

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, August 22, 1868.

When we are Perfect let us "Let Well Alone."

The prospect of some improvement in the condition of the Colony is no reason for relaxing in endeavours to improve our present very defective system of government. There are always men to be found in every community of such finite ideas, that they are in favor of letting the actual state of things alone; others, who are not contented unless they are striving for the first places do not believe implicitly in letting well alone, they think they may do better; of course much depends upon the standard of perfection which each man sets up; but certainly those whose motto is "rest and be thankful" are not likely to do so much good in the world, as the more energetic beings who are not contented to rest so long as they have strength for that which they see set before them to do. The noble savage in his blanket is perhaps a fair type of "let well alone," and we are not prepared to say that he is not as good as his more advanced brother who wears the coat of the period, and drinks whiskey; yet the progress of civilization demands that the condition of the Indian should be improved. Of a similar class to those who "let well alone," are those who counsel their friends to "wait and see what turns up." We fear we have too many of both classes in British Columbia; there are amongst us those who invariably find fault with newspaper writers who have at any time said a word against the institutions of the Colony; what is the use they say of calling attention continually to the faults of our officials and the evils of our system of Government? Why give the place a notoriety which will be inimical to it amongst our neighbours of the States, and which will deter settlers from coming to our shores. Besides, what good can a newspaper do? it is but a single voice. To this we reply, that if keeping back or trifling with the truth is the only way to attract population to our shores, let us rather be without the population; by calling attention to the existing evils, we shall at all events show our neighbours that we are aware of what is amiss, and that we are determined to try and get it remedied. It is quite possible we admit, that a newspaper may not be able to do much to reform a painfully imperfect public administration of affairs; not, however, on account of its being but a single voice; the press is the voice of the people, the exponent of public opinion, and when it ceases to be so, its influence will cease also, and the fourth estate will be amongst the relics of the past. Would that the Governor of this Colony and his advisers could hear the ipsissima verba of the hardworking people here when they speak of bad Government and heavy taxation; few complain at all of the amounts paid to individual members of the Government, it is thoroughly English to like to pay a good price and get the best article. But John Bull wants to see something done for his money. If the Governor were an energetic, active man of business, taking pains in this season of inactivity to make himself acquainted with the wants of the people, by mixing more with them, visiting the settlements to ascertain for himself what progress is making, what roads are wanting, where a grant of money for public works would be beneficial, and a hundred other things which can be ascertained only by personal investigation, how much more highly would the people of the Colony think of him. Is it right, in a Governor to spend the whole of the time which he devotes to public business in writing despatches, to the neglect of every other public duty. The public are not exacting in their requirements they do not expect their Government to work miracles, or to make prosperity if it does not exist in the Colony under his control; they do not ask him to curtail his own private enjoyments

or amusements in any way, nor do they ask him to devote every day or any portion of each day to those pursuits. He duties for the due performance of which he was appointed by Her Majesty her representative in this Colony. But they do ask him to devote himself to Colonial matters, to such an extent as shall make him personally acquainted with the progress of affairs, and cognizant of the wants and necessities of the people, and so far to attend to public business as to make his private occupations and amusements partake of the nature of relaxation. In private business establishments, if the head of the firm absent himself from the counting-house day by day, does the business go on regularly? or does this example of the head make itself felt through all the branches? Assuredly if there is no energy in the chief, there can be little interest in his work displayed by a subordinate. Governors are all liable to make mistakes as well as other men, and the Governor of this Colony would do better to make a dozen active mistakes than to let his whole term of office in this Colony be one gigantic passive mistake.

Monday, Aug 17

On Saturday a friendly match was played between the married and single cricketers of this town on Beacon Hill, which resulted in favor of the former by 20 runs. It is still thought the single eleven were the better of the two, and we hear their merits will be again tested by a return match. The match and the loveliness of the day attracted a number of persons to the park. We give the score below:

Table with columns for FIRST INNINGS, SECOND INNINGS, and SINGLE. Lists names of players and their scores.

THE STEAMER G. S. WRIGHT arrived from Portland at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, being detained 5 hours in the Straits by a heavy fog. She brings about 50 tons of Oregon produce, and 12 passengers. She reports the steamship Continental's arrival at Astoria on Saturday morning, having on board 9 mail bags for the Fleet and Victoria. The owners of the Wright offered to bring them on free of charge, but the officers of the Continental refused, keeping them back for the Active. If the Continental only reached Astoria on Saturday morning the Active cannot be expected here before Tuesday night.

AN OLD FARMERMAN.—A late number of the San Francisco Bulletin speaks of a Mr. David Siles, who is 102 years old, and has been a mason 71 years of that time. His Masonic history is a like interesting and honorable to him. He has been a Mason 71 years, and is, no doubt, the oldest Mason on this continent. He was made a Mason at Toronto, O. W., December 28, 1797, when William Jarvis was Grand Master of Canada. The Lodge at Toronto was No. 16 of that jurisdiction. He has assisted in forming very many Lodges, and is now a member of the Hazel Green Lodge No. 43 of Illinois.

THE CONSTANTINE.—This vessel was visited on Saturday by the Enterprise on her way down. She had not at that time been gotten off the reef, although everything was in readiness for the attempt. It was the opinion of Captain Lewis that if they did not get her off on Saturday night, they would fall altogether in doing so. The cargo of valuable furs is very much damaged, most of them being ruined by the water. A rumor prevailed on Saturday night, that the effort was successful, but we can trace it to no authentic source; and as the Enterprise was the last vessel at the wreck, the probability is, her report is the correct one.

BUREAU OF LUMBER.—Two of the joint vessels loading with lumber for foreign ports, will leave in the course of a week; one, we believe, for China; and one, for Australia.

THE DOCK.—On Saturday last His Excellency the Governor, Hon. Admiral Hastings, the Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner of Lands and Works, acting as a commission, selected the site for the new dock. We regret to hear that the report current these two days past, that it is to be a floating dock, gains strength. It is said that Admiral Hastings intends sending home a remonstrance with a view to getting a graving dock as more permanent, and more suited to our wants. The selection of the site we should say settles the point.

LAKES RIVER.—A miner from Leech river on Saturday, tells us that he and his partner have been making six dollars a day each, for several weeks past, on the river above Kennedy flat. There are but sixteen men at work at present, who average about a couple of dollars per day, to the hand. But one storekeeper remains on the river. Flour is retained at \$4 25 per sack, bacon \$105 per lb. Most of the provisions are purchased in this city, by the miners themselves.

RECIPROCAL.—The Spanish Minister of the Colonies has transmitted to the British Foreign Office, and which has in turn been sent to the Colonies, a decree setting forth that the Differential Port and Navigation Dues enacted upon foreign shipping in Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands &c, are equalized, with the dues levied upon Spanish vessels, provided such foreign vessels belong to nations in whose Colonies a similar equality of dues is granted to Spanish shipping.

NORTH PACIFIC RAILROAD.—Congress has extended the time for commencing work on the North Pacific Railroad. The Company is required to commence work within two years from July 20, 1868, and construct, equip, furnish and complete, not less than 100 miles each year thereafter, and complete the entire road from Lake Superior to Puget Sound inside of nine years.—Oregonian.

THE SHIP AYA arrived from Valparaiso on Saturday and is lying in the roads. She has been 87 days on the passage, which in general, has been disagreeable. The vessel brings 300 tons of loaf and brown sugar for this place, the remainder of her cargo going to San Francisco. There is no sickness on board as stated. She will commence discharging at Equivalm to-day or to-morrow.

THE MARGOTS or HARRIS.—This nobleman whose name has been so freely handled of late in connection with the English tariff so far from having committed suicide, according to a French paper, is said to have recently won \$1,400,000.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The Enterprise arrived on Saturday evening from New Westminster with fifteen passengers, the mail and express from the lower Fraser. The steamer went alongside the Constantine on the way down.

SAVAGE DOGS.—A man named Richards or Richardson was seriously bitten by a dog later part of last week, on Johnson street. The dog law should be immediately enforced this hot weather.

ALASKA.—CHICAGO, AUG. 10.—The President will soon make appointments for Alaska. There are several applications for the position of Collector of Customs.

CHARGE.—MR. YARDLEY, commenced on Saturday morning to carry the mails between Victoria and Esquimalt, vice Wilby.

THE ACTIVE called on Saturday evening for this city and will be due to-day.

Editorial Correspondence—No. 5. New York, June 28, 1868. In the House of Representatives yesterday, a bill vitally affecting the future welfare of British North America was introduced by Mr. Ramsey, of Minnesota. The bill is neither more nor less than a proposition to renew the treaty of reciprocal trade between the States and Canada and the British Maritime Provinces. It provides that upon the passage, by the Government of British North America, of reciprocal laws to carry into effect similar provisions, the President shall issue his proclamation declaring that certain enumerated articles being the growth product and manufacture of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island, shall be admitted into the United States, when directly imported, at a duty of five per centum ad valorem. The schedule consists of the products embraced within the former Reciprocity treaty, together with manufactured articles. The bill also provides for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, its tributaries and canals and for the free use of all the fisheries. You will observe that not the slightest allusion is made to the admission of British Columbia to the privileges of the trade in hand. The provisions of the bill relate exclusively to the provinces comprised in the Dominion, and to the colonies of Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland. It will be perhaps unnecessary for me to remark that the adoption of any treaty of reciprocity which shall not include our colony, would prove more detrimental to our best interests than any of the unfortunate circumstances which have recently assailed our integrity or affected our commercial and political standing; and for one I confess that I should almost despair of our future prosperity, were it to seem a measure contemplated, that would what amount to seven years longer from the advantages that must accrue to the Eastern Colonies, by a repeal of the treaty. Our Coal and Lumber alone—were the prohibitive duties that now bear so heavily on us removed—would find a sale so extensive and general in San Francisco as to afford employment for thousands in the opening of all the rich seams of coal on the Island, and the working of all the fine belts of lumber with which the coast of the mainland is clothed from New Westminster to Fort Simpson. Admit our coal and lumber into San Francisco at an ad valorem duty of five per cent, and we would soon drive from that market every ton of inferior coal. The cheapness of which is now the only recommendation, and would find speedy and constant sale for all the lumber we could produce. Nature has dealt kindly with British Columbia; and because her kind intentions have not been appreciated is no fault of the people. The fault lies with the government, and this system must be changed before we can look for an improvement. I am not aware that any representations have been made to either the Canadian or the Imperial Government, of the anxiety of the people of the Colony to unite their destinies with those of the Dominion. I am not even aware that it has been urged in the proper quarter that we are anxious to be included in any reciprocity treaty that may be effected between the Canadian and American Governments. Nor am I aware that any steps have been taken to secure us in case of our admission at some future time as a member of the Dominion—the enjoyment of the privileges of reciprocal trade. I incline to the opinion that our interests are being entirely overlooked; and I am strengthened in this painful and mortifying conclusion by the fact that the mover of the bill, indicates by name the provinces he proposes to admit to the benefits of reciprocity. Three of the provinces are referred to by name as they were known before Union was consummated, and not by the generic title of the Dominion, if it were intended to admit British Columbia, the generic term would have been employed, so that upon the admission of British Columbia to the Confederacy, its people would have been invested with all the privileges and benefits of the treaty that pertained to the other members of the Confederacy. This is a point which we consider requires immediate attention, for, I can imagine no circumstances likely to exert a more disheartening and unfavorable effect upon British Columbians than a knowledge of the fact that, even in case of joining the Confederacy, they would be debarred from the enjoyment of reciprocal trade relations with the United States.

NEW YORK IS FILLED WITH STRANGERS. Tomorrow the great German Schutzen fest commences, and will last a week. Societies are arriving daily from all parts of the Union and there are large delegations from Federal land in town, who intend to participate in the festival, and compete for the prizes, which are numerous, varied and rich. Their total value is fixed at \$200,000, and they consist of diamond sets and rings, watches, medals, gold-mounted rifles, &c. The fest will be held at Jones' Wood, a picturesque spot a few miles north of this city.

IN ADDITION to the Germans, the Democrats are gathering in the city. The hotels are all full and private lodgings are greatly in request. The Convention will meet on Saturday, at New Tammany Hall, a building erected especially for political purposes by the Democrats at a cost of \$300,000. The pursuit of politics in America must indeed be profitable, when for the purpose of a party, so gorgeous and expensive a building can be raised and maintained. I have been favored with a ticket of admission to the Convention, and will endeavor in my next to favor the readers of the Colonist with a peep at the persons of some of the most distinguished men of the Union, who are expected to be present and address the vast assembly.

SINCE the failure of Impeachment, there has been a lull in politics, but it is said that Stevens is preparing a new bill of indictment against the President. (Since dead, see to-day's dispatches—Ed) in the hope that the Senators just admitted from the reconstructed states of the South will vote for Mr. Johnson's conviction. Stevens, who is a very old man, appears to be falling very far in body and mind, and it is scarcely probable that this fresh indictment will meet with anything but the contempt it merits. The two leading papers of the city—the Herald and the Tribune—are waiting. The Herald supports Chase's claims as the nominee of the Democratic party for President, and the Tribune is down on Chase and favors Grant, the Republican candidate for the office. The respective admirers of the rival sheets, take sides, of course, and many a good joke is told at the expense of each other, one of the best of which is the following: Two friends residing in the city saw the other day, commencing to canvass the respective merits of the rival papers. Says one: I hate the Herald, whenever I see a copy of it

I trample it under my feet! And what do you read, queried the other. The Tribune sir,—that my paper? Well, sir, returned the Herald man, all I've got to say is that if you continue trampling on the Herald and reading the Tribune, you'll soon have more brains in your feet than you'll have in your head! Which revives an old story of the Louisville Journal. A lady—indignant at something that had appeared in its columns—wrote to the editor instructing him to 'stop the paper, adding, 'every time I see a copy of your paper, I shall put it under my feet.' 'Take care, madam, politely replied the worthy editor, 'take care, the paper has got it in it!'

Dry goods and clothing are falling rapidly in price. All the fashionable styles have marked down the prices of silks, dress goods and cotton. This arises from close competition in trade, and from the very late spring with which this vicinity was visited. As fine a suit of ready-made clothing, of fashionable make, as a steady need to wear, can be bought, for \$20 in gold; fine black silks, \$4 @ \$5 a yard, in greenbacks, and all other articles cheap in proportion.

Letter from Juarez to the Pope.

The Roman correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette writes, under date of June 19:

The Holy Father has received an autograph letter from Juarez, the President of Mexico, deploring the differences which have arisen between him and the Holy See. The Mexican ruler declares that it was exceptional circumstances which forced him into hostility to the church and her ministers, and that he avails himself of the first opportunity to seek a reconciliation. To effect this he requests that some bishops may be sent to Mexico, promising to receive them with every honor, and he concludes his letter by supplicating the Pope's benediction for himself and the Mexican people. The Holy Father has been gratified by the appeal, and in the consistory of the 22d, will pronounce six bishops for Mexico. He will also announce the convocation of the Clerical Council for the 8th of December, 1868. Among the questions to be submitted to the council, the most interesting at the present moment is the policy of separating Church and State. It is found that the Roman Church is most flourishing in those countries, such as England and the United States, where it is not the established religion, as in France, Austria and Spain, in all of which it is losing its hold upon the people.

NOR is the rapid spread, in this form, of the principle of religious freedom limited to Great Britain. Austria has just done away with the papal concordat, which gave political strength to the Roman Catholic Church throughout the empire, and which placed in the hands of its bishops and clergy the education of the people; and the French Minister of Justice, M. Baroche, as the cable informs us yesterday, declared in the Imperial Legislative Chamber that the separation of Church and State in the French empire is only a question of time.

BOUQUETS.—The following may be of interest to the ladies.—When you receive a bouquet sprinkle it lightly with fresh water, than put it in a vessel containing soap-water. This will rid the stem and keep the flowers as bright as new. Take the bouquet out of the vase every morning and lay it sideways (the 'stick' entering first) into clean water. Keep it there a minute or two, then take it out and sprinkle the flowers lightly by the hand, with water; replace it in the soap-water, and it will bloom as fresh as when first gathered. The soap-water being changed every three or four days. By observing these rules, a bouquet may be kept bright and beautiful for at least a month, and will last still longer in a very passable state; but attention of the fair creature as directed above, must be observed, or all will perish.

A WHITE BABY TURNS BLACK.—About two months ago officer Hendricks, of the Forty-sixth Regiment, found upon a lot in Myrtle Avenue, E. D., a splendidly infant carefully wrapped up, which was conveyed to the station house, and the Superintendent of the Poor notified of the fact. The foundling was given in charge of a nurse named Mrs. Krantz, residing in Classon Avenue. She had two other children at the time, to take care of, but the new acquisition became at once a favorite, and so continued until recently, when, strange to relate, its skin began to change in color from a white to a blue black as charcoal. This not only excited the alarm, but the indignation of the nurse, who called upon Mr. Andrew Seizer, being for the Superintendent in the district, and had the little unfortunate given in charge of other parties.—New York Papers.

PROPERTY OF DECEASED SEAMAN.—A Board of Trade return shows that in the year 1867 £84,850 was received from masters of vessels, collectors of customs in the colonies, and consuls abroad, for wages and effects of 5,547 deceased seamen. In the course of the year some amounting to £24,269 were paid to the relatives and representatives of 2,732 deceased seamen. The amount claimed received before 1861 has been paid into the Exchequer, leaving an unclaimed balance to meet claims, as they may be established, amounting to £81,124 partly in Exchequer bills and partly cash, in the hands of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General.