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The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 17, 1865.

ENGLISH TOPICS.

The recent case of Muller in England brought out with an intensity that was absolutely painful to witness, that morbid taste for the horrible and the mysterious which seems to form so large an ingredient in the Anglo-Saxon character. From the London Times downwards the press has been producing sensational articles on the subject for the last two or three months, and the hanging of the murderer has afforded as much excitement to the reading public, if we might judge from the elaborate reports of the affair, as it has to the pick-pocket, garrotting rable that gathered around Newgate during the night preceding and the morning of the execution. The intense interest in Muller's affair was not, however, confined to England. In Germany his case was taken up as one demanding almost a national protest, and the Dukes of Saxe Weimar and Saxe Coburg Gotha, and it is said "even the King of Prussia" sent to the Queen at Windsor Castle, telegrams praying for his respite. In the meantime the German mind was wrought up to a high pitch of indignation against Englishmen generally—some of the newspapers going so far as to assert that the execution of Muller was merely an opportunity of showing to Germany how furious was Great Britain's hate to the people who drove the Danes out of Schleswig-Holstein. It is rather curious to note what importance is attached to common-place things when done in an uncommon-place manner. Murders are committed almost every day in the week. Scores of human beings continue to die of starvation in the very presence of London's wealth, but there is barely a question asked and scarcely sufficient interest evinced by the public to read the announcement. But a German tailor kills a banker's clerk in a railway carriage, steals from the deceased a watch and a hat, and disposes of the body, in three minutes, and immediately England and Germany are convulsed to their centres.

The Australian imbroglio has been so far settled, that the Imperial Government intends, subject to the approval of Parliament, to put a stop to any further transportation of convicts to the interdicted country. Another colony has, however, to take the place of Western Australia. "It remains," says the London Times, "to find a substitute for transportation to Australia, and it would be much to be regretted if this inquiry should be hastily foreclosed. The abandonment of Western Australia as a penal settlement does not dispose of the theory of penal settlements, or answer any one of the many arguments that have been advanced in their favor. The comparative advantages of an additional convict prison on a very large scale and of a new convict establishment on some uninviting coast have still to be balanced. If economy were the only thing to be considered, and if turning thieves loose in a densely peopled country were not a wasteful practice, we should keep our convicts at home, for the prodigious expense of sending them across the ocean is in itself one reason for giving up transportation to Western Australia. Other elements, however, must enter into the calculation, and among them must be numbered the far more profitable investment which a newly-occupied country offers for their labor. It was to this that New South Wales owed its early prosperity." All this would lead us to the conclusion that the first thing the Home Government has now to do is to find out some new colony which does not conjoin with a fastidious race of people, and which is in want of manual labor. Of the outlying dependencies of the British Empire, there are, we apprehend, but two that would be likely in this respect to seriously attract the attention of the Imperial authorities—the Falkland Islands and the Island of Vancouver. The great probability is, however, that the latter will be most considered, and we would not be at all surprised to hear at any time an intimation from the Home Government on the matter. Although the Times favors sending convicts to new countries, it recognises the very conflicting wants of a small population with those of a large one. What might be good for the 16,000 people of Western Australia, with its \$60,000 revenue, would be a most intolerable evil to the other Australian colonies with their 1,300,000 of a population, and their revenue of £6,300,000. Whatever may be the proper solution of the difficult problem of England—what she shall do with her criminals—of one thing we must feel satisfied—the gracious yielding of the mother country to the not over-courteous demands of the Australian colonists. Last year the Imperial authorities abandoned, at the instance of the Australians, the intention of sending an increased number of convicts to the amount of 1,500 annually, and came back to the old average of 500. The relinquishment of this last claim, shows how deferential the English Government has become to colonial wishes.

The quarrel between the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales, in reference to

customs duties on the Murray river, was very nearly culminating in a regular battle between the officials of both countries. A "punt" from the Victoria side was seized for duties by the New South Wales officials, when a force of police was immediately sent by the Victorian authorities to retake it. Fortunately diplomacy instead of firearms was resorted to, and the affair terminated without bloodshed. The want of a defined system in England's colonial policy is, in consequence of this never-ending dispute severely censured by a portion of the English press, and the same remarks are made about Victoria and New South Wales as about Vancouver Island and British Columbia—that it was "stupid to make two colonies where one would have sufficed." If it was stupid to divide the enormous territory of the two principal Australian colonies, what must have been the action which separated Vancouver Island as a colony from the mainland? The only remedy which the press points out for the difficulty, and to prevent future disagreeable complications, is a federation of all the Australian colonies, in imitation of the British North American Provinces. To this thing are evidently coming, and with a combined trade of £57,000,000—more than double that of Canada and the other Provinces—no insignificant Federal power would be the result.

CANADA.

Our exchanges are to December 3rd, but contain little of interest.

Hon. O. Mowatt had been gazetted Vice Chancellor. Hon. P. Howland had been appointed Postmaster General.

The Globe publishes a lengthy description of the fine new printing offices lately presented to Hon. Geo. Brown, and gives a large wood-cut of the edifice, a description of which appeared in the Colonist some time since.

Fires still continue to occur frequently in Canada. Property had been destroyed by this cause in a great many different towns of late.

The Globe advocates the name of 'British America' for the new Colonial Confederation.

Hon. D'Arcy McGee was seriously ill.

The Fenian conspiracy still occupies the attention of the Canadian papers. There can be no doubt that a reasonable society under that name exists in Canada, having wide-spread ramifications.

The Macdonald Dorion government effected an annual saving of \$6,000 when Mr. Malcolm Cameron was appointed Queen's Printer. The hon. Wm. McDougall, Provincial Secretary, is investigating the question of the public printing.

St. James Cathedral, Toronto, had received a chime of bells from Troy, N. Y., weighing 4,800 lbs., and costing \$15,000 when placed in the tower.

The Globe says it has been estimated that the crop of barley in Upper and Lower Canada is about 6,000,000 bushels, and of this at least five-sixths must find its way into the American market.

FROM MATAMORAS.

The steamer Mexico arrived at Havana on the 8th instant, seven days from Matamoras. A most iniquitous transaction occurred on this steamer while there. One Townsend, pretending to have been sent by the American Consul, came on board and changed the flag and papers of the steamer from American to Mexican, and this was done without the usual formalities. The crew were neither paid off nor discharged, nor were they allowed to go ashore. They were compelled by threats to aid in navigating the steamer to this port, where they were turned adrift, and having come ostensibly under the Mexican flag our consul was unable to interfere in their behalf. The poor fellows are destitute. Some of them have been able to work their way to different parts of the United States. If Pierce, our consul at Matamoras, was really cognizant of the transaction, he is very much to blame, especially as the steamer will now be used in the service of the Confederates.

SAN DOMINGO.

From Santo Domingo we have an account of a skirmish at Oibo, where, it is said, the Spanish troops under General Baldomero Calleja attacked a large force of rebels and drove them in retreat for a considerable distance till they were dispersed.

From Santiago de Cuba we learn that a Spanish naval expedition disembarked at Puerto Cabello and captured an intrenchment, several small vessels and a large quantity of hides and tobacco.

NASSAU.

The Corsica, which arrived at Havana Nov. 4th, from Nassau, brought the following news:

The Wild Rover, from Bermuda, came to the mouth of Nassau harbor, and after a short delay left again. It was reported that she had on board Lieutenant Brain and the rest of the Roanoke pirates, and that she had attempted to get into Wilmington, but was driven off.

There had been many departures of blockade runners for Dixie, among them the Beatrice and Gem, which latter was obliged to return, having met and fled before one of our cruisers. The Star was about to sail. Several new blockade runners had arrived from England and Canada, among them the Blenheim, Banabee No. 3, Falcon, Helen, Virginia, Armstrong, Julia, Wild Rover, Caroline, and Marion. The other arrivals had been chiefly from Charleston, with which port the trade seems uninterrupted.

Mr. Burnaby assures us that there is no truth in the report which was current on Monday, that he had been selected by the Executive to father the Estimates in the House of Assembly.

JAPAN.

The following are the terms of the Convention recently concluded between the Allied Powers and Japan:

1. Henceforward all ships of all countries passing through the Straits of Simonosaki shall be treated in a friendly manner. Ships shall be allowed to purchase coal, provisions, wood and water, and every other necessary. As the harbor of Simonosaki is subject to violent winds and currents, people suffering from a stress of weather shall be allowed to land without apposition.

2. Not only shall new forts not be built, but no repairs shall be made to the old ones, nor shall guns be mounted thereon.

3. Although the town of Simonosaki might have been burned for fire on foreign ships, it was left standing. A ransom shall be paid for this, and, in addition, the whole expenses of the expedition shall be defrayed by the Prince, the sum to be settled by the foreign ministers at Jeddah.

4. This agreement being merely for the cessation of hostilities upon this occasion, it has nothing to do with questions affecting Chosin, which have to be settled between the Japanese government and the ministers of foreign powers.

It must be admitted that this arrangement appears in every respect satisfactory, and no doubt can exist as to the complete sincerity of Ghosin's submission.

The Inland Sea may be considered definitely opened, and the large traffic which passed through it before that Prince established a blockade at the Simonosaki Straits will doubtless now again begin to flow in its accustomed channel.

CALIFORNIA.

THE IRON-CLAD.—The pilot house has been adjusted in its proper position on the Camanche and the principal work on her is accomplished. Nothing is now left to be done but put on the finishing touches, which will probably require two or three weeks, when she will be turned over to the Government.

FITZMORRIS THE ASSASSIN.—James Fitzmorris, who made the murderous assault on Haight, the gold-pen maker, was to-day held to answer before the county court to the charge of assault to murder. His bail was fixed at \$5,000. The testimony against him was of the most positive character.

UNFORTUNATE.—A young man named S. Barclay, a passenger on the Sierra Nevada, while laboring under sea sickness, and in the act of "casting up his accounts" over the ship's rail, lost a purse from his breast pocket, containing \$37, into the sea. Rather a heavy account to settle.

CONTRIBUTION FROM SEATTLE.—Rev. D. Bagley of Seattle, W. T., handed to officer D. B. Brown the sum of \$130 as a contribution from the loyal people of that town to the United States Christian Commission. The money was handed to the association to-day.

HAYS' PIRATE-SHIP.—A partial examination in case of Michael Hayes, charged with attempting to fit out a piratical expedition, was held yesterday before General McDowell. The testimony elicited is not yet to be made public.

MR. CHAS. WHEATLEIGH will commence a brief engagement at Maguire's Opera House, on Saturday, in a new extravaganza, entitled the "Enchanted Forest."

FAREWELL TO MRS. LIGHTON.—Mrs. W. H. Lighton took her farewell benefit, previous to her departure for the Eastern States, at Maguire's Opera House, on the 30th ult.

MR. AND MRS. CHAS. KEAN, with Mr. Coppin and company, are expected to commence their farewell engagement at Maguire's Opera House on the 9th or 10th of January.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

A GOVERNOR IN TROUBLE.—Some of the New Brunswick papers do not give Governor Gordon credit for being any too generous in paying his little bills; especially those for dinner and supper parties when travelling. At the meeting of the Albert County Sessions the other day, we are told by the Telegraph, that an application from Mr. Samuel Gross, to reimburse him five pounds for expenses incurred in providing a lunch for His Excellency and suite, on the occasion of the Governor's official visit to the county, was not complied with by the Sessions. It is disgraceful that this bill should be hawked about in the way it has been—sent to His Excellency, payment demanded from those who ordered the dinner; from those who were honored by His Excellency's invitation; and finally sent to the Sessions as a charge against the Parish! and refused payment by all.

A NICE LITTLE ROW.—There is said to be an irrepressible conflict raging between some of the high powers at Fredericton. A man was brought up before the Mayor, charged with enticing soldiers to desert, but was acquitted. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, so report goes, sent for his Worship and complained that justice had not been meted out to the offender, high words passed and both parties used expressions more striking than classic. The Governor is said to have made use, in a general sense, of language not very complimentary to the people of New Brunswick, and Mr. Beckwith retorted with some remarks about the military, which Major Sewell called upon him either to apologise for or to retract. Mr. Beckwith is not the man to do either, and this part of the dispute has been referred to the consideration of the General at Halifax. 'Tis a pretty quarrel as it now stands. We hope the Mayor will not address the Governor in French.—St. John's Globe.

PERU.

Dates from Callao reach to the 28th of November.

As has been before mentioned, the South American Congress opened on the 14th of November. The Congress has since then had frequent sittings. The greatest harmony prevailed, and while many matters of importance for the different States had been introduced, and by and by would receive full attention, the one question of highest importance was that relating to the difficulty with Spain. The certain news last mail that very strong reinforcements from Spain were now at hand had excited the people in the strongest manner, and the necessity of immediate action on all hands was urged on the Government. This necessity President Pezet seemed to ignore, and he was about the most unpopular man in the whole country at that time. He himself seemed to be quite aware of his position, and fearing an outbreak of the people, had guns placed at the entrance of the palace and had strengthened his guards.

The Congress had taken up the state of affairs energetically, and on the evening of

the 26th November closed their conference by resolving unanimously that the Government of Peru must—

1st. Proceed immediately to give the necessary instructions for recovery of the Chincha, and give account to Congress within eight days; and

2d. That the President of Peru shall have no power to make any treaty or have any terms with the Cabinet of Madrid until the islands have been given up by Spain or taken by the force of the Republic.

This resolution was arrived at on the evening of the 26th. On the 27th the President went down to Callao and ordered all the fleet to get up steam and proceed on a cruise for exercise. Among the vessels that went to sea was the new ironclad Loa, a vessel as she is now of immense value in war and calculated to do very effective damage both as a ram and as a fighting ship.

While the vessels were maneuvering in Callao Bay an American vessel from the Chincha came to anchor, bringing the news that on the night of the 25th or morning of the 26th November the Triunfo, Admiral Pinzoa's frigate, was totally destroyed by fire at her anchorage at the islands. This news was confirmed by another vessel which arrived the same afternoon, and since by other ships.

The people were impatiently waiting orders from Lima for the fleet to proceed to the Chincha and engage the remaining frigate and gunboats, and to occupy the islands. Why there should be delay was unaccountable. By next mail we shall have important news on this subject, effect not only the interests of Peru, but of all connected with that coast in whatever relations.

On the 27th November the new steamer Payara arrived from Liverpool at Callao via Valparaiso in 31 days, 14 hours and 59 minutes.—The quickest voyage ever made.

From Montevideo we have news by the Payta that the ship Homeward Bound, which left the Tyne on the 4th of April last, with coal for Callao, and which for some time had been given up for lost, had been dimasted and everything on the deck clean swept, near Cape Horn, after a favorable passage so far; that she had drifted for 85 days, and finally had got into Motovideo.

The Spanish flag steamer of the Chincha having been burned, the greatest impatience was manifested by the people of Peru for an immediate attack by their new superior fleet. The Peruvian Congress passed a resolution on the 26th of November ordering an immediate attack, and on the next day the Peruvian fleet went to sea on a trial trip. President Penet showed signs of hesitation about attacking the Spanish, and his palace had been fortified with artillery against an attack by the populace.

ITALY.

"Letters from Rome," says a Turin correspondent, "show the interest with which the inhabitants of the Eternal City follow the debates of the Italian Chamber. I have seen myself a clandestinely printed report of the first sittings of the present parliamentary session, brought here by a friend who has just arrived from Rome. This gentleman told me that the reports were regularly found every evening either on the staircases of the houses or on the tables of cafes and restaurants, no doubt left there by the mysterious agents of the Roman committee."

A "CONVENTION" BETWEEN ITALY AND ROM.—A letter from Turin in the Independence says:—"An arrangement has just been concluded with the Court of Rome, unfortunately having reference to an affair upon which neither of the two parties can congratulate itself. The Pontifical Government restores to Italy 300 convicts belonging to the provinces which formed part of the States of the Church. The Pope hitherto wished to keep them; he has at length summoned the Italian Government to take them, threatening in case of refusal to set them free on the frontier. They have been received with a strong guard at Genoa."

MILAN, Nov. 13.—The Perseveranza publishes a correspondence from Venice, dated the 11th inst., stating that on the 8th inst. a band of insurgents attacked the Austrians near Mantua. Several Austrians were killed, and wounded; among the former being a lieutenant. The insurgents had one wounded, who remained a prisoner in the hands of the Austrians. The correspondence further states that an engagement took place on the 10th, in the district of Orsina, near Moggi, between the Austrians and insurgents.

TURIN, Nov. 17.—The Treat Gazette of to-day says:—"As soon as the insurrectionary movement yesterday morning between the Italian troops and the Garibaldians at Bagolino, in Northern Lombardy. Both sides lost many men in killed and wounded. The conflict terminated in the capture of a part and dispersion of the rest of the Garibaldians."

TURIN, May 17.—The official Gazette of to-day says:—"As soon as the insurrectionary movement broke out in Friuli certain persons sought to agitate the country and involve the Government in a conflict, of the expediency of which it alone can judge. The Government has manifested its disapprobation of this inconsiderate movement, and stated the real position of affairs, in order to deter credulous people from imprudent attempts for the success of which the means are insufficient. A rumor has been spread that the Government is favorable to the movement. As a proof to the contrary we may state that a large band having been formed for the purpose of the frontier of Friuli and the Tyrol, some of its members have been captured and disarmed by force, towards whom the ordinary course of justice will be pursued." The same paper adds that it is impossible for the Government to permit a violation of the frontier, nor will the Government on any account allow itself to be involved or compromised in the movement. Several municipalities have offered to pay the land tax in advance.

ECUADOR.

This Republic was quiet.

On the evening of the 18th November, shortly after 10 o'clock, an alarming fire broke out at Tumaco, the boundary town between the United States of Columbia and Ecuador. The fire, supposed to be the work of an incendiary, commenced in the centre of the town and spread with extraordinary fury in every direction, destroying altogether 87 houses. During the fire many robberies were perpetrated by the negroes, and several canoe loads of valuables were seen being taken across the channel separating the island of Tumaco from the mainland. Losses between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

DAWDED.—Dr. Wood, R. N., who came out to this colony in H.M.S. Hecate and was subsequently in H. M. S. Plumper, under Capt. Richards, was drowned lately in the Bay of Tunis, in the Mediterranean. Dr. W. was well known to many of our Victorians, and his sudden death will be much lamented. Particulars of the sad accident appear in another part of our columns.

ENGLISH ITEMS.

The Miss Thackerays have presented to the scholars of the Charterhouse the iron bedstead which belonged to their father, and on which he died. It is now in the sleeping room of the head monitor in Gown Boys. On it is inscribed a legend in Latin, from the pen of Archdeacon Hale.

SOOTHPORT, Nov. 19.—The brig Chimera, from Africa, laden with palm oil, went ashore on the Horse Bank, and became a total wreck during the night. All the crew drowned but one man, who was taken off by the life boat this morning.

We have had, writes a Paris correspondent, a great collection of Americans here during the last week—the captain of the Florida, Messrs. Slidell, Mason, and others. I do not know what was plotting. I borrow the expression from one of the party—in the billiard-room of the Grand Hotel, but, judging from the smiling looks of the Southerners who were there assembled, they evidently consider that things just now look very well for them.

The Army and Navy Gazette says that, in consequence of the recent capture by a Federal cruiser of a distinguished officer of her Majesty's navy whilst in command of a blockade runner, Mr. Seward addresses representations, through Lord Lyons, to her Majesty's Government, which have led to a stringent order on the subject from the Admiralty.

The Daily News announces that the Government has taken a decisive resolution on the subject which has lately so agitated the free colonies of Australia. It abandons its recent policy, and transportation to the Australian continent is to be entirely discontinued.

Kohl, now in custody, charged with the Plaietow murder, is a Prussian by birth, but his family removed while he was young to Hanover, where his father is still living. Kohl first came to England in February last.

The Manchester report of yesterday's market in the Times says:—"The prevailing opinion among sellers of yarn appears to be that Mr. Lincoln is re-elected President. The prices of yarn will probably continue to advance till they have reached something near to the high average they had attained before the late panic set in."

ANGLO-INDIAN TELEGRAPH.—A convention has been concluded between the British Government and the Porte for the working of the Anglo-Indian Telegraph. A Turkish office will be established in Paris, where the land and submarine lines meet. One wire from Constantinople will be exclusively used for Indian messages. The Brussels convention is to apply to the general service. The tariff for a single message from Constantinople to Paris will be 22f. 50c.

ACCIDENT AT TUNIS.—At Tunis a cutter of H. M. S. Orlando was swept in a squall, and eight officers, three seamen, and a marine were lost; one man only, the coxswain, was saved. It appears that on the morning of the 3d instant a cutter, having on board Lieut. R.M., Surgeon C. B. Wood, Capt. Pritchard, St. L., Midshipman DeGama, Fielding, and Kemble, Master's Assistant Hadfield, and Assistant Paymaster Stratford, together with four seamen and one marine, left the ship, on a picnic party, and while returning at three o'clock in the afternoon, under sail, a sudden squall struck the boat when about thousand yards from the shore, and upset it. Seeing that all hope of assistance was impossible, one of the seamen struck out for the shore, and was the only man saved. He was found the next morning completely exhausted and in a state of nudity, in an Arab hut, by another cutter of the Orlando, which, in tow of the French frigate Invincible's steam launch, had been sent in search of the missing boat. Up to the last accounts, nothing else had been found but a jacket belonging to Mr. Fielding, and a portion of the mast of the boat, notwithstanding the Orlando and gunboat Tyrian had been searching under steam for the missing bodies. The sudden calamity created universal sympathy in Tunis. All the foreign representatives displayed their flags half-mast, and waited upon the English consul-general to express their condolence. Mr. Fielding, one of the unfortunate young officers who perished, was one of the few survivors of the lamentable wreck of her Majesty's ship Orpheus on the coast of New Zealand.

DEATH OF LORD MANNERS.—The death of the Right Hon. John Thomas, second Baron Manners, of Foston, Lincolnshire, occurred at Hastings, on Monday last. His lordship had long been in a precarious state of health, his disease being consumption. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his eldest son, the Hon. John Thomas Manners Sulton, born May 15, 1852, now third Baron.

ANOTHER CONFEDERATE PRIVATEER.—The London Index (Confederate Organ), of Nov. 19th, announces the sailing of the new Southern cruiser Sea King, now Shenandoah, in the following language:—"We have much pleasure in being able to state that almost at the same time when the Florida was treacherously seized in Bahia harbor, the Confederate flag was hoisted on a new cruiser at least the equal of the Florida in armament, speed and general efficiency. The Shenandoah starts upon her career with every prospect of emulating the fame of her predecessors. She is commanded by Lieut. Wadell, Confederate States Navy, and a gallant staff of officers. Having received her crew and armament—everything, in fact, that constitutes her a belligerent vessel—on the high seas, far beyond any neutral jurisdiction, there can fortunately be no pretence of accusing her of any violation of municipal laws or international obligations. The name of the Sea King has been changed to Shenandoah."

COLORADO REFUGES OF AMERICA.—In the Glasgow Morning Journal we observe a notice convening a public meeting, to be held in the Trades' Hall of that city, when Levi Coffin, Esq., of the "Underground Railway," would give an account of the position and prospects of the Freedmen in America, and make an appeal on their behalf. The Rev. Dr. Massie, of London, and others, would take part in the proceedings. The meeting was declared to be in no way political but purely philanthropic.