THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

And Victoria Chronicle.

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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AGENTS.

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Holder & Hart	Comox, do
Sam't Rattle	[illegible]
Clarkson & Co	New Westminster
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do	Vanwinkle
do	Richfield
do	Barkerville
do	Camerontown
do	Clinton
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L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
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The Libel Case.

After a well fought contest of two days the libel suit instituted by Mr C. B. Young against the proprietors of this journal has been decided by an intelligent jury in our favor. The issue is in accordance with our previously formed convictions and, we believe, the opinions of the majority of our fellow citizens, and we would be willing to let the matter there rest did not the circumstances of the case call for some remarks, which the nature of our position precluded us from making before the case was ended. As public journalists, we conceived that the letter signed "Loyalist" admitted to our columns, was in the strictest sense a fair comment upon the public acts of a public man who identified himself with a dangerous political party whom it was the bounden duty of the press, and indeed of every right minded person, to expose and suppress. We say dangerous, because whatever may have been the sentiments or ulterior designs of that party, and however futile their efforts, the immediate effect of their acts would have been the recurrence of those unhappy scenes of political agitation and turmoil that have so seriously injured this country during the past three years. The letter appeared to us to be written in a more satirical than splenetic vein, and to be couched in phraseology of too general signification to affect the private reputation of the individual and others against whom it was directed, and in that view the finding of the jury on Saturday sustains us. On our own part, we disavow any attention to assail through the letter of "Loyalist" the private character of Mr Young or any of his friends; and we regret that the subsequent ill-advised course adopted by him should have led to the private disclosures made in opposing it. At his door, not ours, lies the blame. Having said thus much, we may further remark that we never have and never will be deterred through threats of legal pains and penalties from discharging what we conceive to be a public duty to the people or the flag that protects us; and so long as persons bring themselves by their public acts within the pale of legitimate criticism and censure, so long shall our columns be open to "Loyalist" or any other correspondent who may take upon himself the office of public censor. The thin skinned editor of Mr Young's organ may take us to task for the part we have taken in this affair, but homilies on the purity and *morale* of the press emanating from such a quarter carry no weight and fall with somewhat of puritanical "Praise God Barebone" grace when recalling to remembrance the count less publications of a virulent and scurrilous nature penned both by him and his protege. There may be hope however that a sudden reformation has taken place in their views, if so, the unfortunate libel case has resulted in some good, and we shall be watchful not to do violence to their feelings.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

NEW WESTMINSTER ITEMS.—We gill the follwing from *Columbian* and *Examiner*.—We have reason to believe that the Legislative Council will be called together for dispatch of business in the second week of January. It is rumored that E. H. Sanders, Esq. Stipendiary Magistrate at Yale, will have a seat in the House this Session. We hope the rumor will prove to be correct, as we believe Mr Sanders to be one of the most liberal, independent and well-meaning of his class * * * The passengers by the Enterprise, on her last trip, handed a handsome acknowledgement to Capt. Swanson, for the courtesy and liberality with which they had been treated by the Captain and Officers of the Enterprise. Samples of Green Peas, and Strawberries grown at New Westminster have been brought to the office of the *Examiner*, and ripe blackberries are to be found in the neighborhood. The claims of Mr Holbrook to the support of the Nanaimo Electors are urged by both the New Westminster journals. It is announced that the Victoria Amateurs, with the Marsh family purpose performing at the Sister Capital for the benefit of the Columbian Hospital, which is to be reciprocated by the New Westinster Club. The *Columbian* containsa flattering notice of the performances of the Victoria Amateurs, and alludes in a playful spirit of the comic song with a *strong local point*, and the faculty of our amateurs for providing a wardrobe. The *Examiner* mentions that a white hat ticketed No. 88, which had shielded the wearer's head for many a day from the summer's rays was lost at the ball at Government House supposed to have been taken by thieves. * * * Customs Receipts for week ending December 8;—Duties, $1762 00; Harbor dues, $70 12; Headmoney, $30; Tonnage dues, $260 37.—Total, $2123 09.

A ROUGH TIME—The Sir James Douglas on her last trip to the East coast was in considerable danger for about four hours. It will be remembered that she left this port the morning after the ball, during the violent southeast gale which the Enterprise and Fideliter would not venture to face. When off Cedar Hill the sea was running mountain high, and during an attempt to set one of the head sails the steamer fell into the trough of the sea and a heavy sea swept over her deck fortunately without causing further loss of life than drowning one sheep. One of the passengers, a candidate for legislative honors, seized hold of a ring-bolt with such tenacity that he was enabled to save two others, who hung on behind, from being swept away by the violence of the waves. In the meantime the water rushed down the companion way into the cabin, capsized the stove, which nearly set fire to the cabin, shot occupants out of their berths, and produced the utmost confusion and considerable alarm on board. Our informant says that he has sailed across the Atlantic several times, and also on the Black Sea, but never saw worse weather for the time it lasted. Some 15 or 20 tons of water fell on the ship's deck, and had she shipped a second sea equally heavy she would probably have foundered. Captain Clarke displayed great nerve and admirable seamanship during the critical time.

"THE STAG AT BAY."—On Saturday afternoon, Mr John Morris, C. E., the recipient, in 1860, of the letter from C. B. Young, which was introduced during the trial of the libel suit, and the publication of which has created a marked sensation in this community, approached that individual and complained that, not content with having vilified him for six years and a half, he (Young) had again applied the epithet of "ruffian" to him; he demanded a full and ample apology in a most public manner. Young at first declined to accede to the request, but the old gentleman insisted, threatening serious personal consequences if he did not comply, and an apology was given in open court upon the rendition of the verdict.

DEATH AT THE LIGHTHOUSE—Geo. N. Davies, first lightkeeper at Race Rocks, died on Friday night last, after an illness of two weeks. For nine days the flag on the rocks was raised at half-mast, but it was not observed by passing vessels, and the man was without medical attendance during his illness Davies was aged 35 years, and came to this country in 1860, in the ship Grecian, having been appointed to the position by the Liverpool Board of Trade. He leaves a wife and two children. The body was brought up on the Sir James Douglas yesterday for interment. The funeral will take place this day, at three p.m., from the residence of Mr J. Costello, Humboldt street.

☞ The steamer Active will leave San Francisco to-day for this port.

Nanaimo Election News.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The nomination, or selection, or whatever else you like to call it, of a member to represent Nanaimo in the Legislative Council, is to take place, according to announcement, on Tuesday next, at the Court House. This intelligence has come upon us about as suddenly as the exciting Fenian news which appears in late numbers of the COLONIST. The electors have had no opportunity of pledging their votes, no chance to get up a caucus, and but little show of selecting a candidate. We have no alternative, therefore, but to take the best, and what appears to us the most suitable man who offers himself. As yet only two gentlemen are spoken of in connection with the candidature. These are Mr Southgate of your city and Mr Holbrook of New Westminster. The last named gentlemen is here angling for votes, though I believe he has not the ghost of of a chance of being elected; still for aught I know to the contrary he may be quite worthy of the honor he seeks. Mr Southgate, it is rumoured, will arrive soon.

The Nanaimoites, for once, are all but unanimous in their "selection" and it is confidently expected that some benefit to the place will be gained, and that some satisfaction will be derived from *another* attempt to get a little of the public "dust" sprinkled about Coaldom. Mr Southgate is Nanaimo's choice. He is a gentleman, I am told, who is loth to legislate till all that can be said upon a subject has been said. This done, he says *aye* or *nay*, and thus sums up after all the evidence has been put in. We should like the gentleman to appear before the electors. Many of us know nothing of him only by reputation. Those who are acquainted with him recommend him to our confidence, and openly state their assurance that his conduct in the Council will justify our confidence when it is bestowed. I trust that the gentlemen who laud and support Mr Southgate have good grounds for the assertions they make, and that, should he be returned, he will prove himself to be worth the trouble and time expended in electing him.

A VOTER.

NANAIMO POLITICS—The steamer Isabel, with Hon. E. Stamp and Messrs. Southgate, Holbrook, Bayley, Mayer and others, returned from Nanaimo on Saturday evening. Mr. Holbrook's address, and a requisition and address from Mr Southgate, appear in an invalid paper published on the East Coast of the Island; but we understand that Mr Holbrook—deeming "discretion the better part of valor"—has concluded to give way to Dr. Carrall, who may be induced to oppose Mr Southgate. The latter, however, is sure of a return. At a meeting held on Saturday, Mr Southgate addressed the electors and made a most favorable impression. The selection will be held on Tuesday.

DIRECT COMMUNICATION.—We understand that during the winter months the Government steamer Sir James Douglas will go alongside the mail steamship Active, on her arrival at Victoria, when the mails, freight and passengers will be transferred to the former steamer, and brought on to New Westminster free of charge. This arrangement is intended as a temporary measure to relieve the people living on the mainland, of the serious expense and delay occasioned by the freight, &c., being landed and detained at Victoria, and will continue in force only till the old contract entered into between the late Island Government and the steamship company expires, which will, we understand, be on the 31st of March. After that date the mail steamer will renew her trips to this port under a new contract. *British Columbian.*

FLIGHTS OF FANCY—The *Columbian* says the mail steamers will not come beyond Victoria, and that the Sir James Douglas will be employed between Victoria and New Westminster to carry freight and passengers intended for the latter port *free of charge!* Of course. In addition to this liberality on the part of the Government, we hear that each head of a family at New Westminster will be presented with a fat turkey for Christmas; each matron with a set of furs; every young lady with a silk dress; the little girls with a doll each; and every good little boy with a kite—warranted to fly as high as the fancy of the editor of the *Columbian*, when treating on Governmental matters.

POLICE DEPARTMENT—In addition to the duties of stipendiary magistrate, Mr Pemberton will discharge those of Commissioner of Police, with Mr Theakstone as his second in command. Mr Welch, it is rumored, will resign.

GUBERNATORIAL—His Excellency the Governor departed for a visit to the settlements on the East Coast on Saturday, whence he will cross to New Westminster and remain there during the holidays.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec, 9.—The London *Herald* is authorized to state that the Alabama claims have been revised by the American Minister in a most conciliatory and friendly tone. They are now under consideration in in the Cabinet.

The *Globe* hints that no serious difficulty has occurred between the British Government and United States growing out of the course of the latter in not maintaining neutrality in Fenian matters; other papers discredit the report.

A committee of the Lower German Diet adopted an address to the Emperor, respectfully asking him to assist the Diet.

TRIESTE, Nov, 24.—The condition of the Empress Carlotta is unchanged, Maxmilian is expected daily.

Our Consul at Marseilles reports disastrous results from rain, and want of sunshine on the grape harvest. The vintage is inferior.

NEW YORK, Dec,10.—The Secretary of Treasury is considering the policy of discharging all female employés. There is such a pressure for appointments as to overwhelm the White House. The Departments have from 700 to 1000 more employés than necessary now.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—In the House a bill providing for the meeting of the 40th Congress on the 4th of March, passed by 127 to 30

WASHINGTON, Dec 12—General Robert Allen has been assigned to the command of the military division of the Pacific.

The Fenians.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—A Boston despatch says, a Fenian privateer successfully eluded the Federal authorities, and sailed from Newburyport several days ago for the Irish coast. The vessel is alleged to be the schooner Estella, of 700 tons, armed with a most improved destructible ordnance and a picked crew of more than 200 men, who have seen service in our iron-clads. Her officers are all men of experience.

The Fenian officers state, that before leaving for Ireland Stephens issued letters of marque and reprisal to the Estella to capture, sink and destroy all English vessels out of neutral waters. Capt Burke announced his intention of making the Atlantic too hot for the British ships and declared that the incoming Cunard steamers were to be captured at all hazards, and to that end the Estella has sailed directly in the track of the expected vessels, others will follow as chance offers and his purpose is to detail a portion of the arms and men on the Estella to the first available English vessel captured and thus improvise other privateers.

HALIFAX, Dec 11—The gunboat Malvern left here yesterday, it is supposed in search of the Fenian privateers.

Great activity exists here in naval and military circles.

Mexico.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 12—The Continental brings intelligence that the Imperialists and French evacuated Mazatlan on the 11th of Nov. The Liberal forces took possession.

The French also evacuated Durango; on their retreat they were severely handled by the Liberals; one French column was entirely cut up, losing 200 men and 3 pieces of artillery.

California.

Arrived Dec 11—Brig W D Rice, 23 days rom Nanaimo.

Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14—The steamer Cuba's mail brings news of a great consternation in Ireland on account of the Fenian troubles, and a tremendous panic has occured in Cork. The farmers are drawing their money from the banks, and requiring gold in payment for their products. They get into their possession all the gold they can scrape, and secrete it.

Eastern States.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13—The last seen of the yachts they were off Fire Island; the Vesta was leading; the Henrietta was a mile astern, and the Fleetwing still further behind; these are the yachts that started on the 11th on a race for the Isle of White—$9,000 pending as a bet.

CHICAGO, Dec. 13—The House yesterday rejected the amendment to the bill regulating the President's appointing power, intended to prevent the removal of Cabinet officers without the consent of the Senate—Ayes, 72; Nays, 81.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13—Yesterday, among the passengers per Scotia for Liverpool, were Viscount Monck, Governor General of Canada; Earl of Acilie, (?) and Mr Selkirk, British Minister to Mexico.

In the House to-day, Stevens introduced a bill to establish a civil government in North Carolina. It was referred to the territorial committee. A resolution that the post office committee inquire into the expediency of reestablishing the Southern mail company to California, was referred.

BY CABLE.

LONDON, Dec. 12—The Fenian troubles in Ireland are increasing. Another regiment has been ordered to Ireland, and will soon start.

PARIS, Dec. 12—The evacuation of Rome was virtually completed yesterday.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 13—The English detectives destroyed (?) a large collection of Fenians at Hull, The Government has taken measures to surprise them.

LONDON, Dec. 13—There was an explosion of the Colliery at Barnesley, county of York, by which over 300 persons were killed.

Mexico.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13—A despatch was received last night from Sheridan, dated New Orleans, which says affairs on the Rio Grande are in good condition. The act of Sedgwick gave rise to no complication. The Mexican Generalissimo called on me to ask me not to hold him responsible. There is not a city or State in Mexico that takes issue against the Juarez Government.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13—Two steamers sailed to-day for Vera Cruz to take the French troops to France,

Europe.

NEW YORK, December 13—*La France* speaks as follows:—"The great question of the moment is American affairs. The arrival of the next packet is looked for with intense anxiety. Till then the public mind will be influenced by any secondary indications tending to throw light upon the existing state of things. It has been remarked within a few days that American Funds are lower at London, Frankfort and New York, and the conclusion is that relations between France and the United States must be very delicate. It is also rumored that the Juarez loan is quoted lower in London.

LONDON, December 13—The colliery where an explosion occurred contained the largest pit in the district. The shaft is 27 yards from the bottom. Nearly 400 men and boys were in the mine at the time of the explosion, nearly all of whom perished. At nine p.m, December 13th, every aid was being given to rescue the survivors. Exploring parties have counted 38 bodies within a space of 50 yards. A few of the unfortunate victims have been brought out alive but badly mangled. Engineers are of opinion, owing to foul air, that there can be no more alive in the works. If so, over 300 human beings lie dead in the recesses of the pit. The excitement among the families in town is most intense. The works in the vicinity have been the scene of wailing and despair all day. A similar accident occurred some twenty years ago at the same place by which 73 lives were lost.

A second explosion occurred in the colliery at Barnsley, while the explorers were trying to save the survivors. Twenty-two persons were killed.

BARNSLEY, December 13—Another explosion occurred in this place at ten o'clock this morning, while working parties were finding and drawing out the dead. Most of the officials and a number of volunteers were in the pit, and it is feared they have all perished. The exciting scenes of yesterday were renewed. Some of the volunteers have been taken out alive. Latest despatches say the loss of life by the two explosions at Barnsley is over 400.

LONDON, December 13—A rupture between Greece and Turkey is imminent.

Eastern States.

NEW YORK, December 14—Four petitions have been presented to Congress for the impeachment of the President, all from the West, bearing in the aggregate about 20,000 names.

WASHINGTON, December 13—The settlement made by Consul Morse in London with Frazer, Trenholme & Co. has been disavowed by the United States Government. It involves many thousands of pounds sterling. They were confidential agents.

BROUGHT DOWN—The body of Mr Foord who was killed by falling from the roof of a house at Salt Spring Island, was brought down last evening for interment by his brother. A funeral notice appears elsewhere.

FOR PORTLAND.—The steamer Fideliter left at 9:30 a. m., yesterday for Portland with about a dozen passengers and some freight.