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THE BRITISH COLONIST
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DAVID W. HIGGINS

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Going—Going—Gone!

'Time passed on,' remarked Artemus Ward. 'You may have noticed that it usually does, that that is a sort of way Time has about it; it generally passes on.' With all its quaint drollery, there is something in the remark, and it is respectfully commended to the serious thought of the Executive Government of this colony. Time passes on. Another open season has come, is going—will soon be gone! What record will it leave? How much better will 1870 leave us than it found us? What progress has the colony made? What improvement has the Government undergone? What grievance redressed? What want supplied? So again, when Artemus finds the seventeen young Mormon widows weeping, he asks them, with an air of deep concern, 'Why is this thus?' But, as if perplexed at the juxtaposition of the words 'this' and 'thus,' he seeks, with an air of extreme helplessness, to amend it thus, 'What is the cause of this thusness?' We put the question to Government. We put it to the people; for both Government and people would appear to have yet to learn the importance of beginnings. 'Outset,' said the old gnomic poet, 'is half of all.' If the character of consequents is determined by their antecedents, if that which follows must be the product of that which has gone before, how important it must be to lay hold of that which now is, to manipulate it according to the dictates of our free will, to forge for ourselves, on our own pattern, the first link in the chain of necessity, to direct the brute mechanical force of the law of casualty into our own channel, by securing a right direction to the first impact. 'Well begun is half done.' If we can only start aright, we are more than conquerors, for we have not only overcome and stricken down our giant antagonist Casualty, but we have bound him to do us perpetual service. And however often we begin amiss, hope is ever whispering to us that it is never too late to mend; that if the past is irreparable the present is at least our own; and that the remedy for all our ills is a fresh start. It was this aspiration that induced Polycrates to throw his ring into the sea; that made Ahab go softly; that drove Buddha to leave the old bo-tree; that made Augustine abandon his work among the Manichees of Carthage. Indeed the whole life of the human race has been, like the lives of some of its most conspicuous members, one continuous series of struggles after better beginnings. And the proneness of our natures to cling to such doctrines as that of metempsychosis and of purgatory only shows the unwillingness of mankind to contemplate the impossibility of a recommencement, and its feverish desire to regard even death itself as nothing more than a fresh start. States as well as individuals have need of fresh starts. It especially behooves the Government of this colony to make a fresh start. It becomes the people to make a fresh start. Called upon to lay the foundations of empire in the West, how important it is that they should be careful about beginnings. Prone to carry all their own faults and shortcomings in the back knapsack, as Catullus says, the people have a lynx eye for the faults in the front knapsack. Let us all, both governing and governed, consider well the duty of the hour—the great responsibility imposed upon us as the Pioneers of future Empire, and let us seek to act well our part. A truly magnificent country is for the nonce entrusted to our care, for good or ill. Up to the present time the great responsibility appears to have been but little realized. As the late Governor well said, in one of his remarkable State papers, 'Nature has done everything for British Columbia.' It might have been added, 'The Government has done nothing. The colonists have done little.' There must be a fresh start all round. 'Thisthusness' must have an end. Both Government and people must be driven out of the old ruts, and compelled to strike out a better path in spite of themselves. Rest-and-be-thankfulness is all very well under certain conditions. In our case it is unmanly, vile, wicked! The present would appear to be a peculiarly fitting time to make a fresh start. Instead of continuing a neglected, misgoverned dependency of the parent Empire, we are about to become an integral part, a vital part of the young Empire. Let the people prepare for the change.

Water.

What about water? This, that the city ran dry last year, and will most likely do so this. As a matter of course few persons are likely to bother their heads very much about a water supply at a time when the aqueous fluid is being poured down so abundantly from above. People do not care, as a rule, to cross bridges before arriving thereat; but the outlook of the public journalist must take a wider range. To think for the people and admonish them concerning present duty and future consequences falls within the scope of his functions. Without any pretensions to weather-wisdom, without laying claim to the possession of more than ordinary prescience, we may venture to predict that, unless special precautions be taken, the water supply will give out again. The pond, for we cannot dignify it with the name of lake, whence the supply is commonly derived, will, in the natural course of things, diminish year by year, so that there is every reason to expect it will yield less this year than it did last, unless, of course, the season should be an unusually wet one, a contingency not to be reckoned on with any degree of safety. It will be obviously unnecessary to enlarge upon the abstract question of the importance to a community of a plentiful supply of good, wholesome water, and to point out the perilous position in which this city would be placed should the supply be cut off even for a day. These are points which, even if they had not already been elaborated in this journal, are almost too self-evident to need remark. The object of the present remarks is to urge upon the Water Company as well as upon the civic authorities the duty of employing, *in time*, every reasonable means within their power to avert such a contingency as a failure of the water supply. With the larger question of introducing an ample and permanent supply of good, wholesome water it is not our present purpose to deal. It may be permitted us, however, while upon this subject, to remind those whom it most concerns of the importance of being better prepared for any legislation that may be necessary than past attempts might lead one to fear they might be. It is not at the heel of a session that a Bill for the purpose of introducing a proper supply of water into Victoria should be introduced. And, moreover, such a measure ought to be prepared with the utmost care, and would be all the better of having the mature consideration and, if possible, the indorsation of a majority of those from whose pockets the cost of the undertaking must come, before being introduced into the Legislature. It is not too soon, therefore, to commence preparations for whatever legislation it may be necessary to seek for that purpose.

Tuesday May 31

TEA BY RAIL.—In English commercial circles the idea that America would get her tea by steam and rail has to some extent been scouted. The expence and the damage to the tea by rail, it was asserted, forbid anything of the kind. The receipt by Messrs Lowe Brothers, New York, of twelve car loads, comprising 5000 packages of tea, has however completely dispelled that prejudice. The shipment crossed the Pacific in 20 days and crossed the continent in 12 days, reaching its destination in excellent condition. It is believed that this invoice will form the commencement of a general trade, and there is every reason to think that England will either have to buy her tea in New York or use the Union Pacific Railway until the Canadian Pacific is opened.

THE WEATHER during the month of May has been quite unprecedented for this section. Cold, raw winds, frequent falls of rain and (on Sunday last) claps of thunder are quite uncommon during the 'smiling month' as May is called by Thomson in his *Seasons*. Fires, too, have been indispensable in most houses, and overcoats have been necessary to comfort after nightfall. Red roses that ought to have bloomed about the 20th May are only now putting out buds, and vegetation on the Island is very backward. In the interior of the Mainland snow has fallen on the foothills. But beyond the positive discomfort, the backwardness of the Spring is expected to exert a very favorable effect upon gold-mining interests, in providing plenty of water; an early Spring has always been preceeded by a drought.

THE HEAVY SHOWERS of Sunday noon encompassed the ruin of many Spring bonnets and dresses, the fair wearers of which, on their way home from church, were caught by the rain in the lightest of light apparel.

B. O. S. H.—A dispatch from San Francisco to the *Oregonian* of the 21st says: 'Hons Dr Helmcken, J W Trutch, and Dr Carrall, delegates from British Columbir to the Canadian Confederation, left this city yesterday for Canada. They are instructed to go for Confederation on the assumption of the colonial debt by the Dominion and issuing of bonds for the construction of a British American transcontinental railroad. Failing in securing these conditions it is said they will go for annexation to the United States.'

NO HOPE.—Not the slightest hope is entertained of the safety of the ship Alaska Capt Cavanagh, which sailed from Shanghae for Victoria upwards of 150 days ago. Capt F Thorndyke, a brother of the owner of the Alaska, was the only passenger. The Alaska was formerly the British ship Trebolgan, was 364 tons register and about twelve years old.

THE passage of the North Pacific Railroad Bill by Congress has raised the drooping hopes of property owners on Puget Sound and real estate there is again on the 'rise.' A grand jubilee was held on Saturday to 'observe' the event. The Sound papers contain little save election matters, which seem to be of more importance to them than even a railway.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held to-day at Mr Burnaby's office at 2 o'clock, when the draft of the bill will be decided upon. If the next exhibition is to be a success; vigorous and united action is necessary, on the part of the managers, who have this year allowed many golden moments to slip AWAY unimproved.

LAUNCH OF A CHINESE JUNK.—An oddity in the shape of a veritable Chinese junk, built near Mr Leneven's residence by Celestial junk-builders, was launched on Sunday. A good many Johns were present with a band that discoursed celestial [but by no means heavenly] music as the craft glided from the ways and rested on the bosom of the harbor. A *feu de joie* of snapping crackers and a bottle of medicated wine completed the ceremony. The junk will be rigged and placed in the local fishtrade.

THE REGATTA.—In response to a paragraph in the *News* of Saturday we are requested to state that no difficulty is experienced by the committee in raising funds; that no objection is made to the Arm as a course; and that the opposition of the *Little Newsman* arises from the fact that the advertisement of the Regatta is not inserted in his paper.

H.M. S. SPARROWHAWK will proceed under steam to San Francisco on the 13th proximo with His Excellency Governor Musgrave. At San Francisco His Excellency will be united to Miss Field, a young American lady to whom he has been some months betrothed, and will return with his bride to this colony.

CAUSES CELEBRE.—The 28th June is set for the trial in the Supreme Court of two very important cases of criminal conversation, viz: Scully vs Lee, and Lawrence vs Egerton.

A BRILLIANT DISPLAY of oleographs, oil paintings, engravings, silverware, parlor and diningroom clocks will be made at Davies & Co's salesroom to-day. Some of the oleographs are real gems. The articles will be sold by catalogue to-morrow.

THE steamer Olympia, Capt Finel, arrived at 7½ o'clock last evening from Puget Sound, bringing a small freight and six passengers. We are under obligations to Purser Leach for usual favors.

THE San Juan Lime Works, closed since the death of Mr Hibbard a year ago, have been reopened by the surviving partners. The guard placed over it were withdrawn yesterday.

THE WIRES were disconnected yesterday afternoon at a point a few miles north of Portland owing, it is thought, to water in the Columbia River.

SAILED.—The ship H Adderley and bark Hydra for Australia, and the bark Alpaca for Valparaiso, rounded Race Rock yesterday morning.

THE bark General Windham, Capt Connop, will load at Moody's Mills for Callao, Peru.

Two horses are in the Pound and will be sold to-morrow if unclaimed.

THE bark Alpha, from Liverpool, with the servant girls for Victoria, is fully due here.

THE Enterprise, for New Westminster, will sail at 10 this morning.

ALL East Indian paper gives a very satisfactory reason why the Duke of Edinburgh was nor saluted at Deig. Two brass guns were sent from Bhurtpore to Deig on purpose to salute the Duke, but unfortunately, while they were saluting one gunner got his hands blown away and the other got blown away altogether.'

AN INTERCHANGE OF GIFTS.—A French paper says that Marshal Prim has recently made a present to the Emperor Napoleon of 20,000 cigars with gilt ends and ornamented with the Imperial N, also gilt, on each cigar, which is estimated to be worth one and a half francs. In return the Emperor has sent to the Spanish Marshal a pair of vases of Sevres manufacture.

BUY IT AND TRY IT.—Russell's celebrated Coffee. The best on the Coast. Warranted a pure and healthful beverage. *

Shooting Affray on Montgomery Street.

Yesterday afternoon, about a quarter past three o'clock, a shooting affray occured on Montgomery street, in front of the Metropolitan Theatre, in which the principals were Frank Medina, a leader of the orchestra at the Alhambra, and John Allen, a violinist at the Metropolitan. It appears that on Monday last the two parties named met in front of the Alhambra and had some words, and finally came to blows, during which Medina came off second best in the fight. Yesterday they met again at the Metropolitan, when the quarrel was renewed, and Medina drew a four-barrelled revolver and fired at Allen, who ran away when he caught sight of the weapon in Medina's hand. The ballet struck Allen in the back, passed through the coat and underclothing, and just grazed the skin, producing a very slight wound. Medina was about to fire a second shot, when he was seized by Charles Cornell, who wrested the weapon from his hand. Officer Haggerty, who was in the vicinity, and who had his attention directed to the difficulty by the report of the weapon, came up and arrested Medina on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder.

The prisoner was visited in the City Prison by one of the reporters of the *Call*, who obtained from him the following statement of the difficulty and its origin:

'On last Sunday I was the leader of the band on the excursion boat Senator, which went to the Farallones, and by reason of Allen having furnished some inferior musicians for the occasion, it placed me in a very mean position. On Monday I met him at the Alhambra, and spoke to him about this, when we used hard language to one another, and I slapped him in the face. He then raised a heavy loaded cane, and struck me over the arm, head, and in the mouth. (Medina exhibited several scars and bruises, which he said were the result of the beating he had received from Allen.) I told him at the time that if it were not for certain reasons not necessary to be named now, I would shoot him. To-day I was in front of the Metropolitan, when I saw him come toward me. He made a sort of jump when he saw me, and as I did not know what he intended to do, I drew my revolver and fired. In consequence of the beating he gave, I have been unable to play at the theatre.—*San Francisco Call.*

The mania for fast passages too prevalent among the captains of ocean steamers just now appears to have made them shockingly inhuman to fellow-seamen in distress. On this matter the New York *Times* says:—'The main point is to beat a rival line—and, consequently no notice whatever is taken of any vessel which may be found in a dangerous condition. There appears to be little doubt that at least one steamer has lately been seen with signals hoisted, to indicate that her machinery had broken down. None of the vessels which saw her asked any questions or sought to render help. The Captains 'passed on the other side.' Are all the nobler traditions of the sea dying out, and in the intense rivalry now prevailing among opposing companies are seamen losing all the bravery and generosity of character which has been their heritage from time immemorial?"

A FRENCH SENSATION.—*Galignani's Messenger* says that the following singular incident took place at the last review by the Emperor Napoleon in Paris. Just when the Emperor had reached the last rank of the troops an individual in rags rushed forward in front of the gate and vociferated loudly, in a threatening tone, 'A Cayenne! A Cayenne!' He was immediately apprehended and taken to the nearest police station. Before an examination his person was searched and in one of his pockets was found the sum of 11 000 francs in a leather purse, an inscription of Rente to the amount of 30 000 francs, and a knife poinard. On being interrogated he gave his name as Paul Lezarier, aged 46, living at No 26 Rue Rollin, and of no profession. A inquisition made at his residence led to the discovery of a large store of arms of all kinds and of the sum of 60 000 francs in gold. Being asked as to his motive for insulting the Emperor, he replied that his patriotic heart revolted at the acclamations of the multitude. After these formalities he was sent to the depot for prisoners.

IN Ireland Mr Robert Young, to whom the late Lord Derby granted a pension of £40 a year in consideration of his literary services, was found dead in the Derry lunatic asylum. The deceased had his head immersed in a bath of water and rested with his hands on the floor. Mr Young had been an inmate of the asylum for about two months.

THE Czar of Russia is alarmingly ill, and his departure for the baths of Ems is hastened in consequence. Ever since the death of his eldest son at Nice the Czar has been suffering more or less, and late accounts have hinted a mental aberration as well as a physical malady. The Czarina is also in delicate health.

A Modest Corpse.

From the Boston (Mass.) Transcript.

'Let's talk of graves, of worms, of epitaphs.'
[King Richard II., Act 3, Scene 2.

There has recently been erected in the old cemetery at Stoughton, in this State, a marble monument about twenty feet in height, consisting of a square base about two feet wide and three feet high, surmounted by a square shaft. One face of this shaft contains Masonic emblems elaborately cut in relief, and some of them gilded, arranged in three groups, one above the other. The base contains on three of its faces the following inscription—

'MASONIC MONUMENT,

Erected by some of the Masonic Brethren in honor of Ebenezer W Tolman, Esq. He was born March, 1798. He was Worshipful Master of Rising Star Lodge, and Most Excellent High Priest of Mount Zion Royal Arch Chapter, in Stoughton, Mass.; a member Commonwealth, and Thrice Illustrious Grand Master of the Adoniram Council; and a prominent member of the Most Puissant Grand Council of the State of Georgia. Through his Masonic skill, wisdom and influence it was called, organized and established at the Grand Masonic Convention over which he presided. He was a member of the Orthodox Church and an honest man. He was appointed Justice of the Peace for the last 14 years in Suffolk County and 28 years in Norfolk County. In July, 1869, he was appointed Justice of the Quorum, and Justice of the Peace for all the counties in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was buried with Masonic grand honors. A Masonic procession was formed, preceded by a full band of music. His remains were carried into the Orthodox Church where religious services were performed consisting of solemn music by the choir, the whole congregation standing and joining with the choir. Addresses were made, prayers, &c. The grand procession was again formed and proceeded to the Old Cemetery where Masonic services with grand Masonic honors were performed. After the ceremonies the body was deposited in the Tollman family vault.'

The gentleman whose virtues are so minutely recorded and whose funeral services have been so elaborately reported in this inscription, unfortunately for his reputation for modesty and perhaps veracity, still lives and at last accounts was apparently in the enjoyment of good health and the society of his wife at West Roxbury. Inquiries among the members of the Masonic fraternity of Stoughton failed to elicit evidence that any of them had contributed to the perpetuation in marble of this autobiographical sketch. On the contrary, much annoyance is expressed by them at the whole affair and intimations are given that steps will be taken to show the disapprobation of the Order at this display of self-appreciation.

A STRANGE STORY.—*Le Gaulois* relates that some workmen engaged in demolishing an old house in the Quartier Saint Victor, in Paris, came upon a nest of adders containing some hundreds of these reptiles, at the bottom of an exhausted well. In the midst of this snake nest was found a skeleton, which had probably fallen into the well years ago, and the flesh of which had been devoured by the adders. Strange to say, in the hand of the skeleton was a pocket-book of red morocco leather, in which when opened there were found 40 banks notes for 1,000f. each, a woman's likeness, and a letter which had been almost entirely eaten by the reptiles, the only fragment remaining decipherable bearing the words, 'Do not make known the plot.' A judicial inquiry has been commenced.

FISH AS FOOD.—We eat entirely too much meat. Fish once or twice a week should be eaten by every family that cares to preserve its mental qualities seriously unimpaired, for fish as a diet is rich in phosphorus and hence is very properly called brain food by some philosophers. Meats supply us with carbon. They do not fatten us much, but they furnish in a great measure the fuel that we daily consume in keeping the fire of life in a state of brisk ignition. Vegetable food gives, to a great extent, the material that finds us in flesh and bone. But, in this country especially, the daily brain waste is enormous—we are such an excitable, vivaciously thoughtful people. We need, therefore, a correspondingly inordinate amount of brain food, or fish; and for want of it softening of the brain has become of late a common malady among us. Slight derangements of intellect are singularly frequent. Insane asylums are demanded in increased numbers and 'eccentricities' of manner and temporary mental disorder come so redundantly under our notice as no longer to attract particular observation.

MARAVILLA COCOA—*For Breakfast*—The *Globe* says—"Various importers and manufacturers have attempted to attain a reputation for their prepared Cocoas, but we dub whether any thorough success has been achieved until Messrs. Taylor Brothers discovered the extraordinary qualities of 'Maravilla' Cocoa. Adapting their perfect system of preparation to this finest of all species of the Theobroma, they have produced an article which supercedes every other Cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, a delicate aroma, and a rare concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage." Sold in packets only by all Grocers, of whom also may be had Taylor Brothers' Original Homœopathic Cocoa and Soluble Chocolate. Steam Mills—Brick Lane, London. 1awSat. 1yr