

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1866.

NO 79.

## THE BRITISH COLONIST

VERY MORNING

Published every Tuesday morning  
Subscription prices:  
Six Months, do ..... \$10 00  
Three Months, do ..... 5 00  
Single Copies, do ..... 10 cents.  
Subscribers in Victoria will be supplied by the carriers for 25 cents a week.

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30 Cornhill, London

## SPAIN—HER INSURRECTION, AND HER SLAVE TRADE.

The telegraphic news from Spain announces the fact of the revolution in that country was broken out, and that the leader of the insurrection, General Prim, was on the point of being taken prisoner or driven into Portugal. On turning to the latest European papers, however, we are led to fancy that the Spanish insurrection will not be so easily extinguished as the telegram would briefly have us believe. There is in fact too much of the Don Quixote character in the generals who have gone in pursuit of the rebels to lead us to credit readily the suppression of the revolt. One of the lieutenants of Prim, named Concha, started out in pursuit of Prim with an army of 300 men. The old officer, with Napoleonic tactics, was determined to make activity and speed compensate him for the smallness of his force, and so getting into a railway train with his army he gave orders to start after the rebels. On the train went, after a mile was quickly traversed, until at length the insurgent forces were discerned at one of the houses at which the train was accustomed to stop. Here the field-marshal saw from his carriage

that he did not slight with his army, however, but went on, no doubt with the intention of making a flank movement and capturing the whole rebel force, in the same way as the Irishman surrounded and captured his six enemies. The manoeuvre, it would appear, did not succeed; for we find Prim, after leaving the town, coming back to it. Another general, Zabala, has also been in pursuit of the rebels, but by some strange coincidence he and Prim resemble the two parallel lines that never touch each other. A dozen different accounts tell us of the close approach of the two armies, of the certainty of Prim being destroyed, but the collision never takes place, and the rebel force continually evades annihilation. In one instance it appears a battle was nearly occurring, but Prim ungenerously, as the correspondent of one of the London papers has it, destroyed a bridge over which Zabala had to pass, and the fight did not come off. Zabala was very indignant at this, and even more so at having "lost the run" of his opponent. "While he was thus," says the correspondent in question, casting about for information, indulging in surmises, and grumbling at the disappearance of the bridge of Fuentedeuna, word was sent him next day by General O'Donnell that the rebels had passed that morning at five o'clock by Villalobos, in a different direction; whereupon Zabala wrote to say that he was preparing to follow them by railroad, sternly resolved not to rest until he had overtaken them. Up to the 7th it does not appear that Zabala had destroyed any one, or anything—either rebels or bridges." Then, again, another celebrated general, the Military Governor of Zamora was completely hoodwinked by Prim. Just as the Military Governor and his army had got within fighting distance of the rebels the latter retreated to a line of railway and disappeared in a fog. Such is the description of the great insurrection that is shaking Spain to its centre, giving birth to the most horrible rumors that the Court Physician has attempted to poison the Queen, and that General O'Donnell is plotting her abdication.

It is more gratifying, if not so amusing, to turn from the domestic broils of Spain to one feature in her foreign policy—the abrogation of the slave trade. This abrogation, however, the London Times tells us was not a spontaneous offering to liberty or humanity but a work of necessity. The slave trade had ceased to pay and Spain was only sustaining a bad reputation without receiving any benefit. The African coast now, thanks to the vigilance of the English squadron is

free from the traffic; but one considerable shipment it is said took place during the whole of last year. "A system of blockade was adopted," says the Times, "which at a heavy cost to ourselves, effectually sealed the ports of export, and the trade was gradually given up as impracticable." The slaves brought from the interior for shipment remained so long on the dealer's hands that his prospective profits were absorbed in the cost of maintaining them, and the business became a losing one. Still, many slave merchants held on for the chance of an opportunity, and on the speculation of a momentary break in the blockade, not would it be a reaction on the ab-

operation, and the porters should take a specimen of slate or quartz to show to the Indians in order to induce them if they can find out where such minerals exist, and if so to offer a trifling reward for disclosing the locality. I shall not go further into detail at present; suffice it to say, that if we can succeed in bringing to light the precious metals, gold and silver, the bearer will follow in their train and the other branches of natural history will tell their own tale; the Mineral Kingdom is the greatest motive power to sustain a population, the vegetable and animal world.

Through a long course of years it has been a desperate and not unequal war. The slave-dealers enjoyed the advantages of long experience, abundant capital, and effective combination. They were always informed of the slightest movement in the squadron, and prepared to meet the first chance to account. They had liberally employed steam power in their ships, and they threw all their energies into the game. But the blockade was too strict for them. Off that gloomy coast, and in that fatal climate, our cruisers lay at anchor day after day within sight of distance of each other, and when one vessel was compelled to fall in with another, the latter fell in. Of the war, and the exhausting monotony of such a station, such a station no words of ours can convey any just idea. Mind as well as body succumbed under the strain, and constant relief became necessary for the efficiency of the service. All this while, the slaves waited and calmed with equal patience till the balance turned visibly against them, and then came the adhesion of Spain to complete their discomfiture and crown the enterprise. One of the results of the suppression of the traffic is to be found in the slave-dealers trading in palm oil instead of human beings, and, it is said, quite a legitimate trade is springing up along the coast. All that the English Government and English people now demand is that Spain shall carry out her recent declaration with sincerity, so as to allow the large naval force stationed along the African coast to give up its unhealthy and increasing vigils.

To the Editor of the British Colonist:—Sir, I cannot help thinking that the Government would have acted judiciously had they placed on the estimates a few thousand dollars for the farther exploration of the British possessions in that part of the world. One would naturally infer that even the Government have lost faith in the mineral resources of the colony, or they would have carried out the motto "If at once you don't succeed, try, try, again." And if it is not too late to take the matter into consideration, I would beg to suggest that it be done at once as the proper season of the year is close upon us for prospecting.

It cannot be denied that we have a fine field open before us at the present moment; we have in conjunction with the adjoining colony a seaboard of, I should think, considerably over two thousand miles including arms and inlets, very little of which has been minutely examined. It is true vessels have sailed along the coast, and perhaps some have circumnavigated the Island, but how few have gone near enough to distinguish one kind of rock from another; many others have not the ability to classify the rock they have seen, others have not been inquisitive enough to notice them, and none have given them the attention they should have done. The sea coast, arms and inlets present far greater facilities for prospecting than any other means with which we are acquainted. The rocks, for instance, are bare and clean, and when those sought for are found, can readily be traced or followed inland; provisions, tools, etc., are easily transported and communication open with the outside world. It may be objected to by some that we do not want gold in the rock, but in alluvial deposits in the form of nuggets or dust, as it is so difficult and expensive to separate. To this objection I would state, that if you find it in the matrix you will find it in particles or dust at a shorter or greater distance, and which will be found principally to depend, so far as I am able to judge from experience and reason, upon the nature of the ground over which it has passed, whether it is smooth or rugged, steep or flat, hard or soft, and the force applied to put or keep it in motion. But I have always found that the farther it has been carried from the matrix the lighter the particles have become, and this I attribute to abrasion or friction from its having come in contact with other bodies, or other bodies with it. Great faith is placed in the Big Bend district, and I trust it will turn out as well as expected, but why should we have half-a-dozen such places as Big Bend is hoped to be. We have certainly sufficient territory to contain them, and they are certainly not to be found unless sought after. Many who would go prospecting have not thought of their disposal. I therefore think it would be wise on the part of the colony to send out as soon as possible two or three parties of six men in each party, two or three of whom should be experienced miners having some knowledge of geology; the others men who can work the vessel, whether canoe, boat or schooner, and speak Siwash *wha wal*. The canoes or boats should be sent by steamer to the points of

operation, and the porters should take a specimen of slate or quartz to show to the Indians in order to induce them if they can find out where such minerals exist, and if so to offer a trifling reward for disclosing the locality. I shall not go further into detail at present; suffice it to say, that if we can succeed in bringing to light the precious metals, gold and silver, the bearer will follow in their train and the other branches of natural history will tell their own tale; the Mineral Kingdom is the greatest motive power to sustain a population, the vegetable and animal world.

## TELEGRAPHIC.

(From the Columbian.)

Portland, Me., 12.—The steamer Hibernia has arrived with dispatches to March 2nd. The London Globe announces the Times statement about Russell's probable resignation as pure invention from beginning to end. Turkey is calling upon the great powers that signed the treaty of peace to send commissioners to Budapest to enquire into the master of the assassinated Prince Ouzo. It is understood that the conference is to be held in Paris, and not in Constantinople. During the debate in the Corps Legislatif on the proposed withdrawal of the extradition treaty with England in relation to the supposed existence of some political motive for the step, the Minister asserted that the measure had no political significance. A notice was given to terminate the treaty because it had no satisfactory result, but the French Government had not relinquished the hope of concluding an efficient treaty. A member explained the amendment proposed by the opposition.

Marshall Duke O'Neill had reported on fixing the effective force of the Spanish army for the year at \$5,000 men. The London Herald says, movements are being made to begin arrangements for the laying of the Atlantic cable during the summer. As at present arranged, the Great Eastern will carry the new cable and lay it to Newfoundland; she will then return to the Atlantic Ocean, where she will, with her consort, grapple for the lost end. The local end to be ascertained within a quarter of a mile through observations taken last summer by Captain Anderson. It is not intended that the

Great Eastern, shall be again stowed in her hold on the outward trip, but will be carried in another vessel till it is needed. Three vessels including the Great Eastern, will be provided with grappling apparatus. Latest advices from Liverpool say, the rumored resignation of Earl Russell is denied.

## The Fenian Excitement.

CHICAGO, March 12.—The most extravagant reports continue to prevail as to the extent of Fenian preparations for an attack on Canadian soil. Gen. Sweeney has 25,000 men in regular military organization and ready to move, with immense supplies stored at Burlington, Ogdensburg, Plattsburg and Sandusky. These reports however, are not seriously regarded in Canada; they only occasion smiles on this side, at the expense of our provincial neighbors. The commander in chief of the Canadian forces publishes a congratulatory order on the loyal spirit manifested in the answer to the call for volunteers, and says the Government will make provision for the protection of life and property of the inhabitants of the Province against the piratical attacks of lawless men who use the territory of a neighboring power for the purpose of openly organizing these expeditions.

CHICAGO, March 13.—A Canadian correspondent gives a plausible theory for the military hubbub, asserting that it is (not?) based on real sense of danger, but is managed so that opposition may be silenced and the Confederation scheme carried next month in Parliament. The alarm being sounded so soon after the meeting of the Governors in Montreal, is significant. It is believed that the whole thing is for political purposes, and is hourly taking hold of the public. If this is their object it will, in all probability be successful, for all parties seem to have forgotten their differences and united for defence.

CHICAGO.—Major Wynkoop's mission to the hostile Indians has proved an entire success. He has succeeded in getting them all below the Arkansas river, and procured from their chiefs and head men agreements to abide by the provisions of the treaty of October last, putting an end to all Indian troubles, and making travel across the plains safe.

## Eastern News.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The Senate Committee on the Pacific Railroad have reported a Bill granting lands to the Leavenworth, Lawrence, St. Gibson and Galveston Rail Road and Telegraph Co. for 200 feet on each side of the road and

20 alternate sections per mile—the mineral lands reserved. The road must be commenced in two years.

New York, March 11.—The Herald's city of Mexico correspondent notices the arrival from Europe of the Archduke, brother to Maximilian and Napoleon's agent. The Baron Galland states that the latter's mission is very different from that heretofore announced. The Memorial Diplomatique says the mission of Baron Galland to Mexico is a mere starting point in the negotiations for the withdrawal of French troops. The report that 5000 will return in May, is at least premature. The French expedition which was to end in 1865, has cost \$27,000,000 sterling, and 11,000 men

supposed to be Quakers, notorious guerrillas, had been arrested in New York and brought here, and persons have been sent for to identify him.

## California News.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 12.—An affray occurred in the street this p. m. between Michael Reese and Judge Alexander Campbell. Both were taken to the police office, where they were permitted to depart on their own recognizances to appear before Judge Dix to-morrow. About midnight last night a fire broke out on the corner of Market and Baker streets, between First and Second, which destroyed considerable property before it was extinguished. Several buildings were mostly destroyed. The carriage establishment of H. M. and D. S. Knapp suffered to the extent of some \$15,000. Ducommun & Lowery, wheelwrights, lost about \$2000. Mr. Whitbeck, carriage maker, in rear of Ducommun & Lowery, lost about \$2000—no insurance. Henry & Talford, painters, occupying the upper portion of the building, suffered to the extent of some \$2500. Gold in New York was reported at \$90 on the 12th inst. Legal tenders here, over the counter, are 76 and 76½ selling.

Arrived, schooner Eliza Walker, 12 days from Steilacoom, with lumber to A. Packshare. Sailed, 13th, bark Jalkner, for Portland.

PORTLAND, March 13.—The steamer Montana, Kelly, of the opposition line, will sail from San Francisco on Thursday, the 15th, for Portland.

The steamer America sails for San Juan del Sur to-morrow. The rates of fare have been put down to a low figure on both lines. Through tickets by the America are sold: First cabin, outside rooms, \$125; do., inside rooms, \$100; second cabin, \$95; steerage, \$35. The following are the rates by the Golden Age; First cabin, outside rooms, \$210; do., inside rooms, \$157.25; second cabin, \$80; steerage, \$45.75.

Samuel P. Harker died suddenly of heart disease, at the Dick House, at half-past one p. m., to-day. He was postmaster under President Lincoln until the appointment of Mr. Perkins.

Gold in New York yesterday, the 13th instant, is reported by private dispatches, to have sold at 124½, the fluctuating. Sterling Exchange, best bankers' bills, 108½. Legal Tenders to-day a shade firmer. Brokers buying at 76½ and selling at 77.

## Special Dispatch to the "Colonist."

### EASTERN NEWS.

Boston, March 14.—Jared Sparks, the historian and ex-President of Harvard College, died at Cambridge this morning of pneumonia.

NEW YORK, March 14.—Senor Mackenna, Chilean Agent, and Steven Chinea, Chilean Consul, charged with attempted violation of the neutrality laws, were held to bail to-day in the sum of \$50,000 each in the U. S. Circuit Court.

### CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE PANAMA AND AUSTRALIA STEAMSHIP LINE—NEW GRENADA GOLD MINES—SEIZURE OF THE STEAMER UNCLE SAM. By the steamer Golden Age we have Central American dates to March 1st. The Panama Herald says the engineer entrusted with the survey of the passage supposed to exist between the Tague and the Otroti rivers with a view to opening an interoceanic communication has returned and been quite successful.

The line of steamers between Panama and Australia will commence running in June next. Three hundred persons, mostly Californians, left Panama on February 13th for the New Granada mines.

Panama has been considerably excited over the alleged fitting out of the steamer Uncle Sam as a supply ship for the Spanish fleet. The vessel was recently sold by the P. M. S. Company to J. S. Herman & Co., who loaded her with provisions, &c. Her application for a clearance was denied. Subsequently an armed force took possession of her by order of the President of the State; but on the 23d February she was released, at the instance of the U. S. Consul, but placed under bonds not to leave her anchorage. The owners entered a protest, and finally on their giving a pledge that neither her nor

ber cargo should be sold to the Spaniards. Clearance was granted, and she was preparing to depart.

## CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15.—The funeral of Samuel H. Parker will take place on Sunday next at 10 o'clock p. m., in order to allow delegations of Odd Fellows, from abroad to visit the city to take part in paying the last sad token of respect to the memory of their late lamented brother. To-day the Corais have all adjourned in respect to his memory. Just before the steamer Montana sailed this morning, the men were engaged in taking in freights when a box containing some kind of chemicals suddenly exploded as it was being lowered into the ship's hold with a loud noise, and volumes of smoke and flame shot out in every direction threatening to set the

steamer on fire. The steamer proceeded to sea, and the Pacific Mail Steamer Golden Gate, which left Panama the afternoon of March 1st, where she connected with the steamer leaving New York, February 21st, arrived here at 9 a. m. to-day.

The steamer Sierra Nevada, 55 hours from Portland arrived here to-day noon. She brings \$35,500 in treasure.

Sailed on the steamer America, San Juan del Sur, Panama Pacific and Montana, Portland.

## THE WAR IN CHILE.

DESTRUCTION OF TWO PERUVIAN SHIPS OF WAR—MONETARY CRISIS IN PERU—EQUADOR JOINS THE ALLIES—VALPARAISO BLOCKADE. By the steamer from Panama we have later South American dates.

The reported destruction of two Peruvian war vessels is confirmed. The blockading fleet at Valparaiso consisted of only two vessels, the rest having gone in search of Chilean and Peruvian vessels. The Spaniards had received supplies by one English and one American vessel. The foreign consuls at Valparaiso had had several meetings, and drawn up a protest against the Spanish Commander's orders prohibiting the exportation of coal from Chilean ports.

A monetary crisis was impending in Lima and Callao. The Bank of De Providencia had suddenly suspended payment and monetary matters were in a bad way generally. Ecuador had entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with Chile and Peru against Spain.

## SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

A private telegram reports gold in New York yesterday 130½. Steady Exchange 100 to 101.

Our market for Legal Tenders is without important change. Sales at the Board of \$3000 @ 76½.

Coffee—sales 150 bags—Guatemala, 23½. Petroleum—sales 100 cases—Downie & Co's, C.W., a number of kegs on private terms. We quote Downie's at 85c, Hunnewell's @ 82½c.

Flour—superfine half sacks \$6 50 @ \$6 75 @ bbl; qt sacks \$6 50 @ \$7 00; extra half sacks \$6 76 @ \$7 00; qt sacks \$6 75 @ \$7 25. Outside brands sell at 35c @ bbl off.

Wheat—sales 800 sacks @ \$2; 900 do good \$2 12½; and 500 do prime Santa Clara \$2 15 @ 100 lbs.

Oats—small sales \$1 90 @ \$2 05 @ 100 lbs from poor to good. Barley market heavy—sales 1800 sacks at 95c @ \$1 @ 100 lbs for good and prime.

Potatoes—sales 600 sacks Pigeon Point \$2 15; 150 do Bogda Tomatoes and Petaluma at \$1 @ \$1 10 @ 100 lbs as in quality.

IRRECONCILABLE—Our contemporary the Columbian is unneighborly. It invariably inserts a paragraph which it keeps in type for the express purpose, announcing the arrival of the Enterprise last evening from Victoria without bringing any news worthy of notice. It can find room at the same time for the splenetic concoctions of any ill-natured "Stumpite" who may seek to injure this place, without having the sense to perceive that the effect intended, namely, "to keep people away from the colony" if it had any weight abroad, would be a more portentious injury to British Columbia. Despite the stereotyped phrase however to which we have alluded, it is a fact patent to all readers of that journal that two-thirds of the "thunder" to be found in its leader columns is fulminated to destroy if possible the thunderbolts forged by the Jovean Press of Victoria. It asserts on one side of the sheet that the Victoria papers are destitute of anything of interest to British Columbians and on the other finds it necessary to devote leaders of a column and a half in length to the topics they discuss.

THE AURORA BOREALIS EXPLAINED—Much has been said of late regarding the beauties of the Aurora Borealis. The Dalles people were one night last week treated to a fine view of the phenomenon, and the press of the Bay is extasiated over what has been seen in the same line at San Francisco. An editor in Illinois thus describes the origin of this celestial phenomenon: "When molofygistic temperature of the horizon is such as to colorize the impurient indensation of the hemispheric analogy, the cohesion of the borax curbitus becomes surcharged, with infinitesimals, which are thereby deprived of their fissural disquisitions. This effected, a rapid change is produced in the thorampump tel of the gyastricis palerium, which causes a convolucular in the hexagonal antipathies of the terrestrium aqua veruelli. The clouds then become a mass of deodorum specu te of sermocules light, which can only be seen when it is visible."—Oregonian.

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