

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, August 8, 1868.

The Liberty of the Press.

In a small community such as our own, public writers are at a manifest disadvantage, from the very fact of their being individualized too much by the narrow circle who read the daily papers. The writings of an unknown author dwelling in the centre of a crowd, personally unknown, as well to those who read his articles, as to those high or low, whose actions as public men call in any way for comment, whose good deeds demand notice, or whose shortcomings deserve criticism, will always command more attention than any remarks emanating from the pen of one known to all the community, amongst whom he writes. The public are very apt to supply motives which have in fact no existence, and are too much disposed to attribute to personal feelings any marked expression of opinion coming from one well known to them. If, for instance, a member of our local press, in the course of his avocations, has to perform the unpleasant duty of holding up for public censure the public acts of any one holding office in the Colony, he is supposed by many to be writing in furtherance of some private interests; if, on the other hand, his comments be favorable, he is at once accused of servility and time serving. In large cities members of the press cannot as a general rule be identified with particular articles by the public, and as a result of this immunity from observation they are able to express themselves more freely than the writers in small towns are inclined to do. But occasions must sometimes arise, in which a public writer would be derelict in duty if he silently passed over anything in the conduct of a public man which calls forth remark; and when those occasions do arise amongst us, we shall not shrink from our duty. It is as much the boast of Englishmen that their press is bold and outspoken as that it is free and untrammelled; there is no office so high, no person so exalted as to be above criticism. It is a part of the English system of jurisprudence that all the Courts of Law are open to the public, and it would be a most dangerous retrogression to take one atom of publicity away from them. We deem it as much our duty, as it is our earnest desire to avoid and abstain from making any remarks in our columns which would in the remotest way tend to bring the judicial office into contempt. The Press, as the exponent of public sentiments, is above all other things concerned in upholding the Judiciary. The purity and impartiality of the Bench are the safeguards of the public, and any attempt on the part of the Press to influence opinion during the trial of a case is most reprehensible and calls for the severest censure. The Chief Justice of our Supreme Court has thought our report of Tuesday's proceedings, in the case of Dickson vs. Woods, worthy of commendable notice. The case was not one in which the evidence could have been given verbatim with any profit to our readers, but if we had refrained from putting on record that which was noticeable to all parties present, we should have been sacrificing the freedom of the press to our own feelings of delicacy, towards one who worthily occupies a very high position. No judge on the bench has ever been free from the remarks of the press. Witness one of the ablest and best conducted of the English weekly papers, now before us, which in commenting upon the Jamaica prosecution, says, "It seems a matter of grave regret, nay for grave complaint, against Mr Justice Blackburn's charge, that he omitted to recite 'certain words at length, and further in contrasting the ruling of the learned judge with that of the Lord Chief Justice. 'It is not a spectacle likely to enhance the respect of the English people, for law, when its highest judicial authorities speak somewhat like opposite counsel in the same premises,' and so on to the end of a powerfully written article, commenting in no mild language upon the Judge's charge to the Grand Jury. Hundreds of other instances might be quoted of similar comments, Public opinion and the press as its exponent has assisted to make the English Bench the noble institution that it is, and the bench, whilst fully justified in reproaching any approach to licentiousness in the press, must abstain from trenching upon its freedom of remark. We are glad that the Chief Justice noticed that which he thought unbecoming in our report, for it gives us the opportunity of saying, that much as we honor the dignity of the bench, and much as we respect the talents and ability of the present occupant of the bench, we cannot admit the existence of

infallibility in any mortal being, and regardless of consequences, we must speak out when necessary. It has been said by a well-known writer that an editor must be "thick skinned." We will go further and say that to do his duty, particularly in a small community, he must have no feelings, and no friends! Let a writer be bold and truthful if he would command respect, careless of offence where attack is needed, and unflinching where abuses require exposure; if he seeks the public good, where personal feelings or private grievances begin to exercise an undue influence, let him lay down the pen.

Convention.

We hear it stated, on good authority, that it is proposed to hold a Convention at Yale on the 24th of August, or thereabouts—composed of delegates from all sections of the Colony. The object of the movers in this matter, is to take no half-and-half measures; but to go to the very root of popular grievances, even if it be necessary to ask for the removal of Gov. Seymour and his satellites. Nor do they seem disposed to content themselves with applying to Gov. Seymour and his puppet councillors, but to go to headquarters for redress—to her Majesty herself, and her Ministers. Not the least among the measures with which it is suggested that the Convention shall deal, is Confederation with Canada on equitable terms, and representative institutions with responsible government, and a thorough exposure of the extravagance and worse-than-do-nothingism of the present government. We presume that a public meeting will shortly be held here for the appointment of delegates to the Convention; and we sincerely hope that the movers in the matter will meet with that cordial support from our citizens that they deserve. It is apparent to everybody that we can neither labor for liberty or prosperity so long as Gov. Seymour holds the reins of power. We have given him and his staff a fair trial and found them unfit to govern. Let us now seek a change. Let us seek it at once. The mainland from New Westminster to Cariboo is for a change. Let our island population in town and country unite with the mainland in sending delegates to the Yale Convention, and make short work of the miserable governmental incubus that paralyzes the best energies of a people. The redress of all the grievances of the Colony are nearly in the people's own hand. It is no use to complain, and not take an active part to get redress in a constitutional way. Remain passive under our present imbecile and worse than imbecile government, and the people may complain, and go on complaining, to no purpose, till doomsday. Let the people then act. Let them hold a Convention. Let the Convention give full expression to the wants and wishes of the people; and let that expression be presented to the Queen—and our word for it, success will be the result.

By Electric Telegraph.

**SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.**  
**Eastern States.**  
WASHINGTON, July 30.—In consequence of the law of Congress making large reductions in the number of seamen in the Navy, Secretary Welles has ordered a large number of vessels now in service abroad to be brought home and put out of commission.  
CHICAGO, July 31.—The Department of Agriculture has issued a report on the condition of the crops in July. Corn crop increased on the average in the South, since last year, two millions and a half acres; through the United States, thirty-two million acres. Condition of wheat about the average except in Vermont, Connecticut and Southern States. Cotton shows an average reduction of ten per cent, and the crops are reported in splendid condition with splendid prospects of the finest yield for years. Rice, oats and barley promise abundant crops.  
WASHINGTON, July 31.—The Russian Minister has received a draft for the payment of Alaska. President Johnson has officially proclaimed the ratification of the treaty by both parties concerning citizenship with Prussia.  
NEW YORK, Aug 1.—The alarming increase of mortality in this city is clearly traceable to the defective sewerage and deficiency in the supply of water for family purposes.  
BALTIMORE, Aug 1.—Reverdy Johnson and family sailed for Southampton to-day; he was escorted down the river by a large number of friends and a dozen steamers. Baron Gerolt, Russian Minister, was also aboard; Johnson responded to a toast given him, saying, "I go to England as a minister of peace, my instructions look to peace; if I am able to carry them out in the spirit in which they are given, peace will be the result." Mrs Lincoln who had been intending to go in the same steamer, was taken suddenly ill last night and did not go.  
**Japan.**  
SHANGHAI, June 30.—News from Japan says a compromise was effected between the Daimio north and south, which will probably lead to a termination of hostilities between the Mikado and Teycoon.

Europe.

PARIS, Aug 31.—An Imperial decree suspends for three months from the 1st October the collection of tonnage dues from all vessels entering French ports with cereals.  
LONDON, July 31.—Parliament was prorogued to-day. The Queen was not present and her speech was read by the Lord Chancellor. It speaks of the foreign relations as most friendly; she says there is no fear of war in Europe. No reference is made to the United States. The Abyssinian expedition is said to have vindicated the honor of the country. The failure of all attempts at rebellion in Ireland have rendered the exercise of the exceptional power granted by the two houses needless.  
The Queen thanks the Commons for the supplies voted, and congratulates them on the passage of the Irish and Scotch reform bills, the public schools bill, the bill for the purchase of the telegraph wires, and others of less importance. The speech announces that a dissolution of Parliament will take place in order that the people may reap the benefit of the now extended representative act recently provided. She is confident of their fitness for their new duties and that their service will be for the perpetuation of that civil and religious freedom which secures the institutions.  
The Times says of the session that time will only tell which shall retain their status in the change from the old to the new body. Bright will find in a new House of Commons a more congenial alliance than in the days of Palmerston and Gladstone, whose popularity yet reach to a house elected by a constituency and doomed to satisfy the requirements of another House, which may be satisfied in spite of his shortcomings with such work as the abolition of church and the punishment of electoral corruption and the condemnation of political and church abuses.  
MADRID, July 30.—Government has refused to accept the resignation of Admiral Nunez, commander of the Spanish flotilla in American waters.  
LONDON, July 31.—The recent troubles in Spain have resulted in a ministerial crisis, and it is understood that the distinguished Liberal statesman Espartero has been summoned to form a new cabinet and has gone to Madrid for that purpose. Discontent continues to prevail in Spain, and threatens to break out into armed insurrection at any moment. Disaffection has also appeared among the officers of the fleet.  
ST. PETERSBURG, July 31.—Under the preliminary arrangements made for peace with Bokhara, the Khan is at once to pay the Russian Government half a million of silver roubles as indemnity for the services of the war.  
NEW YORK, Aug 1.—Reports from the south of France, Hungary and Belgium say that the wheat crop is being harvested and is very abundant.  
The Grand Duchy of Baden has declined the invitation of Bavaria to take part in a military convention of the South German States.  
The Princess Carlotta has passed into a state of violent madness, her fixed idea being that she is kept a prisoner by her family, and that she must escape and go to her husband at Miramar.  
A council of Austrian Ministers has definitely settled that the title of the Austrian Emperor is the A. H. Hungarian monarch.  
The Holy See is disposed to recommend to the Austrian Bishops an attitude of conciliation; and in particular that they should avoid all steps which could be construed into interference in political affairs.  
LONDON, Aug 2.—Cable of 1866 ceased work this afternoon. Tests show the fault to be at New Foundland. It is probably damaged by icebergs.

The Dominion.

ST. JOHN'S NEW BRUNSWICK, July 31.—A strong anti-union meeting was held at Yarmouth yesterday. Resolutions were passed expressing indignation at the refusal of the Imperial Parliament to redress the wrongs of Nova Scotia, and threatening to take high handed measures for the relief of the country from its present condition.  
MONTREAL, Aug 1.—A dispatch from Halifax says Lowe has published a letter repudiating the violent articles published by the Anti-Union party of Nova Scotia.

South America.

LONDON, July 31.—Dispatches received from Rio announce the capture of the fortress of Humatia. No particulars as to terms of surrender.  
From Paraguay are reports of a severe engagement, in which the allies are reported repulsed with heavy loss. The same account reports the Paraguayans at Humatia as being very strong.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 3.—The steamer Arizona sailed for Aspinwall to-day, with 165 bars of railroad iron for the Pacific Railroad Company and of the below sailing ship.  
The steamer Alaska sails for China next Saturday, and will be followed by the Legal Tender, regular at \$69@70, and Gold, \$145.

Arrived, steamship Sacramento, Panama; ship Blue Jacket, 148 days from New York; ship Lady Hutz (or Hulse) 57 days from Valparaiso; ship Nevada, 142 days from Boston; bark Prosper, 160 days from Marseilles; schr Parallel, Port Madison.  
Sailed, steamer John L Stephens, Portland and Victoria; schr Clara Light, Port Townsend; bark Scotland, Seattle.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.—The Board of Health met to-day to take measures to prevent the further spread of the small pox. One hundred and forty-six cases have thus far been reported, forty-eight of which has occurred since July 17th. It was resolved to rescind the order for compulsory removal to the pest house, and in lieu thereof to hang a yellow flag over the infected houses. One thousand four hundred persons have been vaccinated at the health office since June 1st.  
The San Francisco Glass Works, on Townsend street, was this morning destroyed by fire. Loss, \$10,000. They will be rebuilt immediately.  
H. Todd has sued the Alta for \$25,000 damages for an alleged libel published a few days ago and having relation to plaintiff's arrest for grand larceny.  
The steamship Ajax which left Mazatlan July 14th, arrived here this afternoon. H. McKenney, second officer, and Peter Burke and Antonio Pedro, seamen, were drowned while attempting to land a passenger at Cape St Lucas on June 27th, by the upsetting of the boat amid the heavy surf and breakers. The bodies of McKenney and Burke were found among the rocks the following day, much mutilated.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 27.—Private dispatches have been received in town announcing that the Senate has indefinitely postponed the McGowan claim. This is probably the end of that scheme of land grabbing.  
The order relative to the display of yellow flags from houses where small pox exists has proved practically inoperative up to the present time.  
John Dunley was fined \$100 for resisting an officer.  
To-morrow is the anniversary of the independence of Peru. A national salute will be fired from the forts in this harbor.  
The steamer Oregonian, when three days out from San Francisco, July 17th, spoke the schooner Queen Emma, 78 days from Valparaiso, in distress, and supplied her with water and provisions. She had on board five men, one woman and three children.  
The regatta yesterday between the yachts Gazelle and Liberty was won by the former.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 29.—John Middleton commenced suit against Dr Louis J. Jordan to procure the cancellation of a note for \$10,000, which plaintiff claims was procured under the false pretence that plaintiff's son was in a dying condition, and that defendant alone could cure him. An injunction has been granted. Plaintiff's son Samuel was threatened with lock-jaw. It is stated that he was finally pronounced beyond the reach of surgical or medical aid. Dr Jordan, when he learned that the other physicians had abandoned the case, which, however, plaintiff denies, agreed to restore him to health within a specified time for the sum of \$10,000 for which sum Middleton gave his note and Jordan then effected the cure.  
A despatch was received in this city last evening announcing that Messrs Cole and Conness left Washington yesterday en route for California overland. George C. Gorham accompanies the party. They expect to reach here in about two weeks.  
About midnight last night the Eagle coffee saloon and a portion of Washington street, at the intersection of East street, sank several feet, the piles upon which the house stood having been pushed out by the filling in of an adjacent lot.  
The Mechanics' Fair Pavilion was opened yesterday for the reception of articles to be placed on exhibition. The rush was great. Complaint is made that the department devoted to the fine arts is too small.  
Land troubles at the Potrero have been resumed. On Saturday some parties attempted to jump a piece of ground which another party claimed. One of them was severely injured.  
The crew of the British ship Industry, which picked up the half drowned voyagers on the yacht Little Restless, have within one month rescued eighteen persons from drowning in this bay. Such acts are worthy of all credit.  
A movement has been inaugurated for the purpose of organizing a Pacific Yacht Club on the basis of that in New York and other Atlantic cities.

Mexico.

NEW YORK, July 25.—The Herald's Mexico special says great alarm prevails in the Republic by reports of an intended movement of filibusters from the United States. Extraordinary precautions are being taken at Vera Cruz and elsewhere. Rebels are mustering at Puebla and Queretaro, but no fighting has yet occurred. Escobedo has hanged three spies. Robberies of stage coaches are increasing daily. Many commercial failures have occurred. The country is perishing rapidly.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.  
ENTERED.  
Aug 4—Star Active, Floyd, Portland  
Schr Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Townsend  
Schr Eliza, Middleton, Saanich  
Star Pacific, Winsor, San Francisco  
Aug 5—Schr Crosby, Perkins, Portland  
CLEARED.  
Aug 4—Star Active, Floyd, Nantamoo  
Schr Eliza, Middleton, Saanich  
Schr Surprise, Spring, West Coast V I  
Aug 5—Star Eliza Anderson, Finch Port Townsend  
Schr Mystery Robinson, Port Townsend

PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND, W. T.

The following vessels have entered since last report:  
August 3—Br bark Margaret Brander, from Victoria—loads at Gamble for Tahiti; steamer lightening apparatus, to be used in getting off the Constantine.  
July 31st—Ship Revere, cleared for San Francisco.

PASSENGERS.

Per star G S WRIGHT from Portland—M O P Ferry, Mrs O P Ferry, Mr A P Donelson, Mrs A P Donelson and boy, Mr J Kamm, Mrs J Kamm and boy, Rev J B Dyer, Mr G Pendergast, Mr Veheyden, Mr Grant, Dodge, Mr Grobb, P C Richta, Denis Harman, O P Lewis, Isaac Anderson.  
Per schooner CROSBY, from Portland—J Millworth, D Campbell.  
Per PACIFIC, from San Francisco—R Brodrick, O G Goshaw, wife and son, T Graham, E Hastings, O Henslow, Mrs Vignoli and son, Charles Waters, Dr J B Dyer, Mrs P McQuade, Madus Boynt, Miss Jay and son, A Douglas, M Dyer, J Greenbaum, Jas Sheridan, F Garischoe, N Solomon, Samuel Montgomery, Miss Mary Ballins, W F Co.'s Messenger and two others.  
Per ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—Mrs Dickson and boy, Mrs Hill, Miss Clara Meyer, Miss Anna Pullin, Miss Hattie Carlton, Miss Merle Stouck, Smith, Balcarat Hanson, Raynor, Morrow, Stinberry, McAllister, Wader, McDonald, Shorer, Campbell, Andrew, Daniel Gerard, Bally.  
En route for Sitka, per steamship Pacific, from San Francisco—Major-Gen. Hallock and wife, Col R Jones, Gen. Alexander, Col R Scott, Col Keeny, Major Hoyt, Col Sprague and Clerk, E J Murbridge (artist) Mrs J H Kinkaid, Mrs Levi and child.

CONSIGNEES.

Per star G S WRIGHT from Portland—S N, J, D, W, T, J, A, F, J, O, B, H, P, E.  
Per schooner CROSBY—W & L, H A W, Calhoun.  
Per steamship PACIFIC, from San Francisco—Langley & Co, H B Co, Kwong, Lee & Co, Findlay & Durham, L & E Wertheimer, J C Davis & Co, Tai Soon & Co, J G Muir, J Blum & Co, Lewis Lewis, Mrs McQuade, Grady & Fitter, Greenbaum Bros, J Greenbaum & Co, S M Keyser, J Cowper, T Weil, Nolmeir Bros, R Maynard, S P T, C, T Shobolt, J Weleker, W F & Co, Star Eliza Anderson, Order.  
Per ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—Keynolds & Co, B B Co J Murray, T James.

IMPORTS.

Per star G S WRIGHT from Portland—20 sds flour, 5 bxs fruit, 166 sds wheat, 47 do oats, 23 sds lard, 130 do bran, 3 pks bacon, 1 horse and buggy.  
Per schooner CROSBY, from Portland—65 sds wheat, 630 sds flour.  
Per steamer El Anderson, from Puget Sound—14 oxen, 1 horse, 2 h'd cattle 51 sheep 20 rams, 60 sds furs, 3 pks furs, 60 sheep, 25 bbls flour 34 sds bran, 5 M laths.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday, the 5th day of August, at the Cathedral, Victoria, V. I., by the Lord Bishop of Columbia, Matthew Trotter Johnson, Esq., son of the late Adam Johnson, Esq., of Milltown, Berwickshire, N. B., to Letitia Elizabeth, third daughter of the late George Leggat, Esq., of Guildford, Surrey.

Barnard's Express.

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Concentration of... We have frequen our correspondents call attention to the contracting the dep Government so as to her of heads, and v on the other hand t moot the subject n of Government as o come of it, say the o will be taken of th people. Be this as journalists have a and they must not r forts for the public ant task to find fault criminal to be silen be (one by notice what is amiss. We that other influence to bear than the writers, who are bu of public opinion. I able that daily exa and want of energ without their evil e the whole public se it possible that taxpa fied when they see t they are paying fr idleness, but it is the subordinates so take no interest i until we have a G set the example, w heads of departme energy. There wo faction in it if the only keep up the app something for us, a attendance at the G So long as we have a tive we are entitle return. Let the Gov al head of all admin ments and there o chance of the gove being properly perf be no reason that the not do the whole of performed by a Co without being overtu a Private Secretar him a clerk who ordinary letters to a gentleman draw and he has an all the requirements of much more likely w be to win the esteo of the public, if b active part in work mental machine? He more into contact and would, at the that the will and int and the absence of a manship would be o ation for his energ work. In order to change in the press thoroughly, it would abolish the office of subordinate who too much control considerable trouble wishes either to se done or to do it him ernor would be mu act and much more the wants of the Co