The Weekly British Colonist. AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, February 4 1868.

In the management of her Colonies we think in no one particular has England erred so much as in the selection of Governors. The frequent hostilities which occurred between the early Colonies of America and the natives no doubt made the appointment of Military Governors judicious and necessary, and hence the precedent thus established became a permanent custom which almost amounted to law. And against frequent remonstrance, up to the time of Lord Durham's celebrated report, Military men were almost exclusively selected as Governors of the British Colonies. Since that time however, when commenced the era of what is now termed Responsible Government in the North American Provinces, some regard has been had for the necessity of legislative qualification being an essential requisite in a man who undertakes to govern a people understanding the science of self-government, who have the firmness and independence to demand that *their* wishes and interests shall be consulted above those of the Governor, or those who give official sanction to his appointment. So far as the Atlantic Provinces are concerned, they have been relieved from the despotism of a military martinet or an imbecile *protege* of Downing Street, surrounded by a staff of irresponsible officials, who look upon the people over whom they are called to rule as mere creatures to do their bidding, and whose hardest work is to get the most money for the least possible service. Happily, however, the day has dawned when that condition of things must cease. The new order established by the 'British North American Act,' places the appointment of Governors within the Dominion of Canada beyond the possibility of any such contingency. The act of Confederation provides that the Governors for the several Provinces shall be appointed by the Governor General of Canada by and with the advice of his Council. Under the restrictions of Responsible Government that Council can do no act without the consent of Parliament, in which body are the representatives of the Province for which the governor is appointed. There is therefore no possible chance for any appointment to be made without the approval of the entire Dominion. The question however is not wholly, as some seem persistently to assert, do Canadians possess better qualifications for governing a Colony than Englishmen or men who might be sent from England? But it is this—Is the class of men from whom the selections would be made in Canada more or less likely to understand the science of free government than that class from whom such selections are invariably made in England? In Canada there is no privileged class, except that obtained through merit; there are no hereditary rights which claim precedence of intellectual qualification, and no man can there attain to any political position of honor or emolument except it be through the suffrages of the people. In England it is quite the reverse. Men there are born to rank and station, and that position will be preferred and maintained without regard to mental qualification, until the government of the country through increased intelligence, is placed under the control of the entire population. That the Governor of a Colony of Anglo Saxons should be a statesman, few, we think, are prepared to deny; and that no nation on earth can claim to possess better statesmen, or men better qualified for Governors, will hardly be disputed; but such is the relative positions of the statesmen of England and the statesmen of Canada that an appointment which might be considered by one as adding nothing to his emolument or rank, by the other might be esteemed as a great honor, although in point of statesmanship there might be a perfect equality. The leading statesmen of England are either men of great wealth or of such high rank in life that they would not exchange their positions for that of the Governorship of a small Province or Colony, and hence the alternative of substituting official and hereditary rank for intelligence and legislative acquirements in the distribution of Government patronage. How gladly, then, should we in this colony hail and accept a change which it is apparent will be to our advantage; for if, instead of a man to govern us who has no recommendation but family interest, no interest above hereditary rank and aristocratic pride, and no qualification except that borne on his commission, we desire a Governor who, combined with sensible and economical habits, possesses a thorough knowledge of political economy and is well skilled in Colonial legislation, and who regards the wishes of the people as the highest power in the land, then we can only look for such a man from the new Dominion; for the past experience of this Colony, as well as that of every other Colony in North America, should have quite convinced us by this time that the man for whom we look is not likely to be furnished us from Downing Street for many years to come.

Saturday, Feb 1.

HARRIS' POND.—As there is every probability of a change in the present fine weather shortly, we would advise all who have a spare afternoon to enjoy it in the healthy exercise of skating, as we see by advertisement that the ice on Harris pond will be well swept, and is in pretty good order considering the number that has used it.

CONFEDERATION MEETING REPORT.—Extra copies of the daily have been struck off for those who may wish to obtain a report of the speeches and the resolutions passed at the meeting on Confederation on Wednesday night.

JAMES STRUTHERS, for beating a squaw, was yesterday put under bonds to keep the peace for three months by the police magistrate; and a man named Charles Williams, for beating an Indian, was fined $20.

KNOCKED ON THE HEAD.—The promised prize fight between Eden and Wilson has, we hear, fallen through, the friends of the pugilists failing to come to time with the stake money.

WESLEYAN CHURCH.—The Rev. Mr White, of New Westminster will preach sermons in behalf of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in the above Church to-morrow morning and evening.

ARGUMENT in the matter of the estate of Isaac Humphreys, a deceased intestate, will be resumed on Monday next, before Chief Justice Needham.

IMPORTS.—A cargo of hay and [illegible] Whidby Island, was landed yes[illegible] Outer wharf, for Messrs Wallace [illegible]

THE Enterprise will not go a[illegible] and Inlet until the middle of ne[illegible]

THE ship Nightingale will [illegible] taking in cable to morrow.

THE next County Court will be held by Mr Pemberton on the 18th inst.

ADVERTISEMENT.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Allow me through the medium of your valuable journal to communicate with my fellow shareholders in the Queen Charlotte Coal Mining Co., Limited.

GENTLEMEN:—Some information and advice in the present position of our affairs may not be out of place. Publicity is feared by some as an exposure of mismanagement, and by others under the idea that the value of our venture will be lessened by it. With regard to the last there is this consolation: we cannot stand lower in the estimation of the public than we do. Those that take the trouble to think about us know quite as much about our blunders as we do ourselves, and have a clearer judgment in the matter. As for going lower, I doubt whether we could give a share away that had a twenty cent assessment due on it. I know I can't get half a dollar a share for mine, all calls paid up. I tried to borrow money on them a few days ago but could not get a cent, and this after an expenditure of years of time and thousands of dollars.

We are now well advanced in our fourth year of prospecting for coal, and are still prospecting, for a payable seam, not having made any sensible advance in our enterprise. If I ask any shareholder he will tell me we have a valuable mine and a market ready to take any quantity at highly remunerative prices—the Government have put us in possession of a magnificent property, expecting it would be a public benefit, and there is no real difficulty in carrying out the works necessary to bring the coal into the market. Why, then, are we placed in the wretched position we are now in. Solely from admitting incompetent persons to the management of our affairs. The four long years, the thousands of dollars expended, will be sheer waste unless it has the effect of instructing our Directors,—in fact educating them in the duties of their position. We must consider they are being educated at our expense—and very expensive it is too. To aid in their education reasonable inquiries should be made as to how and why our money is expended in waste, as the proper working of our property does not require it. By inquiring and insisting on intelligible replies you will cause your Directors to think, and in thinking they may probably arrive at some knowledge of what they are doing or going to do. Had you done so a year ago the last tunnel failure would never have occurred. I hope it is the last of the series. The 'going it blind' system ought to be put a stop to. They were shown that to drive the tunnel would be a waste of money—that a much better plan could be gone into. There was a person willing to contract to deliver at the Company's stores, ready for loading into vessels,

5,000 tons of Coal, value when there		$50,000
To open the mine,	$2 500	
To put up screens and shoots	3,000	
Railway, 3 ft 8 in. guage, ballasted or planked,	15,000	
Wagons,	2,000	
Leaving mine in proper working order for a minimum of 50 tons per day,	2,000	
		24 000
Contingencies,		4,900
		$79 400
Total payment to the Contractor,		50,000
Bonus to the Company,		$29,400

The work to be commenced by driving directly into the coal, so that the first stroke of the pick would be the getting of coal.

This was accompanied by a statement showing that the 5000 tons of coal might be got out in six months. The Contractor was willing to bind himself to do it within nine months.

The amount that the Company would be required to furnish in six months was $12,500, to be paid under supervision by the Directors, to secure its being used for the contract and for no other purpose. This money would have been on account thus:

The lumber and iron for Railroad now on the ground, propy of Co.,	$5,000
Cash for wages, provisions, materials, &c.,	7,500
	$12,500

As the contractor offered to get out 1,000 tons of coal before he could make any demand on the Company, and as that coal would have been a property on which money could be raised, there would have been no necessity for drawing on the pockets of the shareholders. Had the Directors accepted the above offer the position of the Company would have been this: The coal mine would have been opened without any risk or expense to the Co., the railway, screens, shoots, wagons, &c., complete and made a present of to the Co., to the value of $30 000. The 5 000 tons of coal would have been worth $50,000 and would have produced the money to pay the Contractor, and only in the event of its being got out.

This offer was made by a man who had been engaged on public works, either as contractor or engineer for upwards of thirty years in England and in Australia, and fifteen years of that time had been at work in a coal country, and who understood perfectly well what he undertook to do—whether the offer was good, bad, or indifferent the Directors did not take the trouble to inquire. After it was presented in writing to the Board, they turned red, white, and blue as it knocked all their pretty schemes on the head, and individually began to sneer at it. One said that, however beneficial the offer might be to the Company he should oppose it. Valuable Director that, of course. The Company must be proud of him. The Board have never made any inquiry on the subject from that day to this. They went to we are forced into admitting the work and granting the money. This we suggest must decidedly put a stop to. We do hear cheering wonderfully. We are dumb before our cheerers.

Contract for all your work—employ men who know their work—avoid tunnelling out of coal—drift and sink in the coal till you are certain—dogs leave the coal till the coal leaves you—prove well before you put in your railroad, &c., and then perhaps your present mismanagement, continually extravagant may

Like a bungler, blundering o'er a doubt
Till blundering long, at last they blunder out—
And find coal to pay.

chance has favored us very much or we must have burst up long ago. Recollect the $50,000 expended and the years gone are utterly and irretrievably wasted. No management can recover that. The waste has been wilful.

EPITAPH.

(On a Queen Charlotte Coal Mine Shareholder. Written by Himself.)

Affections sore
Long time he bore,
Queen Charlottes were his bane;
They tunnelled there,
He drifted here
At last, and died insane.

Your obedient servant,

1t* A SHAREHOLDER.

Our Alaska Letter.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

SITKA, ALASKA TERRITORY, January 23d 1868.

In your travels through the world did you ever find anything more agreeable than to meet, at the time you least expected, an old true and dear friend. On last Saturday, January 18th, like all the Americans in Sitka, I felt very jubilant, and, to use a common expression, I 'don't believe there were more than three persons in the town who were mean enough to go to bed sober. Why? Because the long looked for Fideliter had arrived. She had on board a splendid lot of fellows, a large mail and lots of papers. We can now go in and discuss the affairs of the nation, with as much logic and apparent honesty as most any other number of people you could find anywhere. We will vote for progression. We like to see the nation prosper. We swear by Gen. J. C. Davis and vote the Democratic ticket. Can you wonder at it? The Fideliter brought on the U. S. Paymaster, Col. H. B. Reece. He paid the troops off, and money is now quite plentiful. The greenbacks we take and pass at 70 cts on the dollar. The Fideliter made the trip from Victoria to Sitka in seven days. Hon. Ben Truman, the U. S. postal agent, was a passenger on the Fideliter, and as he has had ample opportunities to see the necessity of at least a monthly mail, it is hoped that he will bring to bear all the influence he can to secure us a regular service. If the owner of the Fideliter, Mr. Keil, would get any reasonable compensation for bringing a mail, there is no man in America who would be more willing to carry it than he. He is now somewhat identified with the country and, I am told, will do what he can to forward the interests of Alaska. Mr. J. H. Kinkead, the newly appointed Sutler, came back on the Fideliter, with a large stock of goods to open a store here. He has rented a very fine building from Mr. C. B. Montague, and expects to open it in a few days. Mr. Kinkead is a gentleman who makes friends wherever he goes and will do well here. To leave out the name of Mr. Thomas Stratton, another of the passengers who arrived by the Fideliter, would be making a big blank. I regret exceedingly we could find nothing here to induce him to remain with us.

On the morning of January 22d, the schooner Growler, under the command of Capt. Coffin, left for Victoria. The weather here for the past six weeks has been very fine.

The Fideliter sails in half an hour from now for Victoria, so I must close. The Russian brig, under command of Capt Book, leaves to-day with all the Russian soldiers, for the Amoor River.

BARNEY O'RAGAN.

Sir Frederick Bruce's Death.

The following is a copy of the letter of Lord Stanley, forwarded to the Mayor of Boston relative to the death of Sir Frederick Bruce:—

FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON, October 12, 1867.

SIR—I have received your despatch of the 23d ult., confirming the painful news which you had previously conveyed to me by telegraph. I have lost no time in laying before the Queen the address of the City of Boston, and I am commanded by her Majesty to express through me her sincere thanks for the sympathy with her in her bereavement which the address contains.

The loss of her Majesty's minister at Washington at a time like the present is a misfortune which her Majesty's government can only deplore in common with the government and people of the United States. Sir Frederick Bruce had been long and intimately acquainted with the course of events which had led to the present state of things in America, and was in the fullest sense of the word the representative of the views and policy of his government. His death, therefore, at this time, when his services were so valuable to his country, is a loss to his survivors which they may well feel to be irreparable. Sir Frederick Bruce himself was well aware of the high esteem in which his character was held by his sovereign and his country, and he had received from her Majesty and from her Majesty's government every mark of confidence and every testimony to his merits which it was in their power to bestow. He died, as he had lived, in the discharge of his duty, and he left behind him a name which will be long remembered with honor by his friends and by those who have watched the course of events which have been passing in America during the last eight years.

I have to request you to convey to the Mayor and City Council of Boston the expression of my sympathy with them in the loss they have sustained by the death of a citizen whose name was so well known and so highly esteemed in Boston, and to assure them that her Majesty's government will be glad to avail themselves of any opportunity which may arise of showing how they appreciate the feelings which have been manifested by the City of Boston on this occasion.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

STANLEY.

PRINCE NAPOLEON received the Grand Cross of Maria Theresa from the Emperor of Austria. Prince Napoleon put it on at once, and went to the Emperor of Austria, saying, "Sire, I am the most troubled because I have done nothing to deserve it!" an odd way of conveying his thanks. The reply should have been, "Prince, I could not have given it to you for anything you have done!"

myself of the opportunity afforded me in acknowledging the receipt of your despatch, to repeat my instruction, and to desire you to make known to Mr. Seward, and, if you have an opportunity of doing so, directly to the President, the high value set by her Majesty's government on the friendly feelings which they have shown on this occasion, and on the general concern manifested by the public in the United States for the severe loss which her Majesty has sustained by the death of her able and faithful servant. Her Majesty's government are glad to recognize in the feelings which this event has called forth the regard felt by the government and people of the United States, not only for the person and character of the deceased minister, but also for the country which he so ably represented, and whose policy and wishes he so effectually carried out in cultivating the friendship and goodwill of those among whom he was commissioned by her Majesty to dwell. But not only to the government and people of the United States generally are the acknowledgements of her Majesty's government due; they have their special thanks to render, of which they desire you to be their organ, to Mr. Gilpin, the gentleman who so considerately accompanied Sir Frederick Bruce from Narragansett to Boston, and to the numerous gentlemen at Boston whose kindness toward the deceased during the short period which intervened between his arrival at Boston and his death, and whose attendance at the funeral ceremonies with which his remains were honored before their departure from the United States, entitle them to their warmest acknowledgments. To Mr. Sumner, to the Governor of Massachusetts, and to the Mayor of Boston, and other distinguished persons in that city; to the physicians, clergy and others who did honor to the remains of the Queen's late minister, her Majesty's government are sincerely grateful, and you will make known to them in such a manner as you may deem most becoming and best calculated to assure them how deeply it is felt. I am, &c.

STANLEY.

JOURNEYING IN ABYSSINIA.—Laden camels take fifteen days from Zedia to Hurrar, and fifteen from Hurrar to Ankober, but messengers take about eight days for each of the distances. From Ankober to Magdola is six days from Magdala to Debra Tabor five days. From Debra Tabor to Gondar, the chief seat of rule, three days.

A European traveller who had audience of the King, or Emperor, both at Debra Tabor and Magdala, describes him as seen in camp thus:—His look is lively and piercing, the distinct lines of the profile well express the firm will which has enthralled the freest and least docile people of the East. Rigorous towards others in matters of etiquette, the Negus has emancipated himself in matters of costume, and affects a negligence which, however, never becomes bad taste. A simple soldier's coat, a pair of trowsers and a belt from which hang pistols and an English sword, and over all a schama, or embroidered toga—this is his habitual costume. It has sometimes happened that Europeans presented to him have hesitated among the crowd of silk pourpoints (balakamie) which surround him, and committed mistakes which have much diverted him. This disdain of all luxury governs all his acts. The furniture of his tent is of the simplest while his residences at Magdala and Debra Tabor are encumbered with silks and stuffs from France and India. In the field he wears the coarse black infantry buckler, while by his side trots the page charged with his state shield, covered with blue velvet scattered with imperial lilies. That which at first is the most striking in Theodore is a happy combination of suppleness and force, especially of force. Bern proud, violent, and inclined to pleasure, he commands his passions in this sense—that they never make him overstep the limits he has marked out for himself."

The latest mail reports give the following list of names of the prisoners held by Theodorus at Debra Tabor, with their positions in life at the time of arrest:—H Rosenthal, missionary; Mrs Sterne, Mrs Rosenthal, Mr Flad, missionary; Mrs Flad and three children, W Steiger, missionary; T Brandels, missionary; K Schiller, natural history collector; J Easter, natural history collector. One Polish artisan, twelve German artizans (Theodore's artisans for making guns, &c), lately, not imprisoned, but guarded. All these persons were made captive in the year 1864.

A Reformed Prize Fighter.

A New York paper says: Richard Weaver, the converted prize fighter and collier, is one of the most remarkable men in England. Before his conversion he was ignorant, brutal and a terror to his neighborhood. He is now one of the most persuasive and eloquent preachers. Popular alike in the rural districts and in the cities, he can crowd the largest theatres, overflow the largest churches, and among the miners, colliers and operatives in the manufacturing districts he can count on his audiences by thousands, when he preaches through his sermons, very frequently dressed in gay clothes, to please the working classes, who have so long been neglected by the clergy. Weaver is a Congregationalist, and is a preacher of great power. He is now in Scotland, and will return to London in a few days, when he will be met by a deputation from the Tabernacle, Moorfields, who will present him with a purse of money and request him to become their pastor. Mr. Weaver, it is said, has received several flattering offers from the United States, and it is probable that he will accept one of them. Mr. Hoyt, a merchant of New York, who visited England last summer, and who is a member of the Tabernacle, Moorfields, and a gentleman of great wealth, is now in London, and it is said he will use his influence with Weaver to induce him to visit America. Mr. Hoyt is a member of the Fifth Avenue Church, New York, and is a gentleman of great influence. He is also a member of the firm of Lord & Taylor, the great dry goods firm, and is very wealthy. He is now in London for the purpose of bringing Weaver to this country. Weaver is very anxious to visit America, and there is no doubt that between this and next spring he will be the sensation in the Academies of Music in Brooklyn and New York, as well as in the theatres of leading cities. He prefers theatres to preach in to churches.

BREEDING FOWLS.—An intelligent correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes:

I have been breeding and rearing chickens nearly twenty-five years, and have paid considerable attention to them in every respect, and what I write is altogether my own observation and experience. I have never bred any but the game fowl, and have raised from 400 to 600 every year during the time. I have raised several different breeds, and think that all of them possess more or less good qualities. I have had many of them to change from black, from red and from speckled to pure white, and to change without any cause. I have in my yard, at the present time, two pure white hens, with beak, legs and toes also white, that at one year old were red-breast d brown, the next year speckled red and white, the next year white and continue white. They were by a white legged, black-breasted, red Earl of Derby cock, that I obtained of Sanford Howard, then of Boston, and bred from hens of the same illustrious breed, and very much in color like a cock-robin. I also bred from the same cock and hens a red cock, that at one year became red and white, except the breast, which was black and white. The next Summer he became pure white: afterward he was again a black-breasted red; then again a pure white. We have set numbers of the eggs of the two white Derby hens, and the cocks were always dark red, and the pullets similar in color to a roden, which is near the color of the pure Derby hen. The white cock never bred a white chick. I have set a number of the eggs from the hens that changed color from black to spotless white, and the chicks were almost invariably black or colored after the cock but never a white one. Two years ago I obtained a black-red cock with every feather tipped with white, and a blue hen, from which I raised a blue cock and a blue hen; and from the two I have raised a pure white cock, and what surprises me, he breeds numbers of pure white chicks from hens of the same family as himself, and not one white one, or one that is even light colored, from fowls of a different breed.

IF you wish the very best CABINET PHOTOGRAPHS, you must call on HEADLEY & RULOFSON, 429 Montgomery street, San Francisco.