

BRITISH COLONIST-SUPPLEMENT.

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EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

The European news brought by the Pacific, although highly important, was nevertheless by no means unexpected. The failure of the Conference is what we have all along predicted. On the 7th of June the final meeting of this diplomatic body took place, and was of a purely formal character. Hostilities recommenced on the 26th by an attack of the Germans, under Marshal Wrangel, on Alsen. By the latest intelligence, which is up to the 23rd instant, we see that this stronghold has been captured; but neither the date nor the circumstances are given. The position of affairs is worse now than it has been since a Conference held. Denmark has been placed in a more helpless condition and the dignity of the Western Powers has been sadly humiliated. There are but two courses open for France and England—either to witness in silence the disruption of the Danish Kingdom, or employ the last argument of kings, and compel the Germans to recede from their position, and respect what they pretended to do in the outset, the integrity of the Danish monarchy. The claims of Prussia and her allies before the Conference were already published. The amount which they claimed as indemnity for the expenses of the war was £2,000,000. Now, however, that diplomacy has failed, and the German hosts are masters of the situation, there will be no limit to the demands, and the existence of Denmark as a separate nationality may be almost looked upon as a thing of the past. Should, however, England at the last moment stir up the adamant Sphinx of France to action, there is still hope. It is said that Sweden, who has hitherto, through either selfishness or fear, left Denmark to work out her own salvation, is now notably sending crowds of volunteers to Denmark, but a Swedish squadron of nine men-of-war and six gun-boats is collecting at Gothenburg, and would be ready to sail at the expiration of the armistice. Moreover, it is asserted that the King of Sweden has addressed an autograph letter to the King of Denmark, in which he proposes the formation of a confederacy, consisting of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, the latter so far as its dominions may reach after the amputation, which must shortly be expected. A joint Parliament is to decide on questions of foreign affairs, and regulate military and naval matters. It is also proposed by means of a marriage between the Crown Prince of Denmark and Princess Louise of Sweden to facilitate the blending of the two dynasties into one, on which basis, the King of Denmark has already entered into negotiations. The recent interview between the King of Prussia and the Russian Czar, has no doubt, made Sweden alive to the dangers of her situation. She begins to perceive that Russia, with all her seeming quiescence, is the same dangerous, ambitious neighbor of yore, and that what she tried to do with Turkey she would essay to compass with Sweden. In the one case, however, her dishonest proposals were nipped in the bud by the integrity of England; in the other she would find in Prussia—or at least in the King and Bismarck—a party as unscrupulous as herself. Hence, no doubt, the rumors of Sweden's sudden alliance with the Danes. On the other hand, however, there still seems, despite the popular fervor, apathy in the English Cabinet. Some of the members are undoubtedly for vindicating the honor of the country, now that diplomacy has failed, by the force of arms; while others, the majority, are indisposed to move in the matter. The rumor that this latter course was owing to the Germano-sympathies of the Queen has been very extensively circulated, and very generally credited. A Paris letter on this topic in the *Independence* says: "Baron de Beust was able to assure the Emperor Napoleon that the Queen of England was most anxious for a solution in the German sense, and her Britannic Majesty is represented to have admitted that, in her conviction, at the decisive moment her Ministers would be perfectly willing to accede to it." The Queen is stated to have said, "Never will I consent to a war in favor of Denmark, and my Ministers have no more thought of such a thing than I have." So convinced had the English mind become of this, Count Russell, that Earl Russell was obliged to rebut the reports in a speech in the House of Lords on the 26th of May. "All I can say is," said the Secretary of War, "and I say it, with perfect truth, that however much her Majesty may have, as other Princes have, their private affections connected as she may be by marriage with Princes who derived their birth from Germany—much as she is connected with German families, her Majesty's great object has been to maintain intact the honor, the reputation, and the interests of this country. And, however much her Majesty may desire that every step, whether relating to Germany or Denmark or any other subject, should be

carefully weighed by her advisers, there has been no occasion on which, when those advisers have deliberated and have given the result of that deliberation to her Majesty, her Majesty has not wholly followed their counsels, and adopted the resolutions to which they have come."

This language is clear and emphatic, and throws the cause of the present unsatisfactory state of things on the Cabinet. Whether public opinion, now that all hope of an amicable adjustment is gone, will assert its power and force Her Majesty's Ministers to take decisive action one way or the other on this unfortunate Danish question, remains to be seen; we are decidedly of opinion, however, that a crisis is approaching which will test the soundness of the nation on this great European wrong.

NEW WESTMINSTER SCHOOL-MEETING REPORT.

REPORT BY THE COLONIST.—Will you kindly allow me to express to the Directors of your paper last week by a correspondent when giving a report of a school meeting here? The whole report is very erroneous, and admitted by all sides here to-day to be glaringly one-sided. Of course, the intention is to give fair play to your opponents. The errors and confusion, and additions, and subtractions, and misrepresentations are to be imputed, then, to lack of time and the magnitude of the work; and probably to the misfortune of not being "got up" by an Englishman in a "straightforward English way."

I am made to say—"he would tell the meeting that although the Canadian system did not even make mention of the introduction of the Bible in the schools, &c. On the contrary, I said that the Canadian system strongly recommended the use of the Bible, and made provision for its proper use; but the beauty of the system consisted in leaving each district to make its own arrangements with regard to religious instruction and religious exercises."

That was the part of the system I wished to see introduced here, because all denominations and nationalities have given their adherence to it in Canada, and it was working admirably. Let each district elect its own trustees and make the best provision, in their own peculiar circumstances, they can, with regard to religious matters. I have confidence enough in the people to give them the exercise of this liberty, and the question is not "Bible or no Bible," but "the Bible and religious toleration."

I am also made to say—"that the word 'Easter' simply implied the passions!" I said, of course, the word translated Easter, was translated *pascha* in every instance but the one. Well, it was *pascha* something, but still the difference is considerable.

Your reporter also says—"he was allowed to proceed in the course which he had marked out for himself." Instead of having a course marked out for myself I was completely taken by surprise to hear the Bible question introduced in such an irregular manner. I learned from the Committee before the meeting took place that they were not ready with a full report, and had not touched the Bible or any religious question. I therefore concluded there would be no discussion until we had the Committee's report before us as a basis for discussion. As I, however, seemed to have got into the subject with the idea that some tremendous catastrophe was impending and that it behooved every man and boy, especially those having English blood in their veins, to rally to the nation's rescue. Hence the very unusual and irregular course which they had marked out for themselves, respectively of the Committee's report, and which is all to do over against the proper time and place. It was very considerate of your correspondent to give us the benefit of the Rev. Mr. Pringle's speech in your columns. Doubtless from some oversight on the part of the intended speaker the meeting had not the pleasure of hearing it. His address was most interesting and valuable.

Yours, &c., R. JAMESON.

ANOTHER COAL COMPANY.—A company has been formed in this city to work a vein of very promising coal, discovered about two months ago near Bonilla Point, beyond Saanich Harbor. The seam is situated about one mile from shore, and can be traced some distance. Specimens from the outcroppings indicate that the coal is of the same description as that taken out of the Fuca Straits mine, and the supposition is that it is a continuation of the same vein. His Excellency the Governor has reserved the location for the company, and active steps will be immediately taken to work the mine.

THE LICENSING ANOMALIES.—We have been reminded by A. C. Anderson, Esq., one of the Justices who occupied a seat on the bench on Tuesday last, that by an incoming tenant should be made amenable to the Government for arrears of license monies due by the former occupant of the premises. Mr. Anderson did not express himself, and we readily accord him the credit due for the common sense view he took of the question.

HONORABLE REGULATIONS AT REESE RIVER.—An English paper furnishes the following: "Among the 'rules' of the hotel in the 'diggings' at Reese River are the following: 'Lodgers inside arise at five, a.m.—in the bars at six o'clock; each man sweeps his own bed; no quarrels taken at the bar; no fighting allowed at the tables. Any one violating the above rules will be shot.' Model hotels that would be profitable and useful in the West would be well advised to adopt these regulations."

LATER FROM CARIBOO!

The Quickest Trip of the Season

Messrs. J. Ehrenbacher and Fred White arrived direct from Cariboo by the Alexandra Thursday morning, the latter having left Williams Creek on Thursday, the 14th instant, at 9 p.m. They rode on horse-back down to the Mouth of Quacelle, thence took the steamer to Soda Creek on Saturday, where they joined Smith & Lader, and came down with him to the Junction on Monday night at 11 o'clock. They left the Junction on Tuesday morning at 2 o'clock, reaching Fort Yale at 12 on Wednesday, travelling day and night. Just as they reached Yale the Alexandra came up and they came down by her at once, reaching this city at 9 yesterday morning.

Business is quiet on the creek, money being scarce and very little dust in circulation, it being bought up by the bankers, whose paper is the chief medium.

A few claims are paying among which is the Aurora, which took out on Thursday last 700 ounces for two or three days washing.

Provisions of all kinds are in large quantity on the creek and are sold for less than cost, laid down in some cases at 30¢ per bushel. Sugar, 40¢ to 50¢; Flour, 30¢ to 35¢; Candles, 60¢ to 75¢; Rubber Boots, \$12 to \$13. The usual price for drinks is 25¢ and cigars can be bought for 12½¢ each at Middleton or Barkerville. Liquors are in large supply on the Creek.

The weather for the last two or three weeks was very rainy; on the way down between the creek and the Mouth had a heavy hail storm. The roads were very soft down to the Junction; below they were in good condition.

Mr. Smith is on his way down with 2400 ounces of gold dust for McDonald & Co. He will probably arrive here to-morrow evening.

LETTER FROM CARIBOO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

RICEFIELD, July 14th.

I shall only give you a short and hasty sketch of what is going on, leaving the imagination of your readers to fill it in.

RED-ROCK FLUME CO.

The Williams Creek Red-rock Flume Co. have now about 460 feet of ground prepared, and that amount of flume will be laid by Tuesday next. The Company, as constituted, is as follows:

Chairman—F. K. Kingston, Esq. Directors—H. N. Steele, Esq., F. Laumeister, Esq., S. Pim, Esq., James Orr, Esq., O. Ross, Esq., D. Grier, Esq., Wm. Farron, Esq., Mr. Walker, Barrister, Esq., and Council—Mr. Dewdney has got the charge of the Ditch as Engineer, and has also the Surveying of the Company's works.

Some of the stock has already been transferred at a premium, and the contracts for the work are of a most satisfactory nature.

THE ANTLER FLUME CO.

Have about 150 or 200 feet prepared and running. The work is very heavy in consequence of the great amount of hard rock which has to be blasted. Some excellent prospects were obtained in a portion of the flume already laid.

A scheme is on foot for employing Jack-of-Clubs Lake, where a large amount of gold is no doubt deposited. Some very rich creeks flow into it. I shall give full particulars when the plans of the projectors are more fully developed. If the scheme is consummated about 30 miles of Willow River and the lower portion of Williams Creek will be drained. If this is ever accomplished great results may be calculated upon. In my next letter I shall give you further details.

The news of the creek is much the same as that mentioned in my last letter.

THE ASSIZES

Have closed, and a considerable amount of business has been got through with. Some very amusing cases relieved the usual monotony of *Nisi Prius*.

The miners of the creek have greeted with much satisfaction the news which appeared in your columns regarding Mr. Cox. Great fears were lately entertained that he had lost his life, as the report of his capture circulated like wild-fire.

CREDIT STOPPED.—His Excellency the Governor has notified the public and heads of Departments through the columns of the *Gazette*, that in future with a view to regularity and economy in the disbursement of public monies, the head of any department requiring the performance of any service or the supply of any articles for office use, will be required to submit to the Colonial Secretary for approval, a requisition in a form to be supplied, and all expenditure incurred and claims made, otherwise than in accordance with such regulation will be subject to disallowance.

MISS BAILEY.—The cause of the delay in Miss Bailey's marriage is owing to the gentleman—a Spanish duke—being a Catholic. Until the Pope declares the lady's marriage with Sir John Crampton null, she remains, in the eyes of the church, religiously, if not legally, bound to him. It is, however, thought that the great interest which will be brought to bear may induce his Holiness to be merciful. It is said the Empress Eugenie and the Queen of Spain were great promoters of the step. Miss Bailey was persuaded to take, and through their influence a happy termination to the affair may be hoped for.

NAVAL.—H.M.S. *Camelion* was at Guaymas and H.M.S. *Columbine* at Mazatlan, June 4th.

THE CONVYNT SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

This interesting examination came off on Wednesday in the presence of a large number of spectators. The scholars were tastefully dressed, and the place was ornamented with a variety of flowers and shrubbery. The young ladies made a very creditable appearance, and went through what might be termed almost an arduous ordeal. From natural philosophy to English grammar, from modern history to Grecian antiquities, from French exercises to English dialogues, from geography to arithmetic, from music to mythology. The Right Reverend Bishop Demers presided over the examination; the correctness of the answers and general demeanor of the pupils reflect the highest credit on the Sisters. A little after twelve a recess took place till half-past one, when His Excellency and family attended. The extemporised apartment during the afternoon was crowded with ladies, and the educational exercises seemed to afford general delight. At the conclusion His Excellency distributed a large number of prizes and Mrs. Kennedy graciously placed the laurel wreath on the brows of the successful. The following list is the result of the examination:—

First Class.

GOOD CONDUCT—1st (Governor's) premium, Emma O'Brien, 2nd, Mary A. Murphy. RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION—1st (Bishop's) premium, Mary A. Murphy; 2nd, Emily Henderson.

ASSIDUITY—1st, Rosy Solomon; 2nd, Mary A. Murphy. EXCELLENCE—Rosy Solomon; Matilda Allard.

ENGLISH PERSPICUITY—Rosy Solomon and Clara Sires, ex æquo. ENGLISH GRAMMAR—2nd division—1st, Cecilia McQuade, M. A. Murphy, and Florence Marks, ex æquo; 2nd, Marie David and Matilda Allard, ex æquo; 3rd, Martha Laumeister, Annie McQuade and Frances Mayers, ex æquo; 4th, Matilda Allard.

GEOGRAPHY—1st division—Rosy Solomon; 2nd division—2d, Cecilia McQuade, Marie David and Mary Kelly, ex æquo; 2nd, Florence Marks, Martha Booth and Emily Henderson, ex æquo; 3rd, Frances Mayers, Annie McQuade and Mary Ann Cameron, ex æquo; 4th, Martha Laumeister.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION—1st, Matilda Allard and M. A. Murphy, ex æquo; 2nd, Florence Marks and Mary Kelly, ex æquo. BOTANY—1st, Rosy Solomon and Cecilia McQuade, ex æquo; 2d, Marie David and Clara Sires, ex æquo.

METAPHYSICS—1st, Rosy Solomon and Florence Marks, ex æquo; 2d, Emma O'Brien and Clara Sires, ex æquo. ARITHMETIC—1st division—1st, M. A. Murphy and Marie David, ex æquo; 2d, Florence Marks; 3d, Mary Hutchinson and Clara Sires, ex æquo; 2d division—1st, Annie McQuade and Matilda Laumeister, ex æquo; 2d, Sarah Hutchinson.

WRITING—1st, Matilda Allard; 2d, M. A. Murphy. COMMON SUBJECTS—1st, Matilda David; 2d, Cecilia McQuade; 3d, M. A. Murphy and Emily Henderson, ex æquo.

ANCIENT HISTORY—1st, Marie David and M. A. Murphy, ex æquo; 2d, Annie McQuade. HISTORY OF ENGLAND—1st, Mary Kelly and Florence Marks, ex æquo; 2d, Frances Mayers.

GRECIAN ANTIQUITIES—1st, Martha Booth and Frances Mayers, ex æquo; 2d, Mary Kelly and Eliza Wainward.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC—1st, Frances Mayers, ex æquo; 2d, Florence Marks and Emma O'Brien, ex æquo. VOCAL MUSIC—1st, Eliza Wainward and Emma O'Brien; 2d, Clara Sires and M. A. Murphy, ex æquo.

DRAMA—1st, Martha Booth; 2d, Marie McIntee, Frances Mayers, Martha Laumeister and Bertha Mayers, ex æquo. FRENCH—1st division—Marie David and Matilda David, ex æquo; 2d, Rosy Solomon.

FRENCH COMPOSITION—1st, Marie David and Matilda David, ex æquo; 2d, Marie David and M. A. Murphy, ex æquo; 3d, Bertha Booth and Bertha Mayers.

Second Class: GOOD CONDUCT—(Governor's) premium, Jane Huston and Maggie Gillen, ex æquo; 2d, Annie McQuade. EXCELLENCE—1st, Sarah Gardiner and Clara Caiverson, ex æquo. 2d, Eliza Wainward and Annie Wainward, ex æquo.

GRAMMAR—1st division—1st, Annie Wainward and Emily Eyre, ex æquo; 2d, Carrie Huston and Eliza Wainward, ex æquo; 3d, Sarah Gardiner and Cecilia McCann, ex æquo. GEOGRAPHY—1st division—1st, Eliza Lichtenstein and Wainward; 2d, Bertha Mayers; 3d, Teresa Lichtenstein; 4th, Sarah Gardiner.

GRECIAN HISTORY—1st, Mary Barry; 2d, Jane Huston and Bertha Mayers, ex æquo; 3d, Carry Huston; 4th, Emily Eyre. SPELLING—1st, Bertha Mayers and Teresa Lichtenstein, ex æquo; 2d, Phoebe York and Cecilia McCann.

ARITHMETIC—1st, Emma Marks; 2d, Mary Barry and Annie Wainward, ex æquo. READING—1st, Cecilia McCann. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC—1st, Jane Huston and Matilda, ex æquo; 2d, Eliza Todd. VOCAL MUSIC—2d Division—Teresa Lichtenstein; 2d, Maggie Gillen.

WRITING—1st, Clara Cameron and Eliza Todd, ex æquo; 2d, Annie Falker. Third Class: EXCELLENCE—1st, Rebecca Solomon; 2d, Grace Wainward; 1st, Pauline Laumeister; 2d, Mary Ellen McCann.

GEOGRAPHY—1st, Sarah Cohen and Pauline Laumeister, ex æquo; 2d, Annie Holden. APPLICATION.—1st, Matilda LeGrange; 2d, Catherine O'Dwyer. READING.—1st Division—1st, Matilda LeGrange, Pauline Laumeister, Sarah Cohen, M. O'Dwyer, ex æquo; 2d, Mary Gillian and Isabella Gillian, ex æquo; 3d, Emily Ridley and Adelaide Catman, ex æquo. 2d Division—1st, Augusta Cohen and Charlotte Bidley, ex æquo; 2d, R. Myers and Rosina Lewis; 3d, Adeline Cook.

WRITING.—1st, Annie Holden; 2d, Kate O'Dwyer and Eliza Todd, ex æquo. MR. GLADSTONE UPON REFORM.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has published as a pamphlet his recent speech on the Bill for the Extension of the Suffrage, with the following preface:—

"In this speech will be found the expression of an opinion that the Legislature should exclude from the franchise on two grounds only. First, it should exclude those who are presumably in themselves unfitted to exercise it with intelligence and integrity. Secondly, it should exclude those with respect to whom it might appear that, though no personal disabilities could be alleged against them, yet political danger might arise from their admission; as, for example, through the disturbance of the equilibrium of the constituent body, or through virtual monopoly of power in a single class.

"General statements of principle, advanced in debate, if they are such as, in the view of candid minds, to require explanation, ought to find it in the context of the speech which contains them.

Objection has been taken, and even alarm expressed, with respect to the breadth of the particular statement now in question. I cannot make any other reply than to publish it as it was delivered, together with its context, and to leave it, subject only to equitable allowance for faults of hasty expression, to the discerning consideration of the reader.

"Another objection I could more readily have conceived, namely, that a proposition, apparently of wide scope, is reduced by large and scarcely definable exceptions within rather narrow limits. Still, the exceptions appeared along with the proposition, and formed part of it.

"If, indeed, I am asked whether it was a deliberate and studied announcement, I reply that it was not; it was drawn forth on the moment by a course of argument from the opponents of the measure, which appeared to assume that the present limitations of the franchise, disavowed as they have been by such an accumulation of authority, required no defense from their newly-issued advocates, and were to be accepted without inquiry by themselves, at least presumptively, good and normal. But I am aware that this circumstance, if the opinion be blamable, will afford no apology.

"Further, I spoke with reference to the present, or rather indeed with a view to retrieve arrears of the past, and neither in the one or the other case, I think, reason permitted me to attempt the solution of problems of real intricacy which belong wholly to the future, and which are little likely to become practical except for another generation.

"I regret, the manner in which my declaration has been interpreted, it is chiefly because of its tendency to produce in other quarters an exaggerated estimate, likely when brought down to the dimensions of fact, to cause disappointment.

"The question is whether the statement be gratuitous and startling novelty, or whether it is not rather the practical revival of a strain which, five years ago, was usual and familiar; which had then derived abundant countenance from the very highest organs of political articulation, and which now only sounds strange because within that period it has fallen into desuetude.

"As the opinion of an individual, the whole matter is of trifling consequence. But the consistency of parties and of Parliaments is a subject of weight and moment, for upon this depends that store of public confidence which is of such inestimable necessity and of such inestimable value for the maintenance of our free and happy Government."

CONCERT.—The programme for Mrs. Swainson Willis' concert on Monday evening, has been submitted. Several amateurs of acknowledged ability will lend their aid to Mrs. Willis, and, judging from the vocal and instrumental selections made, a rare treat may be anticipated. The following is the programme: Part 1.—March from Athalie, Mendelssohn; Glee—The Tar's Song; Solo—The Spell, "Weber;" La Desolacion Improvisat, "V. Wallace;" Vocal Solo: Rousseau's Dream, with variations, "H. Jee;" Vocal Duett. Part 2.—Soprano Pathétique, "Beethoven;" Solo—Tempest of the Heart, "H. Trovatore;" Glee—When Evening's Twilight; Half hours with Spohr; Solo—Danish National Air; Vocal solo; Valse a salon, "Thalberg;" God save the Queen. Accompaniments by Professor St. Clair.

"THE ISLAND GOLD DIGGINGS."—Everybody is asking what about the good \$5 to \$8 diggings, stated by Mr. Brown, the leader of the exploring expedition, to have been found in Cowichan. It is now more than a month since the discovery was announced with a grand flourish of trumpets; but since that time the most mysterious silence has been maintained in reference to the hidden treasures. Have there really any valuable diggings been found, and is the committee fearful of throwing them open to the public, lest a rival to Victoria should spring up at the new town-site on Maple Bay—or is the whole thing a palpable "sell" got up only to give a delusionary interest to the otherwise stale announcements in the report of the exploration party? We would like to know.

July 26th, by the Rev. Ed. A. A. Church, to Mrs. W. T. to Mary of the late James Jackson. 23rd inst., Mr. Henry Prosser. 24th inst., the wife of I. 25th inst., the wife of I. 26th inst., the wife of I.