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THE SEMI-WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL 10. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1869. NO. 78.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
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DAVID W. HIGGINS.

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Three Months do	3 00
One Week	0 25

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PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

All arrears of subscriptions to the Weekly Colonist must be remitted on or before the 1st of January, 1870, or the paper will be stopped.

The figures opposite the address on each wrapper indicate the date of expiration of the subscription.

Fenian Unrest.

Fenianism may not inaptly be regarded as the sediment of Irishry. It would appear to form the scum of the Great Republic—coming to the surface with every repeated process of national fermentation.

"Is there no such character extant as that of a — fool
That knaves do work with, call'd cat's-foot?"

Our neighbors have unquestionably been guilty of working with Fenianism. They may find it a dangerous tool. They who sup with the devil have need of long spoons. It is evident that General O'Neil regards continued inaction fatal to effective organization. With the peculiarity of their countrymen, the Fenians are rusting for want of fighting, and he who would continue to command must lead on to victory or to —flight! But a more active service is not alone essential to the maintenance of discipline. A show of doing something, achieving some glorious feat of arms, is equally a financial necessity. It is only when the blood is up that the revenue flows freely into the treasury of the Head Centre. Thus we learn of rumored activity, fresh accessions and mysterious movements. It would be vain to speculate upon the programme of action adopted by Gen. O'Neil. It is difficult, to believe that another raid on Canada is seriously contemplated. That country is much better prepared to give them a becoming reception now than it was upon a previous occasion. The promptitude with which the volunteers turned out a few weeks ago, and the martial appearance they made, will help to give General O'Neil and his men some idea of the foe they would have to encounter. Nor would the Canadians be likely to repeat the mistake of making prisoners of men who should have found no quarter. It is far more probable that the face of the Fenian army will be turned towards the Northwest, and that it is in contemplation to strengthen the hands and consolidate the government of the 'Liberators.' Such a scheme would certainly be more feasible than a raid upon Canada, while it would possess the advantage of being infinitely more safe; besides, the General might have some chance of being appointed Governor or Dictator. Our dispatches connect the movements of the United States troops with that of the Fenians. Such may be the case; yet, if it is so a great change must have come over those who direct the movements of the Federal troops. Whatever allowance we may have felt disposed to make in the past, these organizations can command little sympathy now. A clergyman once wrote to the *Times* complaining that the prayer against the cattle-plague had not been suspended, although the cattle plague had. This incident reminds one of the part Fenianism is now playing,—begging the pardon of the church for the usurpation. An organization owing its existence to misgovernment in Ireland should cease with the evil which gave it being. The Irish disease may not, perhaps, be said to have been quite suspended; but surely the policy of Gladstone is thorough enough to satisfy the most ultra radical. If the Irish were given their independence to-morrow would they be better off? Would they give better promise of governing the country well than Gladstone gives? Why, then, this continued howling about oppression and misgovernment? The true Irish patriot should be found at home, earnestly endeavouring to make the most of safe and gradual reforms, instead of leading a band of cut-throats into a peaceful and unoffending country.

THE LIONS.—Shortly after the Active left this port on the 14th ult, for San Francisco, a man who either labored under the effects of strong drink or was a born idiot, went to the den of Wilson's lions, while the keeper was at dinner, and thrust his arm to the elbow through the small iron wicket over the door. As quick as thought, with a loud shriek, he jerked the arm out again, when his fellow passengers saw that the flesh had been torn from the limb and hung down in bloody shreds. He will probably never fool with lions again. During the afternoon of the 26th ult, a severe gale sprang up, which so affrighted the savage beasts that they threw themselves with great violence against the back of the cage and lions one side. The officers held a consultation and it was decided to throw the cage and lions overboard; but the lion tamer pleaded so hard for the lives of his pets, and offered so many guarantees for their future good conduct, that they were suffered to remain until the gale abated, when they quieted down and behaved like good lions ought to behave for the remainder of the trip.

THE FIRE FIEND "AT IT" AGAIN!—On Friday night a pile of 300 cords of wood belonging to Geo Stelly and piled near the Richmond, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was sent to town and the neighbors turned out and worked manfully to extinguish the flames, which, with the assistance of a number of men from town, who rode out in Stelly's wagon, they accomplished, after about twenty cords had been burned. The light of the burning wood was seen from town. The act was clearly that of an incendiary—perhaps of the same devil who has left a fiery trail behind him in Lake and Saanich Districts for some months past. Is there never to be an end to these villainous acts? Can no clue be obtained of the lurking place of the incendiary, who has caused the destruction of more property in the farming districts within the last three months than his miserable life is worth? An officer ought to be detailed for the special duty the task of running the miscreant to earth.

ONE of the insane ladies appears to be slowly recovering from the fit of insanity into which she was plunged a few days ago, and hopes are now entertained of her ultimate restoration to reason. Her sister is still mentally prostrated and exhibits no improvement. The little that can be done is done for the poor unfortunates; but the prison in no respect answers the requirements of a lunatic asylum. The present sad case will, it is hoped, draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of providing a suitable asylum for the confinement and treatment of lunatics.

DEPARTURE OF THE ACTIVE.—The steamship Active sailed shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon for San Francisco, carrying 88 passengers and a large freight. Among those on board were Rev Mr Garrett and family, Mrs T Wright, Mrs Bagnall, Mr and Mrs Bunster, Hon G A Walkem and Messrs E G Hurd, Ed. Lenning and Robt Ore. Twenty-nine of the passengers were sailors from wrecked vessels, and some 30 others were from Puget Sound. A number of Cariboo miners carried away large sums.

MASONIC BALL.—St. John's day will be observed by the Masons with a grand ball, which will be given by the entire Fraternity and not by a single Lodge, as has been customary. Committees have been appointed from all the Lodges. Masonic balls are always enjoyable, but from the preparations making we believe that the coming ball will prove the *most* successful yet given here. Tickets have been fixed at $5 each.

THE ZEALOTS AND ADMIRAL FARQUHAR.—The Admiralty are about to try a novel plan of relieving the crews stationed on the Pacific. The Revenge is to take Admiral Farquhar and crew to Greytown, who will cross to Panama and there relieve the Admiral and crew of the Zealous, who will then proceed to Greytown and go home in the Revenge. So there is a strong probability that the Zealous will again visit this port early next summer.

THE BARK RUBY.—H M S Spacewhawk went to the assistance of the bark Ruby at 2 o'clock yesterday morning, made fast and pulled hard; but failed to budge the vessel which has made a snug nest for herself in the soft, yielding sand. It is thought that the bark has received no damage, but that she will have to be relieved of her cargo before she can be got off. The bark stranded at extreme high tide.

THE LENGTH OF THE NILE.—If Dr. Livingstone has really discovered that one of the sources of the Nile rises ten degrees south of the equator, that river becomes the longest in the world. The distance from such a southern latitude to Cairo is about equal, in an air line, to the distance from the mouths of the Mississippi to Sitka, in Alaska, or the Upernavik, in Greenland, or from the Isthmus of Panama to the mouth of the St Lawrence river.

TREASURE SHIPPED.—Yesterday Wells, Fargo & Co. shipped $28,504 12 on Active in parcels as follows:—Bank British North America, $51,337 35; Bank British Columbia, $19 337 02; Wells, Fargo & Co, $27,829 75. In addition to these amounts there were some $60,000 in private hands.

POUND SALE.—Mr Davies held another sale of dogs yesterday. For one canine no bid was made. Councillor Russell bought a handsome little animal for $3 25, and S. Harris and G. Lindsay, got a dog each for two bits.

THE steamer Sir James Douglas arrived from Nanaimo at 10 o'clock yesterday. The gale of Friday raged furiously along the East Coast, but no damage is reported.

TWENTY-NINE of the Active's passengers were sent away by the American Consul. They were the crews of the wrecked vessels Cowper and Maria J Smith.

NINE thousand gallons of oil were shipped yesterday by the Active. This oil is a part of the product of Dawson & Co's operations.

SEVERAL footpaths have been already repaired. In a few days the lives and limbs of pedestrians will be comparatively safe.

THE heavy blow which sprang up yesterday after the sailing of the Active must have driven her into Neah Bay for refuge.

THE U S S Newbern sailed at 8 o'clock yesterday morning for Sitka.

THE Enterprise, detained by the gale, did not get in last night.

THE bark Alpha is loading at Liverpool for Victoria.

Earl Grey and the Colonial Connection.

In reply to a communication from the Royal Colonial Society, Earl Grey has written a letter which has appeared in the *Times*, and from which we make the following extracts:

'The breaking up of the great colonial empire of England would, in my opinion, be a calamity to the colonies, to this country and to the world, and I cannot doubt that you are right in believing this to be the result which must be looked for from the policy distinctly declared by Her Majesty's Government. In order to avert the threatened misfortune I do not see what more judicious step could have been taken than that which you have adopted in suggesting to the Governments of our most important colonies that they should send representatives to meet in London in February for the purpose of considering the present state of the relations between this country and its colonies, with the view of recommending to Her Majesty's Government measures for placing those relations on a better footing. * * *

'But I would take the liberty of pointing out to you that in the letter you have addressed to the Colonial Governments you have omitted to advert to some of the considerations which seem to me especially to require their attention if they wish to preserve a real and living connection between the colonies and the British Empire. The fact ought not to be overlooked that the policy to which you jointly object as tending directly to the severance of this connexion has not been taken up only of late by the present Ministers of the Crown. It may, perhaps, have been more distinctly avowed by them than it had been previously; but for some years it had been practically acted upon by their predecessors, and is no doubt in accordance with what is now the prevailing opinion in Parliament. The adoption of this policy, which I consider to be one of selfishness, quite unworthy of a great nation, and the prevalence of the opinion which has given rise to it, must be regarded as the direct and natural consequence of the claim put forward of late years on behalf of the colonies to be free from all control or the exercise of any substantial authority over them by the Imperial Government.

'There is no one who has always been more opposed than myself to meddling and vexatious interference on the part of that Government in the purely local and internal affairs of colonies of which the inhabitants are capable of properly managing these affairs for themselves. But in the administration of all Colonial Governments questions are continually arising which affect the interest not only of the particular colonies, but of the empire as a whole, and it would not be difficult to show that of late years the inhabitants of many of our colonies, urged on by those who profess to speak for them in this country, have set up a claim [which has been practically conceded] to be allowed to deal even with these questions according to their own will without allowing the Imperial Government to exercise that authority without which a due regard to the general interests of the whole empire and an adherence to its policy cannot be secured. In the measures of the several local Governments. But if the Imperial Government is to exercise no authority over the colonies there is no reason why it should incur any responsibility or expense on their behalf, and the feeling against doing so, which has of late years been so strongly manifested in Parliament, has naturally arisen from the exaggerated claims for colonial freedom of action which have been asserted.'

'This, I am persuaded, is the true explanation of the present state of feeling in this country on this subject. It cannot therefore be too distinctly understood by the colonies that the policy now adopted towards them by the Home Government and by Parliament, and of which they complain, is very little likely to be altered, unless they on their part are ready to recognize the propriety of the exercise of a larger measure of authority over them by the Imperial Government than they have of late been willing to submit to. I am bound to say that for my own part, much as I deplore what I regard as the virtual dissolution of our colonial empire by the adoption of the policy in question, I do not think it ought to be abandoned, except on the condition I have mentioned.

'I will not now trouble you with any statement of my own views as to the principles on which the limits should be determined, on the one hand, of the claims of the colonies on the Imperial Government for protection and assistance, and on the other, of the authority they ought to acknowledge as belonging to it. I am convinced that these limits might be so laid down as to place the mutual relations of the different parts of the empire on a much better footing than at present, and that it would be far more for the true interest both of this country and its dependencies, that this should be attempted than that the present policy of virtually severing the connexion between them should be carried out.'

Practical Letter from San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 20th, 1869.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I see by the papers that Governor McDougall is having a little trouble with the half-breeds of the Red River Country. That it will only be temporary no sane man doubts for an instant, but it only shows more forcibly the necessity of speedy communication by railway through the entire country. This puts me in mind that British Columbians ought to be stirring in the matter of developing their farming lands to feed the large population that is sure to follow the railroad. Work makes prosperity. To build up a country or a town, motion is required. Rest is rust, with communities and individuals, as with machinery. A listless people who have no wheels turning, no plows furrowing the earth, do not have prosperity nor do they deserve any. Nature undirected and unassisted will not make smiling fields any more than she will build factories. Men must work if they would make homes and places of abode what they wish them to be. We're is the motion. The mining counties of California are very dull and there are many miners seeking a change of employment. Many contemplate settling down and cultivating the soil, but good land in California is becoming dear and they are naturally beginning to look elsewhere for places to settle down upon and build their homes. Now, many of these men are comparatively poor, having but a few hundred dollars; they naturally want to make the most of it. Some are talking of going to British Columbia, but the expense of going, the bad reports circulated by the press of California, and the uncertainty of getting cheap land, deters many from going. Now, in my mind, these are the kind of men wanted in British Columbia. Industrious and loyal—for having seen the elephant in California, they will not be likely to sign petitions for annexation, as I see forty of your so-called citizens have done, and forwarded to Washington per Vincent Collyer to be presented to President Grant, who, if he is as sensible as I judge him to be, will drop it in the waste basket and tell Mr Collyer to attend to the business he was sent on and not trouble his head about such twaddle. But to return to my subject: if there was an Immigrant Aid Association started in Victoria, where the immigrants could get information regarding land, where it is, the cost of getting to it, the price of it and time of payment, and possibly find work for a time, it would be a great help to them. It is not charity they want, but good, sound advice. If these little questions could be answered in printed matter (even on a sheet of letter paper, the cost would be nominal,) and distributed around, I could see some good advantage were they sent to me, and I can assure you I would be happy to help in the good work. I have already sent several families to British Columbia, and all of them, I am happy to say, are well settled through the kindness of your esteemed fellow citizen R Burnaby, Esq., in giving advice, for which he will please accept mine and their thanks.

G. W. A.

St. James' Cross.

The present aspect of the St James' Church squabble is upon this wise: Notwithstanding the fact that the Vestrymen have just proclaimed their present pastor, Father Eagan, chiefest among ten thousand and the one altogether lovely, they have compelled him to resign. Bishop Kip with a holy sigh of relief, immediately nominated a successor, who with rare discretion declined to feed the pestilent lambs of so uncertain a flock. The Vestry then selected *their* man, the Rev. Mr Garrett of Victoria, an able preacher but of very low-church proclivities. Meantime Dr Staley, the Bishop of Honolulu, who has been walking up and down the earth, watching the budding churches how they grow, saw a chance to fling in his own Archdeacon upon the helpless congregation, and by various pious wiles he won Bishop Kip over to his way of thinking. Now, prowling about with the B. of H., squinting into the curious dingles of the moral vineyard, is one Lord Charles Harvey, a brother of the Marquis of Bristol, who officiates as Chaplain of the expedition. His good master would fain instal him as Archdeacon at the Islands. Hence his anxiety to secure to St. James' Church the valuable services of the present one, as aforesaid. But the Vestry insist upon their man and will not abate a jot of their zeal to have him in. Bishop Kip, on the other hand, is indissolubly wedded to his Puseyite idols and takes a mild oath that the obnoxious Garrett shall not darken the sacred doors of the church. And so there is a dead lock—but the Vestrymen have the advantage. Their firmness, their industry and their utter lack of principle, are sure to win against the simple honesty of Bishop Kip, good easy soul; and they will bring in their Low Church parson with the sound of brass and a tinkling cymbal; yea, even to the strains of the sackbut, the psaltery and the harp! Meanwhile, however, Archbishop Alemany's age is are working like moles underground to secure the Church edifice for the abominations of Rome. The Scott faction of Calvary Church are similarly afflicted with an itching to secure it for their beloved leader, and it is even whispered that the Methodist cattle have been bitten by the same dog. And seated easily on a murky cloud of brimstone the good Devil slants a complacent beam of satisfaction from his fine eye down upon this disturbed anthill of the pious and bides his time. We bide pure.—*San Francisco News Letter.*

Letter from a Hangman.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: it appears from a letter which Mr. Calcraft addressed to Mr. Sulley, of the County Inn Taunton, respecting a bill for [illegible] purpose of executing a criminal, that the office of hangman had not yet been placed under the regulations of the Civil Service Commissioners.

LONDON, Sept 28th, 1869.

'Sulley, I am quite a Shamed at your manners of sending me an open peace of paper to expose me in that way to think that you want me to spend £2 or £3 to come to your place to Pay you the sum of 14s which I never had half of it will Swear if I had half of it what did it coust me when whe ware out together you never spent one penny and you to charge me that exorbant sum I supose you thought of fritening me but i was born to near the wood to be fritened by an Owl the sum you charged me the Sheriff ought to have settled long ago is have you the Beastly bit of paper you sent me in an invelope not open as you sent it me you can doo what you like with it as it is convuant i will send you a post office order for the over charge of 14s with a check upon you for so mean an action. WS—W.C. i never was served such a mean action in all my life i never had such an mean thing in my house before.

'mean' 'mean'

Notwithstanding this letter it was decided at the County Court that Calcraft must pay the amount claimed by Mr. Sulley within a month. It was stated in Court that Calcraft's trade had been slack lately.

A San Franciscan Presents the Pope with a Silver Nugget worth $5,013 78.

Correspondence of the New York Herald.

ROME, November 3, 1869.—Yesterday morning, the Pope received in private audience at the Vatican Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Oliver, of San Francisco, with their children. Mr. Oliver presented to his Holiness on this occasion one of the finest specimens of virgin silver ore ever extracted from the mines of California. This precious mass of ore, whose prepossessive number was 6,032, was conveyed from San Francisco to Paris, whence the case was transmitted to the Eternal City, bearing on it the inscription, 'D. J. Oliver, wife and children, to Pius the IX.' Its weight is 3 885 ounces, and its degree of fineness is expressed by 988. 1000, being two degrees less of natural alloy than any silver yet recieved at the Vatican mint, where the finest specimens have hitherto not surpassed 996. The value of the lump is $5,013 78, and although the Pope doubtless has received offerings worth much more money, he has certainly never received a more interesting specimen of the natural riches of the earth. Whether it will ultimately find its way to the mint, or whether it will form a precious addition to the mineralogical museum, remains to be seen. Eight able-bodied soldiers bore the mass up the Scala Regia, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs Oliver and their family into the Pope's presence—for his Holiness was in expectation of their arrival and the benevolent affability with which he received the donors, conversing at length with them, imparting his benediction with great feeling and taking especial notice of the children showed how pleased he was with the splendor of the gift. Before the conclusion of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver's audience the Pope presented to the latter a beautiful stone cameo, set with pearls, representing our Saviour.

A hand bill, of which the following is a copy, was lately posted in sundry places in London:

'TO ALL FENIANS.
Vive la Republique!

The Queen will visit this city in state on Saturday, and on that day she will be shot. She seldom gives a chance. The opportunity won't be lost!!

GOD SAVE IRELAND!'

But the Queen was not shot, though she graced the opening of the Holborn Viaduct with her presence.

A matrimonial advertisement in a Paris paper reads: 'A single gentleman, Protestant and possessed of rentes, wishes to marry a Protestant lady, very distinguished, and possessed of no 3 rentes.'

It is said the younger Mormons are beginning to find out that the chief objection to a plurality of wives is that it entails a like number of mothers-in-law.