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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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The figures opposite the address on each wrapper indicate the date of expiration of the subscription.

Another Great Man Gone.

Charles Dickens, the great novelist and humorist, is dead—cut down, like Thackeray and other great authors—in the middle of his work. 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' was but half written when his pen was arrested by the hand of death, and the 'Mystery' must ever remain unexplained. Dickens was more than a great writer; he was a great man. To his writings and speeches England stands largely indebted for important reforms in her Poor Laws and for the amelioration and improvement of her poor and working classes. Perhaps few men have done more to elevate the masses, both morally and physically, and of him it may truly be said that he has left his impress upon the English mind, the English-speaking mind. Though dead he yet speaketh, speaketh in his numerous contributions to literature and reform. Charles Dickens was born at Landport, Portsmouth, in 1812, so that he had reached the age of 58. Designed for the Law, he merged into a reporter for the Press. His first engagement as a reporter was on the *True Sun*, and his next on the *Morning Chronicle*, in the evening edition of which paper first appeared his Sketches of Life and Character. These were so successful that they were subsequently collected and given to the world under the title of Sketches by Boz. The interest thus created led to an engagement with the publisher, the immediate result of which was the celebrated Pickwick Papers, an effort which at once placed its author in the foremost rank as a popular writer of fiction. After it came Nicholas Nickleby, Oliver Twist, the Old Curiosity Shop, Barnaby Rudge, and many more, all sparkling with original wit, humor and sentiment, besides abounding in vivid delineation of human life and character. In 1841 he paid a visit to America, where his fame had preceded him and where he received a hearty welcome. On his return he published a work recording his impressions of America. Three years later he was appointed principal editor of the *Daily News*, a position which, however, he soon relinquished. Soon after appeared in the columns of that paper his Pictures of Italy. Returning to his more legitimate sphere of fiction, he produced Dombey and Son, David Copperfield, Bleak House, several Christmas Tales, the Child's History of England and Little Dorrit, and edited the memoirs of Grimaldi, besides conducting the periodical so fitly entitled Household Words. In 1859 he relinquished his connection with that serial to establish All the Year Round, his connection with which was only severed by death. In 1868 Mr Dickens paid his second visit to America, where he was completely overwhelmed with the most enthusiastic demonstrations and with invitations from every part of the Union. Strange to say, it was not till within a little of his death that Dickens' great claims received Royal recognition. About a year ago he received a special invitation to give one of his readings before the Queen, but he declined to appear in the capacity of an actor where he could not visit as a gentleman. Subsequently he was invited to Her Majesty's Drawing-rooms, and it was whispered that he had been marked out for a Life Peerage. Meanwhile, however, the Great Sovereign of the Universe summoned him above, where, let us hope, he will be the recipient of honors higher and more enduring than any earthly monarch could bestow.

Constantinople in Ashes!

If we are to believe the telegraph, Constantinople has just been visited by a fire which, for extent and destructiveness, would appear to be second only to that by which 'the cities of the Plains' were destroyed in the days of Lot. Indeed, although there was doubtless a greater destruction of life at that early conflagration, it is questionable whether the doomed cities comprised a larger number of houses, and a greater amount of property than it is asserted were destroyed in Constantinople last week. These are points upon which, however, history sheds but dim light; and any data or opinion must partake too much of the speculative to possess any great value. We only know in fact, that these cities *were* destroyed, and that but four persons escaped alive, one of them, however, only to meet an equally terrible fate; 'But his (Lot's) wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.' Referring ... that the electric wire has been guilty of putting a cypher too many after the numeral, and that the number should be read 7000 instead of 70,000. When it is borne in mind that the population of the Turkish metropolis cannot greatly, if at all, exceed three-quarters of a million, it is impossible to accept the larger number. Calculating an average of ten inmates to each house, the 70,000 would represent within a comparative trifle of the entire population of Constantinople. But even if we cut off one cypher there will still be represented an amount of destruction perfectly appalling. The sudden destruction of 7000 houses, representing, as it does, 70,000 people driven half naked into the streets, saved as if by fire, is a picture sufficiently terrible to look upon. Indeed, the contemplation of it almost induces one to venture to cut off yet another cypher. That a great conflagration has occurred in Constantinople, and that it has destroyed much life and property, must, in all probability, be accepted as a fact; but most persons will prefer for the present to doubt the correctness of the figures. One can scarcely venture to hope that, like the Roumania massacre—upon which we expended so much indignation the other day—this news will turn out to be a stupid, wicked 'student's joke.' Perhaps it will be as well to withhold further thought and speculation until confirmation, correction or contradiction imparts a greater degree of certainty.

The Loss of the Active.

In proportion to the amount of trade the number of steamers lost on the route between here and San Francisco has not been small. Viewed in the light of the character of the navigation, it has been large. In 1859 the steamship Northerner, on her way here, struck a sunken rock, not far below Cape Mendocino. Forty lives were lost, and the ship proved a total wreck. In 1864 the steamship Brother Jonathan ran on a reef near Crescent City, and between 180 and 190 of the passengers were lost. In 1866 the steamship Labouchere struck a rock and went down near Point Reyes, only two lives being lost. On the 5th June, 1870, the steamship Active struck a rock 20 miles below Cape Mendocino, and became a total wreck. All the passengers and crew were saved, together with a portion of the baggage. The Active was an old and unseaworthy steamship, the loss of which *per se* none save the owners would have reason to regret. Indeed the prevailing feeling, on being assured of the safety of all the passengers, appears to be one of thankfulness that the 'floating coffin,' as the Active has for some time been designated, has gone down empty. Of course we regret the loss sustained by some of our citizens in goods uninsured, but we are glad to say that, so far as we have been enabled to ascertain, the goods for the most part were covered by insurance. In baggage and personal effects there have been some considerable losses, notwithstanding that the greater part of the baggage is said to have been saved. We regret to learn that the wife of the Hon Mr Hankin, who was amongst the passengers, has lost her baggage together with a lot of valuable jewelry. But of course any feeling of regret on account of these mere pecuniary losses must be completely swallowed up by the one great all-pervading feeling of thankfulness for the safety of the passengers. Well, the Active has gone, and with her has departed no little unrest, for we have long felt apprehension for the safety of those who had occasion to risk their lives on her. Let us hope that Confederation or some other ation will soon place the lives and interests of the colonists beyond the influence of such laggard and unseaworthy steamers.

LUCKY.—A merchant of this city, on Saturday morning last, recollected that contrary to his custom he had neglected to insure an invoice of goods on the steamship Active. He accordingly proceeded to one of the insurance agents and insured the full amount with ten per cent. added as profit. On Sunday morning he had occasion to bless his forethought and providence when he read in *The Colonist* the telegram which announced the loss of the steamer.

Cricket Match.

Played at Colwood, June 9th, 1870. H M S Zealous *vs* Squadron (Scylla, Sparrowhawk, Ringdove and Boxer.

SQUADRON.

1st INNINGS.		2nd INNINGS.	
Moody b Byrch	0	Moody c Byrch	4
Wolrige b Byrch	7	Wolrige b Birch	4
Little c Wilmot	5	Little b Byrch	24
Allman b Byrch	2	Allmon not out	2
Brooks not out	4	Brooks b Byrch	7
Colwell run out	1	Colwell run out	0
Grant lbw, b Byrch	1	Brant b Byrch	3
Hadley c Gravenor	0	Hadley lbw, b Byrch	7
Poulter b Gravenor	0	Poulter not out	0
Brand c Wilmot	0	Brand b Gravenor	5
Reid run out	2	Reid c & b Byrch	0
Wides	0	Wides	5
Byes	6	Byes	11
No balls	1	No balls	3
Total	29	Total	80

H M S ZEALOUS.

1st INNINGS.		2nd INNINGS.	
Gravenor b Brooks	5	Gravenor b Brooks	0
Underwood c Wolrige	22	Underwood b Brooks	13
Taylor c Colwell	9	Taylor c Reid	0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crosdaile c Brooks	6	Wilmot not out	1
Booker b Brand	16		
Fitzgerald not out	1	Wides	4
Wides	4	Byes	3
Byes	9		
Total	71	Total	41

CELESTIAL ROW.—The Police Magistrate has been occupied for the last two days, and is likely to be occupied for a score of days to come, in hearing evidence respecting a row among Chinese gamblers, during which a revolver was fired without injuring anybody and a knife used which penetrated in several parts the body of a Chinaman. The dispute arose over the munificent sum of four dollars and seventy-five cents which the stabbee, he claimed had been won by him, and which the person who stabbed declared was his in accordance with the rules of the Chinese Hoyle. From words the party came to stabbing, when the first claimant resigned his claim to the money and nearly resigned his claim to life. A 'heap' of Chinamen are in custody, a 'heap' of legal gentlemen have been engaged by either side, and a 'heap' of witnesses have been summoned. The case stands over until to-day, and Joss alone knows when it will be concluded.

THE SLOOP YELLOW LANE, which arrived here the other day from Fort Simpson, is quite a curiosity in her way. She was built by Joseph Spence—a rugged specimen of an English sailor, and possessed of that indomitable pluck which distinguishes the true John Bull—from cypress, a species of wood quite abundant in the locality. The trees were felled by Spence; the planks were whipsawed by him and an Indian; every nail in her hull was driven by Spence himself. Alone in the solitude of the Northwest Coast, remote from the sound of a civilized voice, Spence worked seven long months and when he had launched his little bark successfully he rigged her out with his own hands and with the Indian as his only 'crew' set sail for Victoria, accomplishing the distance of nearly 800 miles in 14 sailing days, which would be reckoned good time for a well-appointed vessel. As a specimen of marine architecture the Yellow Lane is worthy inspection.

NANAIMO ITEMS.—A correspondent writes that a few days ago Steward, the constable at Nanaimo, arrested a colored man named Grimes, for selling a bottle of whiskey to a native. He put the handcuffs upon him and started for the jail; but they had not gone far when Grimes started for the bush; Steward out with his pistol and shot him, but the man out-ran him. Yesterday morning early Grimes was at a farm, 5 miles from here, and he has not been seen since. He is rather dangerously wounded, the ball struck him on the forehead; a good job he had a hard skull. If that is justifiable Steward might blow the brains of anybody out that he has got a spite against.....The gunboat Boxer hauled under the shute the other day to receive coal when one of the cars broke away and fell upon the deck, doing considerable damage. Three men narrowly escaped being crushed, and an officer of the Boxer was struck upon the face by a lump of coal. The accident was quite unavoidable.

SCHOOL MATTERS AT COWICHAN.—A meeting of the settlers at Cowichan was held at the Indian Mission house on Wednesday last to consider the best means of raising the money necessary to obtain the Government grant for a common school in that district. The tax of $2 on each householder being insufficient, it was resolved that a tuition fee of half a dollar per month be charged on every scholar, in addition to the poll tax. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Local Board: The Ven. Archdeacon Reece (Chairman), Messrs T Skinner, Kier, Rogers and Green, the lastnamed also acting as Secretary and Treasurer. Much dissatisfaction was expressed that non-residents were exempt from the school tax, a large portion of the best lands in the district being held by speculators who thus have the value of their property enhanced at the working settler's expense.

THE LOSS OF THE ACTIVE.—We publish to-day additional incidents attending the wreck of the Active. The rascality of a part of the crew and of people living on shore is as much to be condemned as the intrepidity of Capt Lyons, his officers and the majority of his crew is worthy of praise. The passengers were taken to San Francisco in the steamship Pacific, the officers remaining by the ship to save all they could. The Colonial Secretary received a dispatch from Mrs Hankin yesterday stating that she had lost her wardrobe and jewelry. Mr Jones, Bank of British Columbia, telegraphed to the same effect to Mr Ward. The freight was valued at $100,000 and more than one-half is lost. It is a matter for congratulation that no lives were lost with the old boat.

THE PELICAN.—This steamer, which takes the place of the lost Active, is an iron twin-screw propeller and was built on the Clyde in 1862 for blockade running. She was captured by the Federal cruisers, sold to John T Wright and by him sold to Holladay & Brenham.

PUGET SOUND ITEMS.—The steamer Olympia, Capt Finch, arrived from ports on Puget Sound last evening at 7 o'clock, bringing 31 passengers. Mr Finch, purser, has our thanks for files of late papers.....The election of Garfielde to Congress is conceded. His majority will be about 600.....The new steamer Alide, *nee* Tacoma, will make her trial trip in a few days. The Seattle *Intelligencer* says that her length of keel is 115 feet; width 20 feet; depth of hold 6 feet. She has one boiler with six ten inch flues and forty-four four-inch tubes with a heating surface of twenty-two hundred feet; double engines of 200 horse power with 14½ inch cylinders, and one mast with a jib sail. On the upper deck there will be twelve staterooms, one ladies' cabin—16x14—a dining saloon 60 feet long and a promenade deck forward of the pilot house and one aft of the ladies' saloon.

THE ANNUAL REGATTA.—The list of prizes appears this morning and are sufficient to be worthy the attention of lovers of aquatic sports resident on Puget Sound and the Main Island, and every encouragement will be offered competitors from those localities. The first race will commence at one o'clock and passengers will be conveyed and boats towed by the steamer Leviathan to Curtis' Point free of charge. Saunders of 'The Hall' has secured the right to dispense spirits on the west side of the Gorge and Levy the right to sell edibles. Dodd has the right to dispense 'critter' comforts on the east side.

ARRIVAL FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—The schooner Dreadnaught, Capt Perriman, arrived on Sunday from San Francisco, having sailed on the 26th May. The schooner comes consigned to Millard and Beedy and brings 220 tons of general merchandise and 40 passengers—37 of whom are Chinamen. Capt Perriman reports strong northerly winds the entire trip.

DEATH.—Mr Alexander McPherson, a native of Quebec, Canada, died at the French Hospital yesterday morning. Mr McPherson was much respected. He was a watchmaker by trade and carried on business at Barkerville, Cariboo, where he contracted the mountain fever. Some years ago he was in the employ of Mr Eli Marks of this city.

FOR THE QUARRY.—Thirty-seven Chinamen, to work in the Newcastle Island quarry, arrive on the schooner Dreadnaught on Sunday.

THE number of private telegrams sent and received yesterday was very large. The press of business was heavier than on any single day for several years.

The Perils of Fashion.

We are indebted to a lady correspondent for the correction of a mistake, or rather an omission, in our recent article on Tight Lacing. In ascribing the ungainly, feeble and tottering walk of our modern fine ladies and their middle class imitators to the decrepitude induced by tight-lacing, we omitted to mention another fashionable folly which assists in the production of this evil and has also other sins of its own to answer for. The custom of wearing high boot heels, and those, too, so much smaller than the actual heel of the wearer as to afford no solid support, but only a balancing-point, is a source of mischief. In the first place, it throws the centre of gravity so far forward that a free and gracefully erect carriage is impossible. Secondly there being no firm support to the heel, ladies are very apt to twist the ankle suddenly by overbalancing themselves; and this is not only bad in itself, but the fear of its occurence makes them assume a timid mincing gait. And thirdly the effect of driving the foot constantly forward into the toe of the boot, so as to produce a very ugly and painful distortion of the toe joint.

There is little need for wonder at the almost fierce contempt with which young men whose characters are at all above the lowest grades of conventional inanity, regard the average 'girl of the period.' It cannot be denied that there is a significant correspondent between the æsthetic hideousness and the degrading effects on physical health which are produced by tight stays and crippling boots, and a certain mental and moral tone in female society of the present day, which is no less surprising than repulsive. The whole dress and carriage of our fashionable women for several years, has been modelling itself, with less and less concealment, upon the ideal furnished by Parisian *loretites* of the consumptive Traviata type. It is not our business to ape sit up or moral censors; but we may be excused if, for once in a way, we find it impossible to ignore the logical though repulsive consistency of the *grandes dames* and the citizenesses who are willing to spoil their lungs and their digestions, endanger their chances of happy maternity, for the sake of a wasp waist—to talk slang close to verging on indecency, for the sake of the tenth part of a chance of catching a husband; and to simper and leer at the indecencies of a *Grande Duchesse Gerolstein*, in order to escape the dreaded imputation of a deficiency in *chic*.—*Lancet*.

BUY IT AND TRY IT.—Russell's celebrated Coffee. The best on the Coast. Warranted a pure and healthful beverage. *—

HOW THE 'SUN' WAS SOLD.—The New York *Tribune* of May 12th, has the following;

It became known, or was at least suspected, on Tuesday night, that Mrs Richardson's statement would appear in the next day's *Tribune*, and various schemes were devised by reporters of other papers to get surreptitious copies of it. One of the editors of the *Sun* offered a person employed in our pressroom two dollars for a sheet containing the statement, and we regret to say that his offer was accepted. The sheet he received, however, was only an old weekly, with a new heading pasted on expressly for his convenience. Of course it was not right to take the poor man's money, and now that the affair has been brought to our knowledge, we shall be glad to make restitution. If the deluded person will call at our counting room, and sign a receipt, acknowledging himself the fist who was foiled in his efforts to tamper with our pressmen, the money will be refunded; or if he prefers, he can have a genuine copy of the paper he wanted and he may keep the one he bought too. The price of the *Tribunes* rose yesterday, and copies were sold up town for a good deal more than two dollars: but a bargain is a bargain, and the *Sun* may still have it at the stipulated price.

European Mail Summary.

We have files of the *Times* to the 30th of April. On the 27th of April the House of Lords resumed its sittings, but the business was confined to an explanation of Lord Clarendon of the Government action in respect of the catastrophe in Greece. The Commons met on the 26th of April, and have since discussed colonial policy, refusing to appoint a Committee to consider the subject; they have passed through Committee a Bill Legalizing Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, and have also made some progress with the Irish Land Bill. The sitting was protracted until nearly half-past 3, by attempts to prevent the nomination of Mr Newdgate's committee to inquire into religious communities and ultimately the debate was adjourned untill Monday. Mr. Sportforth having resigned the office of legal adviser to the Conservative party, Mr. J E Gorst, late M. P. for Cambridge, will in future conduct all correspondence connected with election matters. Lord Auckland, late Bishop of Bath and Wells, Mr. Maclise, the eminent artist, and Miss Costello, a well-known literary writer, are dead. The Divorce Court had been engaged for two days in hearing an application on behalf of Sir C. Mordaunt, for leave to proceed with his petition for a divorce notwithstanding the declared insanity of his wife. The court has taken time to consider its decision, the point being a novel one. The King of Greece and an immense crowd attended the funerals of Mr Lloyd and Mr Herbert in Athens. The greatest honors and respect were paid by all classes. A portion of the brigand band has been captured, and nine of its members have been executed. The rest of the gang are being pursued, and the Turkish Government has undertaken to hand them over to the Greek authorities, should the culprits cross the frontier. The Minister of War, General Soutzo, has resigned. Further outrages have been reported from Ireland. Mr Radcliffe, an aged gentleman and a magistrate, was fired at near Kells by two men, but escaped unhurt. In the county Clare a farmer was found murdered. The funeral of Mr G H Moore was numerously attended, and was made the occasion of a Nationalist demonstration. The disposition of a certain portion of the Conservative party in Ireland to concur in the demand for a National Parliament is increasingly evident. The petition against the return of Mr Bernal Osborne for Waterford has been dismissed with costs. The condition of some parts of the country has become so alarming that the Government has declared the whole of Meath, Westmeath and Mayo, and portions of five other counties under the provisions of the Peace Preservation Act. Several fresh cases of murder and attempted murder have occurred, and threatening letters are common, the last instance being one addressed to the editor of the *Cork Reporter*. Sir G O'Donnell is a candidate for Mayo, in addition to Mr Purdon and Captain Blake, all Liberals. The decision of the Judge in the Waterford election is to be brought before the House of Commons, at the instance of the dissatisfied petitioners. Emigration upon an extensive scale is going on both from England and Ireland, the majority from the metropolis going to Canada, while as usual the bulk of those from Ireland have the United States for their destination. Sir R Tichborne, the claimant of the great property belonging to that family, has petitioned the Bankruptcy Court, which has sanctioned an arrangement that will permit the prosecution of his claims in a court of law. At the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St George's, Southwark, and at most of the metropolitan Roman Catholic churches on Sunday, the congregations were invited to pray during the ensuing week that the threatened act of injustice and insult levelled at the Roman Catholic religious communities, through the proposed inspection of conventual and monastic institutions, may be averted.