

Colonists! State your Terms.

In handing over this Colony to the Dominion of Canada, we do not conceive that the Imperial authorities have an equitable right to dictate terms of union. They have done little for the Colony beyond straining the taxing power to its utmost capacity in support of their "placemen" and why should they now seek to inflict further injury by the imposition of terms of enforced union which might prove inimical to future prosperity? Nor do we believe they will, provided the colonists show by their actions that they can attend to their own affairs. It has appeared to us that the bargain-making properly lies between the two parties to the bargain, and that the less interference there is by a third party the greater probability there will be of the union proving a happy and enduring one. We quite admit that our Gracioso Sovereign is not a disinterested party in this matter. She occupies much the position of a parent engaged in promoting a business partnership between two sons; and we are willing to admit that one of these sons being still in his minority, parental control extends further than it does in the case of the elder brother. But it will readily be perceived that to exert this control to the full, in arranging the terms of partnership, might be most injudicious. In order that the partnership may be satisfactory and enduring it must be based upon terms mutually agreed upon and satisfactory to both parties. A house divided against itself, we are told, cannot stand. The axiom that union is strength is based upon the assumption that all is fair and square; else the converse would be the fact. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that although the Imperial authorities may possess the power to deal with a Crown Colony in a more summary way than they could constitutionally do with one possessing responsible government, it might be very injudicious for them to exert that power to any great extent in arranging the terms of union between this Colony and Canada. Whatever they do in this matter ought only to be done with the full knowledge and intelligent approval and acquiescence of the colonists. We do not carry this doctrine to the length of denying the Imperial authorities the right to decide that this Colony shall become a part of the Dominion. No thinking person will for a moment imagine that the great scheme of a Confederated empire on this continent would be finally thwarted or abandoned because a majority of a population of, say, ten thousand colonists might for the time be opposed. The power to hand us over, willy nilly, is undoubtedly an arbitrary one, and it is not unnatural for the mind to rebel against it; but this is a condition springing from the fact that we are a Crown Colony, and a very weak one at that. Yet with the question of terms it is essentially different, and the very fact of the existence of possible necessary exercise of the arbitrary power to decide the fate of this Colony affords an additional reason why the colonists should be allowed the greatest latitude in arranging the terms of union with Canada. If the Imperial authorities will, after having given us to understand that we are to form a province of the Dominion, be good enough to introduce us to the Canadian Government and politely stand aside, leaving us to make our own bargain a great deal of mutual and unpleasent talk may be prevented and very much mischief may be averted. The colonists are few in number as compared with the eastern provinces; but it should be remembered that they are for the most part men who have seen a good deal of the world, men of shrewdness and intelligence, who are quite as capable of judging and acting for themselves as are larger and older communities. It is not presumption on the part of the people of British Columbia to claim that in this matter of arranging terms of union with Canada they know better what they want, what will most conduce to the prosperity of the country than Downing-street's time-serving functionaries can possibly know. If, as the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell publicly admitted the other day, the Colonial policy of the nation has proved a complete failure, surely it would be extreme and unpardonable folly to seek to project the errors of that system into the distant future by embodying them in the very foundations of the empire now in process of construction. For all this there is but one remedy. Let the voice of the people be heard at the Court of St James and at Ottawa. Let them unfeignedly claim the right to name their terms, not only as to details but as regards fundamentals also. Nobody objects to the Governor being the medium of communication between the Colonists and the Dominion authorities. Under existing circumstances it is desirable, nay, it is almost essential that it should be so. In this way we secure the services of a gentleman of experience and ability, and we at

once get rid of all those vexing local questions about political aspirants, &c, which might tend to divide the people and mar success. But if the Governor is to be as a mouth unto the people in this matter, it is important that he should be made fully aware of their views and wishes. The people should, therefore, meet together and agree upon terms. And they should do this at once. Remember the "Unconditional Union Resolutions" of 1865-6.

Shun delays, they breed remorse; Take thy time, while time is lent thee; Creeping snails have weaker force; Fly their fault, eat thou repent thee.

Sunday Nov 7 The George S. Wright in the Great Gale.

The last trip of the steamship George S. Wright from Portland was attended with peculiarly terrifying circumstances. The steamer had on board the Wilson Circus, consisting of about thirty lady and gentlemen passengers and attendants, four African lions, a bear, two llamas, four monkeys, a woolly calf and a dozen horses—the latter animals specially trained for the purpose of the Circus. The live stock were all in the forward part of the ship—the lions being confined in their cage and the horses and other animals fastened with halters to the guards. The steamer crossed the bar early on Sunday morning, and with a fair breeze sped rapidly along towards the Straits. Everything went well with the travelers until about 10 o'clock on Monday morning, when the steamer was in full view of Cape Flattery light and within forty-five minutes sail of a safe harbor. The passengers were sleeping peacefully in their berths, when suddenly a gale of unparalleled fury swept down upon the vessel with scarcely any warning of its approach. The steamer rolled and plunged before the force of the tempest; the sea rose and great angry-looking billows swept down upon and over the devoted ship. Instantly all was confusion in the forward part of the steamer. The horses fastened there were the first to feel the shock. The dashing of the waves over the bows wet and chilled the poor brutes, and soon the decks becoming too slippery for them to maintain their feet, one by one they slipped and fell, and being unable to rise were tossed helplessly from side to side as the ship rolled and plunged. The lions in their cage roared with rage and alarm at the unusual motion to which they were subjected and threatened to break out every minute; the llamas and the woolly calf bleated with terror, and the monkeys and performing bear broke from their fastenings and, uttering plaintive cries, took refuge in the cabin, where the terrified male and female passengers, some of whom had hastily thrown on a few articles of clothing, were huddled, regarding each other with an expression of mute despair. The eldest waiter on board had never met similar weather and Capt Rogers, finding that to proceed would be to imperil the lives of all on board, here to, and putting the nose of the steamer in the very eye of the wind, awaited the appearance of daylight. When day dawned four of the best trained horses were found to have died—they had been bruised and ground to death on the decks and against the guards, by the lurching of the ship during the night; two other horses were found to be so desperately injured as to render their recovery a matter of very great doubt. One of the llamas was also dead from the effects of exposure and fright. The carcasses were thrown overboard, and the injured ones cared for. All Monday and Tuesday night the gale continued with scarcely any intermission, and all but the most experienced seamen were prostrated with sea-sickness and kept in their rooms or lay in a state of listless wretchedness on the cabin floor, the bear, the llamas, and the monkeys, huddling among them for warmth and protection. On Monday night, Mr. Neustadt, purser of the steamer, who had been on deck with the captain, had occasion to visit his stateroom, when he happened upon a soft yielding form lying across the threshold. "My friend," said the purser, "you shouldn't lie there; you had better go to your berth." A feeble moan was the only response; and on looking down the purser discovered the performing bear lying there half dead from the combined effects of fright and exposure. The monkeys exhibited the liveliest alarm. They were here, there and everywhere, seeming to appreciate the situation of affairs, and whenever a particularly ugly sea struck the vessel and caused her to careen, they would utter shrill cries and run from person to person as if for protection. For twenty-nine hours the brave little boat was driven slowly northward past the entrance of the Straits, and when about abreast of Barclay Sound early on Tuesday morning the wind lulled almost as quickly as it had sprung up. The order to "go ahead" was given from the deck, and in a few hours the G. S. Wright was steering through the comparatively smooth waters of the Straits and her wearied and worn passengers crawled out of their hiding-places to thank God for their almost miraculous escape, and to gaze upon the bright blue sky and bank in the revivifying rays of the autumn sun. The ship passed through the fearful ordeal unscathed. The circus company lost about \$6000 in animals.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise arrived in Cadboro Bay at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, when she anchored to ride out the blow. Messrs McCraith, Robertson, Walker, Alkman, Davis, Stamp, Nicholson, Elliott, Pooley, Crease, and several other passengers walked in a town from the bay, arriving at 5 1/2 o'clock. A number of her passengers remained on board the steamer and will come around today. The steamer at New Westminster are over. The jury who tried Price for murder brought in a special verdict, to the effect that Price fired at the Indian, to disable and deliver him to justice; that the Indian had committed a felony and was armed with a loaded gun and a knife. The Chief Justice, after hearing the Attorney General for the Crown and Mr. Robertson for the prisoner, decided that the verdict was equivalent to an acquittal and the prisoner was discharged. The Indian was indicted for the murder of Perry, and was both convicted of murder and sentenced to death. The injunction case of the B. C. & V. I. Co was argued at great length by Messrs Walker and Robertson for plaintiff, instructed by Mr. McKinnon; and on the part of the defendant, by Mr. McCraith, instructed by Mr. Davis. The Chief Justice, after the close of the argument, stated that he would take time to consider. We have since been informed that judgment will be given on Tuesday next. The little steamer Sea Foam has been partially destroyed by fire at Burrard Inlet—the work of an incendiary. The Indian Peter, under sentence of death for the murder of Murphy, has confessed his guilt. The B. C. & V. I. Mills have not yet resumed operations. A man named Macnamara, a carpenter, was drowned on Thursday night in going between Portage Joe's and Jack Deighton's.

A 'JACK OF ALL TRADES' was brought before the Police Magistrate yesterday on a charge of being a rogue and a vagabond. The prisoner had visited several tradesmen and representing himself as a shoemaker, a tailor, or a tinsmith, managed to secure several small loans. Finding a gentleman whom he thought ought to be a Fenian, the rogue announced himself a Citizen of the Irish Republic. The name he gives here is James Clark. The depositions of his victims were taken yesterday and Clark stands remanded for three days.

The G. S. Wright will go to Nanaimo for coal and sail for Portland on or about Tuesday next. We learn that both the Wright and Telfair will be kept permanently on this route and that the Wright will be altered and improved to adapt her to the passenger trade. It is probable that both steamers will henceforth come into this harbor before going to Puget Sound.

FROM THE EAST COAST.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, from Comox, Nanaimo, etc., with passengers and stock, put into Cadboro Bay yesterday afternoon, having found it impossible to round the island during the gale. Mr. Dunsmuir and three of four other passengers walked into town from the bay. The Queen Charlotte Coal miners, who left Skidegate Bay in a canoe some 20 days ago, have reached Nanaimo and three or four of their number arrived in town last evening. The Douglas carried away her job on the trip down.

GREAT GIFT ENTERTAINMENT ON MONDAY EVENING.—Professor Morey is going to outdo even himself in generosity. He has arranged a great gift-entertainment for tomorrow evening, the leading prizes in which will be a silver tea service valued at \$40. The prizes of admittance will be as before—50 cents to all parts of the house. The service may be seen at the Jewellery stores of Mr. Jungermann.

Tax Matters.—Tuesday, the 9th, is announced in the Government Gazette as a public holiday, or a holiday at the public office. In the city the day will be devoted to the important work of selecting a Mayor and Council for the coming year.

U. MARCHANT SHIPPING (COLONIAL) ACT, 1869. Such is the title of an Imperial Act passed last May, and which has become the law of this Colony by a Proclamation, issued by the Governor last week. The Act appeared in Saturday's Gazette.

Laid Over.—The Gold Commissioner for Cariboo has notified that on and after the 1st November, 1869, all mining claims in the District of Cariboo are laid over till the 20th May, 1870.

The wiring and sealing absurdity, we are glad to learn, is likely to be discontinued at Portland as it has been at the more enlightened port of San Francisco. A more absurd and ridiculous system was never introduced.

We are glad to learn that Mr. John Gordon McKay is a candidate for re-election as Councilor for James Bay Ward.

The steamer Emma, detained by the high wind, did not go to Comox yesterday.

No Wren has as yet made its appearance for the elections in Yale or Saanich districts.

It is a standing rule in my church," said one clergyman to another, for the sexton to wake up any man he sees asleep. "I think," replied the other, "that it would be better for the sexton, to wake you up whenever a man goes to sleep under your preaching."

A Glance at British Columbia.

In my last letter I left my readers at San Francisco, where I shall, with their permission, detain them a moment. To describe the Golden City itself is superfluous, so I will not dwell upon it. I will, however, say a few words about the special Correspondent upon the great commercial and mineral capital of the Pacific. I must not, however, omit to acknowledge the unbounded hospitality of its people. No rank or title is needed to ensure the most cordial of receptions; and a welcome unsurpassed in Eastern lands awaits the delivery of your letter of introduction.

In the pursuit of information respecting the Colony I was surprised to find that from my American friends I could glean none. Their knowledge dated back and was confined to "The Fraser River Excitement of 1858" and the large exodus of Californians which followed in its train. The newspapers studiously avoid all notice of the Colony, save when policy dictates a parade of its failures or the consideration of its existence in connection with the "Monroe doctrine" and the American creed of "Manifest destiny." Their columns, if not filled with political articles are devoted to the commendable task of "writing up" their own outlying districts and unpopulated territories. While here I may as well advert to the threatened

CAPTURE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. Flaming placards induced me to attend the lecture of Mr. George Francis Train. His audience was large, his hearers thoughtful, and his story of Ireland's wrongs found in them deeply sympathetic. His vulgar declamation was mistaken for eloquence. The might of his arm to avenge and die, that was measured by the power of his tongue to assail and traduce. The call for volunteers was answered with cheers—but with cheers only. The greatest excitement prevailed, and the blood of the finest peasantry in the world mounted to fever heat—a condition, by the way, not altogether abnormal to the race. Aided by Irish impulses and Irish imagination, in a few moments recruits were enlisted, battalions formed, forlorn-hopes selected and the "hated Saasench" driven from the soil. A new Kingdom was founded upon the conquest, and George Francis with characteristic liberality bestowed the sceptre upon himself. Ambition was rife. The "Keeper of the King's Conscience"—a rather difficult post—was filled by an embryo lawyer. The valiant blacksmith behind me, to be Groom of the Stable, and the fair Biddy beside me to be "First Lady of the Bedchamber." The latter tidings passed that, in the Great Council of State no Briton should sit, save such Scots in the Hudson Bay service as spoke or unkerfooted Gaelic. The Irish harp, so long mute should once more

be heard. The soul of music they, and Tara's Hall (wonderfully like Government House) should resound with its strains. To crown all, St. Patrick unbendingly condescended to banish the snakes and frogs from the worthless rock and swamp land in the vicinity of Victoria. Alas for Ireland! a night's sleep—and the morning found the kingdom evacuated, the great Officers of State at the forge and the bellows, and "My Lady of the Bedchamber" deep in the mysteries of the wash-tub. The ephemeral King, as subsequent events have shown, alone reaped harvest from the enterprise.

Viewed from the harbor Victoria is not at first sight attractive, but this impression may be due to the pleasant reminiscences still lingering in the mind of the recent visitor to San Francisco. The city is beautifully situated, and its climate unrivalled on this continent. The scenery, viewed from Beacon Hill, is sublime; and the long stretches of beautiful verdure which here and there meet the eye form a delightful relief and pleasing contrast to the "sabbath-bills" of San Francisco. Nature has indeed been prodigal in her gifts, but Art, alas! has done little for this favored spot. In the vicinity of the town a few farms of considerable size have been worked, and with great success—upon thoroughly scientific principles. Here are held by speculators at prices which forbid the idea of purchase. The same objections to leaseholds, which obtain in other countries, exist here; and a fertile soil is thus practically reduced to the value of the barren rocks that form the promontories and headlands of the island. To this system of leaseholds may be attributed the "frenzied" condition of many of the shops and dwelling houses of Victoria. A few years ago the city had an energetic population of some 6000 people, among whom was a large sprinkling of artisans and useful mechanics. They came, in the majority of instances, unable to purchase, and therefore were compelled to lease the lot upon which they desired to build. They had no interest in the property beyond the wooden tenement erected for a home, and when trade declined they preferred to abandon it and leave the Colony rather than pay a heavy ground rent, or an amount of purchase money measured by a fictitious prosperity. It would be presumption in me to offer advice in a matter of this nature; but surely facts so patent ought to convince the few large land holders of Victoria that their own interests would be subserved by selling some portion of their land at its present and not at a prospective value. Every improvement made on the portions so sold must inevitably increase the value of the adjoining waste—for such it is. The system at present pursued, no doubt, is a great measure accounts for the slow progress made in farming, notwithstanding the heavy protective tariff now in force. It seems absurd, to find, upon looking at the imports, that wheat is bought in considerable quantities for "chicken feed," and that American hay, with an almost prohibitive duty of \$4 a ton, finds a market here. To many other articles the same remarks may be applied, and I propose dealing with them more fully hereafter.

The despondency of Victoria bears a marked contrast to the cheerfulness and hope exhibited in the outlying districts and in the open country. A visit to any one of the districts to the north or east of the City will convince the reader of the truth of this statement.

A Millionaire Conductor—A "Sun" Sensation.

Not one perhaps of the thousands who daily ride on the Sixth Avenue cars ever dreamed that a millionaire was among the brigue, often very rough men who are employed as conductors. Yet there is one whose drafts for amounts large enough to buy Fifth-Avenue mansions would be honored in any bank in New York. He is one of the best appearing of young men, strong, tall, and has an eye as black and piercing as a Spaniard's. Eight months ago this young man started from the Halls of the Montezumas for a trip round the world. He took \$15,000 in sterling exchange. This amount was supplied by a generous father, with instructions to draw for all sums required after that was exhausted. The father is an Englishman, a manufacturer of twenty-seven year's residence in the city and valley of Mexico, where he has accumulated several millions of property. His family consists of wife, this son (the Sixth Avenue conductor) and a daughter. The son came to New York, and his money vanished as other large amounts have passed from other hands. The rounds of Gotham, coaches, and varied pleasure, one constant whirl of excitement soon left our hero without money with which to continue his contemplated swing around the world's circle. Ashamed to draw for additional funds so soon after leaving home, he sought employment and obtained it. An elegant wardrobe is hung away, while with coarser garments he pursues his conductor life on a street-car. At a reasonable time from his arrival, and after he reaches London (he is saying his money for that purpose) he says that he will draw upon his father. He does his work cheerfully; says he has learned a world of lessons, taken thousands of insults, has thrown a dozen of wretches from his car during the last four months, and all in all does not regret his experience of car life in New York.

Copy of a Playbill, 1767.

By Patience's Desire. For the Benefit of Miss BRICKLER. THEATRE ROYAL IN COVENT GARDEN. On Saturday next, being May 15th, 1767, "The Beggar's Opera." Captain Macheath by Mr. Bead, Peachum by Mr. Shuter, Locket by Mr. Dunsall, Fitch by Mr. Horton, Player by Mr. Gardner, Beggar by Mr. Bennet, Mat-to-the-Meat by Mr. Baker, Lucy by Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Peachum by Mrs. Stephens, Diana Trapis by Miss Coppin, Mrs. Sammekin by Mrs. Green, Polly by Miss Brickler, with a hornpipe by Miss D. Twist; and a country dance by the character in the opera. End of Act II. Miss Brickler will sing a favorite song from "Judith" accompanied by Mr. Dibbin on a new instrument called Piano Forte. To which will be added a farce called "The Uptolater." The Barber by Mr. Woodward, Feeble by Mr. Mardin, Balmour by Mr. Perry, Rowewell by Mr. Davis, Watoban by Mr. Weller, Quaidance by Mr. Dunsall, Pamplo by Mr. Shuter, Harriet by Miss Vicoent, Maud by Miss Cockayne, Fernand by Mr. Green. An old maid of reputed wealth married her coachman, who knew more about horses than he did of grammar, and she was in the habit of correcting his grammatical mistakes. One night he came home rather late bringing with him an overcoat of "fig-leaves," and arriving at the front door, he made quite a racket in his demands for entrance. The old maid opened an upper window and asked "Who there?" "It's me," said the imbecile champion of "rotting stock." "It's I, my darling," corrected his partner of joy. "It's you, is it? Well, things have come to a pretty pass, when I don't know myself," retorted "coachy," and shortly afterwards he received a lesson in the "parts of speech."

Semi-Weekly British Colonist.

It is highly probable that the Legislature called together by the year. This Legislature affords however, for many people. They had and there will in which to do its ant work of de which it may ask upon entering with any degree postponed. The constituting as most organized community should the work at of colonial program whatever section ally unite. It will be unnecessary ought to comprise of such a program been constantly during the ma enumeration of place: Responsible early construction way; a liberal mail service; and mail service; a support of the P power to the P establish a Free I sentation in the Parliament that with the genera minion, and with parts thereof. S as constituting th political faith of surely they are to command Hitherto this chiefly remarkable unanimity. Pol ed, hashed up in be likened onto sticks. Whatv may have existed to the desirabili sidered in the come to regard it have a common the Colony the had. Let this firmly together, and thus attain resistance which any and every a federation upon by such terms as acceptable and be peat what has stated in these sert that a larg lists are in fa provided it can b and beneficial te very few indee that change if i a representative and other materi people concea ed. In the wh one there has more important tunity presented evil and secure reason to believe selves of this opp and manner Cou great boon; b probable that i be not improv may come to as render it neithe cial. Who shall have taken an ad Confederation h situation to stand others to step fo this to be wonder colonists to endea possible terms, was regarded as ple have been mis motives misjud pointed at as mer were willing to b a share of the "ic that the inevitab the change can n it is not unnatu been so long and and misjudged st tion to stand aloof sibility upon their other hand, those opposed Confede recognising its in importance of sec terms, show a dia and place the on federationists. F parties we respect desire to offend, anecdote, the app leave in the hand fishmonger, who inveterate swearer the boys as he v