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AYER & Co., Practical
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Gray Hair to
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Thin hair is thick-
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DRESSING,
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r oil nor dye, it does
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giving it a rich glossy
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AMBRIDGE SAUSAGES,
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The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday August 3, 1870

The War.

If the fragmentary and for the most part contradictory news which is coming over the lines in such wild profusion can be taken as a warranty for any conclusion it would appear to be this, that the French army, with its headquarters at Strasbourg, has definitely selected Metz for its base of operations; that the Prussian Army, with its headquarters at Mayence or Mentz has selected Coblentz as its base of operations; and that the valley of the Moselle will be the great battle-ground. Having placed the two armies, it may be worth while to reconnoitere their relative positions; and this can be done with the greater satisfaction in view of the complete immunity from all risk of being arrested as a spy or shot down as a newspaper correspondent. Strasbourg is a strongly fortified city on the eastern frontier of France. It stands on the bank of the Ill, near the left bank of the Rhine, to which its glacis extends and across which it communicates with Kehl (in Baden) by means of a bridge of boats. The fortified city is of triangular form, enclosed by bastioned ramparts, and entered by seven gates. At its Eastern extremity is a strong pentagonal citadel, and by means of sluices the adjacent country may be laid under water. Formerly the capital of the province of Alsace, it is now the capital of the Bas Rhine, and has a population of about eighty-five thousand. Metz is another strongly fortified city of France, and is the capital of the Department of Moselle, standing, as it does, at the conflux of the Moselle and Scille, and at the head of a branch of the railway from Paris to Strasbourg. It is 170 miles from Paris, and about 80 miles west-north-west of Strasburg, Metz is regarded as one of the strongest and most imporant places in France; and its esplanade is accounted one of the finest promenades in Europe. It has an arsenal, one of the largest in France, with a cannon-foundry, and an armory containing about, 180,000 stand of arms, and a military hospital capable of receiving 1800 patients. Its population is now about sixty thousand. Crossing over to the Prussian side, Mayence or Mentz is a city of Hesse-Darmstadt, capital of Rheinhessen. It stands on the left bank of the Rhine, opposite the mouth of the Main, and 20 miles W.S.W. of Frankfort, with which it is connected by railway. It is a fortress of the German Confederation, and usually has a garrison of 8000 men. Rising gradually from the Rhine in the form of an amphitheatre, it is walled in, flanked with bastions, and defended by a citadel and several forts and outworks. A bridge of boats, about 1500 feet long, connects it with its suburb of Castel, near which the river forms an island, on which considerable fortifications have been erected. The house, or rather the site of the house of John Gensfleisch, better known as Gutenberg, the inventor of movable types, constitutes not the least interesting object in the city. Mayence owes its foundation to a Roman camp, pitched there by Drusus. It is regarded as a very strong military position, and has a population of about forty-five thousand. Coblentz or Coblenz is a fortified city of Rhenish Prussia, situated on the left bank of the Rhine where it receives the waters of the Moselle. It is about 40 miles N.W. of Mayence, and a little over 100 miles N.N.E. of Metz. The Rhine is crossed by means of a bridge of boats, 485 yards long, and the Moselle is crossed by a stone bridge 536 yards in length. At Ehrenbreitstein, on the opposite bank of the Rhine, there is a strong fortress, with 400 pieces of cannon, and containing immense cisterns capable of holding three years' supply of water. The fortifications of Coblentz, of which those on the opposite bank form mere outworks, cost nearly four million dollars, and they are estimated to be capable of accommodating one hundred thousand men, with magazines sufficient to contain ten years' provisions for eight thousand men. Coblentz is regarded as the strongest military position within the whole Prussian dominions. It is a free port, and carries on an extensive trade by the Rhine, Moselle and Lahn. Its population, exclusive of the garrison, is about 30,000. Such are the positions taken up by the two great armies preparing for battle on the banks of the Rhine, and it will have been seen that two stronger or more equal positions could scarcely have been selected. Whether the relative prowess of the two contending armies may be as nearly balanced as their strategic positions are equal is a question that must abide the more practical test of battle. We have said that the valley of the Moselle will, in all probability, be the great battlefield; for even should French arms be victorious in the first instance, it will be no easy task to push across the Rhine with such positions as Mayence and Coblentz opposing. It must be remembered, too, that the French army would be placed at a great disadvantage on leaving French territory. Having made an active enemy of the 'cockpit of Europe,' the Belgians would attack its left, while in front it would have two of the strongest fortresses in central Europe, and the whole line of the Prussian army along the banks of the Rhine to contend with. The Moselle takes its rise in France and runs 300 miles in a N. N. E. direction, emptying into the Rhine at Coblentz. Upon its right bank, about midway between Metz and Coblentz, and a few miles from the frontier, stands Treves, an ancient city of Rhenish Prussia, with a civil and military population of about 22,000. Treves, although not large, is the most ancient, and one of the most celebrated cities in Germany. It was the residence of Constantine the Great and other Roman Emperors, and was for a long time the capital of the archbishopric of Cleves, and of a German electorate. In the 18th century it was five times taken by the French! Treves is the only place of any great importance in the valley of the Moselle, between Metz and Coblentz. But if the only road to Prussia lay through the valley of the Moselle there would be little cause of alarm. It is from the north that Prussia has most to fear, as it is through the rivers Ems, Weser and Elbe that France will most effectually pierce her. On the Weser, forty miles from its mouth stands Bremen, a commercial city of considerable importance, with a population of 75,000, while on the Elbe, seventy miles from the sea, stands the famous city of Hamburg, with its hoarded wealth, and a population exceeding a quarter of a million. These are Prussia's weak points, and if she cannot check the French Fleet on its way thither she may well tremble for the north.

CARIBOO ITEMS.—We have the *Sentinel* of the 23d July. The Downey, Dutch Bill, Sixtoed Pete and McLaren companies are all paying. The lastnamed washed up 115 oz for part of a week. The Barker co have struck pay again, and the Foster-Campbell co made $170 over expenses for the week. In Stout gulch the Jenkins co. got 70 oz and the Tarlvale 59 oz for the week. The reports from Walker, Valley Mountain, French, Grouse, Antler, Pine, Black Bear, and Eagle creeks are good. The Black Bull co., on Lowhee creek, will procure a steam engine to work their ground. The astonishing yield of the Lightning claim on Lightning creek, continues. In one week the claim paid 405 oz, and several other companies are approaching the lead.... In the Cornish claim, William creek, Chas. Keating was caught by falling earth, which broke one of his legs above the knee.... A Chinese co. working the San Francisco claim on William creek, picked from their ground sixteen nuggets of gold. One of them weighed three oz., two of them between two and three oz., and the smallest about ten dollars.... The privilege of working the canyon of William creek has been sold to Chinamen for $450.... Rich surface diggings are reported to have been discovered near Jack-of-Clubs lake by Doc Holloway and party.

BIG BEND.—We have news to the 15th Mr. Reid having arrived from French Creek yesterday. There were four companies at work, the Mountain, Braley, Welsh and Cormack. The first two were making out over wages. The Welsh was raising a bed rock drain; the Cormack running a tunnel for the lead, with a prospect of striking good pay in a few days. A number of men were working at shallow diggings both at French and McCullach's Creek, and were for the most part making wages. The markets continued to be well supplied. Along the Thompson and the Bonaparte the crops are large and excellent in quality, and harvesting was being commenced with excellent prospects. On Tranquille river 14 miners were at work, making from $2 50 to $5 a day.

A FRESH MANOUVRE.—Frequent complaints having been made to the Police authorities that canoes leaving this harbor for the north and elsewhere usually carried away large quantities of whiskey, thereby endangering the lives of settlers in the outlying districts, induced Inspector Bowden and Deputy McMillan to search a canoe (lying at one of our wharves, loaded and on the point of starting for the Sound), when they found stowed away at the bottom of some trunks and covered over with buckets wearing apparel, &c., four kegs of whiskey put up exactly resembling kegs of molasses thereby allaying all suspicion as to their contents. There is doubtless many a supposed keg of molasses which has been seen aboard canoes leaving this harbor containing nothing but Indian whiskey.

MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—The almost weekly erection of new School Districts may fairly be accepted as indicating healthy progress and development. The following additional Districts were announced in yesterday's *Gazette*:—

Nanaimo District.—All that piece of land included within a circle having a radius of three miles from the Court House.

Salt Spring Island District.—All that piece of land known on the Official Map as Salt Spring or Admiral Island.

Comox District.—All that piece of land shown on the Official Map as the District of Comox.

SPIRITUALISTIC.—Professor Todd lectured again last evening at the Alhambra. The attendance was meagre—Professor Cooke, the circus clown, offering superior attractions.

THE CIRCUS.—Last evening the Nelson Troupe again appeared and in every act received a perfect ovation. The acrobatic feats of the elder Nelsons are among the finest in the world. There is a freshness and newness about everything they do—a departure from the old, beaten circusing that constitutes the chief attraction. The Fiddle Act is something surprising. The little Nelson boys are as active as cats and perform several very difficult feats. Monsieur Duvarni is the greatest living contortionist.—He actually stands upon his hands and feeds himself with his feet! Talk about your india rubber men—Duvarni is india-rubber in a liquid state. Mr. Cooke, the Jester, is original and respectable in his style—so different from the low clowns who accompany circuses of this coast. His jokes are pointed, but never broad. Taken all in all, the Nelson Troupe is the best we have been favored with. There will be another performance to-morrow evening, when the prices will be reduced to 75 and 50 cents.

CRICKET MATCH.—The Victoria Junior Eleven will play the Boxer Eleven on Tuesday next, commencing at 1 o'clock p.m., at Beacon Hill. The following are the respective Elevens: Boxer—W. Bridges (Captain), Hy Wheatop, Jas. W London, T H Vockins, Anthy Gregory, Jno Crossley, M Emerson, Alf Eadey, Jas Brown, E H Stepney, R M Colwell. Victoria Eleven—H Fry (Capatin), T Whitfield, H Price, E Nagle, D Deacey, J Tolmie, W Cameron, D Davis, W Harris, R Hall, H Tolmie.

THE EAST COAST.—The steamer Sir James Douglas arrived yesterday afternoon from Comox, Nanaimo and way ports. She brought several passengers, viz: A R Robertson and wife, Mrs Atwood, Mr Burrell and wife, Messrs Burnaby, Lockhart, Payne, and five others. There has been a great deal of rain at Comox, which caused considerable damage to the hay crops but benefitted grain and potatoes. At all the other settlements the crops were in a thriving condition.

THE BUBBLE BURST.—George Francis Train, the Fenian bubble, has burst. He is lecturing at San Francisco with poor success. The audiences are small, the lecturer's remarks are jeered, and his propositions voted down. George Francis, like any other canine, has had his day.

THE mosquito nuisance is so terrible in the bottom-lands of Washington Territory that many young cattle are tortured to death and cattle, generally, seek the water to escape the attacks of the pestiferous insects.

THE stock of J. L. Franklin, at New Westminster, has been assessed by three merchants and found to have cost $5933. The goods were insured for $6000. Since the result of the assessment the popular current runs strongly in favor of the accused.

THE LITERARY WHALE of the *Standard* is now disporting in the Government duck-pond. He started on his career spouting Revolution, and will end in *blubber*-ing at the failure of his pet scheme of an ex-team wagon road. Verily, the position of our oleaginous neighbor is an ex.remely *trying* one.

OMINECA.—Several miners from Peace River arrived yesterday on the Otter. They give a discouraging account of matters there and say that several other shafts have been bottomed and from nothing to $2 found therein. A few companies remain to prospect.

THE Hastings Sawmill Company, limited is the title of the new company who have purchased the B. C. & V. I. mill property and will run the same under the management of Capt. Raymur, who will take immediate steps to prepare the establishment for active operations.

DIVORCE SUIT.—The British Consul at San Francisco, Mr. Booker, is seeking a divorce from his wife. Mr. Booker was married in England a very few years ago, under what appeared to be happy auspices. Infidelity on the part of the wife is the alledged cause of the suit.

EXCURSION.—It is intimated that Ben Holladay with his son-in-law Count Pourtales and his daughter, has arranged to visit Victoria and Puget Sound in the steamship Moses Taylor in a few weeks. The Taylor will lie in Esquimalt harbor.

THE steamer Otter arrived yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, having left New Westminster at 5 a.m. She brought a few passengers, among whom were Messrs. Lamb, W Wilson and J G Norris. She also brought down an express and $40,000 in gold.

ALBION IRON FOUNDRY.—Capt William Irving has purchased the book-debts and stock of the Albion Iron Foundry and will henceforth carry on the business.

TWO DRUNKS, whose cases were summarily disposed of, constituted the only business before the Police Court yesterday.

TOM, the suspected murderer of Robert Clarke, will come up for examination to-morrow.

THE CORSAIR.—We publish to-day the manifest and consignees of this bark, now over due at this port from London.

COMING.—General Grant has intimated an intention to visit the Pacific Coast at an early date.

GAME LAW.—Deer may be killed on and after Monday; grouse on and after the 10th August.

THE Craigflower Picnic yesterday was slimly attended. The day was lowring and the fun dubious.

WAGES.—At Cariboo have raised to $6 per day.

THE SHELLS.—The case of Island shells was won by Mr Daly.

Nanaimo a Most Eligible Place for a Graving Dock.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—There is some reason in a remark of your correspondent writing from Nanaimo on the subject of a drydock. It is frequently observed both by scientific and practical men who have seen it that the spot noted on Capt Richards' chart of Nanaimo harbor for a proposed dock is formed as though nature had designed it for that purpose. The gentleman whose name I have used states in his 'Sailing Directions' that Nanaimo is 'a most eligible place for the construction of docks, for which it offers peculiar facilities.' The place in question has these advantages: It is easily accessible, and surrounded on all sides with a good quality and any quantity of building stone. The nature of the ground is favorable for what little excavation may be necessary, and there are already workshops intended for the business standing within one hundred feet of the premises. The expenditure for land and works would be a mere bagatelle compared with the sum asked for the Esquimalt dock, and of course as the cost of construction would be comparatively low, the rate of charges on vessels requiring the use of the dock would, as a consequence, be proportionately small—a consideration of the first importance, and one that could not fail of proving beneficial to the colony at large. Those gentlemen interested in this matter would do wisely to take a look at Nanaimo, where a Graving-Dock Company is talked of.

ECONOMIST

Rhenish Provinces.

The London *Times* of the 11th inst. in an article discussing the situation in Europe, declared that the real issue in the quarrel between France and Prussia is in the possession of left bank of the Rhine. On this subject we give the following from a California paper, which declares that the real cause of the course taken by France is the old bone of contention, the Renish Provinces:

For a century and a quarter France has been struggling to extend her northeastern frontier to the Rhine. It was one of the favorite dreams of Louis XIV., and he did succeed in touching the coveted stream. But that does not satisfy French ambition, least of all the ambition of a Bonaparte; but more especially of a Bonaparte whose interests are to be promoted by foreign war, and whose dynasty is not safe short of some glorious triumph over a peaceful neighbor. These Rhine provinces embrace about 11,000 square miles of territory and are densely peopled, rich, growing, part German, part French in language, and of a mixed religion, but chiefly Catholic. They lie on both banks of the Rhine, touching Holland and Belgium on the West, France on the South, and Nassau on and Baden the East. They are separated from the main body of the Prussian Kingdom by Hanover and Nassau; and therefore, from geographical position, more naturally a part of France than of Prussia. But if Prussia can ever manage to consilidate, and absorb South Germany as she has North, than the Hohenzollerns would have a Kingdom, including Bavaria Wurtenburg and Baden, larger than France, richer and more populous; and it would be Protestant. But if in addition to this, a Hohenzollern reigned in Spain, then France would be held in perpetual check and have to content herself with her present boundaries, and cease to be the periodical disturber of the peace of Europe. It is well known that, notwithstanding the treaty of Prague, Prussia has been endeavoring to form alliances with Baden and Bavaria, looking upon such a union, under the military leadership of Prussia, as has already been consummated with Hanover, the Hesses and North Germany generally. This action is what gives umbrage to Napoleon.

MR. DICKENS.—Mr Charles Kent has kindly consented to our printing what is in all probility the last letter that Mr Dickens wrote. On Thursday, when Mr. Kent went to keep the appointment, Mr Dickens was lying unconscious and was within a few hours of his death. The 'opal enjoyments' refer to the tints of the sky:—'Gad's-hill-place, Higham-by-Rochester, Kent, Wednesday June 6, 1870. My dear Kent,—To-morrow is a very bad day for me to make a call, as in addition to my usual office business, I have a mass of accounts to settle. But I hope I may be ready for you at 3 o'clock. If I can't why then I shan't be. You must really get rid of these opal enjoyments. They are too overpowering.—'These violent delights have violent ends.' I think it was a father of your Church who made the wise remark to a young gentleman who got up early (or stayed out late) at Verona.? Ever affectionately, Charles Dickens. To Charles Kent, Esq.' The pictures and other objects of art which belonged to Mr. Dickens are to be sold by auction by Messrs Christie and Manson. His library he has left to his eldest son. His manuscripts and papers are at present in the hands of his executors, Mr. Foster and Miss Hogarth. *All the Year Round* has been left to his eldest son by Mr Dickens in a codicil appended to his will only a week before his death. Mr. C. Dickens, jun., has for some time been acting editor of the journal, and in a gracefully-written address, which appears in the last number, he declares his resolution to conduct the journal in the same spirit in which his father conducted it, and aided by the contributors who have hitherto contributed to it. At the present moment it is difficult to speak with entire precision, but we are authorized to say that Mr Dickens has left the *Mystery of Edwin Drood* in a very advanced state, but that, as if he had a presentiment of his decease, he had at the outset arranged equitable terms of accommodation in case the novel were stopped before it was completed.—*Athenæum.*

IS the last novel which Mr. Dickens ever completed, and in the last paragraph of its last page, he wrote words which now posses a remarkable interest:—

'On Friday the 9th of June, in the present year, 1865, Mr. and Mrs. Boffin (in their manuscript dress of receiving Mr. and Mrs. Lammle at breakfast) were on the South-eastern Railway with me in a terribly destructive accident. When I had done what I could to help others, I climbed back to my carriage—nearly turned over a viaduct, and caught aslant upon the turn—to extricate the worthy couple. They were much soiled, but otherwise unhurt. The same happy result attended Miss Bella Wilfer on her wedding-day, and Mr. Rideriho d inspecting Bradley Headstone's red neckerchief as he lay asleep. I remember with devout thankfulness that I can never be much nearer parting company with my readers for ever than I was then until there shall be written against my life the two words with which I have this day closed this book—THE END.'

It is now strange to observe that just five years later, on the same day of the very same month, THE END came.

F. DALLY

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