

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, March 6, 1869

In discussing the terms of the proposed lease of the Meadows to a company, the Cariboo miners appear to have based their opinion entirely upon false premises. They seem to think that the company propose to hold and work the ground for their own benefit to the exclusion of the general mining community...

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY: We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia, beg to refer to Your Majesty's gracious consideration the anomalous, mischievous and inconvenient condition of the Courts of Judicature in this Colony.

The Mayor and Council, accompanied by the Citizens' Committee appointed at the public meeting, will wait upon His Excellency to-day at noon.

Wednesday, March 3. A REMARKABLE CASE of considerable interest to commercial men recently transpired at Cape Town, South Africa, which is thus described by the Advertiser and Mail: "Messrs. Pocock & Co., or rather their managing partner, in the absence of the senior partner in England, made a stupid blunder in the entering of certain goods at the Customs, by which a certain quantity of corks dutiable for about £10 was omitted. The thing was so perversely stupid that no man in Cape Town, save the Governor and the Attorney General, could come to the conclusion that it was anything more than a preposterous blunder. For that blunder, however, the firm admitted that they were liable; and the Supreme Court gave judgment to that effect for confiscation of all the goods in the same parcel with the corks; but refused the further prayer of the Government for the confiscation of all the goods in the shipment, with treble penalties and accumulated costs. The firm soon afterwards became insolvent and assigned their estate. The Governor and the Attorney General, however, notwithstanding the insolvency, determined, in the face of the strongest remonstrances from the Chamber of Commerce and the public generally, to appeal to the Privy Council in England; and, accordingly, the Attorney General moved the Supreme Court for leave. We have an Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Bell—who, like the Governor and the Attorney General—is a gentleman of marked ability and unimpeachable integrity, but who is equal if not superior to both of them in erratic perverseness of action. We are not going to take up any previous instances in illustration of this. But his conduct on Monday was such as has stounded the whole community. While this application of the Attorney General for leave to appeal was under consideration, his Lordship volunteered the extraordinary statement that he did not feel himself bound by the decision he had previously given against the Government as a precedent, because on the day when he heard the case he suffered so much from the ear-ache, and was so unusually deaf, and "in such pain, that he could sometimes hardly hear what was said. Under these circumstances, he did not hold himself bound by his previous decision, but wished to hold himself as a clean sheet of paper if such a case came before him again! * * * Things have come to a strange pass indeed, when our Chief Justice coolly assures us that the judgments he gives or the principles he lays down on one day may be reversed on the next, and that the administration of justice is to be contingent on the condition of the judge's bodily health! It was an ear-ache in the Pocock-Customs case; in the forthcoming great trial, in which the Standard Bank is so deeply interested, it might be prudent to obtain a preliminary medical certificate, lest a tooth-ache, or a touch of liver, or a fit of indigestion, might come inconveniently in the way."

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET MATCH.—Mr. Drake, Secretary of the Victoria Cricket Club, has received a challenge from the California Cricket Association, for a match at our national game, to come off in May at San Francisco, the return match to be played at Victoria in August. Mr. Holland, the owner of the steamship line, will convey the Victoria Eleven to San Francisco and home again free of charge, and the Cosmopolitan Hotel at San Francisco offers most liberal terms during their stay there. The match, if decided upon, will attract much attention and interest. A meeting of our Cricketers will be held at the Garrick's Head, to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock, to consider the proposition.

The inauguration of General Grant as President of the United States will take place to-morrow at Washington city. The custom has been for the retiring President to introduce the incoming President to the assemblage; but in consequence of the bad blood existing between General Grant and Mr. Johnson, that portion of the ceremony will be dispensed with. Grant assumes the reins of office under much more favorable circumstances than those which attended the accession to office of Johnson, whose art, we believe, will be judged by history in a more generous spirit than the present generation appears disposed to regard them.

SUPREMACY COURTS BILL.—This bill received His Excellency's assent yesterday. One of its clauses requires that either of the Chief Justices shall sit with the other when requested to do so by him. This will enable the now celebrated case of Mr. Nicholson to come before a court in which Judge Begbie—who by the provisions of the bill is created a Chief Justice—will occupy a seat on the Bench.

ACTORS ROBBERED.—The Portland Herald says that a mysterious robbery occurred on the Aotive on her last trip to this city, after she had passed the Custom House at Astoria. Pierpont Thayer lost all his stage wardrobe, and Miss M. Fields \$150 worth of jewelry. The thief broke into several baskets and trunks, taking out such things as the eye fancied, or thought suggested valuable.

SHAKER GARDEN SEEDS.—Moore & Co., druggists, are the consignees of a choice assortment of garden seeds selected at the Shaker Settlement of New Lebanon. Shaker seeds are world-renowned; and are held high in the estimation of agriculturists and horticulturists in the Eastern States and Canada.

KOOTENAY NEWS.—Mr & F Smith has a letter from Ft Shepherd dated 27th January, in which the writer speaks highly of the diggings in Ferris Creek, and advises Mr. Smith to come over.

County Court.

Tuesday, 2nd March, 1869. J. Clayton v T. B. Shaw.—To recover \$22 35. Plaintiff nonsuited. C. H. Williams v T. Harris.—To recover \$9 77. Order for \$5 32 1/2, without costs. C. H. Charley v T. Babson.—To recover \$8 40. Judgment by consent, for plaintiff. Congregation Emanuel-El v A. Phillips.—Postponed till next Court, to be holden on April 6th.

That excellent society, the Good Templars, gave their entertainment last evening at the Alhambra Hall, which was tastefully decorated with flags and banners. The Tea was a great success, and seemed to be duly appreciated by the guests. The W. O. T. addressed the meeting in an excellent speech, and was followed in due course by the Rev. T. Somerville, who has a happy way of pleasing everybody, and while conveying instruction, keeps the audience in a good humor. The rest of the evening was pleasantly filled with songs, recitations and dialogues by various members of the Society who acquitted themselves remarkably well. A large number of the fair sex graced the Hall with their presence and assisted materially in making the affair one of the most delightful of the season.

We had the pleasure to "assist" at one of those charming entertainments at the Mechanics' Literary Institute, last evening. The Oxhydrogen Lantern threw out a number of beautiful pictures with such distinctness of outline that one could almost imagine himself in the immediate vicinity of the place under description. C. Good, Esq., explained the various localities in a most eloquent manner, and drew forth the applause of a very respectable audience. The room was well filled, a most creditable fact for our city, as marking the increasing taste for such refined amusement. The band, during intervals, performed with great taste a number of popular airs.

THE SOUND STEAMERS.—The Eliza Anderson arrived at 10 o'clock yesterday morning from Puget Sound, bringing 40 passengers and a fine freight. The opposition bids fair to be energetic and determined on both sides. Rates of passage and charges for freight have been materially reduced. The purveys of both boats have placed us under obligations for files of latest papers. The Anderson sails at 12 to-day and the Wilson G. Hunt at 2 p. m.

The New Kootenay Diggings.

The following private letter from Ferris Creek has been handed us by the gentleman who received it: PERRIS CREEK, Jan. 7th, 1869. DEAR — I take this opportunity of going down to Walla Walla to let you know I am here, where I have been since last September. I have got a claim here along with three boys from Walla Walla, and it prospects well since we got through the blue clay, and it will pay splendidly. — and the boys in the 'Jewellers' Shop' have got a big thing. So has — and most of the boys from the old creek. If you intend to come, come at once, as we expect a big rush from Blackfoot. J. G. — has started a ferry on Flathead Lake in preparation for the Blackfoot rush. Mr. O. of the Walla Walla men are coming this way. I have taken up ground for you, so lose no time and bring some grub with you as everything is very high here, and will be very scarce. Flour is selling at 45 cents. Gum boots are selling at \$50 per pair. There are no mucking tools to be had, and no whiskey. If you see any of the old Kootenay boys tell them to come over, as we are going to have a better camp here than any of the old ones.

A NEGRO CLAIMS 800 ACRES OF SAN FRANCISCO.—A negro man, aged about eighty years, recently arrived in San Francisco from New York, visiting the former city for the purpose of reclaiming and taking possession of some eight hundred acres thereof which he claims to own. He says that he lived where San Francisco now stands some thirty-five years ago, at which time he received a grant from the Mexican Government for eight hundred acres of the peninsula, but the sandy and barren character of the soil was such that he did not value it very highly. Then after several years residence he went into Southern Mexico and thence to the Atlantic States, where he joined Fremont's exploring expedition and returned to California. After the cession of this State to our Government he claims to have located a land warrant on the present site of San Francisco. It is understood that he is well pleased with his land during his absence, and that he is disposed to be liberal with his tenants. A swarm of real estate 'sharks' are on his trail disposed to cultivate him. If this sable shadow is as dark as represented, it will considerably cloud San Francisco's real estate.

A PETITION is in circulation asking the Council to pass a bill for the supply of the city with water. It is numerously signed. The brig Byzantium will be sold by order of the Vice Admiralty Court on Tuesday, 23rd inst.

A woman lately left a train at the Hartford depot, says a Connecticut paper, to get a cup of coffee, and while she was absent the train started, carrying off her baby. The mother was greatly excited, and the railroad official's telegraphed to Berlin to have the baby "switched" there, which was done, and soon the separated family was collected together.

Naturalization Treaty.

WASHINGTON, January 23d.—The following is the naturalization protocol showing the principles agreed upon by the United States and British Governments on the question of naturalization: The undersigned, Beverly Johnson, Esq., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America, and Edward Henry, Lord Stanley of Bickerstaff, her Britannic Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, being respectively authorized and empowered to place on record the desire of the President of the United States of America and her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to regulate the citizenship of citizens of the United States of America who have emigrated or may emigrate from the United States of America to British dominions, and of British subjects who have emigrated or may emigrate from the British dominions to the United States of America, have agreed upon the following protocol:

First—Such citizens as aforesaid of the United States who have become or shall become, and are naturalized according to law within the British dominions as British subjects, shall, subject to the provisions of articles two and four, be held by the United States to be, in all respects and for all purposes, British subjects, and shall be treated as such by the United States. Reciprocally, such British subjects as aforesaid who have become or shall become and are naturalized according to law within the United States of America as citizens thereof, shall, subject to the provisions of articles two and four, be held by Great Britain to be, in all respects and for all purposes, American citizens, and shall be treated as such by Great Britain.

Second—Such United States citizens as aforesaid who have become and are naturalized within the British dominions as British subjects, and such British subjects as aforesaid who have become and are naturalized as citizens within the United States, shall be at liberty to renounce their naturalization and to resume their respective nationalities, provided that such renunciation be publicly declared within two years after this protocol shall have been carried into effect, as provided by article four. The manner in which this renunciation may be made and publicly declared shall be hereafter agreed upon by the respective Governments.

Third—If such American citizen as aforesaid, naturalized within the British dominions, should renew his residence in the United States, the United States Government may, on his own application, and on such conditions as that Government may think fit to impose, readmit him to the character and privileges of an American citizen, and Great Britain shall not in that case claim him as a British subject on account of his former naturalization. And in the same manner, if such British subject as aforesaid, naturalized in the United States, should renew his residence within the British dominions, the British Government may, on his own application, and on such conditions as that Government may think fit to impose, readmit him to the character and privileges of a British subject, and the United States shall not in that case claim him as a citizen of the United States on account of his former naturalization.

Fourth—As it will not be practicable for Great Britain to carry into operation on the principal laid down in this protocol until provision has been made by the Imperial Parliament for such a revision of the existing laws as the adoption of those principles involves, it is agreed that this protocol shall not take effect until such legislation can be accomplished. The British Government will introduce measures into Parliament for this purpose as speedily as may be possible, having regard to the various public and private interests which may be affected by a change in the laws of naturalization and allegiance now under consideration of the Royal Commission, whose report is expected shortly to be made. The same provision not being necessary by the Constitution and laws of the United States, this article is not made reciprocal.

REVERDY JOHNSON, STANLEY.

A MOST unpleasant man to meet must have been the executioner of Thomas Jones, who was hanged in London, Ontario, a few weeks ago. The picnicker of this is as weird as that of the headman in Cooper's novel. A description of the procession to the gallows contains the following: The melancholy procession moved slowly and in silence, Jones being pale, and speaking only a word in a low tone now and then to some of those near him. On reaching the room in the southern wing another delay took place, when the hangman, for the first time, appeared on the scene. He was a dreadful looking character, his features being masked and further disguised with a large, flowing white beard falling down on his breast. His form was enveloped in a huge black cloak. The disguise was most complete, and was weird and terrible. In fact, the aspect of this dread official was simply horrible, and never was a headman more fearfully dressed. He appeared suddenly on the scene, and a shudder ran through the culprit's frame as his eyes fell on the fearful apparition. He at once confronted Jones, and proceeded with the first part of his horrible duty by placing the rope around his neck.

A CLERGYMAN and one of the elderly parishioners were walking home from meeting one frosty day, when the old gentleman slipped and fell upon his back. The minister, on being assured that he was not hurt, said to him, "My friend, sinners stand on slippery places." The old gentleman looked up, as if to assure himself of the fact, and replied: "Yes, I see they do; but I can't."

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WHITE PINE is a perfect honest Californian's excuse for leaving snuffed; to the manufacture, key, because in the case a large quantity compound will be consigned going into the market 000 for which they will big interest; and because they induce thousands of little savings to build the judicious expenditure sand dollars in the disciplined runners in "blame amongst credulous minds believe what is stated in country? Does any one able sources anything about no one has a right to impoverish themselves; but as public journalists warn the public against humbugs that are got of a few heartless speculators already made fabulous. There, when any one thing about the real morally certain that in ten such statements. That one or two claim be rich is quite possible number of claims have simply absurd, because least nine thousand feet of the sea, and people Cariboo, which is only a season, and how very any mining operations tried on at White Pine of the mines there that 800,000 people the whole of which presented by about 1000 used to perpetrate the ies on quiet, inefficient Francisco who were ruinment of their little sum money is very likely, from the development side claims. It will taking advantage of ability, which has in properly inflated by for the purpose. Suppose are a few rich silver becomes another War. How many people employment there? 10,000, and what the of the balance, say who rush there fromifornia and the ne Can anyone doubt ery of the most aggravated by sea and bloodshed, the of all "rubber" because of worthless character the qui vive for such for the practice of the A word of advice to to leave our own min goose chase. The e last few years has g that our mineral v very partially develop of 1869 are a very d those of 1862. The boasting of their r were in the habit of named year, and al have heard from the have the very best that a large amou taken out in Carib men about Barker Bankers—know ve sufficient to point gold brought down year, which was only the sum recorded fore, and that in the ample drought whi great majority of the ing claims (partic Creek) being wor can be more self Cariboo will conti production yearly advance this with th persons who go to