

The Importance of Exploration.

Reference was made in these columns some time ago to the fact, the almost incredible fact, that the interior of Vancouver Island may still be said to be a terra incognita, that our knowledge of it can scarcely be said to extend beyond the mere fringes, so to speak. This is a condition scarcely creditable to Anglo-Saxons. But what is, perhaps, of greater importance, it is a condition highly inimical to the best interests of the Colony. It is true, that a more thorough knowledge of the interior of this Island might reveal its poverty rather than its wealth; but there is a very strong impression that the reverse would be the case—that there are behind the seacoast range of sterile mountains fertile valleys and picturesque glens, that in some of these valleys are lovely lakes in which fish and fowl support themselves. It is not at all improbable that such is the case, that the rugged mountains are little more than a screen thrown round the charming country within, to shield it from the harsh breath of Old Neptune, and to conceal it from the unenterprising and uncivilized. Be that as it may, it surely is worth an effort to decide what the character of that unknown region really is, whether it is a second Garden of Eden or whether it is a country abounding in the precious metals. There are various modes by which this object might be attained. It was suggested by a correspondent, some weeks since, that the most effective mode of promoting exploration and settlement would be by constructing or opening a trail or bridge-path through the centre of the Island. And we are by no means disposed to regard this proposition as unworthy of consideration. The process would be a gradual one; but it would certainly possess the valuable recommendation of being productive of more practical results than the more common and more speedy mode of exploration. It might be thought desirable that the opening of such a bridge-path should be preceded by a more superficial preliminary exploration or survey, as the path itself would doubtless form the nucleus of a turnpike road. The substantial advantages of the opening of such a path must be obvious. A thorough and systematic exploration of the country would thus be attained, commencing at Victoria as the initial point and extending farther into the interior until finally reaching the extreme Northwest of the Island. By this path would not only be established the means of facile communication between the seat of supply and the operating party, but the path itself would constitute a sort of centre from which individual, or associated effort might radiate, penetrating the country on either side of it; and thus not only would the entire country be effectively explored, but the ready means of communication with any settlements which might spring up as the immediate result of such exploration would be established. These crude thoughts are thrown out, not with any desire to pronounce in favor of this particular plan, but rather with a view to inviting such thought and discussion as may promise to result in action at a future time when the people of this colony are earnestly invited to co-operate, with gentlemen of great influence and philanthropic enterprise in England, who have associated themselves together for the patriotic object of promoting systematic colonization, in an especially fitting effort to acquaint ourselves with the nature of the country in our immediate neighborhood, with a view to ascertaining the most eligible sites for the establishment of miniature colonies, under a scheme which would appear to have such strong claims to our attention and co-operation. It is more than probable that the first colony would be established on the Fraser, where there is such an abundance of rich, open land available for that purpose, and where the facilities for moving produce would be much greater than might, perhaps, be the case in the interior of this Island. But the colonization movement, if undertaken at all, cannot be presumed to terminate with a single, or more initial step. We shall doubtless receive a batch every year, for some time at least, and there is every reason for believing, most desirable districts in the interior of the Island for colonization purposes, surely no time should be lost in acquainting ourselves with the real state of the case. Surely we have lingered sufficiently long in Doubtland. Let us now arise and take possession of the Promised Land said to lie in the regions beyond. But who will be the Caleb, and Joshua of the occasion? And by whom shall they be sent to spy out the land? These are questions to which the public should return an early answer. They are

questions in which every colonist should feel a deep interest. Let the people shake off that fatal lethargy, doubtless in part the result of our wretched political institutions and of the enervating one-man system of Government, and let them approach this whole question of colonization with that earnestness which its great importance demands. If the work of exploration is to be a State undertaking, let the Governor be at once urged to take it up. If it is to be the result of private enterprise, stimulated by money premiums or land grants, let the people be up and doing.

On the Monster—Captain Slocum, of the schooner *Salado*, is said to have seen a terrible sea serpent on the voyage from Hayti to New York with a cargo of copper. It was a hundred feet, tall 60 feet, long body 40 feet. The most curious feature about it, says the *Pall Mall*, "was an immense body of hair, grisly matter, 12 feet in height, 40 feet in width, with the same length, entirely void within, forming a large bladder-shaped balloon, which filled with air buoyed the serpent on the water." That, no doubt, is curious, but to us the most curious feature about the account of it is Captain Slocum's priori knowledge of the creature. Captain Slocum declares that the tail would weigh 100 lbs., to the cubic foot, "the bladder was two inches thick, but a dense, impenetrable character, and would resist knife or bullet." Her touch is poison, and her contact dangerous. Now Captain Slocum "cleared to fire" at her or disturb her in any way? so how he knows so accurately that the bladder would resist knife or bullet, that her touch is poison, and so forth, is not clear. Can he gauge specific gravity, as well as poison, by the eye? Or how did he appraise the weight per cubic inch? Could he also tell by inspection what the specific poison of her touch was?

The *Little Newsmen* objects to our sending a Special Delegate to Ottawa. Objection noted. The Delegate will proceed with leave granted the *Little Newsmen* to move for a new suit—which, by the by, he sadly needs. Speaking of the *Little Newsmen*, a friend at our elbow reminds us that a short time ago he subscribed \$250 towards enabling the diminutive "critter" to proceed to San Francisco and obtain a subsidy for *The News* to advocate Annexation. Can the little fellow—whose political gyrations remind us of the Frenchman's flea or the thimble-rigger's "little joker"—be trusted now to advocate Confederation? We think not. Hean sold his birth-right for a mess of pottage. Judas is carried did still worse for thirty pieces of silver. But the *Little Newsmen* tried to sell the country that gave him birth for two dollars-and-a-half. Which, think you, reader, of the trio was the most contemptible—Hean, Judas or Jim?

THEATRE ROYAL—Last night's London Assurance was repeated. Mrs Bates makes a brilliant Lady Gay Spanker, and Mr Bates an equally good Sir Harcourt Corriole. Mr Bates has, with laudable consideration, decided to give no performance this evening in account of the ball to M and Mme Sandrie; but to-morrow evening will be offered for the first time the beautiful and thrilling drama entitled "Madeline, the Belle of the Fashioning, or the Foundling of Paris," the entertainment to conclude with the amusing farce entitled "Box and Cox."

CALIFORNIA—A gentleman writing from Nevada, California, to a friend in this city, says of the condition of things there: "It is very dull in the mining regions of California, and a great many men are out of employment, in fact all through the State, and as you will see by the papers, they have to keep up a military display in San Francisco to preserve peace. I really believe it is the hardest country in the whole world to get more than a living by labor. The Eastern States offer much greater advantages to a poor man."

The new Attorney General was yesterday waited upon at his hotel by a number of members of the Bar, who were cordially received. From what we hear of Mr. Phillips he will be a valuable acquisition to our Bar, already noted for its ability.

CHINESE JOURNALS must be a terror to evil-doers, for since the *Asiatic* there has not been a single prisoner charged with a grave offense before the Police Magistrate.

FRANCE—Work on the line to be, within 100 chains, set out this week. All the Delegates have taken chances. The contractors in the object of general admiration and humor.

EXPLORED—Two Chinamen were picked out of a wagon at the corner of Douglas and Fort streets, yesterday, and one of them is seriously hurt upon the head that he had carried home.

Next arrival from Portland, it having been forwarded there from San Francisco before the departure of the *Active*.

This steamship California will sail for Portland at 3, this morning.

We call attention to the stationery, books, silverware, Saddles and harness, whips harness material, guns, Pistols and fancy goods to be sold at the salesroom of J P Davies & Co, this day.

The Red River Expedition is to be composed of 10,000 picked men, including a steam battery and rocket brigade, as well as 2000 loyal Indians.

The Mysterious Public Meeting.

Editor BRITISH COLONIST:—As a subscriber to the *Hampshire Testimonial*, allow me to repudiate all connection with the advertisement in the *News*, calling for a public meeting and signed by "Many Citizens." It is true the presentation of a watch is contemplated, but a public demonstration was never anticipated, and the call is irregular and improper. However, as the advertisement has been made, it is as well that the meeting should be held and the watch presented; but any attempt to mix up other political matters with the affair by politicians will meet, I am sure, with disapproval by the meeting.

In saying this I think I speak the mind of every subscriber with whom I conversed to-day, and I feel justified in pronouncing your correspondent's remarks as unfair and his alarm as unfounded.

[We differ with our correspondent in the latter part of his letter. The suspicious character of the notice—without a requisition or the Mayor's name, its insertion in an obscure corner of an obscure paper of limited circulation and no influence, and the hint at other political matters—justify the suspicion that some very disreputable business was intended to be transacted.—ED. COLONIST.]

The Terms.

Editor BRITISH COLONIST:—There will be no difficulty in getting Responsible Government or anything else from Canada the people here are willing to pay for; but the proof of the worth of our connection with the Provinces east will rest on the amount of disinterested liberality they will show towards us. The concessions the Delegation will obtain will prove the character of the people we shall have to deal with. Not that I favor Annexation, but I don't doubt for a moment that we could obtain twice as much from the United States as is asked for in the Terms agreed upon by our Legislature. If we do not adhere to what we are asking for, we will be classed with a certain animal with long ears. EXCELSIOR.

Our San Francisco Letter.

Regular Correspondent of the Colonist.

THE SAN DIEGO HONEY—JOHN CHINAMAN—VICTORIANS IN CALIFORNIA—PERSONAL Gossip.

San Francisco, May 4, 1870. After all, the San Diego mines turned out to be utterly worthless. The placer diggings when carefully and industriously worked will not pay more than one dollar a day. The quartz consist of but small veins extending a short distance into the ground, and nearly all of these have been now dug out. The climate is cold, windy and disagreeable, the country bleak and sterile, and altogether very different to what was represented by the newspapers. The excitement culminated in a rush, but was just sufficient to draw attention from Peace River, and in that respect, perhaps answered the purpose of the San Francisco press. Now that San Diego has failed, Arizona is looming into prominence. We must have rich mines, some where, and it matters not what wild goose chase prospectors are sent on if they can only be kept on American soil. Mountains of pure silver near the Mexican boundary line is the largest development and various writers are already giving details of the discovery carefully concealed here, and too incredible to bear repetition, but a certain number in every community believe everything however wild, especially if it relates to money, will undoubtedly start for that locality and I think more than one expedition already organized. Instead of turning their attention to, and seeking a remedy for the fearful distress that exists in our country, city journals are busy fomenting these chimerical notions into rash, and in the mean time a starving volcano of starving discontented men is ready at any moment to burst forth into pillage and riot. It is impossible to procure work of any description, agricultural and mechanical, are no better off than laborers; manufacturing is at a standstill or only gives employment to the Chinese and general trade though reviving somewhat only affords those in a higher walk of life. People appear to be gradually settling down to the opinion that John is the cause of all their woes. Merchants forget their lack of enterprise, and talk about the Chinese influx as the source of the present depression, and some support the idea and make political capital out of it, editors give currency and all classes are now thoroughly convinced that unless the Chinese influx can be stopped the country is ruined. But California is no longer to be a monopoly of this. Ohio and West Virginia, Texas and Minnesota take a thousand each for a railroad building; New Orleans imports coal from Great Britain; Florida, Kingdom and this slave or blessing will soon spread all over the Union. A Victorian who has just returned from White Pine says there is quite a colony of British Colonists at Elko and Hamilton. Most of them are dead broke and unable to get away. Colverwell is teeming somewhere in that locality, and about the only one making money. The rest spend their time in bar-room, yarning of the prosperous days they once knew on William Creek, and wishing with a hearty longing that they were back

again. Poor Tom Leont, a white and negro minstrel died here the other day. He had been sick for over a year, and at length sought an asylum in the city and county hospital, where he lingered for many weeks. His last public appearance was at Brooks Melodion cellar, on Kearny Street. He was a native of North Carolina, thirty three years of age, and had been for twenty three years, man and boy, a minstrel. The prejudice of colour prevented him attaining eminence in his profession, as many artists would not appear on the stage with him. That was long ago, when he was young and in his prime, antipathy to his race was stronger then than now, but it checked Tom's rising popularity, made him discontented with himself and the world and from that time he degenerated into a free concert performer. His remains were taken charge of by friends, and race nor color will trouble him again no more for ever.

Taking a trip to San Jose a week or two ago I came across numbers of Colonial acquaintances. Mr. and Mrs. Quarles, respectable into Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, are keeping a snug roadside house about a mile from that thriving burg. Welch, ex-inspector of Police, is teaming for Wells Fargo & Co. Shepherd of the Confederate saloon is settled a few miles away on the Gilroy Railroad as head carpenter for a portion of the line, and Moore formerly partner in Elliot's Brewery, has a good government appointment as Internal Revenue Collector.

A CHANCE FOR BARBAINS IN CLOTHING—A. Gilmore, Yates street, near Government, has commenced to sell off his entire stock of ready-made clothing at cost, to close out that branch of his business, as he intends to confine his attention to MESSHART TAILORING. Garments of every description made to order in the most fashionable styles at greatly reduced prices.

For Peace River Gold Mines

NOTICE.
ON THE OPENING OF NAVIGATION ON THE FRASER RIVER, 1870.
VICTORIA AND ENTERPRISE
Will commence their trips in connection with
Barnard's Express and Mail Line of Stages.
THE STEAMER VICTORIA
Will run from Soda Creek to the Canon at Cottonwood connecting with the
ENTERPRISE.
Which will be placed on the route from the Canon to Fort George.
Victoria, B.C. Feb 16, 1870. 1622 3m

BARNARD'S EXPRESS

FOR YALE AND PORTS ON FRASER RIVER
Cross every Tuesday and Friday at 9 o'clock a.m.
For Barkerville, Cariboo and Gold.
CHINOOK GOLD MINES
Every Friday at 9 o'clock, a.m.]

BARNARD'S EXPRESS

Line Stages.
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE STAGES OF THE ABOVE LINE WILL
LEAVE YALE EVERY MONDAY MORNING
SODA CREEK, QUEENELLE AND BARKERVILLE.
Carrying H.M. Mail, Freight and Passengers.
Mails leave Victoria on FRIDAY'S STEAMERS
at 12 o'clock a.m. F. J. BARNARD.

FOR SALE

OLINTON MILLS.
200 Tons Extra Flour.
40 PACK MULES.
WEEK APARAJOS.
F. DALLY
Desires to inform the Inhabitants of Victoria and its vicinity, that he has returned from the Upper Country with a Choice Collection of
New Photographic Views

Mountain Scenery and other highly interesting Subjects.
CARTES DE VISITE.
GROCES.
The Gallery is situated on Fort Street, VICTORIA, B.C.

Partnership Notice.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Partnership heretofore existing between James H. Rogers and Edward O. Fisher, of 70-71 Hill House, has been dissolved by mutual consent, the said James H. Rogers carrying on the business, collecting all debts, and paying all liabilities to the late firm.
JAMES H. ROGERS,
EDWARD O. FISHER.

To the Trade.
WE HAVE THIS DAY RECEIVED
BASS' SALE
No. 3 and India Pale.

H. F. Heisterman,
LAND AGENT,
21 LANGLEY STREET,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla,
FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD.



The reputation this excellent medicine has acquired is derived from its cures of Scrofulous diseases, where the system is saturated with impurities, which are purified and cured by Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Scrofulous contamination until cured in such great numbers in almost every part of the country, that the public scarcely need to be informed of its virtues or uses.

Scrofulous poison is one of the most destructive enemies of our race. Often, this unseen and unfeeling tenant of the organism undermines the constitution, and invites the attack of enfeebling or fatal diseases, without exciting a suspicion of its presence. Again, it seems to breed infection throughout the body, and then, on some favorable occasion, rapidly develops into one or other of its hideous forms, either on the surface or among the vitals. In the latter, tubercles may be suddenly deposited in the lungs or heart, or tumors formed in the liver, or it is its presence by eruptions on the skin, or foul ulcers on some part of the body. Hence the occasional use of a bottle of this Sarsaparilla is a visible, even when no active symptoms of disease appear. Persons afflicted with any of the system's complaints generally find immediate relief, and a permanent cure, by the use of this Sarsaparilla.

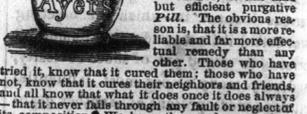
LA St. Anthony's Fire, Rose or Erysipelas, Sore Eyes, Sore Throat, and other eruptions, various forms of Scrofulous disease. Also, in the more concealed forms, as *Typhoid Fever, Heart Disease, Fits, Epilepsy, Nephritis*, and the various Ulcerous affections of the muscular and nervous systems.

Syphilis or General and Mercurial Diseases are cured by it, though a long time is required for subduing these obstinate diseases by any medicine. But long continued use of this medicine is necessary to effect a permanent cure. It is a powerful purifying and invigorating agent. Minute Doses for each case are found in our Almanac, supplied gratis. *Erysipelas*, which is caused by accumulations of extraneous matter in the blood, yield quickly to it, as also *Liver Complaints, Torpidity, Congestion or Inflammation of the Liver, and Jaundice*, which, as they often do, from the ranking poisons in the blood, are cured by it. It is a great restorer for the strength and vigor of the system. Those who are *Languid and Listless, Depressed, Sleepless, and troubled with Nervous Prostration or Tremor*, or any of the affection's symptomatic of *Weakness*, will find immediate relief and convincing evidence of its restorative power upon trial.

PREPARED BY
DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.,
Practical and Analytical Chemists.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills,

For all the purposes of a Laxative Medicine.



Perhaps no one medicine is so universally required by everybody as a cathartic, which not only cures any before us universally adopted into use, in every country where it is known, but it is a more reliable and far more effectual remedy than any other. Those who have tried it, know that it cured them; those who have not, know that it cures their neighbors and friends, and all know that it does not injure the system—that it never fails through any fault or neglect of the user. We have thousands upon thousands of certificates of its efficacy in the following complaints, but such cases are known in every neighborhood, and we need not publish them. Adapted to all ages, it is a safe and reliable cathartic, containing neither calomel or any deleterious drug, they may be taken with safety by anybody. Their sugar coating preserves their purity, and renders them pleasant to take, while being purely vegetable no harm can arise from their use in any quantity. They operate gently, and without any influence on the stomach, bowels, liver, and other organs of the body, restoring their regular action, and purifying by correcting whatever exists, such derangements as are the first origin of disease. Minute directions are given in the wrapper of the box, for the following complaints, which these Pills rapidly cure:—

For *Dyspepsia or Indigestion, Flatulency, Stomachic, Languor and Loss of Appetite*, they should be taken moderately to stimulate the stomach and restore its healthy tone and action.

For *Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Pains in the Back and Limbs*, they should be taken, as required, to change the diseased action of the system, with such change those complaints disappear.

For *Swelling and Rheumatism* they should be taken in large and frequent doses to produce the effect of a diaphoretic.

For *Constipation* a large dose should be taken as it produces the desired effect by sympathy.

As a *Diaphoretic*, they should be taken to promote digestion and relieve the stomach.

In occasional doses stimulates the stomach and bowels into healthy action, restores the appetite, and invigorates the system. Hence it is a most valuable remedy where no serious derangement exists. And who does not occasionally feel that a dose of these Pills makes him feel younger than he does? It is a most reliable and effectual remedy for all the above complaints.

DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Practical Chemists,
LOWELL, MASS., U.S.A.

PICKLES, SUCRES, JAMS
&c. &c. &c.
Manufactured by
CROSSE & BLACKWELL
CROSS STREET, LONDON

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S
Well known & distinguished for its excellence from every part of the world. It is a most reliable and effectual remedy for all the above complaints.

HER MAJESTY'S TABLE
C. & B. are Agents for THE PATENT MANUFACTURE OF ROYAL WARRANTED BOTTLES, and are Manufacturers of every description of Glassware of the highest quality.

CAUTION
Betts's Capsule Patents
Are being infringed by Importation of Capsules made in contravention of his rights, which necessitate our being more vigilant. Betts's being the original Inventor and Sole Maker in the United Kingdom.

The Strong Man Armed.

The Island of San Juan has been regorically (as Mrs. Partington express it) described as 'The Strong Armed,' keeping the door of the British Empire. Considered apart from the international dispute, it must be perfectly clear that the possession of intrinsically worthless Island is of infinitely greater importance to former it constitutes the key to the outlet on the Pacific. To surrender key may be regarded as, indeed, meant to retiring from the Pacific does not retirement from the Continent. To the latter the Island in question really possess little or no value, portance, save in so far as it gives undue advantage over a neighbor he really means to be an honest peaceful neighbor, Uncle Sam need of San Juan. His frontage Pacific is ample enough, and his are numerous enough, and why he wish to hold the key to our settlement? His very desire to obtain possession of that key is calculated to doubt and suspicion as to his and intentions. Looking at the in the light of the rights of the true claimants, there would appear little doubt that to Great Britain Island belongs; yet when we stand neighbors, from their leading station at Washington down to their miserable stump-politicians in Washington Territory, declaring in the most phobic terms that the Island belongs them, and that they mean to hold it to settle the question. You're another argument would be unwise as undignified. The wolf in charge against the lamb because charges were groundless. It is sought, by the ardor of its declaration to cover the badness of its cause, without any intention of accepting full application of this figure, well be concluded that Great cannot hope for either justice or adjustment of the dispute by printing this unseemly international ling. Let us have this dispute peacefully if we can; but let us settle! Although this international question may not be regarded as any part of the programme agreed to the Delegation now leaving Ottawa, yet it is one which is intimately connected therewith—fact, which cannot well be separated from it. Confederation—British minion extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, must, indeed, lose force and significance with the loss of that little and apparently insignificant Island. Our neighbors know it well, and knowing it, they are all anxious to put the key of the American Empire in their pocket, though this San Juan question strictly enter into the 'conditional' which the Government at Ottawa be asked to admit this colony in Dominion, yet it so greatly affects the whole question that it would be impossible to overlook it; trust, therefore, that the Government will have instructed the Delegation this most important and urgent matter. That the Government at Ottawa cannot settle the San Juan dispute need not be reminded; but, in very direct and deep interest dispute, they are specially urged upon the Imperial Government the necessity of a speedy settlement which will give the Island to a minion. Some two years ago, in London on business connected with the Hon. Wm. McDougall joined in a statement paper to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State the Colonies upon this subject, pointing out that the claims of Great Britain were clear and incontrovertible, that the possession of it was of momentous importance to minion, and, at the same time, that the Secretary of State how a British Statesman were to allow a diplomatist to get the better of these territorial and boundary questions, pointing to the irreparable sacrifices which had already made in this way, on both sides, as in the centre of the continent our Delegates do with the suit at Ottawa what those gentlemen in London. It is alike our duty and interest to look sharply after the matter. If it became the duty of our statesmen to do so, how much it the duty of the Representative British Pacific to attend to a possession, to us, both a local and national importance!