

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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## THE BRITISH COLONIST.

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### AGENTS.

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### THE IRISH QUESTION.

The most puzzling thing to the mind of the British statesman to day is, we believe, the Irish question. After centuries of English rule, it would appear that a large portion of the Irish people, not only in Ireland but in other parts of the world, are ready to risk their lives to disrupt the British connection. It is a poor compliment to the sagacity of successive English Governments that this is so. The Fenians may be an insane organization, but the cause of Fenianism is a standing rebuke to British wisdom. We may elude or mismanage with an easy grace, but all the sophistry in the world will not get over the fact that there must be some serious misrule that keeps a country in perpetual fermentation, and nearly always on the brink of insurrection. Now that the dangers in Ireland have been arrested, and the Fenian disturbances on the Canadian border quelled, it is to be hoped that Earl Grey and Mr. Bright and John Stuart Mill will not importune the British Parliament in vain for a redress of Irish grievances. Before this discussion could not come at a better time, and from better hands than the liberal and enlightened men who now form the British Cabinet. The press of the United Kingdom teems with remedies, English members of Parliament and Scotch members of Parliament appear to be equally anxious with the Irish members to adopt a scheme that will stay the general discontent; all it requires is the carrying out of some such suggestion as that proposed by Mr. Bright—that Parliament should have a short session devoted exclusively to Irish affairs. The question is a pressing one. "We should not," says the *North British Review*, "longer blind ourselves to the state of Ireland. The sneers of Russian diplomatists may exasperate us into dogged denial; the persistence of Irish members may weary us into utter disgust with the whole subject; the petulant foolish nature of the people must dishearten their warmest friends; but if these excusable emotions can be for a moment forgotten, can any Englishman conscientiously say that Ireland is other than a source of sorrow and shame? The traces left by long years of misrule are not removed in a day; but with every allowance for this the state of Ireland is still a deep reproach. Disguise it from ourselves as we will, the fact is certain, and will at last become clear even to the stolid English mind, that nearly all Ireland, save the aristocracy and the shopocracy, is possessed by forms of discontent the discovery of which takes us altogether by surprise. Church questions and land questions, important everywhere, are of vital importance in Ireland. Something, indeed, was accomplished by the Encumbered Estates Act. But the tenure of land in Ireland requires yet freer handling; the gigantic abuse of the Irish Establishment must be abated. We may shoot the Irish or transport them—in any way and all ways improving them off the face of the earth like Red Indians. This was Cromwell's method; and whatever we may think of its morality, was an intelligible and consistent policy. Or we may conciliate them by governing them with deference to their principles and opinions. The one thing we cannot do with any result but that of misery to them and discredit to ourselves, is the thing we insist on doing; namely, to govern Ireland with an utter disregard of the feelings and wishes of the bulk of the Irish people. It is all very well to talk gibberish of 'justice' and 'equality of laws'; but we forget that what is justice here may be injustice there, and that "equality of laws" may by the Irish be regarded as but a sweet-sounding name for forcing English law upon the Irish nation." At all events we Scotch-

men should never forget that an attempt to force on us an alien Church drove us into wild insurrection, of which we are now proud, and the stories of which we are fond to recall. But such considerations find no place in our government of Ireland. We offend them with English sentiments, and force on them English laws; we insult them as well as injure them with that preposterous Church; and then the natural result of all this is the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. Mr. Bright's speech the other day was utterly ill-timed, but it was unhappy, in some respects, too true. No real good can come from partial remedies, like the Maynooth.

Reform, however, in the government of Ireland will prove of but a fraction of the value it ought to prove if the Irish people do not get rid of some of their own anti-progressive notions. They must dream no more about Brian Boru, or Malachi that "wore the collar of gold," or the harp that shed the soul of music in Tara's hall—all this is very good for a little sentimental pastime, but a race of people in this practical age cannot afford to waste their energies in attempting to live in the past. Ireland has been ruined by sentiment, her stomach has been shrivelled up on scanty rations of food, while her imagination has been cramped to bursting with the glories of the uncivilized past. Instead of using her sharp wits and Celtic vigor in meeting her English and Scotch brethren on the field of commercial and manufacturing competition, she has in too many instances frittered away her energies on unworthy objects. Instead of becoming part and parcel of the British nation, she has endeavored to perpetuate the distinction of race and nationality, and enshrined herself in the garments of exclusiveness. This is her great blunder; for if there is one

marked than another it is the rapid extinction of all lines of difference based on pride, prejudice or superstition. The civilized world is rapidly advancing to cosmopolitanism. The tendency of the age is opposed to segregation. Nature has clearly set her laws against it; for wherever we find a class or race of people isolating themselves from the rest of mankind we shall see degeneracy and barbarism. If we look for the cause of the ignorance and helplessness of uncivilized races everywhere, we shall see it in their divisions and exclusiveness. If we come even to the nations of Europe we shall find those the most backward who have nourished national pride or prejudice to an extent that has produced isolation. The converse of the proposition holds equally true. The nations who intermingle most with each other are the foremost in wealth, in civilization and in power. The world has really attached too much importance to race and nationality. The most progressive country history has ever seen is that great community on the American continent that is absorbing, week after week and year after year, members of nearly every people under the sun—that is, in fact, the compounded of all nationalities. Even England herself, where would she have been to-day had that much admired specimen of humanity called the "ancient Briton" been left to work out his own civilization? We question indeed whether she would have been as far advanced as China or Japan. It was the Roman, the Saxon, the Dane and the Norman, with all their sanguinary incursions, that beat barbarism out of the native and brought forth those powers that made the British empire the colossal thing it is. Whether the past is to be regretted or admired does not, however, now very much concern the Englishman. The most sentimental citizen of London or Liverpool would rather make a thousand pounds on the sale of a ship's cargo than be told he is a lineal descendant of Canute the Great or William the Conqueror. This is the materialistic quality which the Irish character most wants. Instead of vainly fretting over historical facts, let the Irish people realize the present and make the best of it. Let them give up all hope of separation from England and accept union with Great Britain as their destiny. If they want to fight, let them unite with the English and Scotch masses and wage war for a larger share of popular right—for more extensive political privileges. If they do this there is no disability they need labor under. They have got in the character of the Island many natural advantages over their neighbors, and they have ability certainly inferior to neither the English nor the

Scotch. All that is wanted is in the first place a removal of the numerous disabilities and grievances under which the people labor, and in the second a determination on the part of the inhabitants themselves to let the past alone and look steadily and hopefully into the future,—not as a small independent nationality, but as an integral and important portion of the British empire.

## By Electric Telegraph.

### SPECIAL TO THE BRITISH COLONIST.

#### More about the Fenians—Canadian

**Charges against the U.S. Government—Large seizure of arms—Men disbanding—Spears' column returning—Gen. Meade believes all trouble over—The Fenians in Congress—Important from Europe—Peace Congress at Paris—Monetary pressure subsiding—Later from California, etc.**

#### BY CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH.

##### EASTERN NEWS.

**New York, June 9th.**—The steamer New York from Aspinwall brings California mails May 19th. News from the States is of interest. The total specie reported from this port since January 1 is \$2,687,874. The total value of exports, exclusive of specie \$98,154,453. Total value of imports, dry goods and general merchandise \$146,638,721.

Latest European advices say the bombardment of Vera Cruz was generally denounced; petitions were circulating among merchants who suffered by the bombardment, praying the French Government to hold Spain responsible for losses, and that an international commission be appointed to settle the claims.

The French Trans-Atlantic Steam Navigation Company demand £20,000 indemnity of Austria for breach of contract for shipment of volunteers to Mexico.

**OTTAWA, C.W., June 9th.**—The Canadian Parliament unanimously passed a bill suspending the habeas corpus. A court martial is immediately convened by Fenians. It is believed many will be hung.

**CHICAGO, June 10th.**—Reports from all points represent the Fenian excitement as subsiding, many parties are being disbanded and sent home on parole, from St. Albans, Malone, Odensburg, and wherever else they have assembled.

Gen. Spear's invading column returned to Franklin and St. Albans yesterday from Pigeon Hill totally disappointed. Gen. Meade visited Malone yesterday, and arrived at St. Albans last evening; he feels confident that all trouble is over.

**CHICAGO, June 11th.**—The Fenian leaders are very much dispirited at the interference of the U. S. Government and the consequent failure of their scheme. They bitterly denounce the administration for bad faith, in alleging that it should find more than half a million dollars worth of arms knowing the use to be made of them, and that the Fenians were every way encouraged to make the attempt which the Government has suppressed. General Meade states that in all he has had reports of the seizure of 40,000 stands of arms bound for the invading army. This confirms what already has been said of the magnitude of the campaign planned, and the probability that but for the U. S. Government they would have made their invasion a serious matter.

**WASHINGTON, June 11th.**—The House spent a whole morning on the Fenian question. Innoon offered a resolution censuring England for her course during the late war; thanking Irishmen for their services in the Union army; expressing sympathy with their effort to free Ireland; and directing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report a bill repealing the neutrality law of 1818, under which the President's proclamation was issued.

Schuyler offered a resolution requesting the President to grant the Fenians the same rights as England granted to the rebels. Harding, of Illinois, offered an expression of sympathy with the Irish, and recommending Government to give them all the privileges possible under law.

The proceedings were noisy, and decidedly favorable to the Fenians. The question was finally referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

**WASHINGTON, June 12th.**—In the House Roseau offered the following resolution: "Whereas, It is a notorious fact that Jeff. Davis was the leader of the late rebellion and is guilty of treason under the laws of the United States; and whereas by proclamation the President, in May, 1865, said Davis was charged with complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln, and the said proclamation has not been revoked; therefore resolved as the opinion of the House of Representatives that Davis should be held in custody as a prisoner, and subjected to trial according to law. Adopted by 105 against 49.

#### CALIFORNIA.

**SAN FRANCISCO, June 14th.**—Late Sydney papers mention the death of Jed Wilson, the Bandmaster of Wilson's Circus, well known throughout this coast.

Telegrams of the 13th quote an advance in gold to 146; sterling remained without decided change, ruling at 109½ @ 109¾ for sixty days, and 111 for sight bills.

**SAN FRANCISCO, June 14th.**—Eastern news out of order beyond Fort Kearney. No news report was received.

The opposition steamer Moses Taylor sailed for San Juan del Sur this morning. The examination of John Duane, charged with complicity in the shooting of Ross, was resumed yesterday afternoon. A large number of witnesses testified to the shooting by Charley Duane, John being present at the time. One other witness testified that he had playfully searched Ross about an hour before the shooting, and found him unarmed. One of the parties opposed to Duane in the land dispute testified that when Mr. Dick was searched for weapons during the quarter trial John Duane said search Ross.

The price of gold yesterday was 147½. Arrived June 14th—Capt Emily Banning, Wells, 11 days from Bellingham Bay. Sailed June 14th—Hawian bark Bernico, Honolulu; brig Sunny South, Kanagawa and Shanghai.

**New York, June 12th.**—The Scotia brings dates via Queenstown to May 30. Consols closed on Saturday evening at 85½ @ 85½, ex dividend; 5-20's, 64½; cotton firmer and buoyant, with an advance.

**SAN FRANCISCO, June 16th.**—The steamer America, which connected with the Santiago from New York May 30th, arrived this morning.

Gov. Sherman's agent yesterday refused \$2000 per foot for only two feet of ground on the corner of Broadway and Montgomery streets.

The motor of Thomas Starr King died in Charlestown, Mass., on the 19th May. She had been in inferior health some time.

Rates of fare from New York by the Constitution which sails for Panama on Monday are: 1st cabin, outside berth, \$225; inside rooms, \$181 50; 2d cabin, \$118; steerage, \$65 50.

Passengers entertained for the party of the Bremen bark Libelle which sailed hence January 19th for Hong Kong.

Market for domestic produce is dull and prices of grains are dropping. Local monetary affairs are without essential change. Capital abundant and loans continue to grant accommodation to merchants and business men freely at the rates long current—10½ per cent. The receipts of bullion continue free.

There were rumors of extreme prices in New York yesterday, some accounts stating that sales were made as high as 157. This lacks confirmation authentic despatches quoting at 150 @ 148, closing at inside prices.

Arrived June 16th—Bark Glimpse, 12 days from Port Discovery with lumber to S. L. Matlock & Co.; Hamburg bark Joachim, Christian, 197 days from Liverpool; Prussian brig Mathilde, Jacobson, 190 days from Hamburg via Callao 57 days.

Sailed June 15th—Brig Orient, Puget Sound. June 16th—Ship Star of the Union, McKean's Island; bark Milan, Puget Sound.

## Important from Europe

**Peace Congress Abandoned--Hopes of Peace Vanished--War Inevitable--The Crisis Continues -- Another heavy failure.**

#### BY CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH.

##### EUROPEAN.

**FATHER POINT, June 10th.**—The Hibernian brings European dates to June 1st. Consols closed 87½ @ 87½, and 5.20's 66½ @ 66½. Financial affairs continued to exhibit a steady progress in recovery, and a gradual return of confidence. The pressure for discount at the Bank was diminishing, although, still a very large rate remained at ten per cent.

Invitations to Congress are all accepted, and it will meet in Paris shortly.

Prussia, Austria and Italy are still arming. Italian volunteers are mobilizing rapidly. Austria has mobilized six hundred thousand men.

Prussia and Italy have postponed hostilities until Congress proves a failure. Orders for a second conscription at Vienna produced strong discontent.

The Austrian army commenced marching towards Venice May 24th. Austria categorically refuses all propositions relative to the cessation of hostilities, and calls for a convocation of States of the duchies, to settle the Schleswig-Holstein question, and demands that Congress shall not be competent to discuss any project for the reform of the Federal constitution.

Prussia also is said to regard that conference shall not discuss questions relating exclusively to the internal interests of Germany, that its deliberations shall speedily prove that a real prospect exists for the preservation of peace.

The note of the French Government inviting the Federal Diet to send representatives of the German States, says, the object of the conference, is to be a diplomatic settlement of the questions of Schleswig and Venice, also of a Federal reform, so far as it affects the European equilibrium. The Federal Diet resolved to accept the invitation.

The Austrian Government had ordered a forced loan of twelve million florins in Lombardy and Venetia.

A communication received in London, asserts that Garibaldi was still on the Island of Capra, and had no immediate intention of leaving.

Turkey will not occupy the Danubian principalities, in consequence of the Russian and French declaration against Turkish intervention.

**LIVERPOOL, June 1st.**—The day for the meeting of Conference has not been fixed. *La Presse* believes Napoleon will preside.

**New York, June 16th.**—The steamer City of Paris brings dates to the 7th. It is fully confirmed that the proposed peace conference is abandoned owing to the demands of Austria which were regarded by England, France and Russia as tantamount to a refusal; all negotiations were therefore broken off. It remains for neutrals and armed powers to negotiate among themselves or commence war. Hopes of peace had nearly vanished.

The *London Times* says the daily and hourly chances of peace fade away. It believes the first movement will occur in the near future.

The positions are reported from all quarters. The Prussian Government had issued a circular notice of the neutral powers charging Austria, with a flagrant breach of treaties, by referring the Holstein question to the Diet.

Latest despatches from London quote Consols at 85½ @ 85½. Agra & Mustaman's bank had suspended with liabilities heavy and wide spread. The event caused considerable commercial depression though it was not unexpected. The crisis on the continent continues and war is apparently inevitable.

Paris Bourse very flat at 62½.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

### LATER FROM BIG BEND.

#### BY COLLINS' OVERLAND TELEGRAPH.

**CACHE CREEK, June 14th.**—By arrivals last evening we have the following from Big Bend to the 8th instant: On French Creek the Monroe and Bella companies have taken out gold, the former with four men have ranged from Big Bend to French Creek, this claim is a shallow from two to five feet deep. They are working in the bank, and have struck out gold, making in one day eight ounces and three dollars. About forty claims are located, and will get fairly at work in ten days. The Half breed Company were preparing to mine French Creek, and the company adjoining have nearly finished their wing dam.

About 200 men remain on the river, and 400 at Seymour, waiting for the water to subside.

The steamer Forty-nine arrived at Wilson's landing last Thursday, 5th instant, with ten passengers and six tons freight.

The Government trail has been opened by cutting a passage for six miles through snow from four to twenty feet deep. There is considerable water on the trail from the mountain snow. Pack trains are expected through from Seymour, which will reduce the price of provisions one half.

Bacon now selling at \$1 25, and flour, of an inferior quality, 60 cents. A few stragglers are returning, principally on account of scarcity of funds.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14.

Council met 2:45—Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Surveyor General.

##### CORONER'S INQUESTS.

The Hon. Attorney General gave notice of motion to bring in a bill to regulate the holding of Inquests.

##### HOMESTEAD BILLS.

Council in committee on this bill. The Hon. Surveyor General in the chair, and reported the bill complete, with amendments.

##### IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

This bill was also taken up in committee.

**RAILROAD FROM SALT LAKE TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER.**—A bill to establish a telegraph and railroad land grant is now before Congress to aid in the construction of the same from Salt Lake to some point on the Columbia River. This, taken in connection with the bill proposed to aid in the construction of a road from the Columbia to Puget Sound, is the most important scheme which has been devised for the development of the resources of our State. Upon this project the Idaho Statesmen says that "this is the initiation of a scheme which ere long we hope to see matured into a plan for the construction of the proposed road and telegraph. This is by far the most important Congressional news we have had to relate concerning our territory. The bill will pass. A company will soon be formed for the purpose of building the road, if it has not already been formed, and much sooner than most people suppose the work will be commenced. Already the Oregon Steam Navigation Company are considering the project of building a railroad from Umatilla, on the Columbia River, to Farewell Bend, on the Snake river, a distance of less than two hundred miles, and the estimates have been made as near as may be without a survey. It is believed that the Idaho trade alone would now be sufficient to make the enterprise pay, leaving all the increased trade and travel to Montana and Utah that would result from it, for a margin."—*Or. Herald*.

**FORMATION OF AN ARTILLERY COMPANY.**—We believe Capt. Holmes, late of the Royal Artillery, is taking steps for the formation of an artillery company in this city. Capt. Holmes has been so fortunate as to secure a number of ex-Royal Engineers, who have had more or less training in artillery tactics, and the guns, etc., are expected to arrive immediately. There can be no doubt that an artillery company would be of great advantage in case of an attack, and we heartily wish the movement every success.—*Columbian*.