

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, April 5, 1864.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

JANUARY 31, 1864.

THE DANISH DIFFICULTY.

The Schleswig-Holstein question is still the all absorbing subject of conversation. The attitude of France leads every one to surmise that the moment "war" shows its wrinkled front, an army of 40,000 men will be marched to the Rhine. Such a warning as this is indeed calculated to make both Austria and Prussia pause, and think twice as they break the peace of Europe. But when, in addition to this, they are also reminded of Hungary, Venetia, and Poland, and that no aid will be given to either one or the other, to maintain the present status quo of those provinces, one would imagine that the dread of certainly losing them would outweigh a thousand fold against their fear of German revolutionary action, which is used as the *casus belli* to account for and justify their conduct towards Denmark. In the meanwhile the Austro-Prussian army is approaching the Elbe, and one would imagine that this dispatch may be there, although it is quite within the power of the two governments to stay their mad career at this "eleventh hour." The Palmerston Government are leaving no stone unturned to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, and have this morning announced by the *Morning Post* that Russia, France, and Sweden have signified their willingness to assent to the proposal for the joint recognition of the integrity of Denmark, whilst the same proposition having been submitted to Austria and Prussia, has, as to its acceptance, been made a Cabinet question at Berlin. Under all these circumstances, however, I am not justified in assuming that the prospect of the maintenance of peace is at all brighter than it was ten days ago. The opinion at the Horse Guards is positive that there will be war. In immediate connection with the very painful matter there is another phase which is causing considerable agitation. Yesterday, that Earl Russell had been to Osborne and had tendered his resignation which had been accepted. The *Standard* and *Morning Herald* asserted this to be a fact, but the *Morning Post*, designated the announcement as a "false rumor," and pure nonsense, asserting the public that the Cabinet was acting in perfect harmony. To-day the *Standard* asserts that Earl Russell has rescinded his determination to resign, and is willing to act in harmony with his colleagues. That there has been a ministerial crisis, in spite of the *Morning Post's* denial, is quite certain. Earl Russell seems to be little short of demoralized in this matter, to give up a deed he had obtained from Mrs. Swiften before he married again, which deed made over to himself the reversion of the estates he had won for her in the courts of law as a compensation for his trouble and labor. From this demoralized Kennedy appealed to the Lord Justices, who yesterday confirmed it and dismissed the case with costs. It is more than probable that Mr. Kennedy, who was again his own advocate, will carry another appeal to the House of Lords, verifying, as we fear, the old proverb—where it is, or where first met, anybody knows or perhaps carries it. *Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.*

MONETARY MATTERS.
During the past week there was no further rise in the bank rate of discount. During the Wednesday of the previous week the directors met and suddenly raised it to 8 per cent. In order to stop the export of gold chiefly to France, a result which has been realized in great measure. Yesterday a large arrival of specie from the West Indies and the purchase of £108,000 in gold by the bank increased firmness in the money market especially as there were no withdrawals of the "profit in money" and the accounts received from the Bank of France reported a more favorable state of things ruling in that establishment. To-day there is very little doing, and the market is flat, whilst the high rate of discount is fully kept up even for first-class paper. Consols are quoted at 90½ to 90¼ for money, and for account, March 8th, 91½ to 91¼.

SPRING RIDGE WATER.
Editor BRITISH COLONIST: Sir.—Being one of that daily increasing number of benighted individuals who are heedlessly plagued with big washerwomen's bills, I have a lively interest in seeing water supplied with good water, and plenty of it. Hence I cannot but observe with regret the opposition that is being raised against Messrs. Cox & Martin's Water Works project, now before a Committee of the Legislative Assembly. This opposition, so far as I can trace it, arises from the circumstance that the petitioners decline, in the first place, to pay the Civil Engineer employed by the new Water Works Company, the modest demand of \$5,000 for services rendered; and secondly, to the public, but to occasionally compensating the already established company and in the second place, to engage him as Engineer to superintend their works, when informed of the fact that they do not require his services. So far as the public are concerned, I believe I am right in saying that there is no opposition for since Messrs. Cox & Martin withdrew that part of their petition which sought an exclusive privilege, I have heard only one opinion expressed, and that is, in favor of granting them all they ask.

After the liberal manner in which they have acted, having already paid for public services with water, and placed an unlimited supply at the disposal of the public, it is in case of fire, surely the Committee will not now the self interested opposition of men who have talked much and done nothing, to interfere with the valuable enterprise of others who have said little, and accomplished much; and who, while their opponents have been letting off gas, have already turned their heads with water.

QUARTZ MINING COMPANY.—In our advertisement columns will be found the prospectus of the G. M. Quartz Mining Company (Limited). The scheme commands itself to the consideration of all who are interested in the development of the hidden treasures of our island diggings.

THE LIVERPOOL EXPLOSION.

The explosion of the *Loty*, which at Liverpool, on the 15th instant, as it turned out did not do half as much damage as was at first stated. It was, however, more than sufficiently destructive to a large amount of public and private property. Happily no lives were lost. The sound of the explosion, it is asserted, was heard at a distance of 100 miles in a straight line, an assertion which many persons may ridicule, and yet not at all unlikely to be founded on fact, inasmuch as I myself heard the booming of the guns on the beach at Great Yarmouth on several calm evenings, whilst the French were bombarding Antwerp in 1832, the distance from point to point being certainly rather more than less than a hundred miles.

CHURCH AFFAIRS.

Doubtless many of your readers are sufficiently interested in Church matters to wish for some further information about the succession to Dr. Tait in the See of Ely. Lord Palmerston has again made a selection which seems to give general satisfaction; the clergyman whom he has nominated, the Rev. S. Harold Browne, being both a learned theologian and a ripe scholar. Mr. Browne has for some time past held the important post of Nonical Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, and was recently appointed to a Canonry, Ely Cathedral, and to the headship of the Theological College in that city, vacated by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol being conferred upon Dr. Elliott. He was one of the contributors to *Adieu to Ely*, a series of answers to the notorious *Essays and Reviews*, the judgment respecting which, by the by, is expected to be given on the 24th of February by the Privy Council. The patronage, recently conferred upon several of the writers of that series, the Archbishop of York, Dr. Thompson, amongst the number, has caused it to be now termed *Steps to Promotion*.

THE PALMERSTON SCANDAL.

Of course the long-talked-of divorce case against Lord Palmerston, no less than the Sermon trial, will have been discussed amongst the English residents of Vancouver. In the former case it having been quite evident that nothing more was intended by the petitioner than to extort money, and that he had signally failed in doing so, refraining, too, from going on to trial, a motion was made on the 26th inst. that it should be struck off the file. To this the new judge, Sir James Wilkie, would not assent, insisting that the petitioner must explain his conduct on the 26th of February. It is fully anticipated that a severe punishment will be inflicted upon him, and that his attorney has a fair chance of being "struck off the roll."

THE SWIFEN CASE.

In the Swiften case the Master of the Rolls came forth as a defender of the rights of the poor. He is a little short of demoralized in this matter, to give up a deed he had obtained from Mrs. Swiften before he married again, which deed made over to himself the reversion of the estates he had won for her in the courts of law as a compensation for his trouble and labor. From this demoralized Kennedy appealed to the Lord Justices, who yesterday confirmed it and dismissed the case with costs. It is more than probable that Mr. Kennedy, who was again his own advocate, will carry another appeal to the House of Lords, verifying, as we fear, the old proverb—where it is, or where first met, anybody knows or perhaps carries it. *Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.*

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CRICKET.

Editor COLONIST.—Believing that it must be always a source of pleasure to you to open your columns to the reception of any detailed account of such "manly sports" as employ the leisure hours of Englishmen in this colony, and considering the return made of this game, I may say to be fully worthy of notice, notwithstanding the disadvantages of the weather and interruptions of the game by the rain, I have determined, with your permission, to place before your readers an account which I trust they will find fairly correct and free from that lavish and fulsome praise which is too often poured upon the players in a match of this description; having been myself present on this occasion, I feel that I am in a better position to judge of the respective merits and demerits of each eleven.

There is no concealing the fact that in the last match there was an amount of bad play and mismanagement on the part of the Victoria side which no account of the match in a public school would have shown; but on Saturday the reverse was the case, and I therefore feel sure that your cricket-loving readers will receive this account with some interest, and sincerely trust that the players will pardon the remarks which I feel myself called upon to make.

Mr. Wallace, as captain nominally of the Victoria Eleven, having taken that position in the last game, lost the toss with Captain Layton, and was requested by the Caribbees to send two of his eleven to the wicket. Mr. Howell and Mr. Clarke accordingly stepped forward, and were asked to open the ball for Victoria; Mr. Howell taking the first and his only over.

You had occasion in your last account to award this gentleman some praise for his steady play to essentially necessary for the commencement of a game, but on this occasion he seemed anxious to defend his wicket with his leg than his bat, and consequently had to retire to the pavilion with a score of 15 runs, with that disagreeable score to his name so expressively termed by school boys "a duck's egg."

Mr. Wilson then took the bat and defended his wicket carefully, and steadily but was obliged to leave his post having been cleverly caught by Mr. Howell at short slip. I would earnestly recommend this player to practise as I believe him to be a cricketer, but at present his play is somewhat stiff. Mr. Clarke was then joined by Mr. Alport, and together they seemed like getting on well, but that little golden point seemed to have deserted the Victorians, and the champion of the former game retired from the field, a clever wicket from Mr. Howell having proved too much for him. Now I am very willing to praise where praise is due, but on this occasion I feel myself bound to say that the play of Mr. Clarke and Mr. Alport was not what it should have been, and would beg the gentlemen to remember that a leg twister requires careful play and not a blind aggressive "slog."

The feelings of the Victoria Eleven at this juncture were anything but pleasant, and it was with drooping spirits which not even lively good nature could have helped to overcome. We can bring twenty farmers to say the BUCKEYE is superior to any Mower, to one who has found prejudice against the Mower. The Buckeye Mowers are of two sizes, cutting 4 feet, and 5 feet 6 inches.

The "Buckeye" as a Reaper.

The important advantages which belong to the BUCKEYE as a Mower are retained in the Reaper, and can be used either as a Mower or Reaper by attaching the Platform and Reel. Though imported largely of them, we have been enabled for two years to supply the demand. They are better adapted to the wants of California Farmers than any Combined Machine for cutting and reaping. They are lighter and easier to run, and better than any other Reaper. The Reaper's space is directly over the Reel, and the grain is cut and delivered in the platform, where it is ready for the dragnet.

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a clean shooter from Mr. Smith having lowered his timber. Mr. Howell followed, but added nothing—before he had even the opportunity of showing the lookers-on some of the pretty cricket which so distinguishes him.

Mr. Balantine then took his place, and got the score of his side, but being caught by short slip, was obliged to retire for eleven. Messrs. Park, Davis, Matthew, and Ball then took their stations successively, but four ominous "noughts," were all that were placed against their names, and the total score of a stronger side than placed 126 as the result of their innings in the last match, was only 26.

The Victorians fielded steadily and well, and I congratulate this side very heartily upon the acquisition of a wicket-keeper, who displays the knowledge necessary for a good captain, and in whom it was easier to observe the whole side felt great confidence.

It is needless to go through the second innings, for the match was not played out, and the game was therefore decided by the first, leaving the Victorians conquerors, a success they fully deserved, having played a match of this description, having been myself present on this occasion, I feel that I am in a better position to judge of the respective merits and demerits of each eleven.

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