

The Weekly Colonist.

Thursday, January 5, 1864.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

How much, and yet how little, has occurred to us all since last we addressed our readers! A few short hours have passed and no stirring or startling events have taken place in the interval, but another step on the ladder of time has been commenced. The good old year of 1863 is now numbered with the past. A well known friend has ceased to be, and we have all to enter upon a fresh year, in the same state of uncertainty as to what may be its joys and pleasures, what its cares and trials. In our own city the past year, although not by any means a brilliant period in our history, has not been uneventful. Our progress has not been marked by any very rapid strides, but upon the whole it cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory. Does the end of the year find us in a more prosperous condition than the commencement did? How many differences of opinion will this simple question elicit in its answer, very much depends upon the standard from which we take our starting-point, upon the point of view from which we regard our position; if we are to take the appearance of the city as any criterion of the rise or fall in her prosperity, there could be little doubt that one and all would acknowledge the improvement. If we consider the price of land and lots those who wished to settle down in their own houses in this colony, and those who seek a safe investment and not an exorbitant rate of interest for their money, will not say that we have retrograded. Many evil reports that have been promulgated by those who expect too much from the colony, came out in 1862, and returned in disgust to the old country, which they never ought to have left. Yet, in spite of these reports, our population has increased, though the very large area over which the town is spread, prevents us from noticing at first sight how much it is year by year spreading and improving. If we take into consideration the social comforts, we must all confess they have been greatly augmented. No material change has taken place in the administration of the government of the colony. The new Governor has not come with the new year. We have, however, seen a well deserved honor bestowed upon our present Governor. A new House of Assembly has come into office during the year, but of them we can only say at present that in addition to passing some few good measures, they have out themselves out plenty of work for the present year; may they persevere and get well through with it. The increasing business in our law courts and the delays in getting cases tried, have for some time past been bringing our present system into disrepute. The last half of the year has seen the business carried on by one judge and one official who "acts" in more capacities than we have space to enumerate, already we see signs of an improvement in prospect. Bills are to be introduced to provide for the more speedy hearing of cases in which the amount in dispute is of small value, and we think it probable that before the end of the year, there will be an efficient staff to administer the law promptly to all classes. An old prophecy has said that the present year is to be one of change and strange events; it will not be surprising if we see considerable change amongst the legal dignitaries of the colony. A noticeable feature in the latter part of the past year, has been the attempt to destroy the existence of our corporation and the credit of our city, and in a combined attack of self-styled conservatives and ultra liberals has been witnessed a futile attempt to excite a feeling hostile to our municipality; but we are happy to find that the Mayor and Council have withstood the attack bravely, and have proved themselves fully worthy of the confidence placed in them by the electors, and the attempt of our misguided contemporary to interpret the judgment of the Chief Justice on the rule for a prohibition, into an extinction of the corporation altogether, has not had the effect of weakening the authority of the Mayor and Council one iota. The small circle of malcontents who desire to have a municipality without any taxes, and which represents something like the proportion of six to forty-seven, have not been able, although bringing in a little talent to bear upon their view of the question, to convince good citizens that they ought not to pay any municipal taxes. Passing from our own affairs to those of the nation at large, it is a matter of congratulation that England, during the past year, in spite of rumors of war, in spite of iron-clads, in spite of Russia and Poland, and many other troubles and stumbling blocks in the way of peace, has managed to steer clear of war with all civilized nations; and with the fearful example before her in the desperate conflict raging amongst our neighbors, all right thinking Englishmen must rejoice that this is the case. When the year 1863 commenced, how great were the hopes and expectations that it would see the termination of the American War. How painful the result; the miseries of civil war have discolored great portions of that great colony and yet with what a marvelous regularity under great difficulties, has the com-

mercial traffic of the United States been carried on; a power of endurance astonishing to lookers on has been shown by every section of the community whose interests are all more or less affected by the war. To speak of the future is a very different task to commenting on past events. How utterly obscure to our limited perception are the coming events which at this time next year the pen will glibly chronicle as historic facts. Who can say whether the issue of the American struggle shall ere this period arrive have been told? To express a wish that such shall be the case, is but to echo the desire of every sensible man. Can we hope to speak hereafter of the year 1864 as one which, beginning with rumors of war and threatened ruptures in every part of the world, ended peacefully for our own country? Fortunately for humanity, we cannot foresee. We have no reason to dwell on the gloomy side of the picture. The same policy which has guided England safely through difficulties in many quarters up to this time, may, it is to be hoped, guide her through to the end of the year. Amongst other things that have been prophesied of this year, is the millennium, but we can hardly suppose that any prediction had ever fewer believers. Amongst the Asiatic Mahomedans, however, a very prevalent idea exists, grounded upon a somewhat obscure prophecy of Sheikh Hussein—or Hassan, we know not which—that the English rule in India will succumb to that of the true believers in the present year, and that a vast empire under the immediate dispensation of the Prophet will be established in Asia. So strong is the belief in this theory amongst a people fanatic and superstitious beyond credibility, that it is more than probable that the standard of rebellion will again be raised in the East; but not, we confidently trust, with any dangerous results to the British rule in India.

Looking nearer at home, have we any reason to look forward to a gloomy year? Day by day we notice new companies being formed for working mines and otherwise developing the resources of the country. Capital will be brought into use more and more every year as the business of the mines increase, and if the people of the two colonies are true to themselves, and the one to the other, the Government lending that necessary aid to developing the resources and fostering the commercial interests of the country, there is nothing to prevent our increase in trade and business of every description. In the coming year our population, our wealth, our business, and our properties, must increase. Have we not then reason to wish our another a Happy New Year? That the comforts, the riches, and the pleasures of the new year may fall thick and heavy upon our readers, and their cares and toils be light, is our greeting for the New Year.

PLAGIARISM.—Such of our readers as may have chanced to glance over the Chronicle of yesterday morning will no doubt have been slightly upon an item headed "Emancipation," indited by the Bombastes who does the light artillery of that journal. There is nothing worthy of note in the effusion in question, except in its cool impudence. We are not only charged with espousing the opposite side to that which our readers are aware we upheld, but the writer has the assurance, after waiting to see which way the tide was turning, not only to borrow the ideas expressed by us on the subject, but to clothe them in almost the same language. We do not object to be copied, but must have credit for our tuition.

The Services of Rebel Women.—The services of the Union women of the North have been steady, patriotic, and self-sacrificing, from the commencement of the war. They have done an immense amount of work without pay or reward. The North-western Fair, which realized over \$50,000, was the work of the Union ladies of Cincinnati. The rebel women, however, have been equally conspicuous. The army correspondent of the Chicago Journal says on this subject:—

I shall never be done admiring the patriotic faith and undying devotion of the loyal women of the land, but I must tell you that the rebel women of the South are worthy, in everything but a sacred cause, of their Northern sisters. There is nothing that will not surrender with a smile; the gemmed ring, the diamond bracelet, the rich wardrobe, they cut up the rich carpets for soldiers' blankets, without a sigh; they take the flue linen from their persons for the bandages.

When four hundred of Linggret's men came up to Nashville, prisoners of war, a boat the roughest, driest, widest fellows the sun ever shone upon, and a flight of stars in the building they occupied till, killing and wounding a large number of them, you should have seen the fair young beauties come forth from the old aristocratic mansions, bearing restoratives and delicacies in their hands, mingling in the dingy crowd, wiping away the blood with their white handkerchiefs, and uttering words of cheer; should have seen them doing this, with hundreds of Union soldiers all around, and sending back upon the rough blackguard's of rebels as they left. But in all there was a defiant air, a pride in their homely, strange to see. O a truth they carried it off grandly.

And almost all these girls were in mourning for dead rebels, brothers, sisters, friends, whom these same girls had once loved, and driven into rebellion, and followed as the South with their graves, and the least they could do was to wear black for them, and flout black rags from the windows. Clothed by their souls in sackcloth, I said they were worthy of their sisters at the North, in all but a righteous cause; but I said wrong. There is a bitterness there are glimpses of the bitterness, the like you shrink from them. But they are fearless in earnest; they are almost grand in self-sacrifice. O! that they were true and loving daughters of the old flag.

TRUTHS EVER LOVELY SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN.

Editor, British Colonist.—Sir, one of the most difficult tasks to perform is to give a fair and truthful representation of a new country. Hence the need of great caution and discretion on the part of those who undertake such a task; for if there is any one set of guilt, more deep dyed, and cruel than another, it is that of falsehood or deceit, particularly in the matter alluded to. Who can see up the manifold miseries that ensue from persons being deceived into the abandonment of a quiet and comfortable home, for the discomforts and hardships of a new and strange land, where all is different from what they inferred and firmly believed, from the accounts that they had received previous to their emigration. Dr. Wayland, in one of his admirable discourses on veracity, defines falsehood as a deception of the mind, either by word, gesture, or in any conceivable way; and the guilt of the falsehood lies with the party who caused or permits the deception. Now, can it be denied that upon the principle here stated, many misrepresentations have been given of these Western Colonies, not by stating what is not true, but by not stating what is true. That the Colony of British Columbia is a vast and fertile land, and other minerals, there needs no further proof than has already been manifested; and who, in writing the country's praise, has been frank enough to state what each dollar taken from the mines has cost, or that poor man's diggings are not to be found upon a reef of the adjacent coast. He had been wandering over the country about Mount Elliott, a lofty hill above 4000 feet in height, near the mouth of the Burdekin, and he must have been but a short way to the east of McKinley's party, as they passed down the river. His name was James Morrill, and he was born near Maldon, in Essex, England, and had been a seaman of the wrecked vessel, the Peruvian. He was supplied with clothes by his new friends, and after a short interval taken to Port Denison, where a subscription was made on his behalf, and where both himself and his narrative were the subject of very general interest.

The captain of the Peruvian had warned the "watch against broken water," that dangerous symptom of the coral reef coast. The vessel was wrecked during the night, and the watch had indeed detected the fatal symptom ahead, but too late to be of any avail. There was a considerable gale blowing; the two boats were lost, and with them the first and second officers. The construction of a raft was the next resource. It was promptly made, launched and loaded with its living freight, but it broke away from the wreck before any adequate supplies of either provisions or water had been secured. There had been fourteen of a crew, and seven passengers, and for 42 days those miserable creatures were drifted to and fro, until at length they were rescued by a small schooner, which was cast ashore on the north side of Cape Cleveland. They had prolonged their lives mainly by catching three sharks, part of a legion that followed the raft for the sake of the dead bodies that were at intervals committed to the waters.

Ashore at last, they were at a time undisturbed, and subsisted on mull fish; but after a fortnight they were discovered by the aborigines. They were by this time reduced to four—the captain and his wife, Morrill, and a boy. The natives, after gratifying an intense curiosity by examining all of them, from head to foot, behaved kindly after their rough fashion, and took them to the great tribal camp in the neighborhood, where they again underwent a thorough examination, their white skins causing a general astonishment, and inspiring some with such terror that they at first ran away. For some time the neighboring blacks were arriving in streams to gratify their common curiosity, but no violence was used, nor was insult ever offered to the female. Meantime the poor outcasts were at first supplied with food, and afterwards were shown how and where they could find roots and other edibles for themselves. Exposure and privation caused much suffering, especially when their clothing, gradually falling to pieces, had disappeared and left them nearly naked. The poor wife, the only female of the party, contrived to retain to the last a few scraps of covering. Severe rheumatism attacked them all, and in little more than two years, Morrill found himself the sole survivor. The captain had died before his wife, and she, these months and forsaken, survived him but four days. Morrill had a strong frame and a good constitution, and survived the trying ordeal of his new mode of life.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The city of San Salvador has been subjected to a siege of 28 days duration. There was a fearful destruction of life and property. Barrios fled, with the small remnant of his army, and Carera's forces subsequently entered the city. To pay his soldiers during the siege, Barrios made some heavy forced loans of goods and liquors, with which he paid his officers and soldiers a portion of their pay, with they again sold to procure their daily rations. The foreign officers in the service of Barrios have narrowly escaped death, and have been delivered to the minister of foreign affairs at Guatemala. A provisional government has been organized, under Don Francisco Dueñas, who has been President before.

In Honduras, the Provisional Presidency of the Senator Jose Maria Medina is said to be firmly established. At Nicaragua, the government apprehend a new invasion by Maximio Jerez and his followers. An official communication in the Gazette de Nicaragua of October 14th, states that the next crop of cotton in the department of Chinandega, is calculated to amount to 25,556 arr. das, or about 8,300 cwts. The arrangements for the construction of the canal through Nicaragua, are being energetically pushed forward.

PANAMA.

The Spanish flag ship, the steam frigate Resolucion, arrived in the bay of Panama on the 17th ult., on her return home. The balance of the squadron sailed for Callao.

The British brig Guiding Star, Captain Stuart, which sailed from Aspinwall about the 20th of October, for Muscatulu, struck the Sardinia Bank on the third day out, and was abandoned on the following morning. The captain, his wife, and all the crew but three, who went to sea in a small boat, were saved.—S. F. Adm.

APPROPRIATE INTERCOURSE with the young of the natives to withhold information of his countrymen from him, as they seem ready to have raised his presence amongst them; and partly from the mutual hostility, or at least the alien feeling generally prevalent between the various tribes, which greatly restricted any intercourse, and prevented the acquisition of news, however wonderful in length, however reports most, but which he cannot understand. The new settlement of Bowen, about two years before his departure, had attracted the natives' attention,

Extraordinary Narrative of Personal Adventure.—A White Man Living for 17 Years among the Aborigines of Australia.

An expedition started from the colony of South Australia, in 1850, to penetrate the interior and ascertain the fate of Burke and Wills, the distinguished Australian travellers. An account of this expedition was lately published by William Westgarth, in a volume entitled Tracks of McKinley and Others across Australia. A chapter of this book contains a strange and deeply interesting account of one James Morrill, who, just six months after McKinley's party had departed of Messrs. Harvey and Somers' hospitality on the Bowen river, suddenly presented himself to two shepherds at an outpost of the same station which had given the explorers so hearty a reception. A more striking story of adventure it would be difficult to find in the entire history of Australian colonization, rich though that history is in novel experience and dramatic positions. The facts of the case are thus told by Mr. Westgarth:—

Quite naked, and of a reddish yellow hue, he was seen to be no aboriginal native. On the shepherds seizing their firearms under a sense of the possible danger, he called out in English, although speaking with difficulty, that he was their countryman. He then informed them that he had lived for 17 years with the aborigines in the neighborhood, being the sole survivor of the crew and passengers of a ship that had been wrecked as far back as the year 1845 upon a reef of the adjacent coast. He had been wandering over the country about Mount Elliott, a lofty hill above 4000 feet in height, near the mouth of the Burdekin, and he must have been but a short way to the east of McKinley's party, as they passed down the river. His name was James Morrill, and he was born near Maldon, in Essex, England, and had been a seaman of the wrecked vessel, the Peruvian. He was supplied with clothes by his new friends, and after a short interval taken to Port Denison, where a subscription was made on his behalf, and where both himself and his narrative were the subject of very general interest.

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His narrative of his life among the natives is interesting in its account of native manners and habits. He forms a very low estimate of their qualities, as they are cruel and treacherous, even to each other of the same tribe. "There is," he says, "a sort of partnership of private friends and private foes in each tribe. Some individuals are occasionally the victims of these enemies, but many more are preserved by the watchfulness of friends." He himself had both friends and enemies, and would have fallen on many an occasion by the hands of the latter, but for the vigilance of the former, who threatened the direst vengeance in case any injury happened to him. He confirms the now perfectly authenticated cannibalism of the Australian natives. He brightens the dark picture a little by stating that they will not kill their fellow men merely for the sake of eating them. In eating their friends or relatives, after death, there seems some vague notion of appropriating yet something of the virtues of the deceased; at all at least that the grasping appropriator death has left them.

It is remarkable that he scarcely ever heard reports of his countrymen, many of whom must have traversed the country at no very great distance from the scene of his protracted wanderings, not a few having from time to time been murdered, or killed in hostile attacks. This circumstance is to be accounted for, perhaps, partly from the desire of the natives to withhold information of his countrymen from him, as they seem ready to have raised his presence amongst them; and partly from the mutual hostility, or at least the alien feeling generally prevalent between the various tribes, which greatly restricted any intercourse, and prevented the acquisition of news, however wonderful in length, however reports most, but which he cannot understand. The new settlement of Bowen, about two years before his departure, had attracted the natives' attention,

and Morrill was certain his countrymen would be somewhere near him, and that the continually advancing wave of colonization had at last rolled up to his neighborhood. There was a twofold difficulty in reaching the settlers, however; for not only were the tribes lived with unwilling that he should leave, but he could hardly venture any distance away without falling among natives unfriendly to the tribe he was identified with, and thus endangering his life. After some time he transferred his residence to a friendly tribe, living between Cape Bowling Green and the Burdekin. He seems to have been on the outlook nearly a year with his tribe, when he hears of cattle being seen feeding and drinking at the Burdekin, and a white man with a whip attending them. Soon afterwards two females described some sheep as among the long grass, a short distance to the south. One of them he induces to accompany him; but at sight of the sheep, she will go further, fearing to be murdered by the whites; and earnestly advising Morrill too, by all means, to avoid the wicked intruders. She returns therefore, and Morrill goes on, presenting himself to the shepherds, as already related.

Petroleum.

How have any idea of the immensity of the Petroleum trade. The Philadelphia Press, speaking on the rapid extent to which this business has increased in the United States within a few years past, says:—

It has added materially to our national wealth, and has probably contributed more than any other source to swell our national commerce. American rock-oil is now exported to most every quarter of the globe. From the first of January until the close of October, 1862, there were 5,195,481 gallons shipped from New York alone. For the same period this year New York has exported 15,503,166 gallons; Philadelphia, 4,263,244 gallons; Boston, 1,604,846 gallons; Baltimore, 806,951 gallons. The increase of the New York trade from over five to over fifteen million gallons in a single year may be taken as a fair average of the increased shipments of the other ports, and shows how rapidly the traffic is being developed. In round numbers, the total value of the exports from the ports above named, from January first, until the close of last month, will not fall short of ten millions of dollars; so that hereafter petroleum is fairly entitled to rank among the staples of the country; and Pennsylvania, which for the past three years has yielded almost two million barrels annually, according to the best estimates, may claim the largest share of credit for having swelled the commerce in this article to its present dimensions.

It has never been a secret that rock-oil, or Barbadoes tar, as it is sometimes called, is indigenous, if we may use the term, to very many countries, including the British West Indies, which Philadelphia has, nevertheless, supplied with 22,682 gallons thus far this year. But it would seem that the Pennsylvania and Canada wells have a monopoly of the markets of the world, whatever be the cause. In the Antwerp, Liverpool and Hamburg market reports, and the case is the same with a hundred other European cities and towns, the price of "Pennsylvania crude," and "Pennsylvania refined," is a standard quotation. Whether it will always be thus, we cannot say. In the course of a few years other nations may become our rivals in the production of petroleum. Already we hear that "a district has been discovered in Russia of similar formation to that of the oil-producing region of Pennsylvania, and other parts of America;" and a late Paris letter states that Col. Gowan, made famous by clearing the harbor of Sebastopol of the sanken war vessels, has obtained a grant of fifty thousand acres from the Russian government, which he is about to "prospect for oil," being now on route for this country to obtain the necessary machinery. Again, we are informed that mineral oil has been discovered at Gaspe, a thriving part of Canada East, where its existence was indicated fully twenty years ago in the geological reports of that section. The well is a flowing one, and the oil of a pale, greenish brown color, and even in its crude state, less offensive than some of the refined oil of Ensisheim. Notwithstanding these discoveries, and others that we cannot now recall to mind, we do not much fear that our commercial supremacy will ever suffer from foreign competition. If the trade should ever fall off, it will only be when the wells have become exhausted; and from the enormously increased yield of the past year, it is safe to infer that the possibility of such a result is yet very remote.

TO LADIES ONLY.—To those of our lady readers who are happy in the possession of one of Grover & Baker's machines, it is no secret that the beautiful embroidery now so the rage, is as well as so easily done upon it, as the plainest sewing. Our object is to inform those who are not the happy possessors of one of these invaluable inventions, that this is really the case. There are other good sewing machines, but this, by its marvellous properties, combines the facilities of both sewing and embroidering, and as it is the only one in the market that does, no lady about to purchase a sewing machine, in these days, will hesitate to select, when the important fact we have stated is brought to her notice. R. H. Adams, Pioneer Hat store, Yates street, agent for Victoria.

FRUIT COFFERS.—It is mentioned by Mrs Hannah More, that in her time it was the fashion for ladies to ornament their hats not only with flowers but with fruit; and Garrick, to ridicule this fashion, had a hat made for a scene in a comedy, with turpins and carrots by way of ornament. We are coming to that again.

ANNEX OF MIND.—A young lady threw herself into the box in the postoffice window instead of her letter, nor did she discover her mistake till the clerk asked if she were single.

A SENTIMENTAL young man thus feelingly expresses himself: "Even as nature best volently guards the rose with thorns, so does she endow women with pins."

RICH men have commonly more need to be taught contentment than the poor, because all men's expectations grow faster than their fortunes.

DIFFICULTY.—Nothing is more easy than to do mischief; nothing is more difficult than to suffer without complaining.

Weekly

Thursday, January 5, 1864.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE REAL ESTATE TAXES.—four days have elapsed since we received notice that the real estate tax for the past year were due and could not have been made than the intervening days before New Year yet up to the last evening the Town Office close on \$7000. It is gratifying that most of the large landowners were prompt and prompt payments. Our gentleman a large amount of property, yesterday \$800 to the city tax payers in general have themselves most forcibly in the Council in this matter, the factors and antiquaries has been pursued by the city. It is difficult to motives can have influenced adopting a line of conduct so judicial to the best interests of the city, which it should be their advance and protect. We are opinion expressed by our community, with reference to and groundless opposition maintained by them,—the unqualified condemnation.

Suspension of Business.—mas day there has been quite mercantile community, and appearance of things, one may at least one half of the business holiday making. To this contributed the death of local columns. There are have hourly expected from England and elsewhere, whose healthy impetus to the trade the year of grace 1864.

GOVERNMENT TAXES.—The notice that all returns and Licenses Amendment Act of handed into his office on or inst, and owners of real estate in accordance with the present the first proximo.

CHANGED HANDS.—Mr. O has disposed of his interest in the Exchange Reading Hardy Gillard, who announces will re-open after undergoing and improvements.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—I by a notice appearing eleven first performance of this announced to take place in Monday, the 11th inst.

LITERARY INSTITUTE.—I that there is a movement on in our city a first class Library which shall amongst other the following objects: 1st. A to be supplied with leading periodicals. 2d. A Library, rare and scientific works. 3d. The need of such an institution felt, and if carried out on liberal principles, its effect intellectual and moral character, especially of the young would very soon be apparent. Attempts have already been made similar institutions, but have causes heretofore resulted in are sure however, from the position of the gentlemen, the initiative in the present, whose names we have seen a quotation to the Mayor to call upon the subject, that they would not have been given of its utility, and that they are party in onward to a success would suggest to the Chamber and the Board of Brokers, giving their aid in this movement in a measure a kindred institution. It is usual in cities of portance to have at least a respect with such bodies, and by judiciously combining the suitable building might be would afford ample accommodation, and would prove both an ornament and a city. We hope that at the which is contemplated by the Literary Institute, the suggestion may be taken up by gentlemen who are interested in the movement, and its practically tested.

COLLEGE OF ST. LOUIS.—The attention of our readers to the new college of St. L. the Dolate Fathers have recent our city. The school which ducted for upwards of a year street assures us of the success attend their new establishment given to understand the college on Thursday, the 17th inst.

ARRIVAL OF THE PACIFIC steamer Pacific, Capt. B. Equilante yesterday at about from San Francisco, which the 30th ultimo. The Pacific cross the bar of the Coler consequently came on with own, as the usual quantity, fully large mail.

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