

WEEKLY COLONIST AND CHRONICLE.

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Free Trade and Confederation.

Our correspondent upon Free Trade does not, we are glad to find, insist upon his original proposition of confining Free Trade in Vancouver Island, to those articles which are not produced upon the Island; half measures adopted for expediency, and for the sake, perhaps, of conciliating or protecting some particular party or interest, ought never to be adopted; they have no stability about them, for they can never give satisfaction; like the sliding scale of which we used to hear so much of a quarter of a century ago, they are founded upon the erroneous and mischievous idea of its being lawful and allowable to sacrifice principle to expediency, and owe their origin to the mistake often made by politicians, and sometimes even by statesmen, of attempting to gain an object, or to carry a point, by giving up some fundamental part of that which is good in their policy. Conciliatory measures are under certain circumstances excusable, nay, they may even be desirable, when by their adoption political strife may be avoided, and the elements of what is good on both sides, may be infused into the strategy adopted by a coalition of political opponents. We are led into this train of ideas by the tone of the suggestions made by our correspondent in his letter of the 28th ultimo. Indignant as he was disposed to be with all supporters of Confederation, a short time ago, he seems now ready to look the possibility of its consummation in the face, and admitting such a possibility is prepared to examine the position, and to inquire what will be really to the interest of the Colony should it take place. His suggestion that the people should "examine and see whether Free Trade in Vancouver Island would be beneficial to the Colony" seems quite in accordance with the views of the advocates of Confederation, the ninth resolution passed by the Convention at Yale, leaves the question of the expediency of the establishment of a Free Port on the Pacific Coast, to the Legislature of British Columbia, after admission into the Dominion, or in other words, to the representatives of the people; and to the Parliament of the Dominion is left the framing of the measure to make provision for the establishment of such Free Port. Our correspondent on the other hand desires that "Free Trade in Vancouver Island be made part of the conditions of the Union, and that it be inserted in the Organic Act," provided that after examination it should be found to be beneficial to "the Colony." The object being to give to it the stamp of durability, this no doubt is desirable, nothing can be worse for a country than continued change of policy. In the progress of a young Colony change may from circumstances be a necessity, but it should never be allowed to have even the semblance of retrogression. There can be little doubt that if Free Trade in Vancouver Island be once adopted as British Columbian policy, it will continue, whether it become law under the Act of Confederation or otherwise. It will be well for the people of the Colony to consider what terms they desire to make, before our admission into the Confederacy, comes to be discussed in the Imperial Parliament; there are not at present sufficient opponents to Confederation to prevent its consummation when once it is taken up as an Imperial question, if then it be possible for those for and against to consider and discuss the matter impartially upon all its bearings, good must result, and whilst any precipitate rush into Confederation, under the romantic idea that the Dominion will do everything for us would be avoided, the equally dangerous alternative of being Confederated by the Imperial Parliament before our views are heard, will be avoided. It must never be forgotten that if the Colonial Office suggests to Mr. Seymour the propriety of bringing

At the foot of this hill stone farmhouse, the sides abundant evidence of the struggle that was waged here is occupied by an old York State who cultivate one hundred and thirty six bushels. They complain that the soil is shiftable, and won't a few days at the most, two or three dollars together spent it in the cities, farming laborers \$8 and sometimes they have to get out of this meagre pay, in fact, from \$1. to \$2 per day. The first Bull Run battle-field itself (the red sand from the mountains, and be called a ravine), we are of Pope's defeat, which half beyond the run. Had we been hearing an inscription the field we had just left, if the country was the same spot where Pope, just wrote a despatch in which quarters were in the saddle, of studying the lines of his tended to study the probabilities. Numerous relics the shape of sword-bayonets, shells, bullets and battered as lie scattered over the old farm-houses we saw quite broken shells. A few weeks couple of tourists from the south to open one of these when it exploded, and badly wounded the other. sum has been realized from animals destroyed in bleached skeletons of which in every shelter. Something is mixed up with those not much care is taken in told. We secured a few, and as the sun had come, regained the army ambuscade stans on the foot of remind us that perhaps in which we then rode so energy, the life of some poor had ebbed slowly away. the flow of geyser with a weak weather and the gorgeous west notes of the feathered us.

assassins in time for a late we were charged, but the landlord, an ex-remarking that it was said, sneek consisted of dried bacon, vegetables and us wondering that if that boyed was only a "snack," a square meal. To New York via Wash-

Young Men's Christian Association, San Francisco, the following may interest some in the report read:

number of members re-association from its is 1441; admitted year, which closed on the present month follows: life members, numbers, 41; associate

of the Postoffice Committee working of a novel, experiment in the way upon the waters and seas of "finding it after an inquiry at the Post office fact that 150 letters sent to the Dead Letter Station, by reason of nine-tenths of all Victoria and British the dead letter box by feet posting. A Committee appointed in April last, which im-impended upon each the following notice: "The Christian Association find this letter without a stamp, and go to save it from the Office, at Washington, desire to return for the voted to the building for a Free Public Reading Room.

as follows: Whole letters sent from April 1st, 1912. Of these sign letters (for the post, 92; city letters, 90; and international amount expended 17; whole amount re-

ceived 17; whole amount re-