large importation of St. Croix Rum, made expressly for the compounding of these Bitters, the quantity was inadequate. It therefore became necessary that arrangements upon an extensive scale abroad should at once be made, and an agent was dispatched to St. Thomas for that purpose. He was fortunate in securing, and leasing several plantations on some of the largest and most productive estates on the island. Houses, skills and presses were erected as if by magic, which utterly astonished the natives. The services of experienced men and natives of the island were procured, and very soon the proprietors of the PLANTATION BITTERS were in a position to supply their laboratory with all the perfectly pure St. Croix Rum needed in manufacturing the GREAT DYSPEPTIC TONIC AND INVIGORATOR. The above outlay represents the entire cost of the sugar-cane and other plantations in the still and press, and is an antidote to Fever and Ague, Intermittent and Malarious Fevers, Dyspepsia, and other kindred diseases, the use of the PLANTATION BITTERS is unsurpassed in the history of the world. Over five million bottles are disposed of annually. They are adapted to old and young, male and female. They are agreeable in taste, and always produce an immediate beneficial result.

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