

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, April 18, 1865.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, April 11.

LINCH RIVER. — The New Diggings. — The frequent rumors of rich diggings having been struck at Lynch River, and kept secret by the discoverors, seem to have some foundation in fact. It appears that three or four men have been in the habit, throughout the whole of last winter, of occasionally coming into the town at Kennedy Flat after dark, and laying in supplies of provisions. They invariably made their appearance after night-fall, and always avoided the more frequented stores, making their purchases at a colored man's on the creek, and leaving very early in the morning. At length their proceedings aroused suspicion, and several parties watched their movements, and followed them as they started out. The miners, however, finding that they were watched, coolly stopped and prepared to camp, telling the parties tracking them that if they intended waiting there they had better lay in a stock of grub, as they intended remaining where they were. The party following were accordingly obliged to retrace their steps. Subsequently they endeavored to track the discoverers through the snow, but failed to find their whereabouts. The discoverors paid for their provisions in coarse, rusty-colored gold, of which they seemed to possess considerable quantities. Finding that they were closely watched, and fearing that their secret would soon be discovered, one of the party came into Victoria last week and took back with him some twenty of his friends in order to give them the first chance before a rush was made to the diggings. Our informant, who is intimately acquainted with one of the last parties, states that the diggings are said to be extensive and very rich; their locality is over the first range of mountains about seven or eight miles from Kennedy Flat. He looks for important news from the party in the course of three or four days.

AN EMBRACE. — Romance is a rare commodity in Victoria, and anything approaching an eloquence consequently becomes intensely refreshing. Idlers and town gossipers were busy last evening with the names of Mr. H——n, a gay young Lothario, probably just out of his minority, and well known from his former connection with the "salt" business, and a certain buxom damsel of not more than 16 summers, whose bright eyes used to emit electric sparks from behind the bar of a hotel at the south end of government street. According to the accepted version of the story, the flight took place from the hotel in question after nightfall, everything, of course, having been preconcerted by the young cavalier and a fast friend with whom he had been carousing through the streets during the day; the maiden went about dusk "a shopping" and the faithful swain being at hand, with special license in his pocket, the loving pair went before the parson and speedily were made one. They then quietly proceeded to a certain luxurious retreat not 10 miles from Beacon Hill, where quarters had been secured, and where the honeymoon will be spent, provided the "eternal parent" does not interfere. That individual, meanwhile, was left to the care of the "fast friend," who undertook to put him off the scent, which he did by informing him sympathetically of the elopement, and then sending him off about dark to Saanichton in quest of the runaway, where of course he won't find them.

THE DREDGER. — The dredger was at work yesterday on the inside of the bar, and several punt loads of mud were raised and towed out by the tugs. The superintendent is unable to go to work on the outside of the bar, owing to the anchors and cables supplied from England being totally insufficient to moor her securely while in operation. Heavy anchors have been procured from the Royal Charlie, but the chains, which are only of 1½ in. and 2½ in., are so weak as to be frequently snapping, and endangering the men on deck. Two of them parted yesterday.

CAPTAIN NAGLE. — We are pleased to learn, was suffering less pain yesterday from his late severe accident. The broken bones as usual we believe, in similar cases, were only temporarily set at the time, and will be permanently set in a day or two. The paragraph in yesterday's Colonist in regard to resetting the fractures, from its wording caused unintentional umbrage to the professional gentlemen engaged.

CELESTIAL ARRIVALS. — The bark Rival brought from San Francisco yesterday, one hundred and fourteen Chinamen of all sexes and sizes. The "Johns" are fully equipped for mining, and are bound chiefly for Sooke and the lower Fraser. The single largest

SOLDING SPIRITS. — John Walker was yesterday convicted in the Police Court, on the information of Sergeant Wilmer, and officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, of supplying spirits to Indians, and was fined \$100 in default to suffer four months imprisonment with hard labor.

Wednesday, April 12.

A HEAVY WAGER. — On Monday evening a well-known commission agent on the street of Northern sentiments, and an equally well-known and wealthy Cariboo miner of Southern tendencies, engaged in a most heated discussion on the news of the reported fall of Richmond naturally, engaged. The spirit of patriotism soon became aroused, and was not cooled down until the former had signed articles to the effect that in the event of the continuation of the war for six months he would pay a sum of \$1000 to the latter if Lee were not taken prisoner within that time.

FEDERAL CELEBRATION. — Yesterday the steamer Geo. S. Wright, Eliza Anderson, and other American vessels in the harbor were gaily bedecked with flags in celebration of the great news received confirming the fall of Richmond and the success of the Federal army in Virginia. At 2 p.m., the engine propeller G. S. Wright, Captain Lewis, chartered by some loyal American residents to convey them and friends of the cause on an excursion trip into the Straits in order to fire a salute, left Brodrick's wharf with over one hundred persons on board. A good brass band was improvised for the occasion under the leadership of Mr. John Allen and Mr. Wilson, and as the steamer glided away and took a turn around the Arm, the band struck up "Hail Columbia" with pleasing effect. On arriving outside the harbor a number of persons were seen congregated on Beacon Hill, where the indomitable Costello was stationed ready to return the salute with a salvo of 24 guns. The Wright had two small guns on board, which were ably manned and loaded by volunteer artillerymen under the command of Allen Francis, Esq., U.S. Consul, who proved himself to be an experienced gunner, and aided by his lieutenants and bombardiers fired a salute of 12 guns with great alacrity.

The Beacon Hill battery in the meanwhile, commenced to reply, and a lively bombardment was kept up for some time. During the engagement, all hands were supplied with the wherewithal to drink success to Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Abraham Lincoln, and the Stars and Stripes, which toasts it is needless to add, were received with full honors. After the firing was over the steamer took a short cruise round towards Esquimalt, which was rendered doubly enjoyable by their significant weather, soft sea breeze and smooth water; she then returned to Victoria, the band playing a number of appropriate airs. Captain Stratton on nearing the harbor entertained the company with a patriotic oration, which was loudly cheered. The steamer reached the wharf shortly before 4 o'clock, and the company disembarked after giving a number of loud cheers. We have to thank Mr. Francis and his friends for the kind invitation extended to us. The excursion was as agreeable as fine weather, good ship, an agreeable captain, pleasant company, unexpected champagne and happy faces could render it. In the evening a procession was formed and paraded the town headed by music. They honored the Colonist office with three cheers, but as the compliment was paid in front of the old office we regret that we did not know of it in time for an acknowledgment.

THE AMERICAN WAR IN VICTORIA. — A fight took place on Langley street last evening between Mr. Shepard, of the Confederate Saloon, and Captain Stratton, of Neath Bay. W. T. St. John, U.S. Consul, who had made some contumacious remark about the Confederate flag hoisted over the saloon, which was resented by Shepard with a blow. A furious fight at once ensued, in which the "Confed" was severely beaten and cried for quarter, which the victorious "Fed" at once granted. After the fight was over the police appeared on the scene, and proceeded to arrest Captain Stratton, who, however, was immediately bailed out. Shepard was so severely injured that he was not conveyed to gaol.

DARING THIEF. — A man who arrived in port with a canoe load of potatoes yesterday, left his cargo at the wharf while he went up town to look for a purchaser. On returning shortly after the whole cargo, with a rifle which was on board, had been carried off. The thieves had not been discovered at last accounts.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER. — The steamer Enterprise left yesterday morning at eight o'clock, and the Otter at 2 p.m., for New Westminster. The former took nearly 100 passengers, some cattle, sheep, and a full freight. The latter took freight only, of which she had a large quantity.

FOR NANAIMO. — The steamer Diana left yesterday morning, towing the Vancouver Coal Company's barge Black Diamond, for Nanaimo and the Settlements. She had considerable freight on board, and a few passengers, but before she got out of the harbor.

TELEGRAPHIC. — Col. Bulky, Superintending Engineer of the Colling line, and Mr. Jas. Gamble, Superintendent of the California State Telegraph Company, arrived yesterday by the U. S. S. Shubrick. The former accompanied the steamer in her late expedition on the N. W. coast to Sitka, where Dr. Fisher was left in charge. From Mr. Gamble, we learn, that communication had not been established between Seattle and New Westminster when the Shubrick left the latter port yesterday morning. There was a break somewhere in the line, which Mr. Haines was endeavoring to trace. It was supposed to arise from a defective joint, and the probability is that it would be repaired, and the line placed in working order this week. The Shubrick left Equimalt last night for Seattle with the Colonel and Mr. Gamble on board, and will return in the course of two or three days.

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