

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, December 14, 1870

The World's Highway.

In a late Puget Sound paper we find a news paragraph, the full importance of which may not appear at first sight. In it the information is conveyed that Capt Gebson, of the bark Galatea, recently arrived at Puget Sound in twenty-eight days from Nicolaivsky, at the mouth of the Amoor River, that he brought letters, drafts, and government dispatches, all of which he mailed at Port Townsend, for St Petersburg, duplicates having been sent overland, via Moscow. It is added that communication between Nicolaivsky and St. Petersburg by this route can be had in sixty days, even now with a sailing vessel and over eight hundred miles of stage travel, while overland via Moscow, it would occupy ninety days; and it is very properly remarked: "When the Northern Pacific Railroad is built, and steamers run between the Amoor and Puget Sound, not only will all mail matter come this way, but an immense trade which is now dormant will be developed and add its influence to swell the revenue of the road as well as the resources of the country." The conclusions arrived at by our contemporary would appear to be altogether justified, viewing the subject from his standpoint. Russia in Asia has an area of 239,566 geographical miles, or nearly three times as large as Bussia in Europe, and its dormant resources are doubtless immense. Neither can there be much doubt that, with railway communication complete between Puget Sound and New York, and steam communication between the former place and the Amoor, the trade of Asiatic Russia would be for the most part attracted over that route. But, glancing only two or three years farther into the future, we discover a condition of things greatly calculated to modify the ardor of our contemporary's expectations respecting the advantages likely to accrue to his route from the trade of Asiatic Russia. With the Canadian Pacific Railway open, and with its Eastern terminus at Halifax, or, peradventure, better still, at St. John's, within one hundred hours' steam of Liverpool, with its shorter, better, safer, cheaper route across the Continent, and with its western terminus at the magnificent harbor at Riquialme, one hundred and forty miles nearer the open sea and so much nearer to the Amoor, it is scarcely conceivable that the trade of Asiatic Russia, or for the matter of that, the trade of any other Asiatic country, will continue to pass by Puget Sound. Trade is apt to fall, sooner or later, into natural channels, and it would, indeed, be strange if it should go a distance of even one hundred and forty miles past the coal-stores of the North Pacific, past the True Northwest Passage, only to find a longer and less facile way across the continent, with a much longer sea voyage awaiting it on the Atlantic. The circumstance of Asiatic Russia now looking for a more ready means of communication through North America goes towards strengthening the position long maintained in this journal, viz, that the Canadian Pacific Railway cannot fail to command the trade between Europe and Asia, between the Orient and the Occident.

Saturday, Dec. 10.

THE REVIEWS.—Messrs Hibben & Co have laid out our table the Edinburgh and London Quarterly. The former contains the usual amount of sterling reading. To the masses the "Campaign of August, 1870" will be amongst the most popular papers in the present number, while the theologian will doubtless turn to "Dr Newman's Grammar of Assent," Germany, France and England is also a most able and instructive contribution. Turning to the London Quarterly, its well-stored pages will be found unusually attractive. Amongst the most interesting of its papers may be mentioned "The War between France and Germany," "The French and German Armies and the Campaign in France," "Prevost-Paredol and Napoleon III," "Terms of Peace," "Inefficiency of the British Army," "Mismanagement of the British Navy," and "Sir Henry Bulwer's Life of Lord Palmerston." As will be suggested by the foregoing the present number of the London Quarterly possesses far more than an average interest.

LOWER FRASER ITEMS.—The yield of grain crops on the Lower Fraser has been very large this season. As an instance, it is mentioned that the McCleery Brothers, on the North Arm, had an average of 42 bushels of wheat to the acre. The steamers Onward and Reliance went into winter quarters on Saturday. The now celebrated Dr. Rheam arrived at Burrard Inlet and crossed over to New Westminster on Tuesday. During Wednesday he was taken round town by Dr. Black, and shown through the various public institutions. We understand that he even inspected the gaol, with the internal arrangements of which he is said to have expressed himself greatly pleased. In the evening, on the arrival of the Enterprise, the doctor eagerly rushed to the newspaper depot and purchased a file of the British Colonist, after which he mysteriously disappeared and had not been subsequently seen. The weather was very pleasant at New Westminster yesterday.

Later from Kootenay.

Mr. J. Johnston, Kootenay Expressman, arrived last evening. He left Wild Horse creek on the 17th November with the mail, express and election returns, and arrived in Hope on the 6th. via Spokane and Colville. The weather was quite cold at Kootenay and the snow on Perry creek was a foot deep. There were, however, several companies at work on both creeks who were making good wages, especially those on Perry creek. Times were rather lively owing to the elections, both candidates—Mr Jessop and Mr Skioner—addressing the electors on the political topics of the day. The best of good feeling prevailed and everything terminated quietly. A party went off again to Fiddley creek, intending to sink a shaft this winter and also wind a part of the creek—having obtained good prospects there early in the season. A rich gold-bearing quartz ledge has also been discovered, but in what locality is not yet known.

The Rook Creek Flume Co had ceased work after washing up \$3000. The company are sanguine as to next year's work—the ground prospecting better than heretofore. The weather was very cold in the Similkameen valley and also on the Hope mountains, a snow storm having set in two days previous to Mr Johnston's crossing.

About 75 white men and 150 Chinamen will winter in the District of Kootenay. Goods are abundant at low figures. Beef is selling at from 10 to 12 1/2 cents per pound.

LADY LISGAR, the wife of the Governor-General of Canada, has been on a visit to Washington and New York, and has been thus complimented by Frank Leslie: "Lady Young, wife of Sir John Young, Governor-General of Canada, is one of the most beautiful and cultivated ladies in society. Her graceful and unaffected manners charm all who have the pleasure of meeting her. Since her sojourn in New York city, Lady Young has been handsomely entertained by many of our leading fashionables."

MORE WHALES.—A letter received by the last steamer announces that the Dawson whaling party had caught four more whales, two of which, however, were subsequently lost owing to the hardness of the weather. The two which were saved, it is stated, were equal in size and value to any four previously taken. It is added that for number and size the whales now deporting themselves on the station exceed anything ever seen by the party on the whole coast. This is encouraging, and we sincerely wish the company every success.

QUEEN ARTICLES sometimes fall beneath an auctioneer's hammer, and Mr. Lumley Franklin, on Monday, will have the honor of offering a live cougar and cage. The animal is a magnificent fellow—being nearly three feet high and about nine feet long. He is thoroughly domesticated and might in time with a little trouble and kindness become a household pet—an object of endearment to the younger members of a family—or he would prove a valuable addition to a menagerie. As for food, he may be kept upon table scraps or upon butcher's meat at a cost of 50 cents per week. The cage is substantially built and the animal may be exhibited immediately.

MANITOBA.—Mr Robertson, Superintendent of the Northwestern Telegraph Company, has written to Governor Archibald of Manitoba, requesting to be informed as to the most practical and economical plan for obtaining the requisite number of suitable telegraph poles for the line between Pembina and Fort Garry. Cedar is much preferred, and the dimensions are 2 1/2 feet long and 4 inches in diameter at the top. Mr Robertson thinks twenty poles to the mile will do all the railway is completed.

ARRIVAL OF THE LULU.—The barkentine Lulu, Capt. Knowles, arrived in the outer harbor last evening, eleven days from San Francisco, with a cargo of merchandise and nine passengers. Heavy winds, principally from the south, were experienced. Among the passengers were Mr. Peter Steele, Mr. Rhodes and Baldwin. The Lulu is consigned to Millard & Bagg, and will go to Queen Charlotte Island to load with coal for San Francisco.

NEW MUSIC.—Quite a batch of new music, published by M. Gray, Clay street, San Francisco, has been placed on our table. Amongst them are "D. saw Thou of Me, Darling," "Children's Voices," "Where the Shining Spirits Are," "Flowers, Fresh Flowers," "Love's Sweetest Messengers," and "They Shall Not Have It, the Free, the German Rhine." Mr. Gray's music is got up in excellent style and can be had fresh by every steamer at T. N. Hibben & Co's.

LATER FROM OMINOIA.—By arrivals on the Enterprise we have later news from Ominocia which fully confirms previous reports respecting the richness of that country. It is now the general impression that a rich gold-bearing country extends far north of Germanese creek, which will supply good placer diggings for many years to come. Certain it is that great excitement prevails in well-informed circles and a very general determination to go to Ominocia next season is manifesting itself. May many go and grow rich.

AN UNFORTUNATE PARAGRAPHER.—Sir Henry Stokes was defeated at the Colchester election, by a majority of 600. A London contemporary thus accounts for that result: "Sir H Stokes is a warm advocate of the Contagious Diseases Act, and a letter was produced from him in which he said that the Government must recognize prostitution as a necessity. He probably meant 'as an inevitability' like sin, death, or hell; but the sentence rained him in Colchester, a garrison town, where the Act has been put in force."

ARRIVAL OF THE PELICAN.—The N. P. T. Co's steamer Pelican, Capt Stothard, arrived at 9 o'clock yesterday morning from San Francisco. She had southerly winds to the Cape and made the run in 3 days and 22 hours. She brings 30 passengers and 110 tons of freight. Amongst the passengers were Mrs H. W. B. Aikman and child, Mr and Mrs Williamson and family, J. Bullen, J. S. McMillan and Wm. Lohse.

FROM THE RIVER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster yesterday at 4 o'clock p.m. She brought fifteen passengers but neither Mail nor Express from the Upper Country, the river steamers having gone into winter quarters. Following is the passenger list: Capt Irving, Mrs Irving, Miss Shaver, Captain Insley, Misses Insley, Mrs Hogan, A. McKenzie, W. R. Cuthbert, F. Eichoff, Clarke, J. Johnston, O. Major, Nelson, McMillan, F. Gralley.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MILLS SYSTEM.—Mr Charles Kent, who so kindly collected the sum of \$110 from charitably disposed persons for the relief of the Mills Mills, has lodged the amount in the Bank of British Columbia subject to the order of any committee that may be hereafter organized to provide them with comfortable quarters and proper keepers.

KNOW YOURSELF.—Mr Charles Westley, stencil-plate cutter and engraver, has arrived in town. Mr Westley is the patentee of a plate and indelible ink for marking clothes, which will be found invaluable in a country like this where so much of one's "wash" finds its way into the hands of "Yellow Pagans." Mr Westley will receive orders at the Oriental Hotel.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE CABLES? The English cable of 1865 is defective; the English cable of 1867 is defective; the French cable of 1869 can only send messages one way; the cable between Falmouth Gibraltar and Malta won't transmit a word, and the 7-mile cable between San Juan and Sydney Islands is broken.

THE DOMINION CENSUS.—The Dominion Government is about to take the usual decennial census. The Canadian papers are already discussing the probable result and think that a population of about 4,300,000 will be shown. The census of 1861 returned 3,091,681 inhabitants.

THE TYNE CREW have received a challenge to row a four-oar, pair of sculls and single scull race, in Australian waters. The inducements offered by the Australians are £500 stg for expenses and £300 stg stakes for each side.

ROUGH WEATHER.—The steamer Enterprise experienced very rough weather on her trip down from New Westminster yesterday. Nearly all the passengers had a touch of sea-sickness, and no dinner was served.

THE ALBION not having arrived on her regular semi-weekly trip from the Sound, it is conjectured that the Albion has been laid up on one trip for repairs.

MORE EVIDENCE.—Sergeant McMillan brought down on the Enterprise yesterday two Indians from Plumper Pass who, it is thought, may throw more light on the Clark murder.

The brig Byzantium, Capt Calhoun, has sailed from Honolulu for Tahiti, and is expected to return to this port about the middle of March.

DIRECT communication between China and New York via the Suez Canal, has been established by the arrival of the steamer Kagdale with a cargo of tea. She was 75 days in making the trip.

INSANE.—A Mrs Stewart, who arrived at San Francisco from Ireland, quite recently en route to join her husband in British Columbia, is confined in San Francisco on suspicion of insanity. Who is she?

THANKS.—We are greatly indebted to Mr Vimont, purser of the steamer Pelican, and Mr Pickeney, of Wells, Fargo & Co's Express, for important favors.

HEAVY ON LAGER.—It is estimated that the daily consumption of lager beer in the city of New York amounts to 40,000 casks.

MURDERS have become so frequent at San Francisco that one of the papers heads its daily record "The Fall Shootings."

THERE were a trifling short of 3000 empty houses in San Francisco.

POLLER COURT.—The records yesterday showed a blank sheet.

THE PELICAN will sail for San Francisco on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

European Mail Summary.

We have dates to the 17th Npr. Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India, it appears is not dead. Lord Robert Montagu, M. P. for Huntingdonshire, having become a Roman Catholic, a portion of his constituents have called upon him to resign. The stone-masons of Edinburgh are on a strike. Count Bismarck has sent for hawks to kill the carrier-pigeons. Paris has begun to eat the beasts in the Zoological Gardens. The loss of the Captain has caused great anxiety respecting the sparrowshires of our ironclads, and experiments are being made to test their stability, the results of which in some instances have not been satisfactory. Baron Chancell and Justice Keating and Leah are the Judges to hear election petitions this year. The Times suggests that several Peers have lately become bankrupt, it is expedient that the same rule be applied to them as to insolvent members of the House of Commons, and that they should be deprived of their privilege to sit in Parliament. The telegraph cable connecting the Channel Islands with England has been successfully

said. M. Regnier, the M. or N. of the "Strange Story," has published the history of that intrigue in a pamphlet. It appears certain from this statement, if we accept it as true, that Bazaine did offer to capitulate on condition that he should be allowed to march into France, proclaim the Emperor-Regent, and sign a peace ceding Alsace and Lorraine; that Bismarck half accepted this proposal, though he shrank from it afterwards, and that it was overthrown by the Emperor on the distinct ground that she would not sacrifice France to a dynastic interest. Nothing could move her, says M. Regnier, for who is an ardent patriot? The Spectator says the Empress will yet be styled, like the Duchess d'Angouleme, 'the man of the family.' It is curious that M. Regnier, who is evidently a sort of amateur Bismarck, though only a man of business in London, thinks M. Rouher the Empress' most trusted adviser.

Letter from San Francisco.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "COLONIST." SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 4th 1870.

Since the great Mercantile Library Lottery has made gambling respectable everybody has suddenly acquired an inordinate desire to turn to the fickle Goddess Fortune, in the delusive hope of winning a stray smile from her. Lotteries to pay off school debts, lotteries to introduce water pipes into towns, lotteries to build railroads, big lotteries, little lotteries, all sorts of lotteries and the mania is still spreading like a devastating financial epidemic. In one way, however, these lotteries answer a good purpose, as they give us something to talk about and in the unwarantable negligence of somebody to commit the usual horrible murder they are nearly the only topic of local interest.

AN EXPIRING CHINESE LIGHT.

One of the great lights of our Chinese population is flickering very low in its socket and if the opinion of the outside barbarian who has been called in to attend the case can be relied on, San Francisco will soon lose a prominent and noted individual.

DR. LIPO TAI,

the light referred to, was fearfully burnt a few days ago by an explosion of gas and is now lying at the point of death. This Celestial physician has amassed a larger fortune than any other doctor in the city. He came here from Canton in '68, and with the exception of a short visit home has been practicing in San Francisco ever since. A few years ago some shrewd speculators offered him \$80,000 and expenses if he would go to New York for four years. They tendered him good security in advance for the payment of the money semi-annually, at the rate of \$20,000 per annum, but he declined the proposition on the grounds that he could do better by remaining here. His death will be a serious loss to the Celestial ports as he is an inveterate gambler, having been known to lose \$7,000 at a sitting. People often wonder at the financial success of our Chinese physicians but it is no doubt owing as much as any thing to their quick perception of the advantages resulting from advertising. They have always been and are now as liberal patrons of printers' ink as any other class of business men in the community.

DR. JIM,

who has almost as large an income as Li Po Tai, spends thousands of dollars in making himself known, is quite an adept in the art of puffing and is as fully versed in all the essentials of quackery as any of the medical cure-all humbugs who periodically make this city their temporary headquarters. Like his Caucasian contemporaries he calls in the aid of poetry to exalt his fame and he even had a villainous wood cut executed for the purpose of transferring Dr. Jim's features to paper in order that an admiring public may become familiar with his Mongolian countenance. This Dr. Jim is a genuine in his way. He dresses in American store clothes, wears a Shoo Fly necktie, parts his hair on one side, discards the traditional pig tail and speaks excellent English. He has a cut throat countenance, but that is, perhaps, an inherited misfortune for in consultation he is as mild a mannered man as ever poisoned a patient or pocketed a fee. His published record of cures effected completely discounts Ayres' and Holloway's highest flights of fancy, and is probably quite as true.

Our regular physicians complain bitterly of the folly of people for patronizing Chinese doctors, and they are going to make an effort at the next session of the Legislature to rattle them out by law. But their chances of obtaining a monopoly of the healing custom are not brilliant, as we are prone to physic, and take it willingly from anyone who prescribes without asking irrelevant questions about competency and experience.

A NEW EDEN.

I believe I mentioned in a former letter that an expedition had left this city for the purpose of colonizing Lower California. The company under whose auspices the adventurers sailed purports to be the owners of a grant from the Mexican government embracing in its extent several degrees of latitude, or about 47,008 square miles of territory: It also claims to be the owner of the greater part of the Jacsa contract for the survey of the State of Sonora, in consideration of which it is to receive one-third of the public lands of the state, calculated at 40,000 square miles additional. It also claims other large grants in Sinaloa, and Veruac and various isolated properties in other parts of the Mexican States. To represent these franchises and territories the capital of the company has been fixed at the nominal sum of \$35,000,000, most of which has been divided up amongst the lobbyists, editors and politicians who usually fatten on such schemes. The list of Directors comprises the names of the principal public men in the Union, and if it truly represents the strength and power of the country, the undertaking contemplates something more than a peaceful settlement. But it was not so much about the Company itself or the political results that must follow the establishment of a prosperous American colony in that portion of Mexico that I intended to write, as of the reports that have reached here from the expedition about the soil, cli-

mates and productions of the country. Lower California has hitherto been considered a peninsular of alternate rock and desert, possessing no fertility and few natural resources. To this supposition must be ascribed the apathy that has always existed in reference to its acquisition. But if the letters received from the expedition are to be relied on, instead of the country being a barren wilderness, it is a new Eden, an earthly paradise almost equaling the first residence of our first ancestors. Verdant plains over which troop herds of wild cattle, horses, deer and antelope, placid bays from which a sweep of the seine will draw a boat load of turbot, mackerel, mackerel and sardines, corn a foot high two weeks from planting, a climate equal and delicious whether too hot nor too cold, wheat sown in January reaped in June, red wax and again reaped in January, tomatoes, oranges, lemons, dates, figs, bananas, olives, almonds and many other varieties of trees growing profusely, make up the glowing picture painted by these first settlers of their new home. Under such favorable circumstances—if the accounts have not been exaggerated—has the new company entered into its practical career, and it may be that this small beginning in the midst and of the inevitable wedge that must, sooner or later, be driven in to split all the northern states of the Mexican Republic from the rule of Spanish superstition, and bring them under the enlightened influence of Anglo-Saxon energy.

AN APPROACHING CHINESE FESTIVAL.

The 'Heathen Chinese' are making preparations for the celebration of the most important festival that has occurred in their calendar for ten centuries. Next February will be according to Chinese reckoning, the commencement of another thousand years, and the rejoicing will surpass anything of the kind we have ever witnessed in the Celestial Isle. The festivities will continue for two weeks, during which not a solitary John however poor or dependent will lift his hands to work. In order to keep up the old rites at home, but of the wealthiest Celestials sailed yesterday on the steamer for the Flowery Kingdom, and several hundred more will leave on the first of January.

A MULTIPLEX REQUEST.

The first interest on record in California history of any of our wealthy men diverting a portion of their riches to the public good, has been the endowment during the past month, by Horace Hanes of an institution for the prevention of want and the promotion of useful industry. A block of land of the present value of \$150,000, but the accumulated value of which will by the close of the present century reach \$5,000,000, has been donated for this purpose, and although several years will elapse before any practical measures are taken for carrying out the purpose of the bequest, it eventually becomes an institution of national scope and world-wide celebrity.

OUR OPENING AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

Our merchants took advantage of the establishment of the Australian line to send samples of all kinds of American goods, likely and unlikely to the Colonies, and the result has been that every direct mail brings orders for American wares, products and manufactures. Experimental shipments of canned salmon, brought back an order for a thousand cases, and consignment of a few dozen barrels procured an order for 100,000 of them. These are but instances of what has been done, and I mention them for the purpose of suggesting that similar enterprise in your own Colony would not be without pecuniary reward. We import thousands of gallons of cranberries from the Eastern States every year. Why cannot British Columbia furnish them? We send to Holland for our dried herrings. Why should not your blisters supplant them? They would do if they were properly pushed by a good agent. Your salmon is far superior to the article canned here for the Colonies. Why not make a venture with a few barrels of it to Australia? It is only by trying that success or failure can be actually demonstrated, but our merchants tried—and almost in the dark—for they had no idea of the goods they likely to sell, and they have virtually opened a new market for their wares by the mere risk of a few dollars. The small and uncommodious steamers now running to Sydney will be supplanted about the beginning of the New Year by Webb's line of first class vessels, and with their inauguration there can be no doubt that the passenger traffic between Europe and Australia via this port will greatly increase. It is believed that the Australian trade will eventually become of more importance to this city than that of China; and nothing is being left undone by our merchants to produce a favorable impression on their new customers. Two Australian bishops have been here the last week or two, and they are the recipients of numerous courtesies, and through passengers from England find themselves equally sought after. This is good policy if commendable for nothing else, and will not be thrown away upon our visitors.

PERSONAL.

Judge & E. Cox lately of your Colony has had on view during the past fortnight a crayon sketch of a tiger's head, finished from life, the subject being the tiger at Woodland's Gardens. The press commented on it as one of the best pictures ever shown here, and the artist is in receipt of numerous orders for similar productions. Ex-Colonist.

JUDSON'S Simple Dyes for... Anyone can Use them... DANIEL JUDSON & SON... SEE THAT YOU GET JUDSON'S SIMPLE DYES... JUDSON'S SIMPLE DYES

CLANS. August 16th, 1868. my PREPARATION the component parts JUNIPER BERRIES: vacuo. nisper Ber- gini. extract] obtained from Juniper and a small proportion any now n use. is of a dark color. It the action of a flame leaving a dark and color of ingredients, omistes he smallest e added, to prevent ll be found not to be a, nor is it a Syrup- e where fever or in- the knowledge of the ration with a trial, and that ur approbation, nderce. ily, LMBOLD 19 year's experience chemists in the World.) NOVEMBER 4 1864 Helmhold; he occupied and was successful others had not been favorably impressed HAN WRIGHTMAN, manufacturing Chemist, Philadelphia. OLD'S TRACT HU! tion. The exhauste mpanied by so many will be found, Indus- tory, Wakefulness, Hor- it; in fact, Universal ity to enter into the TUTION e, requires the aid of ate system, which variably does, if no mpti n or insanity Extract Buchu SE WASH the system diseases at little expense, little lence or exposure, com- ant and dangerous rem- all these diseases. E Extract Buchu whether existing in male originating, and so nat- pleasant in taste and it more strengthening ark or Iron, or delicate constitu- however slight may be is certain to affect the the aid of a Diuretic. is the great Diuretic. here. Price \$1.25 \$8.50. Delivered symptoms in all com- BOLD, Warehouse, NEW YORK, GUINE WRAP gravated version of my Chemi- signed LMBOLD.