

The Colonist

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1892.

NOT HEROES.

We do not look upon the Messrs. Kennedy as heroes who are braving dangers and unseen in order to assert the liberty of the press. On the contrary, we look upon them as ill-advised men of business, who first did what was wrong, and afterwards, to make bad worse, took a foolish course. We believe that the article which has been the cause of the unpleasantness was both an improper and an unnecessary one. The Columbian could have criticized the conduct of the Private Bills Committee severely without attributing corrupt motives to its members. When the publishers found that they had done wrong and that there was not a single member in the House who ventured to justify the article which they were so injudicious as to publish, the Messrs. Kennedy were very foolish indeed to disregard the Speaker's summons. If they had promptly appeared at the bar of the House all that would have been required of them was a formal apology, which any man could make without loss of self-respect.

There was nothing that we can see to be gained by putting the Legislative Assembly at defiance. There was no principle to be vindicated, no right to be asserted. No reasonable man claims that he has a right to do wrong, and no intelligent man will assert that the Legislative Assembly should not possess the power to protect the reputation of its members, and to enforce its authority. If the Messrs. Kennedy had appeared at the bar of the House, and made the acknowledgment required of them, the whole difficulty would have been surmounted, and no one would have been hurt or humiliated. The publishers of the Columbian would have received a warning which would make them more careful, and perhaps save them annoyance and expense in the future. It seems to us to be regretted for their sake, as well as for the sake of newspaper men generally, that they did not take this course. Their disregard of the authority of the House will not do the newspapers of the province the least good, and it has made their offense more serious.

We have no sympathy with those who despise lawfully constituted authority and attempt to resist it. Their conduct is the reverse of heroic, and does not deserve the encouragement of well-disposed and law-abiding citizens. If the criticism of the Columbian had been fair criticism, if its publishers were being prosecuted for exercising in a proper way any right which journalists should possess, we would do what we could to aid them in asserting that right. We believe that it would have been wiser in the House to have taken no notice of the Columbian's attack, on the principle that it is better to allow an objectionable article to pass unnoticed than to lead the public to think that the representatives of the people dislike a free press and would like to place restrictions upon journalists in the exercise of their right of criticizing the public acts of public men. But having once noticed the Columbian's article and taken action upon it, nothing was left for them to do but to assert their authority.

THE LEPERS.

An appeal has been made to the Dominion Government for a new lazaretto at Tracadie in New Brunswick, by the Hon. Mr. Adams and Messrs. Burns and McAllister. The Rev. Father Babineau, a devoted priest, joins in their request. New buildings are wanted in order to give the unhappy lepers as much enjoyment of life as is possible in their dreadful circumstances, and to afford them some chance of recovery. We trust that the Government will lend a favorable ear to the request of these philanthropic gentlemen. It is only right that the unfortunate sufferers should be made as comfortable as their condition permits. But while the Government, at the intercession of influential men, is induced to expend money in maintaining and providing shelter for lepers on other side of the continent, it should not refuse the reasonable requests of those who ask it, to do something for the poor creatures on this side of the continent, who are similarly afflicted. It is hardly fair that the municipalities of Victoria and Vancouver should be saddled with the burden of providing for the lepers on the Pacific Coast while those on the Atlantic side of the continent are taken care of by the Dominion. There is quite as good reason why the lepers on Darcy Island should be under the care of the Dominion Government as are the lepers here at Tracadie. The fact that the lepers here are Chinamen is an additional reason why the Government, which permits them to enter the country and compel them to pay a considerable sum per head for the permission, makes the duty of the Dominion Government to support those of them, who in order to preserve the whole community from contamination, must be isolated, the more apparent. The Government derives a considerable revenue from Chinese immigration. Why does it not appropriate part of the money to support the lazaretto on Darcy Island? It admits its obligation to care for the lepers in Tracadie, and it does not require a profound logician to see that what is an obligation on the Eastern side of the continent is also an obligation on its Western side.

MINISTER EGAN.

Mr. Egan is on his way to the United States. The Chilians will be delighted to get rid of him. He was never persona grata with them. They believe that in their attempt to throw off the yoke of the dictator Balmaceda, he was their determined enemy. He took the side of the tyrant from the first, and came to be both distrusted and hated by all patriotic Chilians. It is said that they have no reason for their dislike, that Mr. Egan never deviated from the neutral course he ought to pursue. If that is really the case the Chilians must be greatly wanting in discernment, for they believed him to be their enemy, and they were convinced that he was the cause of their disagreement with the United States which came so near to producing tragic results. And the Chilians are not alone in this belief that Mr. Egan was not fit for the position to which he had been appointed, and that the course he pursued during the civil war in Chili was most injudicious and not calculated to promote the interests of the United States in that country. This is the comment which the New York World makes on the report of his departure from Chili: "Minister Egan is coming home for a vacation. He should never have been sent away on any diplomatic mission. "If Mr. Egan had been our Minister Chili might have forgotten the unfortunate circumstances of eleven years ago, and the scandals and politics of the Landrau claims, and the attack on the sailors of the Baltimore might have been forgotten. "While Mr. Egan is away the legation will be in charge of Mr. McCreery, who is a trifle worse than Egan himself. Certain incidents that have taken place in the Union Club of Valparaiso during this person's official career have not endeared him to the gentlemen of the city. "If the United States treated Chili half as well as Chili treats the United States, Egan would be kept at home and McCreery recalled. "This shows very plainly the esteem in which Mr. Egan is held by a very large proportion of the intelligent people of the United States. His appointment as Minister to Chili was declared to be a mistake when it was made, and his career in that country attests the discernment of the critics.

less scrupulous ruler could easily have found pretext to keep this property in the possession of his government, and would without hesitation use it to carry out his political designs. The German Government is not so rich that it can afford to look upon the interest on forty millions of marks as beneath its consideration.

A BENEFICIAL ORGANIZATION.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen has quickly risen to importance in this province. There must be something in the spirit and the principles of that organization which recommends it to the good sense of intelligent, well-disposed and well-conducted citizens, for the increase in its membership, in a short time, not only in British Columbia but all over this continent, has been truly wonderful. In 1872, just twenty years ago, the Order could count only 250 members. It had, last year, a membership of 251,862; and although it is but a short time since it was first known in this province, it has grown so rapidly as to justify in its establishment of a Grand Lodge. It is the principle of brotherhood and of mutual help that attracts men to the A.O.U.W. The importance of man to man is inalienable. Men in these days feel the necessity of united action and of close relationship. They find that it is hurtful to them, that it prevents their healthy, moral and social development, to allow distinctions of class and nation, and even of race, to keep them at a distance from each other. The Ancient Order of United Workmen has found a way to satisfy this yearning for fellowship, this longing for closer and more kindly and helpful intercourse, and this, we believe, accounts for the unparalleled rapidity of its growth. Men find in it what they want; they consequently join the Order, and they remain in it. The Workmen in this province have been peculiarly fortunate in their selection of Grand Master. Mr. G. Leiser is an energetic business man, of high character. Under his direction, the Order in this province will be certain to flourish. His administration of its affairs will be kindly and judicious, yet firm and business-like. The interests of the "infants" Grand Lodge could not be placed in better hands than his. Having made such a good beginning, we have no doubt but that the growth and prospects of the A.O.U.W. will be such as will exceed the most sanguine expectations of its most hopeful members.

FLEET-FOOTED PUBLISHERS.

The Columbian has been indulging lately in any amount of swagger over the action of the Legislature in connection with the "infamous libel" it published some time ago, and, in order to make capital out of the matter, it represented the Government as having employed a whole regiment of "specials," who were picketed at every corner of the streets in the Royal City, and formed a cordon round the Columbian office, in a vain endeavor to catch the delinquents. Now, as a matter of fact, the Superintendent of Provincial Police was the only officer employed on the occasion referred to. True, he invited Mr. Morsey to accompany him, for the purpose of identifying the culprits, as they were straggling to him; but another officer, special or otherwise, was employed. We append a leading article from the Vancouver World, of Tuesday last, which will indicate pretty clearly how the matter is regarded in the neighborhood of where the childish little comedy is being played.

THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

It sometimes happens that when people get excited over a dispute or a disagreement, whether public or private, they lose sight of the original cause of contention. They take part in the movement, increase the agitation, and swell the outcry, without knowing very well what all the noise and turmoil are about. There are many, we have no doubt, who, if they were asked why the Messrs. Kennedy are being prosecuted, would, without hesitation, answer, "because they had the courage to tell the truth about the Government and the men who compose it." They have got the impression that the Kennedys are being punished for attacking the Government, and that it is the Government that is endeavoring to punish them for doing what was clearly their duty to do. They have created a case in their imagination which is as different from the actual one as black is from white. The simple truth is, the Columbian did not attack the Government. It attacked the Private Bills Committee, which does not contain a single member of the Government, and some of whom are supporters of the Government, and some are its opposi-

PRO-DI-GLOUS.

The Columbian is very fierce just now. It is as full of fight as a Blackfoot warrior with his war paint on. It asked someone the other day if this is a free land. When we undertook to answer its question in the affirmative, and to give a few reasons for believing that British Columbians are free men our combative contemporary flew into a rage and called us names. Not content with that, it annihilates us with the following dose of the Queen's English: "Yes, this is a free country; but it is in spite of our paternal Czarocratic government that it is so. Thank heaven! even that government cannot take away our manhood; and so long as they are free, the great energizing volcano remains in-

MODERN BARBARITY.

Nothing shows more clearly the advance which European nations have made in civilization than to compare their modes of judicial procedure of the present day with those practiced by good and, according to their lights, humane men in the Middle Ages and even later. Then the criminal was considered guilty until he was proved to be innocent; and if evidence of his guilt was wanting, he was interrogated, and, if he refused to confess, he was put to the torture. The instruments used to produce pain, without destroying life, are in these days regarded as nothing less than devilish. The injustice, as well as the barbarity of the means resorted to in those

times to extort evidence from an accused person, strikes us as simply horrible, and we are apt to regard the ministers of justice as demons in human shape. But they were not. They were neither better nor worse than their fellow-countrymen, and they acted according to the ideas of the time in which they lived. In China, which was once in advance of Europeans in civilization, but which has lagged far behind in the march of progress, the same ways of trying criminals are practiced as obtained among our forefathers, three or four centuries ago. The following is not a bit of ancient history, but is clipped from a contemporary newspaper and relates to what was done in China only a few weeks ago: "How terrible the methods of Chinese justice may be seen from the accounts published of the proceedings in connection with the so-called trial of the prisoner Chen Chi-huai, who is supposed to be a leading member of the Koloa Hul. One shudders to think of the torture which this miserable wretch has been subjected, so prolonged has it been, and of such diabolical ingenuity in its nature, and in the way it has been gradually made to consume the poor excruciating forms, until the condition of the victim is such that death could only come to him as a happy release. We read the other day that his having been subjected to the rack, of his feet being nailed to coils of chains and finally of having had paper burnt under his nostrils, while he must have been in a state of extreme pain and exhaustion. As no confession could be wrung from him by these measures, he was made, on a subsequent 'examination,' to experience a still greater demonstration of his cold-blooded cruelty; and as there was still no confession, the Nanking Viceroy's deputy, Yu, ordered 'some more agonizing mode of torture.' Accordingly, the wretch was shut up by the hands, which were tied together behind his back, a position in which, by his own weight, his arms would ultimately be torn out of their sockets. The long-continued agony,' the report states, 'must have been excruciating; nevertheless nothing inhumanity was uttered by the accused.' 'The hour waxed late,' continues the report, 'and the Court adjourned.' Further torture will, no doubt, be applied, until the prisoner, whether he has really anything to confess or not, will be forced, by unbearable pain, to say what his judges are waiting for; what will ensure him, in the first place, of a temporary release from his agony, and, ultimately, of death, at the hands of the executioner.' All this in strict accordance with ordinary Chinese criminal procedure."

Mr. Curran—Under those circumstances, the best plan would be to hold over the consideration of both bills until next Tuesday.

Col. Prior—I object to that, Mr. Chairman. The preamble of this Bill has been approved by this committee, and there is no reason why we should not pass it.

Sir John Thompson said there was no necessity to further delay the passage of the Bill, as the clause mentioned by Mr. Haggart would

GUARD THE INTERESTS OF ALL companies. Continuing, he said that he had examined the bill proposed by the local Legislature to the British Columbia Southern, and found that they were more extensive than were proposed by the measure before the House. The local Legislature proposed to build to the boundary. Col. Prior—Does the Government object to our getting power to build to the boundary?

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Sir John Thompson—Oh, that is understood. (Renewed laughter.)

The bill was then passed.

SMALLEY'S LETTER.

Kaiser Wilhelm's Mistake—Complete Failure of His Scheme—Jewish Emigration.

LONDON, April 17.—Smalley's special cablegram to the New York Tribune: Things have come to such a point that the people are rather sorry for the German Emperor. The failure of his political schemes has become evident even to himself. He is left not only without a majority, but without the support of a single party in either the Reichstag or Landtag. The Free Conservatives are the hard-shell reactionists of German politics; the Emperor has made many mistakes since he ascended the throne, but he had never made such a blunder as to allow himself to be drawn into the Jewish question. The two latest errors are the two greatest. The Education Bill and the withdrawal of the Education Bill were alike errors of the first political magnitude. The introduction of the bill arrayed a majority of the German people against him. The withdrawal of it broke up his majority in both branches of Parliament, angered his supporters, and failed to conciliate his opponents. He has now lost the National Liberals, Radicals and Socialists are all, at present, in opposition to the Government, and, for the most part, to each other. He says a stream of emigrants are going to America, and he has a reconciliation between the Emperor and Bismarck is on foot. Nothing is less probable. Nothing would be a greater humiliation to the Emperor. Nothing would be of better use to Germany.

The Jewish emigration committee of Berlin, is making fresh efforts to export pure German blood to the United States in American vessels. The gentlemen who compose this committee are quite aware that the United States authorities do not mean to receive emigrants. They propose, therefore, to begin their spring experiment with the selection of what they consider able-bodied Jews, likely to make good colonists and a good appearance on the whole. They will present themselves in New York without, if possible, any of the outward badges of poverty. They will, nevertheless, so far as one can make out, be assisted on their passage. Their passages are paid by the committee, supplied, as has long since been explained, with English funds given expressly in order to drive a wedge between the English and the English shores. It is possible that some of the needless suffering might be spared these emigrants if the American Government would consent to a renewal of the scheme which they propose to do in this matter of Jewish emigration.

LONDON, April 17.—The Board of Trade has the guard on a railroad, Major measure the half-playes on England, he says, period of 20, 11 period during employees suffer to the fact runs on time, with the dead consecutive hours

entis. Messrs. Martin, Croft, Eberts, Kelle, Hall, Semlin and Keith, compose that committee. They are all included in the Columbian's condemnation. It has made no exception. It was these men who, according to the Columbian, reached the "some of rotteness and impudence," when they reported to the House "that they had decided not to grant the petition of the Twin Cities Railway and Telephone Co." These are the men to whom the following collection of choice epithets are intended to apply. "The dark and devious ways and crooked methods pursued in such matters where unscrupulous politicians are induced by the most questionable means, to make private and monopolistic interests paramount over all considerations of right principles or the public welfare."

AN HONEST POLITICIAN.

The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was admitted by all, both friends and opponents, to be an honest politician. He had his standard of right and he would not deviate from it for any earthly consideration. He was true to his convictions. He would neither temporize nor truckle. He would find fault in all matters of principle, rigid and unbending. He was, consequently, not popular with men who entered public life for what they could make out of politics. Such men hated and feared Alexander Mackenzie. Neither was he a favorite with the strong party men, who believed that the strong party man who supported the party and individual men who fought for the party, are entitled to special favors from the government. When he was Premier he gave great services to men who believe that party services should be rewarded at the expense of the country. Not being a mercenary man himself he had little tolerance for politicians who considered that they ought to be paid for everything that they did to aid their party. He was unselfish and public-spirited and he tried to make his party unselfish and public-spirited. But in doing this he showed that he did not understand human nature, or at least human nature as it exists among Canadian Liberals, and he, during his administration of the affairs of the Dominion, made many more enemies than he did partisans.

THE REPTILE FUND.

Very little is heard of the Emperor of Germany that is not to his credit. He may be given to making ill-considered speeches, and saying a great deal more than he means, but when the time for action comes, the young Emperor is pretty sure to do the right thing. The last good act that is recorded of the German Emperor was his handing over the Reptile Fund to its rightful owner. Every newspaper reader has heard something about the Reptile Fund, and the use made of it by Prince Bismarck. It is, however, not generally known that the money did not, of right, belong to the Government of Germany. It was taken from the late George V., King of Hanover, by Bismarck, because he would not renounce his right to the throne to which he had as valid a title as the Kaiser William had to that of Prussia. The King of Hanover was also Duke of Cumberland. At the death of William IV., the Princess Victoria, who succeeded to the throne of Great Britain, could not, owing to the law of the Hanoverian succession, the Salique Law, become Queen of Hanover. The crown of Hanover, therefore, devolved on the nearest male relative of the deceased King, who was the Duke of Cumberland. He was succeeded by his eldest son, George V., who was deposed by Bismarck, in 1866. He was a very rich man, possessing a large private fortune and also property in Hanover valued at forty millions of marks. This property the man of Blood and Iron seized and sequestered. It was with the utmost difficulty that the old Emperor could be persuaded to consent to this appropriation of his cousin's money. But he did consent, and Bismarck used the revenue from it as a secret service fund. One of the uses it was put to was to buy up and subsidize newspapers to uphold Bismarck's policy and to denounce Bismarck's enemies. It was because it was known to be put to this use that it was stigmatized as the "Reptile Fund."

THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

The young Emperor's conscience did not allow him to keep the money that belongs of right to Prince Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who is his near relative on his father's as well as his mother's side. He wanted his cousin to have what belonged to him and was willing to hand it over to him, provided he would not do anything to disturb the peace of the German Empire. Negotiations were entered into, in which the Duke of Cumberland signified his willingness to agree to any terms that were not incompatible with the strict observance of his word of honor. It appears that he had promised his father never formally to renounce his right to the Crown of Hanover, for he refused to sign a compromise after he had been advised that it amounted to a renunciation. Although this refusal caused a hitch in the negotiations they were not broken off. On the 10th of last month the Duke of Cumberland wrote a letter to the Emperor which contained the following passage:—"I am pleased to avail myself of this opportunity of once more declaring that it is far from my intention to engage in any enterprise calculated to disturb or menace the peace of the German Empire and of the states belonging to it. As a German Prince I faithfully and sincerely love my German Fatherland, and would never with the resources at my disposal, whether already in my possession or accruing to me in virtue of the said treaty, knowingly originate or approve any hostile enterprise instigated or promoted either directly or indirectly against your Majesty or the Prussian state."

PRO-DI-GLOUS.

This declaration has been considered sufficient by the Emperor and his advisers, and restitution will be made without any needless delay. The Emperor answered the letter with his own hand, and caused a notice to be published in the Official Gazette stating that His Majesty considers the time to have arrived for annulling the sequestration of the property belonging to the deceased King of Hanover, and by him bequeathed to his rightful heir. The Emperor has acted in this matter like a high-minded, conscientious man. A

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Very little is heard of the Emperor of Germany that is not to his credit. He may be given to making ill-considered speeches, and saying a great deal more than he means, but when the time for action comes, the young Emperor is pretty sure to do the right thing. The last good act that is recorded of the German Emperor was his handing over the Reptile Fund to its rightful owner. Every newspaper reader has heard something about the Reptile Fund, and the use made of it by Prince Bismarck. It is, however, not generally known that the money did not, of right, belong to the Government of Germany. It was taken from the late George V., King of Hanover, by Bismarck, because he would not renounce his right to the throne to which he had as valid a title as the Kaiser William had to that of Prussia. The King of Hanover was also Duke of Cumberland. At the death of William IV., the Princess Victoria, who succeeded to the throne of Great Britain, could not, owing to the law of the Hanoverian succession, the Salique Law, become Queen of Hanover. The crown of Hanover, therefore, devolved on the nearest male relative of the deceased King, who was the Duke of Cumberland. He was succeeded by his eldest son, George V., who was deposed by Bismarck, in 1866. He was a very rich man, possessing a large private fortune and also property in Hanover valued at forty millions of marks. This property the man of Blood and Iron seized and sequestered. It was with the utmost difficulty that the old Emperor could be persuaded to consent to this appropriation of his cousin's money. But he did consent, and Bismarck used the revenue from it as a secret service fund. One of the uses it was put to was to buy up and subsidize newspapers to uphold Bismarck's policy and to denounce Bismarck's enemies. It was because it was known to be put to this use that it was stigmatized as the "Reptile Fund."

THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

The young Emperor's conscience did not allow him to keep the money that belongs of right to Prince Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who is his near relative on his father's as well as his mother's side. He wanted his cousin to have what belonged to him and was willing to hand it over to him, provided he would not do anything to disturb the peace of the German Empire. Negotiations were entered into, in which the Duke of Cumberland signified his willingness to agree to any terms that were not incompatible with the strict observance of his word of honor. It appears that he had promised his father never formally to renounce his right to the Crown of Hanover, for he refused to sign a compromise after he had been advised that it amounted to a renunciation. Although this refusal caused a hitch in the negotiations they were not broken off. On the 10th of last month the Duke of Cumberland wrote a letter to the Emperor which contained the following passage:—"I am pleased to avail myself of this opportunity of once more declaring that it is far from my intention to engage in any enterprise calculated to disturb or menace the peace of the German Empire and of the states belonging to it. As a German Prince I faithfully and sincerely love my German Fatherland, and would never with the resources at my disposal, whether already in my possession or accruing to me in virtue of the said treaty, knowingly originate or approve any hostile enterprise instigated or promoted either directly or indirectly against your Majesty or the Prussian state."

MODERN BARBARITY.

Nothing shows more clearly the advance which European nations have made in civilization than to compare their modes of judicial procedure of the present day with those practiced by good and, according to their lights, humane men in the Middle Ages and even later. Then the criminal was considered guilty until he was proved to be innocent; and if evidence of his guilt was wanting, he was interrogated, and, if he refused to confess, he was put to the torture. The instruments used to produce pain, without destroying life, are in these days regarded as nothing less than devilish. The injustice, as well as the barbarity of the means resorted to in those

PRO-DI-GLOUS.

The Columbian is very fierce just now. It is as full of fight as a Blackfoot warrior with his war paint on. It asked someone the other day if this is a free land. When we undertook to answer its question in the affirmative, and to give a few reasons for believing that British Columbians are free men our combative contemporary flew into a rage and called us names. Not content with that, it annihilates us with the following dose of the Queen's English: "Yes, this is a free country; but it is in spite of our paternal Czarocratic government that it is so. Thank heaven! even that government cannot take away our manhood; and so long as they are free, the great energizing volcano remains in-

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Mr. Curran—Under those circumstances, the best plan would be to hold over the consideration of both bills until next Tuesday.

Col. Prior—I object to that, Mr. Chairman. The preamble of this Bill has been approved by this committee, and there is no reason why we should not pass it.

Sir John Thompson said there was no necessity to further delay the passage of the Bill, as the clause mentioned by Mr. Haggart would

GUARD THE INTERESTS OF ALL companies. Continuing, he said that he had examined the bill proposed by the local Legislature to the British Columbia Southern, and found that they were more extensive than were proposed by the measure before the House. The local Legislature proposed to build to the boundary. Col. Prior—Does the Government object to our getting power to build to the boundary?

Mr. Haggart—I have not decided that point, and I think, therefore, you had better withdraw that clause.

Sir John Thompson suggested that the bill be passed, but he reported on the House, and before the next meeting he would look into the matter and again bring it before the committee.

This suggestion was agreed to, and the remaining clauses of the bill concurred in. Mr. Edgar—I do not notice any clause that they shall not apply at once for a Dominion subsidy. (Laughter.)

Sir John Thompson—Oh, that is understood. (Renewed laughter.)

The bill was then passed.