

The Weekly British Colonist

AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, March 17, 1868.

The belief that the approaching session of the Legislative Council will be short is general. Good authority gives it a probable existence of about three weeks—a period quite as long as the Governor, with his well known taste for business of any kind, will be found willing to devote to the object. The financial condition of the country will be among the first things discussed. It is difficult to imagine what plan will be submitted for extricating the colony from its difficulties. Some official members of the Council suggest an increased tariff; others direct taxation. The Governor proposes a new loan with an Imperial guarantee. The taxpayers demand the inauguration of a system of economy by the reduction of the Governor's overgrown salary by at least \$10,000; the discharge of every unnecessary official; the consolidation of the Judicial, Lands and Works, Registry, Gaol and Postal establishments; the substitution of Justices of the Peace for Stipendiary Magistrates in the least important districts; and the removal of the capital to Victoria. These economies would save the colony an expenditure of at least \$150,000 per annum, and enable it to go home next fall for a loan with some chance of success. So long as the outgo of a colony exceeds its income, there is little hope that either English capitalists or the Imperial Government will be found willing to advance money except upon substantial security. We are not aware what answer the Home Government has returned to the plaintive appeals of the Executive for more money; but we should not be surprised to learn that he has been instructed to reduce the cost of his establishment to a figure consistent with the revenue. The important question of Confederation must, perforce, come before the Council; and we shall know whether his Excellency has fulfilled his solemn pledge to lay the resolution of last year before the Canadian Government. The Capital question will, doubtless, be brought up in the shape of an inquiry. The Governor will be asked to state why he has disregarded the petition of nineteen-twentieths of the people of the whole country, and the vote of the Council, by conveying that body at New Westminster instead of at Victoria. There should be something to show for the herculean labors of the Attorney General, who has been (ostensibly) so busy for the last twelve months in "drawing up bills" that he has been unable to perform any other official work whatsoever. On the whole, we fancy that the session, even if short, will not be devoid of interest. In the three weeks allotted for the session, much good may be effected by legislation if Government is disposed to bid its "servants" vote in accordance with the promptings of their consciences, without compelling them to stop to consult their private interests. If, however, the same pressure be brought to bear as last year, the public may expect to see the popular voice smothered by the official element, and the country plunged deeper into debt and despair.

Friday, March 13.

STAG HUNT.—It was determined to uncork the stag at the Jewish Cemetery, to witness which a very large assemblage of equestrians and footmen were present. The hounds were let loose too soon, and after making a short circle, the deer was hauled down by one of Snyder's dogs, without being much hurt. After a short rest he was again started with fifteen minutes grace, but made no sport. He was once sighted in the second run not more, probably, than a hundred yards ahead of the hounds, and that was the last of him. Hence it was a gentle walk through the woods, two by two, as customary at a funeral. On reaching the North Dairy Farm we saw the huntsman, surrounded by his hounds, taking it easy across the field, but giving little music, and as the majority of horsemen started off in an opposite direction on a drag-hunt, we came home in a cold, biting sleet storm. We don't think much of that stag hunt; we don't think much of Wilson Brown's hounds, and we think less of the management of the whole affair, which otherwise might have ended in a very agreeable day's sport.

MR. CLARKE'S BENEFIT.—It gives us much pleasure to state that the performance and the audience on Wednesday night were everything that could be desired. Whatever may have been wanting on the previous occasion to sustain the high reputation of the Dramatic Club was abundantly supplied; and it must have been gratifying to the beneficiary, as the leading spirit of that Club, and as a gentleman of noble and generous instincts, to see how thoroughly his company supported his efforts and the public acknowledged his merits. The first piece was Tom Taylor's pleasing comedy of "Still Waters Run Deep." There are really only three characters in this play, viz: Mildmay, Capt Hawkeley and Mrs Sternhold—Potter being a very ordinary old man, neither good nor bad, clever nor stupid, and Mrs Mildmay, like many other young brides governed by bad domestic influences, a little wilful and foolish. All the other parts amount to nothing. Yet there are few police comedies, when put on the stage effectively and the parts well rendered, more attractive. Mildmay is considered Mr Clarke's favorite character, and throughout all its difficult and delicate phases, we must confess we have seldom, if ever, witnessed a truer conception and reading. Passion, triumph, despair, or emotion indeed of any kind would utterly destroy its unity—thus the actor is left to limit most trying to correct taste, that of representing an unappreciated, ill-used, disappointed husband, full of affection, conscious of his own merits, and smarting under a keen sense of injustice. To say Mr Clarke did perfect justice to the character of Mildmay, from beginning to end, is paying him the highest compliment it is in our power to pay; and in doing so we feel assured we but express the sentiment of every person in the large, brilliant and intellectual house of Wednesday. Through every scene, where he boldly but quietly crushes the villain Hawkeley, destroys his schemes, and finally sends him to jail, where he overcomes the obstinate usurpation of Mrs Sternhold, and proves his affection at last to his wife, required just the quiet dignity to give true effect to this beautiful character which Mr Clarke adopted, and nothing more. Upon the whole, it was a pure, splendid piece of acting, and at once establishes Mr Clarke's ability, judgment and taste. Mr Anderson's Captain Hawkeley was also exceedingly well represented. The cool effrontery, boldness and rage of the rake, swindler and disappointed duellist, were given with all the emotions necessary to each, while his attitude and look added genuineness to each of the passions as they swept along in rapid mastery of his heart. The acting of Mr Anderson on Wednesday proves what we said of him on a previous occasion, that he has much of the genuine talent of the real actor. His Captain Hawkeley was infinitely better than his "Connoisseur" and we think still he is capable of even greater achievements than his Captain Hawkeley, good as that is. Mr Keast, as Potter, the common-place old man, covered himself with glory. As an ordinary thing, old men on the stage are very stale affairs; but Mr Keast, by some means, managed to infuse an immense amount of interest in his Potter, and gained the approbation of the audience throughout. Mrs Fowls also sustained her reputation as usual, looked more charmingly, and played more up to nature than we ever saw her before. Miss Yeoman also acquitted herself with great credit. By degrees conquering the natural and becoming diffidence of a young debutante, her Sternhold on Wednesday gives much promise of final success. In some of the scenes with Hawkeley she both spoke and acted well, and was justly applauded. Both of these ladies have one particular merit, that of being at all times well prepared. They seldom or ever require the aid of the prompter. "Still Waters" on this occasion passed off without a single flaw, and was, altogether, a wonderful performance for amateurs, who have so little practice on the stage. The concluding farce was "Boots at the Swan." We do not wish to appear fulsome in our praise, but we assert the farce was as good as the comedy. The stars of the after piece were Messrs Gillon, Callingham, Brown, and Miss Araminta de Beaver. Some think Mr Callingham overacted his Jacob Earwig; but overacting, be it understood, is just the merit of such characters. Familiarity, and even impertinence, must be looked for when we descend to a level with such people and make them our companions for a time, though it is for the accomplishment of a specific purpose. Mr C. acted both too overdid neither. In the requirements of low comedy we doubt very much if Mr Callingham has his equal on the Pacific coast. In the estimation of all present we believe the gem of the after-piece, if not of the night, was Miss Cecil in Moonshine. Everybody knows the impersonator of this glorious piece of femininity is a gentleman, but as he withholds his name we do not feel justified in making it public; otherwise we should have pleasure in sending it abroad in connection with the most finished and wonderful pieces of acting it was ever our good fortune to see. It kept the house in continual laughter and applause, and called down thousands of plaudits. We have no hesitation in saying that Miss de Beaver's Moonshine would do credit to any of the best London theatres. Miss Fawcett looks so pretty that we hope to see her essay something more prominent than we have yet seen her attempt, and two

think she will succeed. We must not omit the orchestral arrangements. They were the best we have seen in Victoria. To lovers of music the performances of Gauthier were a rich treat. We have not heard the cornet so well played since we last heard the Marine Band at Plymouth, and every Englishman knows how it is played there. Mr Bushell's original waltzes, composed for the occasion and dedicated to the Club, were generally admired.

PEPPER'S GHOST AND THE FLOATING HEAD.—At the meeting of the Polytechnic branch of the American Institute, lately, the mystery of theatrical ghosts, floating heads, and other seemingly supernatural phenomena was explained. The ghost is only a reflection made on a partition of plate-glass. The real ghost or image is beneath the stage floor, and a partially closed aperture is made in the floor between the ghost and the glass, and while the man sees the glass, the spectators see only the reflection from the glass. In producing the floating head, a large mirror is placed at a certain angle on the stage. This glass has a hole in it through which a human head projects. The ruff with which the neck is dressed covers the hole close around the chin. The false ceiling overhead is papered to match the side walls, therefore it is evident that to the spectators the reflection of the wall above appears as though it was the back ceiling in the distance. Thus the glass is not seen, and the human head appears to float in air.

ROW IN A CHINA SHOP.—A son of Neptune appeared at the Police Court yesterday, charged with assaulting a Chinaman and breaking the window of his shop. It appeared from the testimony and the statement of the accused that Jack, being about half seas over, went into the shop on Wednesday, and took up a pipe, probably in a lark, whereupon the Chinaman shut the door and locked it and called another Chinaman to his assistance. Jack, not liking the idea of being caged, knocked one of the Johnnies down, caught up a bar of iron and commenced smashing the windows to escape, but was caught in the act of demolition by one of the police, who released him from the China shop and lodged him in jail for the night. The Court fined the prisoner five dollars and cautioned Johnny against again looking up a sailor.

FROM FRASER RIVER.—The steamer Enterprise returned from the river at 7 o'clock last evening, bringing 15 passengers and a Cariboo mail. The poor creatures at the Capital appear to be quite jubilant over the Governor's proclamation. The organs are filled with the customary abuse of Victoria. The Examiner hints at a raw head and bloody bones paragraph in the forthcoming Governor's Message which is to "lettle the hab" of Victoria and throw everything into the lap of the Hovels. The Reinder, it is rumored, is to be stationed at Burrard Inlet, where is situated the only property on the mainland, south of Yale, worth preserving. The Columbian thinks the session will not extend over three weeks.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Constitution arrived from Nanaimo yesterday afternoon. She has on board 340 tons of coal for Sika, and will await the arrival of Prince Matsukoff from San Francisco before proceeding on her voyage. The ship Isaac Jeaus sailed yesterday morning for San Francisco, with 1300 tons of coal, and the ship Fanny is loading for the same destination. The seam of coal now being worked is believed to be the most extensive and best yet struck at Nanaimo. The Constitution made the run up to Nanaimo in 6½ hours.

A FANTASIA POWER.—The following poetic effusion was picked up in our passage-way. In one corner of the paper appears an Irish flag with the harp. We observe that the author has anticipated the slaughter he hopes to make in "Old England" by "murdering" the Queen's English: "Ireland to my country; I'll follow her like to Ould England; When the boys come back from America I'll make the B—y English dance." Please copy this for me.

LARRY O'BRIEN, Port Ludlow, W. T.

BURGLARY.—Some time during Wednesday night or early yesterday morning the boot and shoe store of H. Mansell, on Government street, was entered by burglars, who forced their way through a back window and stole three or four pairs of boots. The rascals appear to have cut their hands in breaking a pane of glass, the sash bearing the mark of bloody fingers and drops of blood being found upon articles in the store. They were probably frightened off by some person passing along the street, as they left behind a neck-tie, a pair of boots and a glazier's knife.

THE CASE OF THE BARK AID.—From Port Townsend we learn that the case of the bark Aid was finally submitted to Judge Darwin on Wednesday, and that decision is reserved until after a second suit entered against the same vessel shall have been heard. This second suit is brought by Grenan & Craney, of Ustady, who chartered and loaded the vessel with lumber; but the vessel having been libelled by Victoria, suitors, she was unable to fulfil her contract, and the mill company sue for damages.

GREAT FEAT AT BILLIARDS.—In New York, recently, was played a great billiard match of 1,500 points, for five hundred dollars a side, between two champions of the art of the cue and ball, John M. Dewitt and Wm. Goldswell. M. Dewitt having scored in eight innings only seventeen points, at his ninth inning ran the game out without stopping, thus scoring 1,483 points in a single run—playing the game in one hour and twenty-eight minutes, and making the most brilliant long run on record.

DESTRUCTION OF TREES.—Jim, Charley, Jack and Joe, four Indians, were yesterday charged with cutting and carrying away trees from Beacon Hill Park. The culprits pleaded guilty, but did not think that they were stealing. The magistrate took a merciful view of their case and allowed them to depart on a deposit of \$25 as a pledge of good behavior for three months.

SARATOGA.—Charles Fisher, convicted of enticing a seaman to desert, was yesterday sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 or suffer imprisonment for six months with hard labor. Jim, an Indian boy, convicted of theft, was required to find security for good behavior in the sum of \$25.

THE COLUMBIAN IS TERRIBLY EXERCISED last it is going to be invaded and "our worthy Governor captured and held as an hostage" by the Fenians. It is astonishing, when people have next to nothing to lose, what a nervous tremor they are always in for fear they are going to be robbed.

NEW COUNTESS.—The latest rumor from New Westminster is that Mr. Elwyn and Auditor-General Ker are to be added to the Legislative Council, and that Mr. Good is also spoken of as an addition to that useful institution. Mr. Ker will go in as Treasurer.

LOAD, PALMERSTON'S statue is to be placed in the corner of the new enclosure in Palace Yard, opposite the Peel monument, it is to be made by Thomas Woolner, a London sculptor, and is to be eight feet high. The site is said to be one of the finest in London.

THE report that the "Island members" will not attend the Council is not correct. So far as we can learn they will all go. They can do no good by remaining away. They may effect some good by attending.

ARRESTED.—Daniel Cleal and a woman, whose name we did not learn, were arrested at a late hour last night, upon a charge of incendiarism in connection with the late fire on Government street.

WHISKY SELLING.—Simon Durors, an old offender, was convicted for the fourth time yesterday for selling liquor to Indians, and sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred dollars or serve a term of four months in the chain-gang.

CROWDED DOCK.—The dock in the police court yesterday was so crowded that it was with difficulty that the culprits could find standing room, there being no less than eight occupants.

DEPARTURES.—The steamer Eliza Anderson, for New Westminster, and the Sir James Douglas, for Nanaimo, sailed at an early hour yesterday.

INDIANS FROM CAPE FLATTERY report a ship ashore there. They furnish no particulars, except that she had "kione sticks" (three masts), and was "madly loaded".

The steamer California will be fully due to-morrow.

Tax Fiddler is probably detained inside the bar by the blow.

The bark Enterprise, from Liverpool, is fully due here.

REPLY TO HIGH-PRESSURE.

EDITOR COLONIST.—Observing in your valuable paper a communication from "High Pressure" respecting the "Results of the public meeting on Confederation," will you kindly allow me to beg of him, to keep his weather eye open and look well to his safety-valve. If "High Pressure" can be cooled down with this advice for the present, I am confident that he has no reason to fear, or to "blow up" the Committee for inactivity. I fear that the frequent musings upon "Beacon Hill Scenery" have so absorbed the mind of "High Pressure" that he has failed to notice the fact that the committee had "moved on" in the matter for which they had been delegated long before the "Obstructionists" had completed their active canvas of the city for signers to that petition which nobody understands save that popular individual who claims no nationality, and the three or four friends with whom "he is on speaking terms," and who now doubtless experience the disagreeable sensation resulting from plucking his bad chestnuts from the fire. Let "High Pressure" be assured, therefore, that Confederation will soon blow its shrill whistle in the city of Victoria, and that his engine, like the crawfish (not codfish), has been turned the wrong way on the track.

DOUBLE-ACTION LOW PASSION.

A Bremen journal contains the following advertisement:—"A young gentleman on the point of getting married, in desire of meeting a man of experience who will dissuade him from the step."

The Herald Correspondent's Interview with Johnson.

New York, Feb. 22.—The Herald's Washington correspondent had an interview with President Johnson last night relative to the removal of Secretary Stanton. The correspondent remarked that the country was surprised at his action.

The President smiled and inquired, "What do the people say?" I suppose they are surprised, but I have done only what I had determined on long ago. The removal then is not in pursuance of a recent determination on your part, Mr. President?

The President.—Not at all, sir, the people seem to have mistaken my course altogether in this matter. I never had but one determination on this subject, but I have acted carefully, prudently and moderately. Perhaps I have been too slow about removing Stanton, but not because I feared the bugbear of impeachment, or that I feared anything that Congress might do. Nothing that that body would do or attempt would intimidate or surprise me. I know they are capable of doing anything. I delayed final action solely to let the country see and understand the position of Stanton. We first intimated to him that we would like him to withdraw from our privy council. He did not take the hint. We then requested him to resign. He refused. We then suspended him under the constitutional power which we have to suspend or remove a member of our Cabinet. The act of suspension was also not in conflict with the Tenure of Office bill, though we do not therefore recognize its constitutionality. As a matter of course we sent reasons for our action to the Senate; that body pretended not to consider them sufficient, and assumed to reconsider Stanton in the office. Well, we still waited, hoping Stanton would see the propriety of resigning himself. Sherman and Grant offered to go to Stanton and advise him to resign. Here is a letter which indicates what they proposed.

[The President read part of a letter from Gen. Sherman, dated January 18th, saying that Gen. Grant and himself proposed to go to Stanton, and say that for the good of the service and country, he ought to resign. It would be time enough to consider ulterior matters.] The President then continued: After waiting a reasonable time, we thought proper to-day to order the removal of Stanton and appoint Gen. Thomas as Secretary of War ad interim. This is the whole story.

Correspondent.—Was this step discussed in the Cabinet meeting?

President.—No, sir, not precisely. A general policy was agreed upon some time ago, and the removal to-day is in accordance therewith. I have just received a copy of the resolution adopted by the Senate to-night in executive session.

The President here read the resolution. Correspondent.—What will the Senate do, Mr. President, under that resolution, if you still insist upon having General Thomas act as Secretary ad interim?

President.—I don't see that they can do anything. The resolution itself is the end of the matter as far as the Senate is concerned, unless the House present articles of impeachment, and the Senate undertakes to try the Executive, and resolve itself into a high court of impeachment.

Correspondent.—Do you think Congress really will attempt impeachment?

President.—I don't know indeed, nor do I care. It would make very little difference to me.

The correspondent here asked what the President would do in the event of the passage of Edmunds' bill of suspension, to which the President answered substantially as follows:

Sir, I would not obey the law if they attempted to suspend me. The law is clearly unconstitutional. There is a point against it which you gentlemen of the press seem to have overlooked. The bill of Senator Edmunds to suspend the President pending trial, would undoubtedly be an ex post facto law, so far as my case is concerned; such a law is declared unconstitutional by the very letter of the Constitution itself. My offense, we will suppose, is the removal of Stanton. That is an accomplished fact; any law prescribing a penalty for that act would be ex post facto, and therefore unconstitutional. How, therefore, can Congress legally pass a bill of such a character?

The correspondent remarked that certain Radicals might argue that a persistence in keeping Stanton out of office, after the Senate declared his removal contrary to law, and after the supposed passage of Edmunds' suspension bill, would be bringing the question out of the operation of ex post facto law. The President replied that it would not alter the offence charged; it would still be the removal of Stanton—an act performed before the passage of the proposed law.

In reply to an inquiry as to whether the President had seen Gen. Thomas since the interview of the latter with Stanton, he said yes, and proceeded to state what had occurred at that interview. Gen. Thomas, he said, waited upon Stanton, and showed him the President's order removing him, and appointing Thomas as Secretary of War ad interim. Stanton read the order and asked Thomas whether he would be obliged to vacate the office forthwith. Thomas replied that his instructions were to assume control immediately. Stanton then said he would like to have time to arrange and take away his papers and documents. To which Thomas replied that considerable time would be allowed for such a purpose. No time, however, was allowed for Stanton to finish his arrangements.

The President repeatedly expressed his utter indifference as to what course Congress might adopt on the impeachment question, and in answer to a parting remark of your correspondent, that the President might sleep soundly in spite of the threatened impeachment, he said laughingly, "I don't think my slumber will be much disturbed by that affair. I shall sleep soundly, and awake refreshed."

The amount of gold taken from the several gold mines of Nova Scotia for the quarter ending September, 1867, was 7,583 oz. 9 dwts and 13 grs. Total for the year 1867: 27,563 oz. 6 dwts 19 grs, being some 3,000 oz. in excess of last year's yield.

REWARD.—Messrs. Spence and Co. offer a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the Cleal restaurant incendiary.