

## The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1893.

## CHEAP LAND.

The advocates of unrestricted trade with the United States, find it impossible to account for the abandonment of their farms by the cultivators of the soil in the New England States. According to their theory those farmers should be the happiest and most prosperous people under the sun. The circumstances of those States as regards soil and climate, do not differ very materially from those of the Maritime Provinces of the Dominion of Canada. The advantage of having the very best part of the market of sixty-five millions at their doors, should more than make up for any drawback that may exist in the New England States. But in spite of the good market and the facilities which the railroads give the New England farmers, of profitably disposing of their produce, they do not remain on the land. They offer their farms for ridiculously low prices, and when they cannot sell them for a song, they abandon them altogether. The reader will be able to form a pretty correct estimate of the state of the country when he knows what an improved farm with buildings on it can be bought for in one of the best of the New England States—Massachusetts.

The board of agriculture of that State, not long ago, instituted an enquiry into the abandonment of farms and to find out what they could be purchased for. We are told by Mr. Clifton Johnston in the Cosmopolitan Magazine that one hundred and thirty-five towns responded with reports of deserted homes. The board of agriculture found that the average size of the abandoned farm was eighty-six acres. Their value, with buildings, averaged \$800, or a little more than ten dollars an acre, and the farms without buildings \$661, or less than seven dollars an acre. Here is a description of one of the farms:

Shutesbury—Farm of sixty acres; mowing, eight; pasture, eighteen; woodland, thirty-four; suitable for cultivation, twelve. Almost all the grass can be cut with a machine. One-story house five rooms, in need of some repairs. Small barn in good repair. Good well at house and running water back of barn. Twenty apple and twelve other fruit trees. Railroad station, Leverett, six miles; post-office, Shutesbury, one mile. Price, \$400; cash at sale, \$100; interest on balance, 4 per cent.

Sixty acres of land, with house, barn and orchard, all for \$400, and that cash down. This is how fairly good farm land sells in the State of Massachusetts.

Another farm of 164 acres, with 100 acres of meadow and pasture land, woodland, sugar bush of 150 trees, a house with seven rooms in good repair, a barn and an orchard, was offered for \$1,200, which is little more than seven dollars an acre. Half the money was to be paid down and time given for the other half. This large farm, too, was situated in a good locality, with school, church and cheese factory at convenient distances.

These prices, low as they are, are in many instances more than can be obtained. Well-to-do people in the large towns sometimes buy these farms for summer residences, but it appears there is great difficulty in getting people to occupy the abandoned places with the intention of making a living off the farm. The land is far from being barren. It yielded generations of farmers a decent living, but life on it was too slow for the ambitious Yankee boys and girls, and they left—some of them, it is feared, not to better their condition.

The Canadian annexationist ought to be able to explain how the farmers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec are to be made rich by political union with the United States, when the farmers of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts have been starved off the land. There must be some flaw in the calculations somewhere. And we read that the lot of the farmers in the fertile West is not a happy one. They are complaining very loudly of the tyranny of money lenders and the extortions of railway companies. They are crying out for a redress of their grievances and are devising some singular schemes to get even with the money lenders and the railroad men.

## A LIBEL CASE.

One of the most peculiar libel cases on record was recently tried in England before Mr. Justice Hawkins. The libel was nothing more than the direction on a letter; no statement of any kind had been made. A letter in the opinion of the person receiving it was wrongly directed, and he corrected what he regarded as a mistake.

The letter was addressed to Mrs. Vivian, 24 Eaton-square. It was delivered at Mrs. Vivian's residence after he had been divorced and he took the liberty of re-directing the letter as follows: "Miss L. B. H. Craigie Halkett (late Mrs. Vivian) (marriage dissolved) Belgrave Mansions, Grosvenor Gardens." This was the libel. Mrs. Vivian regarded the new direction as a reflection on her character and she consequently entered an action against her late husband. Mr. Vivian said that he had no intention to injure the lady when he re-directed the letter. All the world knew that she had been divorced from him, but he thought that she had no right to use his name. He considered that it would be very awkward if he married again that there should be two Mrs. Vivians having the same initials. The jury, however, did not look upon the change in the address of the letter made by Mr. Vivian as harmless. The judge told them that they had to consider whether the libel was calculated to convey to persons who saw it that the plaintiff had been divorced from the defendant for some misdeed on her part. The jury were of the opinion that the change in the address of the letter was calculated to make to those who saw it an impression unfavorable to

Mrs. Vivian. They also thought the sum of twenty-five pounds, paid into court, was entirely too little to compensate the lady for the harm done to her good name, so they gave her a verdict for £725 more. Mr. Vivian found re-directing his late wife's letter a rather expensive diversion, \$3,750 in quite too much to pay for so trifling an amusement. The reader may judge from this that the law of libel is exceedingly severe in England, and that if a man wants to defame his divorced wife, or any one else, he must be very careful indeed as to how he does it. Mr. Richard Glyn Vivian, however, could very well afford the luxury, as he has an income of £6,000 or £7,000 a year.

## THE QUESTION AT ISSUE.

We think that our able and bright contemporary, the Seattle Telegraph, is a little astray when it says that the outcome of the Briggs case is comprised in these words: "That the original Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments being immediately inspired by God are without error."

What was decided was, in our opinion, that the doctrines believed in and taught by Dr. Briggs are not in accordance with the Standards of the Presbyterian church, which every regularly ordained minister of that church is required to subscribe. We do not think that the General Assembly undertook to lay down the law with regard to the inspiration or the infallibility of the Scriptures. The Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms contain, as far as we know, the only authoritative declaration as to the way in which the Scriptures are regarded by the Presbyterian church, and it was according to these Standards that Dr. Briggs was judged.

The Confession declares that the books of the Old and New Testament which are regarded by Protestants as canonical, are all "given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life." The fourth paragraph of chapter one of the Confession reads as follows:

"The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God, (who is truth itself), the author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the word of God."

The answer to the question (157) of the Larger Catechism, "How is the word of God to be read?" is:

"The Holy Scriptures are to be read with an high and reverent esteem of them, with a firm persuasion that they are the very word of God and that He only can enable us to understand them, with desire to know, believe and obey the will of God revealed in them, with diligence and attention to the matter and scope of them, with meditation, application, self-denial and prayer."

It must be remembered that Dr. Briggs acknowledges these Standards to be authoritative and maintains that he holds no doctrine that is not recognized by them. The question which the General Assembly had to decide was, can the man who believes that there are mistakes in the Scriptures remain in a church which has for its Standards the confession and catechism from which we have quoted? Can there be errors in the "word of God," the "very word of God"? Is it consistent in a man who confesses his "full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority" of the Holy Scriptures to proclaim to the world that those Scriptures contain errors of various kinds? The question, as we see it, was not, is Dr. Briggs right in the abstract, but are his teachings in conformity with the Standards of Presbyterianism? It would not take a man of average intelligence long to come to the conclusion that the man who teaches that the Scriptures may contain errors, either of fact or doctrine, has no business to remain in a position in which he is bound in honesty to teach only what is in conformity with the Westminster Confession of Faith.

We are surprised to find how few there are who are aware of the position which the Presbyterians take with respect to the Scriptures. But it is necessary to have a knowledge of their belief in the matter as it is laid down in their acknowledged Standards before one can form anything like an intelligent opinion of the merits of the Briggs case, or the justice of the decision of the General Assembly.

## SUPREME COURT.

IN CHAMBERS.

(Before Mr. Justice Drake.)

June 9, 1893.  
E. & C. Gurney & Co., Ltd. v. Braden & Stamford.—To examine defendant Braden. Order made on usual terms. S. W. Youton for plaintiff, Hon. C. E. Pooley for defendant.

June 9, 1893.  
Mether v. Britannic.—County court summons, to amend particulars. Order made: costs to be costs in cause. W. H. Langley for plaintiff, H. G. Hall for defendant.

Rithet v. Union Steamship Co.—To make defendants, Hall and Cox, party plaintiffs. A. L. Byles for plaintiff, A. St. G. Hamerley for defendants.  
Seesley v. Morse.—That approved conveyance be deposited in court. Laid over for one week.  
Queen v. Pittendrigh.—For order absolute to pay money within one week, and an issue to be directed by a judge. Granted. W. B. Adams for plaintiff, Bodwell & Irving for garnishees.

St. Paul, June 8.—The executive committee of the reciprocity convention has decided that the next convention be held in Duluth between October 1st and 15th. The committee will, before the convention meets, prepare a platform and scheme of reciprocity and some proposition as to deep water navigation.

Paris, June 8.—The Deputies' committee has decided against the repayment by the state to M. Rouvier of the 50,000 francs the Panama company advanced for secret service.

## From the DAILY COLONIST, June 9.

## THE CITY.

A COMMITTEE of the K. of P. Lodges are making arrangements for the proper celebration of their decoration day.

YESTERDAY'S Gazette contains notice of the assignment of Samuel Clay to R. W. Higginbottom for the benefit of creditors.

Dr. E. B. C. HANINGTON, A. Maxwell Muir and George A. Keefe have been elected directors of the Kootenay Land and Improvement Co., Ltd.

Mrs. TROY, who was injured by a railway train on Tuesday, was reported to be "progressing nicely" by the hospital authorities yesterday.

The Sons of Erin will hold their Dominion Day picnic at Caledonia park, and are preparing to make it one of the great outdoor events of the season.

The corner stone of the new Episcopal church at Nanaimo was laid on Monday last by His Lordship Bishop Perrin, assisted by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven and Rev. J. A. Christman. The ceremony was largely attended. The party who went out from here afterwards lunched at Mrs. Watson's.

EMPLOYEES of the B. C. District Telegraph Co. who had been sent to remove a call box from No. 129 Johnson street, a house recently vacated, yesterday morning, made the discovery that a deliberate attempt had been made to set fire to the place. They called on the fire department, and the police and the chief of the fire department, the former of whom has the matter in hand.

SAMUEL D. SCHULTZ and C. J. Prior, of Victoria; R. E. Kimmond, John J. Sanfield and Thomas Mathews, of Vancouver, and A. D. Williams, of Nanaimo, have been gazetted as notaries public. John Jane, of Sevens, H. J. Baylis, of Chilliwack, Frank A. Hewer, of Alexis Creek, and Charles Woodard and John R. Shaw, of North Arm, have been appointed justices of the peace.

DONALD MACDONALD, Charles S. Philip, A. H. McNeill, W. J. McNeill, William Ralph, William H. MacLennan, George D. Scott, Joseph Sheeagreen and Allan Sharp—all residents of British Columbia—have secured licences as the Prince Albert Flat Hydraulic Mining Co., Ltd. The capital stock of the company is \$200,000, in \$1 shares, and the trustees named are Geo. D. Scott, W. J. McNeill and A. H. McNeill.

An Christ Church cathedral on Wednesday evening last, Rev. Canon Paddon, assisted by the Bishop and by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, performed the marriage ceremony uniting Rev. E. C. Miller, of Cordoba District, Nanaimo, and Miss Emily Kingham, of Victoria, sister of Mr. J. Kingham.

The judge who was expected to come in, which, owing to the absence of certain witnesses, it was not possible to deal with. The new suit will be advanced as rapidly as possible.

SHERIFF WOOLLEY, of King county, Wn., has been in Victoria for several days past, waiting for a hearing for a charge of fugitive witnesses in the Thomas Henderson Boyd murder case. Mrs. Reed was one of the other witnesses named, and had been penetrated the Kootenay mining districts. The case will be called for trial again June 17. The defence claims to be desirous of producing the same witnesses for which the State is now searching as diligently.

The Quesselle Forks Canal and Hydraulic Mining company give notice in the official Gazette, published yesterday, of their intention to seek incorporation. The trustees named are W. J. Ellis, John J. Sanfield and Thos. C. Nuttall. The objects for which the company is formed are to take over and operate certain water rights, and to construct a canal or canals, and any business incidental to or connected with the same. The capital is to be \$250,000 in 50,000 shares of \$5 each. The principal place of business is to be the city of Victoria.

A TELEGRAM from Woodstock announcing the suicide by strangulation of David G. Sheddian, causing considerable discussion. "Dave" Sheddian was a well known man by all as one of the veterans of the Victoria Lacrosse club; he went from here to Woodstock, his boyhood home, and his friends were now about the Kingdom of Heaven, but himself who is dead. The circumstances of the case show either temporary insanity or something very near akin. Sheddian was arrested for jumping the fence and standing in the street and driving off with the vehicle. He was captured at the ferry landing, where he made an unsuccessful attempt to drown himself and jumped in a cell at the city lockup. A few hours afterwards he was found dead. He had strangled himself with his suspenders.

Last evening the lecture room of the First Presbyterian church was well filled to hear Rev. Dr. Campbell on the parable of the sower (Matt. 13th Chap.). He said that Jesus did not give a connected discourse, for crowds are caught by points rather than by arguments. The many things in this chapter were about the one thing, and that one thing was the Kingdom of Heaven. This parable is unique, in that it is explained by Jesus, which gives us the key to interpret the parables. This parable is true, not only about the Kingdom of Heaven, but about the church of God, the place of business and indeed every place where men are employed. There is the careless hearer. He can follow through good, but not through bad report. He cannot bear to be laughed at. There is the critical hearer who is more concerned about the platter than the meat. He will not take the meat because a raven brings it. There is the forgetful hearer who is like a sieve. There is the sleepy, the indifferent, the inattentive, the careless hearer. The sower, in a humorous manner, described all the hearers represented in the parable. He said the difference was not in the sower or the seed, but in the hearer. The address was racy, practical and humorous. The audience burst into a spontaneous laugh at the humorous of Mr. Treadwell, who reported, in a gentlemanly way, that he met in New York a "Oh, yes, you and I sleep in the same church." These Thursday evening addresses on the parables will be given during June and July.

## M. QUAD'S HUMOR.

The "Editor Killer" Knocked Under to the "Kicker" Representative.

Missed the Widow but Saved His Money—His Many Families.

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THE ARIZONA KICKER.

GONE HENCE.—A year ago this month dignity compelled us to put a bullet into ex-Judge Green of this town. He had sworn to humiliate us, and he met us on Apache avenue and pulled our nose. We dropped him, but to prove that we had no ill will we sat up with him every night for two weeks and paid his doctor bill. The judge never forgave us, however. He came here to run the town, and he found us in his way. He had been used to licking editors all his life, and to have one of the fraternity get the best of him rankled in his soul. Six months ago we were informed that the judge had bet \$2 to 1 with Bill Poole, the farm man, that he would make us eat dirt in front of the postoffice at high noon, which is our usual hour for calling for our mail. We closed up our guns and went forth, fully realizing that the prestige of the editorial fraternity of this territory was at stake. While the judge was looking for us from the south we approached him from the opposite direction. It was by no means a pleasant meeting, and that on his knees he asked our forgiveness and promised not to thirst for our gore any more. We sold his two guns at public auction and gave the money to an orphan who was in need of a good gun.

He had got back to Boston with a bad, and we supposed the judge would go out of business. It seems, however, that he only let go again to get a better hold. Saturday evening last people saw him skulking in the vicinity of the postoffice armed with a shotgun. He was not looking for a chance to drop us, but Providence intervened. While skulking in the alley in the rear of the office he must have fallen over some obstruction, for he was found dead Sunday morning, a victim of his own weapon.

We buried him at our own expense, and also acted as a pallbearer. We had nothing against the judge, and we think of his death with sorrow. It is always a sad thing to find a man making a mistake in his mission on earth. The judge would have made a good superintendent of a clothespin factory, or he would have done passably well as a stage driver or prospector, but he was determined to become a champion editor killer. Had he not fallen by his own hand we should have

When word came that the train was four hours late, a chunky young man who had on his store clothes and was sticking close to a big black satchel went to the depot manager and said:

"God damn the luck anyhow! I was to be married down at Henderson to-night."

"At what hour?"

"Seven o'clock."

"Girl or widow?"

"A widder, who is worth over \$4,000. Can't I hire an engine or sunthin to git me down there?"

"Why, yes, I might get you down perhaps, but you'd want a smart sun."

"Better telegraph and see if there's any use of your going."

"Any use? Why I'm to be married, ain't I?"

"You said so, but maybe there's been a slip. You can't always tell about widows, you know. Better send a telegram and ask if everything is all right."

The chunky young man felt insulted and wanted to raise a row, but finally cooled off and sent a telegram to a friend of an hour he got an answer. It read:

"No use to come on. She married the other fellow this forenoon."

"Saved you at least \$25, besides your trouble," said the depot master as the young man's knees grew weak and he sat down.

"I've been engaged to three different widows, and every one of them threw me down at the last minute. Thought it would be so when I suggested a telegram. Take a little of this whisky and then go out and sit on those bags of guano. You are not mortally wounded, but only mashed as flat as a pancake."

REFUSED AND AFTER.

"Yes, git right up and ride as fur as I'm goin' anyhow," said the old man as he stopped the wagon and reached me down a hand to get over the wheel.

I got a seat on the sheepskin beside him, and as we moved on he continued:

"I was over to Grafton to git some things for my darter Jane. Landed! but how they do charge fur women folk's! Why, you kin beat a dollar bill all to smash in no time. I've got over \$7 worth of stuff in that bundle, and it ain't as big as 10 pounds of brown sugar."

"Going to the seashore?" I asked.

"Further than that. I'll hev to pay out over \$40 to git her ready."

"To California?"

"There doesn't seem to be any need of it around here," I replied.

"Can't tell—can't tell. It's about time for Major Green to come along, and when I meet up with the major I always feel better to be heeled."

We dropped the subject for another and had been talking about 10 minutes when back went the colonel's hand again, and he said:

"Durn my skin, but there's Major Green, and I ain't got nothing to shoot with."

"Is there going to be any shooting here?"

"Not under the circumstances, but you are goin to see the worst case of cravishing that has happened around here for 20 years!"

The major came along the street, caught sight of the colonel and stopped with his hand on his hip. As the colonel made no move of a hostile nature the major slowly ascended the steps, came along down to us and said:

"Oh, the Johnnies, for years ago I happened to state that Captain Brown had a nigger working for him who was blind in the left eye. You picked me up, sah, and said it was the right eye. We parted, sah, and we have not spoken since!"

"I do."

"I had 'em put thar myself. Do you know what they stand fur?"

"I must confess that I don't."

"Plain as the nose on your face. These here with the 'G' to 'Y' on shall gin out now. That means, 'Goin' to Yurp.' The ones with 'B' to 'Y' on shall use arter she gits home. That means, 'Bin to Yurp' and seen every gosh darned thing of any account from Dan to Belehaha and back to Jerusalem. Good idea, eh? Lots o' flies around, but none on your Uncle William up to last reports."

"LEFT EYE, MAJOR, LEFT EYE!"

"Major, I reckon I was wrong," replied the colonel. "Yes, I reckon I was wrong and you were right. Meant to have told you so long ago, but had no show."

"If you still insist that it was the right eye, 'Y' and the major threw his hand back."

"Oh! no! no! Left eye, major, left eye! How's the cotton coming on, major? Heard you were going in for a powerful big crop this year."

"The cotton, sah, the cotton," replied the major as he turned to go, "the cotton is all right. I shall have a powerful crop. Good day, sah."

And when he had disappeared in the distance, marching away as stiff as a poker, the colonel turned to me with:

"You were speaking with that nigger as I came out. Which eye is it?"

"Neither one, colonel! He has as good a pair of eyes as yours or mine."

And the colonel softly whispered, "Durn my skin!" and went away to drink alone."

SAVING A SPECIAL.

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"At what hour?"

"Seven o'clock."

"Girl or widow?"

"A widder, who is worth over \$4,000. Can't I hire an engine or sunthin to git me down there?"

"Why, yes, I might get you down perhaps, but you'd want a smart sun."

"Better telegraph and see if there's any use of your going."

"Any use? Why I'm to be married, ain't I?"

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Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report.

## Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

"Further than that. Look a-here."

He took a small parcel from his pocket and handed me the lines while he removed the paper and exhibited a lot of cards on which were printed his daughter's name. I noticed that there were two lots. In the left hand corner of one were the letters "G. to Y." and in the other "B. to Y." I couldn't make out the meaning, but didn't want to ask. He was ready to explain, however.

"These here are to use before she gits home. Them keards and the printin cost me just an even \$1. You see them letters down thar?"

"I do."

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