

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, May 9, 1868.

Nearly all the leading members of the Council, popular and official, whose opinions have any influence in moulding public sentiment, have spoken upon the subject of Confederation, and the record left is unquestionably in favor of those who advocated the adoption of an address to Her Majesty praying the immediate completion of the grand scheme of Confederation. It would be a mere waste of time, though it might be instructive as showing the inconsistency and littleness of men at times, to analyze the speeches of those opposing the measure, for the sentiment throughout is as lamentable as the diction; and it would not reward us to arrange or our readers to peruse the platitudes and twaddle those speeches contain. So far as the sentiment goes, it is over-English and under-English all through. It is not English principle, rejoicing at the extension of our national power in a consolidated form, and expressing itself thereat in lofty thoughts and burning words; but English prejudice, uttering the pitiable selfishness of official position. We have read every sentence carefully to find if possible some argument worthy of refutation, and we have failed in doing so. We repeat distinctly that, as the debate is reported, we can find no interpretation of this tempest in a teapot, other than that the question of Confederation has been reduced by every man who spoke against it to a mere paltry issue, involving colonial emolument, private interests and local position. And against this limited, unjust, contracted view we urge our protest. Regarded in such light, Confederation is stripped of all that grandeur of idea which constitutes its greatest charm and greatest power, and which in England and Canada gained for it a ready and warm support from the monarch, through all classes of statesmen, down to the populace of both countries, save and excepting the people of Nova Scotia, and a majority of the members in our Council. Both these, however, be it remembered, are actuated in reality by the same motive—the opposition of the one centering upon a trifling tariff, the opposition of the other springing from a question of salary. We should indeed regret intentionally to impute unjust or even wrong motives to such men as voted against the address, simply because we differ in opinion as to the necessity and value of immediate Confederation. Such conduct would do us no credit, and the cause we advocate no good. But what else are we to think, when we see men in every other relation of life intelligent, honest, patriotic, on calmly reviewing their conduct in this matter, but that they are untrue to themselves, their character and their country, and that a lurking, unbecoming motive is really the cause of their apostasy. What means their persistent confession of an ignorance of Canadian affairs which is disgraceful; a reiteration of facts which are not actually true; of deductions which are positively erroneous; of a pre-judgment of Canadian honor which is simply dishonest—unless they had lost the spirit of manliness which has hitherto distinguished their private and public life, and were aiming at the accomplishment of a secret purpose which they dare not openly and boldly acknowledge? We are free to regret this action in the Legislature, whose labors otherwise will confer much good on the colony, but we must not be appalled by it; we have hoisted the flag of Confederation and we shall defend it, satisfied that in spite of Nova Scotia and the Council of British Columbia we shall see our possessions in the Occident and Orient joined firmly together by its power, and a nation created that will have no limits in the future.

Monday, May 4th. A MAN named McDonald, engaged in smuggling over the lines, fled from the United States to Canada. He was pursued by a Sheriff of Michigan, seized on Canadian soil, and carried off to the United States, where he was sentenced to imprisonment. This caused a correspondence with the United States Government, and Mr Seward ordered that the man be set free on Canadian soil. Mr Thornton wrote in reply to Mr Seward:— "I hope you will believe that we can have no sympathy with the individual in question who showed so great a want of good faith on the occasion; nor was the representation I made to you inspired by any wish to withdraw a convicted criminal from punishment, but was for the mere purpose of inviting your assistance to the prevention of any conflict between the authorities of our two countries. I therefore take upon myself the responsibility of not accepting your offer that Allen McDonald should be set at liberty in Canada, confident as I am that Her Majesty's government will approve of this step, and at the same time that they will appreciate the straightforward manner in which you have treated the matter."

JEFF DAVIS.—After the long time which has elapsed since the capture and primary examination of the great Chief of the Southern rebellion, and the complete manner during the interim in which he had retired from public observation and notice, we find the subject of his final trial again occupying a prominent place in American politics and that arrangements are being or have been made to bring him to trial at the May term of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The press of America is now divided upon the advisability of the step after so long a delay.

ARRIVAL FROM JAPAN.—The British ship Ellen, Capt. Wood, thirty-five days from Yokohama, arrived in the outer harbor last evening. The Ellen is bound for a mill on Puget Sound, but owing to the illness of the captain, who is suffering from dropsy, she put in here to procure medical aid. The civil war continued to rage with undiminished fury in Japan.

FIRST OF MAY.—Yesterday was very generally observed as a holiday. A few stores were opened for a short time in the morning, and then the town was quite deserted. Picnic and riding parties were scouring the country in all directions. The day was delightful, except towards evening when a cold nor'wester blew up.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The house of Commons last night on Gladstone's resolution for the abolition of the Irish Church was continued to a late hour. Some of the prominent members spoke. Lord Elcho opposed the resolution. Mr Gladstone closed the debate on the liberal side with a powerful speech against the continuance of the Irish Church. He also defended himself for his course, denying he had any part or lot in the projects either of the Ritualists or Roman Catholics. Disraeli followed in a bitter speech, calling the scheme one of confiscation and violence to which the people of England would never consent. A division then took place on the first resolution, which was adopted by sixty-five majority. Disraeli said the ministry needed time to confer which course it would take, and the House adjourned till Monday.

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By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Evaris commenced his argument for the defence yesterday and continued to-day.

The majority in North Carolina for Constitution is 18,500.

PARIS, April 29.—South American advices state the allied land and naval forces are in possession of all the principal points around Humatia. Forces are daily increasing for the final attack. Lopez has fled to Humatia and cannot hold out three days longer.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The Tribune's Washington special says a meeting of influential Democrats agreed to nominate Hancock for President.

LONDON, April 28, midnight.—In the House of Lords Derby attacked the resolutions of Gladstone on the Irish Church, and accused Russell of vacillating in his position on the question. He said the resolutions adopted by only one House were without binding force on the Crown, but if the bill were duly passed it would be obligatory. He criticized Lord Russell, alluded to his views on the subject and hoped to defeat his schemes, and Ireland would be saved. Earl Russell said he was amazed to see Lord Derby opening this question here while it was yet pending in the Lower House, and declared with much earnestness that the peace of Ireland was the aim of his life. In case the resolutions pass the House he should submit an appropriate bill, which he ventured would be sustained by the Commons and public opinion, and would without doubt command the assent of the Upper House. The Ministry would not attempt to influence the Crown adversely to the will of the Commons, as a collision between the Crown and Commons would be a result to be deplored. In the House Disraeli, in announcing question, said the Ministry wished the fullest discussion of the Irish Church Establishment question.

All the Clerkenwell explosion prisoners except Barrett have been set at liberty.

Nagle's trial commenced to-day. Great interest is felt. Counsel asked for a mixed jury for Burke on the ground that he was an alien. Motion overruled.

CHICAGO, May 1.—A Tribune special says the Georgia constitution is ratified by 9,000 majority. The Republicans have elected the Governor by 7000 majority and secured a working majority in the Legislature.

EUROPE. LONDON, April 27.—The Times' special states: Theodore was attacked by the British advance on the 10th of April and repulsed, losing 500 men killed. He was subsequently deserted by the remainder of his troops. The King then retreated inside the fortress of Magdalla, where he was supported by some few devoted followers. He made a desperate resistance to the English, but finding his cause was made hopeless by an assault he committed suicide by a pistol-shot as the British approached his last stand point.

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Large election meetings are being held in various districts, but there is great difficulty in procuring candidates. Payment of members is very generally denounced.

The action for libel brought by Mr Bright against Bunyip newspaper resulted in a verdict for the defendant. There was great excitement at Gaver and an ovation to Mr Barnett, the editor.

The Government, finding it impossible to prevent the importation of sheep from Victoria by proclamation, have determined that all the sheep crossing the boundary shall be branded with the letter V.

NEW ZEALAND. The news from New Zealand is of considerable importance. The Newcastle Chronicle of February 23rd says: From the news to hand it would appear that the whole Province of Canterbury has been visited with most disastrous floods, resulting in the loss of a considerable number of lives, several vessels, and a fearful amount of property on land.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. The mortality rate at Cape Town from fever still continued very high. Exertions were being made to suppress the disease. The harvest had proved a bounteous one, though less favourable than was anticipated. From a return just published marked improvement was shown in the colonial finances and Government revenue, and the extent and prospects of general trade were more favourable than for years before. Hopes were entertained of a surplus revenue in the treasury at the close of the present year. It had been resolved to delay the opening of the docks in Table Bay, in order to excavate eight acres of the inner dock to a uniform depth of 25 feet of water. More coal-fields had been found in Port Natal, and the prospects were still further brightening. Gold quartz and nuggets had also been discovered in the Transvaal country, and a large party was in course of organisation to explore the neighbourhood.

The Cape Town Theatre has been totally destroyed by fire.

At Natal, judgment had been declared in the suit of Bishop Colenso against Dean Green. The Supreme Court has set aside the judgment of the Privy Council, and declares that Natal was a Crown colony when the plaintiff's patent was issued; that Dr. Colenso is, therefore, trustee of the buildings and has ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The judgment further ejects Dean Green from the deanery, and prohibits him from officiating in any of Dr. Colenso's churches. The friends of the Dean have since held a meeting, at which it was resolved not to appeal against the judgment, but to erect or hire temporary churches, and that Dean Green should at once proceed to England.

The announcement of the discovery of gold-fields in the Transvaal is principally founded on the report of a German mineralogist, Herr Mauch, who has been exploring the country. He writes, under date Potchefstroom, Dec. 2, 1867:—"Just returned from a second trip in Moselikate's country. I give you short notice that I have been very successful in finding gold, not in small, scarcely visible specks, but in great veins of quartz in the widest gold-fields, one of them more than 60 miles long, the other about 20 miles broad, beside numerous small parallel veins."

"MULFORD" ON SHORT SKIRTS.—Prentice Mulford, in a letter to the Stockton Gazette, says: The superiority of the present style of short skirts was never more apparent than during the present wet season. One cannot avoid regarding the girls on Montgomery street at present with interest. They trip so free and unobstructive. The brevity of their dresses is graded according to character and temperament. Very modest and retiring females have about an inch and a half between the bottom of the gowns and the pavement. Cheerful girls, two and a half. Lively girls, who skirmish around the confines of the church, and teach a class in Sunday School to keep up appearances, four inches. Gay girls, who know what they are about, but will ride out to the Cliff House with a respectably dissipated man if they want to do so, four and three quarters. Fast girls, five. Very fast, six. I know. When one has measured one has a right to know.

By way of Panama we have Sydney dates to March 1st, and Wellington dates of March 8th.

DESTRUCTIVE storms have prevailed in Southern Australia. The Sydney Herald says: After very unsettled weather, extending over several days, a decided change for the worse came on during the night following March 14th, when it began to be very stormy, and continued to rain for nearly sixty hours. At Windsor, Araluen, Maitland Singleton, and elsewhere in the coast districts, all the horrors of the late floods were expected, but happily the weather abated before so much harm was done as anticipated. The waters, however, in several places rose to a great height and swept over the lowlands. His Excellency the Earl of Belmore visited the Hawkesbury district on Tuesday. The distress on the Lower Hawkesbury district is very great. On the coast the gale told heavily on the shipping.

The papers are filled with accounts of the progress of Prince Alfred through the Colonies. All manner of presentations were made to him, which he generously condescended to accept. Addresses of welcome were delivered, balls and soirees given, and other exhibitions of loyalty manifested.

The Legislature adjourned to the 23rd January, when it again met according to agreement for the purpose of enabling the members of both Houses to avail themselves of His Royal Highness's visit to give expression to their feelings of loyalty and devotion to the Queen. Addresses previously agreed to were presented, and the Parliament adjourned till the 25th February. The interval was filled with presentations, balls, visits to public institutions, and rural and urban excursions by road, rail and river.

DESPATCHES from Melbourne, dated Feb'y 29th, contain the following: M'Gane, clerk to the Hon Mr Clark, has been found guilty of embezzlement. Parliament was to meet on the 10th of March. Richard Conlon, Treasurer of the Collingwood Foresters, has been brought up on a charge of embezzling the funds of their lodge.

SIR DOMINICK DALY, the Governor of the Province, died at Adelaide February 27th. It is reported that Government statistics for the past harvest have been made up, and

the average of the land reaped will be under seven bushels.

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The Government, finding it impossible to prevent the importation of sheep from Victoria by proclamation, have determined that all the sheep crossing the boundary shall be branded with the letter V.

NEW ZEALAND. The news from New Zealand is of considerable importance. The Newcastle Chronicle of February 23rd says: From the news to hand it would appear that the whole Province of Canterbury has been visited with most disastrous floods, resulting in the loss of a considerable number of lives, several vessels, and a fearful amount of property on land.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. The mortality rate at Cape Town from fever still continued very high. Exertions were being made to suppress the disease. The harvest had proved a bounteous one, though less favourable than was anticipated. From a return just published marked improvement was shown in the colonial finances and Government revenue, and the extent and prospects of general trade were more favourable than for years before. Hopes were entertained of a surplus revenue in the treasury at the close of the present year. It had been resolved to delay the opening of the docks in Table Bay, in order to excavate eight acres of the inner dock to a uniform depth of 25 feet of water. More coal-fields had been found in Port Natal, and the prospects were still further brightening. Gold quartz and nuggets had also been discovered in the Transvaal country, and a large party was in course of organisation to explore the neighbourhood.

The Cape Town Theatre has been totally destroyed by fire.

At Natal, judgment had been declared in the suit of Bishop Colenso against Dean Green. The Supreme Court has set aside the judgment of the Privy Council, and declares that Natal was a Crown colony when the plaintiff's patent was issued; that Dr. Colenso is, therefore, trustee of the buildings and has ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The judgment further ejects Dean Green from the deanery, and prohibits him from officiating in any of Dr. Colenso's churches. The friends of the Dean have since held a meeting, at which it was resolved not to appeal against the judgment, but to erect or hire temporary churches, and that Dean Green should at once proceed to England.

The announcement of the discovery of gold-fields in the Transvaal is principally founded on the report of a German mineralogist, Herr Mauch, who has been exploring the country. He writes, under date Potchefstroom, Dec. 2, 1867:—"Just returned from a second trip in Moselikate's country. I give you short notice that I have been very successful in finding gold, not in small, scarcely visible specks, but in great veins of quartz in the widest gold-fields, one of them more than 60 miles long, the other about 20 miles broad, beside numerous small parallel veins."

"MULFORD" ON SHORT SKIRTS.—Prentice Mulford, in a letter to the Stockton Gazette, says: The superiority of the present style of short skirts was never more apparent than during the present wet season. One cannot avoid regarding the girls on Montgomery street at present with interest. They trip so free and unobstructive. The brevity of their dresses is graded according to character and temperament. Very modest and retiring females have about an inch and a half between the bottom of the gowns and the pavement. Cheerful girls, two and a half. Lively girls, who skirmish around the confines of the church, and teach a class in Sunday School to keep up appearances, four inches. Gay girls, who know what they are about, but will ride out to the Cliff House with a respectably dissipated man if they want to do so, four and three quarters. Fast girls, five. Very fast, six. I know. When one has measured one has a right to know.

By way of Panama we have Sydney dates to March 1st, and Wellington dates of March 8th.

DESTRUCTIVE storms have prevailed in Southern Australia. The Sydney Herald says: After very unsettled weather, extending over several days, a decided change for the worse came on during the night following March 14th, when it began to be very stormy, and continued to rain for nearly sixty hours. At Windsor, Araluen, Maitland Singleton, and elsewhere in the coast districts, all the horrors of the late floods were expected, but happily the weather abated before so much harm was done as anticipated. The waters, however, in several places rose to a great height and swept over the lowlands. His Excellency the Earl of Belmore visited the Hawkesbury district on Tuesday. The distress on the Lower Hawkesbury district is very great. On the coast the gale told heavily on the shipping.

The papers are filled with accounts of the progress of Prince Alfred through the Colonies. All manner of presentations were made to him, which he generously condescended to accept. Addresses of welcome were delivered, balls and soirees given, and other exhibitions of loyalty manifested.

The Legislature adjourned to the 23rd January, when it again met according to agreement for the purpose of enabling the members of both Houses to avail themselves of His Royal Highness's visit to give expression to their feelings of loyalty and devotion to the Queen. Addresses previously agreed to were presented, and the Parliament adjourned till the 25th February. The interval was filled with presentations, balls, visits to public institutions, and rural and urban excursions by road, rail and river.

DESPATCHES from Melbourne, dated Feb'y 29th, contain the following: M'Gane, clerk to the Hon Mr Clark, has been found guilty of embezzlement. Parliament was to meet on the 10th of March. Richard Conlon, Treasurer of the Collingwood Foresters, has been brought up on a charge of embezzling the funds of their lodge.

SIR DOMINICK DALY, the Governor of the Province, died at Adelaide February 27th. It is reported that Government statistics for the past harvest have been made up, and

the average of the land reaped will be under seven bushels.

The experiments carried out by Dr Schomburg and others show that wheat shrivelled by rust is perfectly fit for seed.

Several deputations have waited on the Government, requesting aid to farmers by the distribution of seed wheat, but they refuse