The Colonist.

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THE TOWER OF BABEL.

Everybody is familiar with the story of Babel, and without inquiring too closely into its accuracy we must all admit that the diversity of languages calls for some explanation. This diversity is, indeed, not so great as appears upon the surface, for close investigation shows that the difference between the languages spoken by the Caucasian race is not nearly so radical as was formerly supposed. The similarity does not end here, for in almost every tongue spoken by mankind words occur which seem to have been derived from the same original. These may be the result of intercourse. We need not go far from home to find illustrations of how the introduction of articles and practices of foreign nations brings with it new words. Perhaps no more striking instance of the manner in which a language is enriched can be cited than by the word "Siwash." This word has not yet found its way into the dictionaries, but it ought to be found there, for it has a recognized meaning and is not slang. It is hardly necessary to remind anyone that it came from the French *sauvage* through the medium of Chinook. Another curious instance is afforded by the word "redingote," the name of an article of ladies apparel, not so fashionable now as it used to be. We borrowed the name with the fashion from the French; but they borrowed it from the English, for a redingote was simply a Frenchified riding coat The word "canteen" has been cited as example of the same sort; but improperly so. "Canteen" comes from the Italian through the French, cantina meaning a small cellar, hence a storehouse for provisions for soldiers. Naturally enough, when soldiers were equipped with small tins to carry food and drink, the articles were called canteens. The French borrowed the article and the name, and as a canteen was a tin can, the idea suggested itself to more than one writer that this was the origin of the name.

Max Muller deals in one of his essays with language as a key to the early history of mankind. One illustration will suffice. He finds that in a very great variety of languages the common cat has substantially the same name, from which he argues that at one time the ancestors of the races speaking these languages lived together and kept cats. This proof of the antiquity of "the harmless, necessary cat" is all the more interesting when we consider the position of puss in the animal kingdom. Centuries of domesticity have not changed the haughty spirit of the cat. She is as quick to resent an injury to-day as is her wildest cousin of the forest. On the contrary, the dog, which is commonly called the nobler animal of the two, is ready to lick the hand that strikes him.

A recent investigator who writes in the Fortnightly Review has been studying baby talk, not the gibberish that mothers talk to babies, but the way in which babies express themselves. Whether his discoveries are of value may be an open question, but they are at least amusing, and as they relate to a crop that never—or hardly ever—fails, almost any one can pursue the study *ad libitum*. The first articulate sound which a baby makes, says this investigator, is "ah-goo," which he regards as simply an expression of contentment, and proceeds to the next. He thus breaks down at the threshold of his study and misses a fine lesson in the foundation of language. Ah-goo may be simply an expression of contentment. But with what has baby to be content? Simply with existence. Hence ah-goo is universal baby language for satisfaction in the simple fact that the ah-goo-er is. The Latin race centuries ago realized this, and from the baby's ah-goo made the words ego, from which the English speaking race gets egoist, egotist, and so on. And can anyone suggest a more consummate egotist than the baby proclaiming its ah-goo in token of its absolute contentment with the fact that it exists?

Our investigator passes from the first articulate sound of the baby to the second, which is caused by the opening of the lips and the forcible ejection of the breath, the result being the sound of "Ma," which is primarily a call for the only need of which a baby is conscious, namely, food. An association of ideas makes baby confound what it wants with the source from which its wants are supplied, and hence Ma becomes the name for mother, and so we get the Latin mater, the English mamma, maternal and a host of other words. "Da," we are told, is the third sound and is indicative that baby wishes to attract attention. Our investigator, who seems to have a fine ear for nice distinctions in sound, says that some babies say "pa" instead of "da," and sometimes the consonant sound is very indistinct. In this third articulate word he finds the origin of pater, paternal, dad, daddy, father and so on.

Having realized that it exists and how to express its satisfaction thereat, having ascertained that when it is hungry its mother will come in response to a certain cry, and that if it simply wants to attract attention it can do so with less effort, for it is easier to say "da" than "ma," the baby next makes a discovery that there are unpleasant things in this world, and this makes it angry. All animals that have canine teeth draw up their lips at the side when angry. Baby has, or will have, canine teeth and when anything annoys it the lips go up at the side and the breath comes out with the sound of "kah." The Greeks knew this and so they made the word "kakos," which means "bad," from which comes a host of words in different languages that borrowed from the Greek, and among them the new English word kakistocracy, which means the direct opposite of aristocracy.

All the aforegoing may not have any very special connection with the Tower of Babel, but we told all we know about that in the first sentence.

POLITICAL ASTRONOMY.

The discovery of the planet Neptune was one of the greatest marvels of astronomy. Most people know about it. The perturbations in the orbit of Uranus showed that there must be another planet circling in space beyond it, so the astronomers calculated where it ought to be, and two observers, far apart from each other, directed their telescopes to the point, and lo, there it was. Our esteemed friend of the News-Advertiser is evidently under the impression that what holds good in astronomy also holds good in politics, and that the recent perturbation in the political orbit of Hon. D. W. Higgins is to be explained by the fact that lurking in the pigeon-holes of the clerk of the legislature is a resignation of the office and emoluments of the Speakership. We fear that our Vancouver contemporary is mistaken. Like many a man before it, the News-Advertiser has deceived itself into supposing that a thing is because it ought to be. From certain indications the existence of gold in quartz may be inferred, from other indications more of what a witty friend from Kootenay calls sulphide of assessments may be looked for; but when it comes to politics it is safe to infer only what you know, and it will do no harm to be a little doubtful about that. From present indications the planet Higgins, to return to the astronomical simile, in quitting its orbit seems to have violated all traditions, rules, precedents and so on. It has gone off on a tangent of its own, which has already been prolonged far enough to show that it will go clear past the system which revolves around Mr. Semlin. Astronomers tell us that there are bodies in space which are apparently sort of celestial Roderick Randoms. First one system of worlds gets a visit from them and then another. Dr. Walkem has occupied this position in our political universe in solitary grandeur, and the way he shied off into space—about a column of it—when he saw the new wanderer coming was very funny.

THE POSITION OF THE "TIMES."

When news came from Ottawa to the effect that the government had decided not to recommend a subsidy for any railway into the Boundary Creek country, and a requisition for a public meeting was circulated, the Daily Times of this city, though directly informed to contrary, falsely stated that the meeting was promoted by "the Victoria friends of the Columbia & Western."

On the following day the Times stated that it was "not opposing the meeting or the Columbia & Western."

Its next reference to the matter was a declaration to the effect that a road to Penticton was not enough, but that Victoria should fight for a road to the Coast.

The next day it grew bolder and declared the object of the meeting was to pull chesnuts out of the fire for some one. The aptness of this simile will be apparent when one considers who signed the requisition. Among the signers were James Dunsmuir, R. P. Rithet & Co., Turner Beeton & Co., Simon Leiser & Co., the Brackman Ker Company, Hutcheson & Co., Erskine & Wall, and other representative business men. These are the Victoria people whom the Times characterizes as cat's paws for some one.

The next day the Times added to its insult by specifically declaring that these gentlemen were participating in an agitation in the interest of Mr. Heinze, and "inspired by a desire to see the consummation of that gentleman's schemes as per programme."

The next day it declared itself against a demand for a subsidy for the line to Penticton.

When the meeting had been held it said that the result showed that the people wanted a road from the Columbia westward. What the meeting showed, what all the speakers endeavored to establish, and one of the things that the principal resolution called for especially, was a railway to be begun at Penticton and be built to Boundary Creek.

Its next position was that if trade demands the construction of a road from Penticton to Boundary Creek it ought to be built without a subsidy—this to offset the statement that American roads are seeking to get in ahead of Canadian roads.

Its last position is that a subsidy is not necessary and, even if it is, that it cannot be obtained this year. This is certainly a strange position for a newspaper to take that ought to have the interests of Victoria at heart. At a time when the city should speak with one voice, it sows discord by dealing in direct untruths, false insinuations, libels on our leading business men, and misrepresentation of the attitude of the citizens. To these things it adds the full weight of its puny opposition to what the people almost without exception demand, and does its best to throw cold water upon an earnest and hopeful effort to promote the welfare of the Coast cities and the whole Province.

THE Inland Sentinel finds the plans for the new gaol quite satisfactory, except that the building is of wood. It asks that a change be made and the structure be built of brick. The suggestion will undoubtedly receive consideration from the public works department, although the matter has undoubtedly already been looked into. So far as safety goes a wooden gaol can be made quite satisfactory.

COMMENTING upon the discussion of quarantine in the columns of the COLONIST, the Overland China Mail asks: "Why cannot Canada be as far ahead as we are in Hongkong and adopt medical inspection?" The question merits attention from the Federal government.

THE Columbian says that Mr. Higgins' "break" is not its "funeral." No, good friend, that took place some time ago.

KIPLING says he will not do it again.

HEARTS COURAGEOUS.

When the hardy pioneers who came from the "old country" by which they meant England, Scotland or Ireland as the case might be, to make homes for themselves in the Canadian wilderness they brought with them stout arms and what was infinitely better lightsome and brave hearts which knew no discouragement of toil, and yet loved fun and frolic. Amidst all their poverty and hardships, and these were not few, their heats continued cheerful.

Landing from a Miramachi lumber ship (as it often happened) from a voyage of three months, buffeted by the winds and storms of the Atlantic they made their way to their several allotments, either in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island. Here in the primeval forest they settled with no worldly goods except the barest necessities. An axe the weapon of their warfare with the forest, and which their sinewy arms could so well wield. A hoe for dibbling in their crops—a sack of potatoes—a few household utensils. Here, rejoicing in the freedom of the new world and that they possessed a farm of their own, they set to work first to clear a small patch and erect a log cabin thereon, which they might call home. These log cabins have long since given place to roomy, spacious and, in some instances, elegant dwellings, but never have they sheltered a braver, truer and more pious folk than did the little pioneer cottages of the backwoods of Canada in the early days of the country's development.

Pioneers? They were heroes. This was the heroic age of Canada. Instead of their memory being forgotten, their descendants—some of whom are illustrious—should see to it that a monument be erected to their memory. But is not this grand, broad and opulent Dominion of their descendants their best and proudest monument? This was not the age of paternalism nor assisted emigration. These hardy pioneers relied upon their own industry and endeavors. Hence their sturdy independence, which was braced by self-reliance, enabled the stock to take deep root and flourish in a soil congenial to its robust nature.

Having effected a small clearance, charred and unsightly to look upon; among the stumps the farmer with his family's help planted the crop of potatoes or grain, and the virgin soil responded to his toil in a generous and noble harvest; and so year after year he did battle with the forest and won from it more and more of its everspreading domain until with infinite toil and patience beautiful meadows and fertile glebe took the place of the wilderness, and where formerly waved the lordly forest and roved the denizens of the woods golden harvests waved and fair fields stretched smilingly to view. These were men who asked for a land in which they might have a possession and live and by their honest toil and energies build up a home for themselves and their descendants.

If it be true what Dean Swift writes in "Gulliver's Travels" "that he is the true benefactor of his race who makes two stalks of corn grow where only one grew before," such men as these were among the truest benefactors of their country Canada has ever seen.

Nor must those brave men, the refuged Loyalists who sacrificed homes, lands, and all that men hold most dear, to principle, and their loyalty to a united Empire, be forgotten. They constituted no small proportion of the pioneers of early Canada, to which they brought their enterprise, intelligence and love for constitutional monarchy.

'Tis true the lives of these pioneers were mostly those of toil, uneventful, necessarily so, yet they were not altogether destitute of enjoyment. Winter afforded them relaxation. When the summer had passed with sowing, tilling and reaping, winter brought cessation from work in the fields and leisure for enjoyment, when hospitality was exchanged between the neighbors, for as yet wealth had not wrought any invidious distinction between these simple folk, who were all on an equality, and whose lives were marked by rural simplicity.

There was also another distinctive characteristic of the people of those primitive settlements, viz: mutual helpfulness. They were neighborly in the truest sense of the word, willing and ready to assist one another to the utmost of their ability; and so when one had more work than one pair of hands could do he put into actual practise that homely adage that "many hands make light work," and inviting his neighbors to what was called a "frolic" or a "bee," they made work a play time. The lads came in the best of good humor and the lassies in their best attire in the evening, and the good man of the house gave the best cheer his means afforded, and after the day's work was over they finished with country dances.

Their lives were not idylic, nor their settlements Arcadian. Far otherwise! Theirs was a struggle often sufficiently severe with nature—a wrestling with mother earth to compel her reluctantly to afford them a living. And thus in the backwoods of Canada they turned the primal curse into a present and a future blessing.

There is another feature in their character which we must memtion, i.e. their cheerfulness. Their laborious toil did not make them morose. Meeting together both young and old would sing their songs and ballads and dance their reels and strathspeys when some village Orpheus would set their feet to music with his violin, and coupled with this cheerfulness there dwelt in the hearts and minds of these unsophisticated men a great reverence for religion. They would come long distances to church, for in those days where settlements were miles apart and churches few and far between only a favored few could possibly live in close vicinage to a church. Nevertheless neither distance nor the roughness of the roads deterred them from attendance on the means of grace and the preaching of the word. Neither was this the case with the young only, aged men, bent with years would come long distances to church to worship and hear their minister expound God's word. If they had been less earnest or devout they would have allowed the difficulty of attending a reasonable excuse for staying away altogether. If their outlook in the world was a narrow one, their hopes for futurity were very bright. In this respect they possessed everything. And so I always think of them with reverence, and never pass "God's acre," where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," without thinking what a good commentary on Grey's Elegy their lives afforded. And we to-day may learn many useful lessons from their homely, trusting, honest, persevering though circumscribed and uneventful lives.

And hast thou O! commemorative muse,
No line for those who toiled in life obscure?
The sympathetic tear can'st thou refuse
To those who taught us nobly to endure
The ills and conflicts of laborious life?
Who made the brighter shine their rugged worth
By firm endurance in disaster's life,
And clothed with fruitfulness uncultured earth.
They knew not grandeur, nor ambition's smile
Ere lured them from their homely joys serene,
Nor did invidious gold their hearts beguile
From home's bright sphere and duty plainly seen.
From toil's sore yoke their spirits ne'er rebelled,
And as they glided down life's placid stream,
Their longing eyes with gladness thence beheld
Hope's celestial star rise with enduring beam.

REV. C. T. EASTON.

New Westminster.

MEDALS FROM THE PRINCE.

LONDON, July 3.—The Prince of Wales to-day inspected the colonial troops at Buckingham Palace and bestowed a medal commemorative of the jubilee upon each man present. The entire force passed the Prince in single file. Arriving in front of the Prince, and several paces away, the colonial soldiers saluted singly, and then turned towards the Prince, advanced, halted in front of him, saluted again and received the medal. The medals of the officers are silver, and those given the non-commissioned officers and privates bronze.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Prince of Wales called for three cheers for the Queen. They were given in the heartiest manner possible.

The Prince of Wales, Princess Christian, Duchess of Connaught, Princess Victoria of Schleswigh-Holstein, all the colonial premiers, including Sir Wilfred Laurier, Premier of Canada, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Duke of Connaught, Lord Wolseley and Lord Roberts, were among those present.

During the presentation of the medals the Prince of Wales held a reception beneath a great elm tree in front of the terrace. All the colonial premiers and their wives and daughters were separately introduced to the Princess, who received them most cordially.

Blood-purifiers, though gradual, are radical in their effect. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is intended as a medicine only and not a stimulant, excitant, or beverage. Immediate results may not always follow its use; but after a reasonable time, permanent benefit is certain to be realized.

TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

The Prospect of Speedy Annexation Gives Satisfaction to the Hawaiians.

Press and Politicians Unite in References to "The Natural Destiny."

The news that President McKinley was to send the annexation treaty to the Senate of the United States on the 16th of June was received in Honolulu just before the recently arrived Warrimoo touched at that port. To quote the Advertiser, the tidings were "somewhat unexpected, but nevertheless welcome. From advices received by the Annexation Club and others by the previous mail," the Advertiser continues, "it was not expected that Hawaiian annexation would be brought up until after the passage of the tariff bill and the adjournment of congress. It now appears that the Republican senators who were opposed to reciprocity, but in favor of annexation, have forced the issue now as the only means to defeat the rapacious schemes of the sugar trust." Whatever the cause of the early presentation of the annexation project, the Hawaiians were delighted, and while a few of the more enthusiastic celebrated with bonfires and band music, a trifle prematurely, the Honolulu press united in references to the "natural destiny" of the islands and assurances of Hawaiian loyalty to the Stars and Stripes from the moment the government of the United States saw fit to take possession. "Affairs in the infant republic had come to such a pass," as one merchant-politician explained the situation, "that it was simply a case of Japan or America—and the people to be gobbled naturally preferred the Great Republic."

At the Annexation Club's headquarters there was much joy over the good news, fully confirmed in direct telegrams to the club's officers, and the opinion was freely expressed that Senators Nelson, Thurston and Allen were responsible for forcing annexation to the front in order to put a quietus on the sugar questions involved in the tariff bill, and that there was little doubt that the Senate will ratify the treaty in short order. Executive officer Brown was decidedly of the opinion that the President would never have sent the treaty to the Senate without knowing in advance that it would be passed. That the early passage of the treaty by the United States will involve a special session of the Hawaiian legislature, goes without saying.

The Hawaiian Star, with true journalistic instinct, had anticipated the important news, and several days before had printed an enthusiastic pro-annexation editorial based upon Mr. Douglas Archibald's recent article in the English Illustrated Magazine. "Why Not Annex Hawaii?" was the title of Mr. Archibald's contribution to the subject, and the Star in answering the question said: "This journal has always pointed out that with regard to annexation to the United States, now is the time. Neglect the opportunity now, and varying interests will spring up, and instead of carrying the islands' desires towards the United States, carry them elsewhere. Just as there is a tide in the affairs of the individual man, so is there a tide in the affairs of nations. At the present time the opportunity offers for the United States to obtain easily and without effort the most commanding position in the North Pacific ocean. Let that opportunity slip and it may cost years of trouble and quantities of blood and treasure to obtain what she will some day in the future regard as indispensable to her commercial progress and to her political greatness."

On the 17th of June the same paper returned to its theme under the caption "A Lively Corpse." "So annexation is dead, is it?" it rises to remark. "It certainly seems quite a lively corpse. It is very evident that the coffin has not yet been bought for it and there are indications that the wood for it has not been sawn from the log, and one feels somewhat sure that the tree out of which that final bit of attire has to be constructed has not yet got out of the sapling stage, even if it has been planted at all.

"No, annexation is not dead. The policy of the McKinley administration is to annex the Islands; of that there is no doubt in anyone's mind. There never should have been; for annexation was foreshadowed in the Republican platform, and it was well known that the personnel of the cabinet was strongly in favor of the move. Secretary Alger's words, uttered a couple of months or so ago, were straight from the shoulder. He said, 'We want your Islands—we must have them:' and we may rest assured that the United States will have them.

"The card that the Royalists of the islands have played in getting the ex-Queen to go to Washington, has had no influence upon the main issue. That lady, in a private way, has seen a number of people, and some to whom a garbled account of the brief year of her reign has been given, have sympathized with her, but the bearing of the visit upon the real march of events has been absolutely nil. Through the writings of interested persons, a feeling is kept up here that the ex-Queen is, by her presence, accomplishing something, and, the wish being father to the thought, a certain number believe what they read, and try to make others believe, but it is an empty hope, and it would be better and wiser for these blind leaders of the blind to face events as they are and prepare to meet the inevitable, and what will prove for them the best and most satisfactory issue of events.

"The time has come in the history of the United States when she must reach out in order to maintain her prestige for the future, and her statesmen understand it. They fully realize the immense power that her ever increasing millions of individuals and billions upon billions of wealth must exercise upon the future history of the world. The modest Atlantic seaboard and attention to the development of their own affairs suited the original thirteen states, but what suited them does not suit that immense state which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. As well might a multi-millionaire citizen of a town or state remain in his humble little cottage and take no part in municipal or state affairs. With wealth, come the duties of wealth, and the multi-millionaire who, in his early days simply minded his own little affairs, has to take an interest in the affairs-at-large his fellow citizens. With power, comes the duties of power, and it is the duty of the United States to prepare herself for the great destiny, for the mighty figure she will have to sustain in the great life drama that will be played in the Pacific Ocean.

"Among the preparations, undoubtedly, the annexation of these islands, small as they are, is one of the most important. The fact is now fully realized by the United States statesmen and annexation will now come as surely as the needle ever points to the pole. There have been many doubts, but there are doubts no longer. Before another year rolls its course through the months, the Stars and Stripes will float over the executive building and Hawaii will be an integral part of the greatest republic the world has ever seen."

The papers above quoted appear to voice the general sentiment of the people upon the subject so pertinent to their destiny. Annexation appears the quickest, easiest and altogether least objectionable solution of the difficulties which at the present hedge them about and prevent the natural and profitable development of their rich, although numerically few, resources. The commercial feeling was fairly well expressed in an interview, by J. B. Atherton, head of the representative firm of Castle & Cooke. He said:

"Yes, that's all right. We have received from our correspondents in the United States the same intelligence in regard to the message to the senate, but from other sources. The efforts of our enemies have forced our friends to act sooner than we anticipated. If Hawaii is annexed in the next few weeks as seems more than likely, we can thank the sugar trust for it. I believe President McKinley's action has been precipitated by the hostility of Senator Nelson and others to the sugar trust and its schemes."

A Claim AND An Offer

WE CLAIM there is only one preparation in Canada to-day that is guaranteed to cure BRONCHITIS, and that is DR. CHASE'S SYRUP OF LINSEED AND TURPENTINE. It is MOTHER'S cure for her child when it is all stuffed up with CROUP and coughing its little lungs out with WHOOPING COUGH. One small dose immediately stops that cough. By loosening the phlegm, puts the little one to sleep and rest. Dr. Chase compounded this valuable syrup so as to take away the unpleasant taste of turpentine and linseed. WE OFFER to refund the money if Dr. Chase's Syrup will not do all that it is claimed to do.

Sold on a guarantee at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., 45 Lombard St. Price, 25c.

THE TRIUMPH OF ROLLED OATS.

The following rythmical tribute to the value of the celebrated National Rolled Oats has been received from a resident of Kootenay. Being of Scottish birth, and having an acquaintance with the great naitonal food from his childhood, his opinion on the quality of the local product should be taken as final, especially as its excellence has inspired him to write an ode on the subject:

The chief trouble in life, beyond any question,
Is the miserable state of indigestion.
To regain failing health, you'll part with bank notes,
Save money! and cure, with diet of Rolled Oats.

In selecting the brand you surely will err,
If you take other than that made by Brackman & Ker,
Food fit for a prince, and the best in the land,
Are famous Rolled Oats, of the "National" brand.

Like ripples of music, from fountains and rills,
So sweet are Rolled Oats, of the "National" Mills.
To babies they're treasure, to youth they are gain,
They give vigor to age, they make muscle and brain.

The "National" Rolled Oats about which we relate,
Are the best in the market, all judges do state,
At Chicago's great fair they took the first prize,
And at Frisco's mid-winter took medal likewise.

And now they're competing for honors in Sweden,
And placing the folk of that country in Eden.
They their rivals outstrip, with a bound and a rush,
For they are simply "immense" when made into "Mush."

TURKEY AND GREECE.

ATHENS, July 3.—A pessimistic view of the negotiations for peace between Turkey and Greece is taken here, and even the resumption of hostilities in the near future is regarded as possible. It is stated in such an event that King George will take command of the Greek troops.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 3.—The delay in the peace negotiations between Greece and Turkey is creating apprehension, and a strained relation is the result. Everything tends to show that the Sultan is desirous of gaining time, and therein he hopes for a disagreement among the powers, in order to allow the excitement among the Mohammedans to calm down before yielding. The powers, however, remain united, and are apparently determined not to yield anything but a strategic rectification of the frontier.

The question most discussed in political circles is whether, in event of the contumacy of Turkey, the powers should proceed to coerce her, and it is not believed they could now be brought to act in unison on this point. The prevalent opinion, however, is that the Sultan will finally yield,