

The Weekly British Colonist  
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, January 22, 1867.

## American Affairs.

The grave and momentous questions that now agitate the neighboring republic and furnish the principal topics for debate in the halls of Congress, are not only important in their relation to the existing Administration, but also in the influence they may exert upon all future Administrations. We have already shown the effect that the impeachment of the President is likely to have upon the entire country, and the imminent danger in which the States stand of falling into a condition of disorder and anarchy as the natural fruits of a struggle between the Administration and the people. The fall elections resulted unfavorably for Mr Johnson's policy; but it must be remembered that Mr Lincoln was only elected in 1861 by what billiard-players term a lucky score—a "scratch." There were in the field three candidates for the Presidency, and as Mr Lincoln received the highest number of votes deposited for any one candidate he was declared duly elected. Had there been but one Democratic candidate opposed to his return, Mr Lincoln might never have emerged from comparative obscurity to occupy the Presidential chair, to bring on a bloody war, and go down to the tomb with the bullet of an assassin through his brain. All the Democrats at that election required was to unite on one man, and his return would have been certain. Lincoln went into office as the choice of a minority, and with a majority in Congress opposed to his policy. Had he, therefore, committed the first overt act against the South, he would have found himself thwarted at every turn, if not hurled from his position. The Southerners, however, took the initiative in the struggle. They struck at the Government—a Government destitute of soldiers, arms, ships or money. Had the South depended upon legislation to overcome Mr Lincoln, their success would have been easy and certain. The Executive could have moved neither hand nor foot without the consent of Congress. But the rash declaration of war routed the whole North to the support of the Government. Party lines were obliterated; the North saw that it was not Mr Lincoln's existence, but the life of the nation that was at stake; and when they precipitated their legions upon the South it was not in defence of Mr Lincoln, but in support of a Government of which Mr Lincoln was merely the embodiment. The world is well aware how that Government triumphed over its enemies. The argument, therefore, that because the elections have resulted disastrously for the President, he is bound to go to the wall in the event of an attempt to unseat him, does not carry weight. We have seen how Mr Lincoln, when really in the minority, was supported and sustained by the majority—not because they believed him to be right, but because he was President; and what valid reason is there for supposing that any attempt to unseat Mr Johnson by Congress, on partisan grounds, will meet with support from the masses of the American people? It is quite evident that the President will not resign the reins of Government without a struggle; the best proof of this lies in the fact that wherever there is found a Federal officer known to be unfriendly to the Administration, his official head is immediately cut off and a staunch Johnson man takes his place. From every quarter of the North the cry ascends that "good union men" (as the Radicals term themselves) are being removed from office to make room for men who enjoy the confidence of the Administration. On the Pacific coast the same complaint is heard. In California the removal and appointment of Federal officers go on daily. And even in the adjacent territory of Washington we find a Radical removed from the office of Governor and a so-called Copperhead put in his place. Nor are these

changes confined to the principal offices in the gift of the Administration. As there is no position too high for aspiring ambition to covet, there is none so low that some one cannot be found to fill it. Every office, from that of Governor of a territory down to tidewater at a custom-house, receives the attention of the Executive; the politics of the holder are reviewed, and if deemed suspicious, room is at once made for one of many eager applicants for the position. The reason for these changes is quite apparent: the President is preparing for the gathering storm. He is too shrewd a politician not to know that when the storm breaks he must have only tried men about him—that if he would escape being overwhelmed he must place his own friends in places where they can employ the armies, the navies, and the exchequer of the nation in his defence.

But it is not alone at the President that the shafts of Congress are directed. The Supreme Court, the judges of which are appointed for life, has recently decided that the Civil Rights and the Freedmen's Bureau Bills are unconstitutional. They have even decided that no civilian can be tried by a Military Commission, and that, therefore, the execution of Mrs Surratt and others for the assassination of Mr Lincoln was illegal; it is added, that the abolition of slavery was accomplished in an entirely unconstitutional manner, and that the negroes are as much slaves as they were before the rebellion. These decisions, be it known, are made by a Court the majority of whose members are opposed to the policy of the President; yet a conscientious regard for their duty compels them to decide, in opposition to their own sentiments, that the President is right and Congress wrong! The Court is thus placed in a position antagonistic to Congress, and how does the latter body propose to extricate itself from its difficulties? It does not propose to revise and render constitutional the unconstitutional enactments, so that, although they cannot restore the lives of those who have illegally been put to death, they may prevent others from sharing a like fate, except under due color of the law. But it seeks to convert the Supreme Court into a political machine, the decisions of which shall be controlled by politicians and shaped according to the will of the party in power. The blind goddess will have to vacate the pedestal upon which she stands in the United States Supreme Court-room, and the demon of corruption will rule in her stead. Politicians of "low degree" will occupy the bench from which the greatest legal minds of the Republic have dispensed justice for the best part of a century, and the ermine of the only non-elective body in the States will be stained in the "filthy pool of politics." The impeachment of the President would be bad enough; but the sacrifice of an honest judiciary to party spirit would be one of the most destructive blows to the liberties of a nation that has been dealt since the bloody days of the French Directory.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday Jan 19

Hon. W. G. Cox.—We understand that an invitation to dinner was extended to Hon. W. G. Cox, the popular Gold Commissioner of Cariboo, by most of our leading citizens, as a mark of their appreciation of his ability and impartiality in his official position, as well as of his genial hospitality in his private capacity. Mr Cox, we regret to say, felt it necessary to decline the compliment. By the courtesy of the gentlemen referred to we are permitted to publish his reply:

VICTORIA, 16th January, 1867.  
GENTLEMEN.—In acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the 14th inst., permit me to express to you my very grateful appreciation of your kindness and my deep sense of the honor you propose to do me. I tender you my hearty thanks, and beg to assure you of my profound regret that circumstances will preclude me, during my present visit to your city, from doing myself the honor of accepting the hospitality you proffer.

I have the honor to remain,  
Gentlemen,  
Yours, very faithfully,  
WILLIAM G. COX.  
To Hon. Rodk. Finlayson, J.P.; Hon. J. J. Southgate, J.P.; Robert Burnaby, Esq., J. F. McCreight, Esq., and others.

A SNOB SNUBBED.—Lieutenant Brand, R.N., who was the President of the Morant Bay (Jamaica) Court-Martial, has, it appears, written two very vulgar and "larky" letters to Mr C. Buxton, M.P. for East Surrey, venturing on a challenge to fight, snoddy oaths, and various pieces of that delightful slang in which gunrooms used to be rather strong. The remarkable thing is the very prompt and strong action of the Admiralty upon them. The Ministerial papers by last mail were "authorized to state" that Commodore McClintock is to receive a copy of these letters immediately, and if Lieutenant Brand is unable to deny their authenticity, he is to be immediately superseded and sent to England, as "guilty of conduct inconsistent with the character of an officer and a gentleman."

THEATRIAL.—A meeting of the managing committee of the Amateur Dramatic Club was held yesterday afternoon at the Boom-erang, and the accounts of the late benefit to the Fire Department audited and passed: the gross receipts amounted to \$426 50, and the disbursements to \$151 37, leaving a balance of \$275 12½, in favor of the Fire Department. The expenses were less than usual, owing to the use of the Theatre and the services of Mr Maguire's band being gratuitous. The next entertainment given will be in about three weeks, and the proceeds will be devoted towards furnishing the Club with a suitable wardrobe, of which it stands much in need.

THE TREASURY.—It is rumored that Colonial Secretary Young will go into the Council as Treasurer; but that the appointment is only temporary, pending the departure of Mr Birch. It is also said, that Mr Watson will remain on the Island to fulfil the duties of Treasurer. From these rumors, it is conjectured that the Governor desires the valuable assistance of Mr Young, in codifying the laws of the United Colonies, and that Mr Watson will ultimately resume a position the duties which he has ably and honorably fulfilled.

NAVAL.—H. M. S. Shearwater, which left Panama on the 15th Dec., is now due. The Panama Star says: "This vessel has been in the Pacific four years, and had previous orders to return home, the usual term of the cruise having expired. The change of orders will detain her at least six months longer in the Pacific, much to the annoyance and disappointment of all on board." The only ships of war on the south coast at last dates were the Commodore's ship and the Columbia.

REAL ESTATE SALE.—Mr J. J. Cochrane on Thursday disposed of the following parcels of real estate at the annexed prices:—Lot 126, Store street, \$4,250; Lot 140, Johnson street, \$750; Lot 593, Fieguard street \$450; Lot 585, Cormorant street, 30x120ft., \$775; Half Lot 589 and Lots 590 and 591, Cormorant street, \$525; Lot 645, Chatham street, \$125; Lot 648, Discovery street, \$100; Half Lot 1260, Discovery street, \$735; Lots 747 and 748, Discovery street, \$220; Subdivisions 8 and 10 of 5 acre Lot 9, \$210 each; Lot 375, \$500.

PRESENTATION.—At the installation of the newly elected officers of Victoria Lodge, 783, on Thursday, Past Master Lumley Franklin, was presented by the members of the Lodge with a handsome regulation F.M. jewel, manufactured by Mr E. Marks, Government street. The back of the jewel bears the following inscription: "Presented to Bro Past Master, Lumley Franklin, by the members of Victoria Lodge, No 783, E.R., January 17th, 1867."

THE NEW BOILER, manufactured by Messrs. Spratt & Kriemler of the Albion Iron Works, is now in process of removal from the foundry for shipment on board the Russian steamer Constantine. This ponderous piece of mechanism, weighs, we are told, some twenty-two tons, and the contractor receives \$300 for placing it on board a scow. The Hudson Bay steers will be strengthened by additional gussets to enable the boiler to be placed in position.

FROM THE EAST COAST.—The Sir James Douglas arrived on Thursday evening from Nanaimo and way settlements, with a good many passengers, chiefly from the rural districts. No ships were loading at Nanaimo a passenger and business were almost stagnant. The brig Ann had not arrived. Mr Nicol, it is said, will positively not go to the Legislature.

THE ACTIVE.—We have had no telegraphic communication with the Bay City since the departure of the Active; but it is reasonable to suppose that she reached her destination yesterday evening.

REMAINED.—Dr Whitehead, the unfortunate medicus, who has been for some time in safe keeping within the precincts of the gaol, was brought before Mr Pemberton again yesterday, and, at his own solicitation, was remanded for another week, to admit of further improvement.

NANAIMO LITERARY INSTITUTE.—At the annual election of officers for this institution, Mr M. Bate, was chosen President; the resident clergymen, Vice-Presidents; Mr Finney, Secretary; Mr Raybould, Treasurer; S. Gough, Librarian, and a Managing Committee of seven persons.

ASSESSOR.—Mr Wyllie has been confirmed as Assessor. Does this confirmation mean that there is to be no relief from direct taxation? For more reasons than one, we hope and trust that the appointment is but temporary.

INCORRECT.—Judge Cox has requested us to contradict the rumor that he had taken a residence in this city. The misconception arose from the trifling circumstance of some wag having ordered a ion of coal to be left at the Judge's present temporary abode.

THE "PIXIEYS" AND MARSHES will give another joint performance on Monday evening. We hope to see the deserving artists well patronised.

ANOTHER CAVE.—Howard's Bowling Saloon, at Esquimalt, gave way two or three days ago beneath the weight of snow accumulated on the roof.

DOUGAL'S Foundry, on the Indian Reserve, is about to be re-opened by Mr Chas. Gowen and others.

NOR THE SHIP.—The ship Severn, scuttled off Pecosmuc, is not the Severn that was here a year or so ago.

The lines were down north and south of this place yesterday.

The Enterprise is expected back this evening.

## The Trip of the Mink.

HONOLULU, November 23, 1866.  
On board the Mink.

ED. HONOLULU HERALD.—We have just terminated one of those tedious and perplexing voyages that not infrequently occur between this and the California, and Upper Columbia coasts. I embarked on board the vessel on the 18th of October, and on the following morning we set sail and motored out of the harbor. We passed through the Straits without any trouble, and were off Cape Flattery by noon of the 20th, and from that time until the 7th of Nov., being 19 days out, we had only got as far as the latitude of San Francisco. We experienced continual gales, squalls and heavy seas; some of the gales were terrific, and had it not been for the constant and vigilant exertion, and care of the captain, I think we would have been capsize. This was succeeded by three days' fair wind, which carried us below latitude 30, there we had first a gale and then a calm, then the wind from the S. S. W., lasting 12 or 14 days, during which time we only made a little over 200 miles on our course. Since then we had the wind dead ahead, with occasional calms and two more days of fair wind, until we have at last beat and battered our way into port. Having nothing in view but the improvement of my health, the voyage has not been particularly annoying to me, as the accommodations for the inner and outer man on board were excellent, and my health gradually improving every day. The vessel in the heaviest seas rarely shipped water, and rode the waves with ease and grace. I wish to express my thanks to Capt. Ellis, for the uniform courtesy and kindness with which he treated me during the whole trip.

## A PASSENGER.

ARTEMUS WARD.—Artemus Ward is one of the drollest creatures on earth. Besides being a humorist of the most original and eccentric stamp, he is a thorough actor in every movement and every sentence. The introduction to his Mormon lecture keeps the audience in an almost continuous roar—sparkling as it is with point and delivered in the most finished high comedy manner. We scarcely need recommend all the town to go and see him; if anybody comes away disappointed it will be at the shortness of the entertainment. Brevity is too much the son of Mr Ward's wit; but perhaps his health (which we are sorry to say, seems delicate) has a little to do with the only fault that we have to find with him. The natural and easy way in which Artemus Ward glides from the lively to the severe, and then dives into his native element of fun again, is one of his most pleasant characteristics. Uninterrupted humor of his wild kind would have become almost perilous, especially to those happy people who laugh considerably when they hear a joke. A little serious talk tends one time to get cool again after the heating process of cabination.—English Paper.

THE BRIDGE OF RONDA.—Over the river Guadiaro, in Spain, and near the city of Seville, there are two very remarkable bridges. The city is placed on a rock, with cliffs, either perpendicular and abrupt toward the river or with broken crags. These jutting promontories, having a little soil, have been planted with orange and fig trees. A fissure in the rock of great depth surrounds the city on three sides, and at the bottom of the fissure the river rushes along with impetuous rapidity. Two bridges are constructed over the fissure; the first is a single arch, resting on the rocks on two sides; the height from the water is 120 feet. The river descends from this to the second bridge, whilst the rocks on each side as rapidly increases in height; so that from this second bridge to the water there is the astonishing height of 280 feet. The mode of construction of this bridge is no less surprising than the situation in which it is placed and its extraordinary elevation. It is a single arch of 110 feet in diameter; it is supported by solid pillars of masonry, built from the bottom of the river, about 15 feet in thickness, which are fixed into the solid rock on both sides, and which the ends of the arch rest; other pillars are built to support these principal ones, which are connected with them by other small arches.

"It is impossible," says a late traveller, "to convey an adequate idea of this bridge. From below it appears suspended in the air, and when upon the bridge, the river beneath appears no longer a mighty torrent, but resembles a rippling brook. When standing upon the bridge the optical delusion is very singular; the torrent of water appears to run up a hill toward the bridge, and the same phenomenon takes place when viewed in another direction."

SPAIN.—SEVERAL CONSPIRACIES DISCOVERED.—The Captain-General of Madrid, who at the end of last month suspended for a week the publication of the *Correspondencia*, imposing upon it also a fine of 200 crowns, has just filed the *Epoca*, a ministerial journal, 50 crowns, because that paper announced that there was to be a grand ball at the palace on the 19th of this month, the birthday of the Queen. The news was not precisely without foundation. Her Majesty ardently desired to give the ball, but Count Pononour, the chief major domo and general director of the palace, pointed out to the Queen that the state of the exchequer would not admit of the expenses for refreshments. Her Majesty was obliged to bow to this representation. A double conspiracy has just been discovered at Saragossa and Corunna; several officers and sergeants have been arrested, and sent away at once to the Marianne Islands in the East Indies. I have no precise details upon what has happened in Saragossa, but the affair at Corunna was discovered in this manner: A sergeant, who had always borne an excellent character, presented himself a few days ago before the Captain-General of Galicia, and earnestly asked for definitive *conge*. The Captain-General insisted upon knowing the motive of his request, and after much hesitation the sergeant said that his regiment was upon the point of rising, that the colonel and several officers had induced the sergeants to favor the rebellion, and that for his part he preferred to take his *conge* rather than run the chance of a *pronunciamiento*.

A despatch from Barcelona, which recently arrived in Paris, declares that the news given by the *Gazette de France* of an insurrection in Catalonia is incorrect. Possibly so. However, we remember that in the month of January last a series of telegrams from Barcelona, Madrid and other places, gave the most favorable account of the public tranquillity at the very moment when General Prim was commencing his insurrectionary attempt. And then, if the Spanish journals connected with the government cannot tell the truth, what faith is to be accorded to the telegrams which are the work of the Government itself.—Independence Belge.

THE HONEYMOON.—A correspondent thus shows up the dear delights of the honeymoon in a series of illustrations compiled by one who has been through the misery:

Second day.—Speechless ecstasy, bliss impossible to be expressed.

Fifth day.—Bliss still in the ascendant; appetite begins to look up.

Ninth day.—Lady eats her dinner without being kissed between every mouthful.

Twelfth day.—Oh, you naughty, naughty boy, not said quite so frequently.

Fifteenth day.—Gentleman fancies a walk alone; comes home and finds his charmer in tears.

Sixteenth day.—Gentleman and lady having returned to the world of sights, gentle caudings and a promise "never to go out again alone in future," are invisible nearly all day.

Eighteenth day.—Lady is presented with a magnificent breastpin; gentleman consults her about the details of their domestic arrangements.

Twenty-first day.—Gentleman and lady fancy a change, and go to church.

Twenty-fifth day.—Lady begins to pack up preparatory to returning from her wedding tour; gentleman assists her, and only kisses her once during the operation.

Twenty-eighth day.—On the journey, gentleman keeps his lady-bird very snug.

Twenty-ninth day.—Commit the dreadful *four pas* of falling asleep in each other's company.

Thirtieth day.—Arrive at home; greeted by mother-in-law on the threshold; mother-in-law hugs her dear son, and vanishes aloft with daughter; husband dancing attendance in sitting room for two hours; already feels savage because the dinner is getting cold, and spirit begins to rebel against the mother of his Amelia. Amelia presently descends looking very charming; husband brightens up; dinner put on the table; mother-in-law drinks wine and is affected to tears; Amelia consoles her dear ma; evening wears on; mother-in-law leaves; Augustus returns inward thanks, and goes to bed; determined to be at the office very early in the morning, and wake up the clerks.

STUPENDOUS LIFT.—In the year 1782, Catherine, Empress of Russia, erected an equestrian statue of Peter the Great, at St. Petersburg. The statue, which was erected by M. Falconnet, was raised on an enormous pedestal of granite. When Falconnet had conceived the design of his statue, the base of which was to be formed of a huge rock, he carefully examined the environs of the city; and after considerable research, discovered a stupendous mass of granite half buried in the midst of a morass. The expense and difficulty of transporting it were no obstacles to Catherine. By her orders the morass was immediately drained; a road was cut through a forest and carried over the marshy ground, and the stone, which, after it had been somewhat reduced, weighed 1500 tons, was removed to St. Petersburg. This was accomplished in less than six months after the rock was discovered. It was removed by means of a windlass and large friction balls; alternately placed, and removed along grooves fixed on each side of the road. In this manner it was drawn, with 40 men seated upon its top, about four miles, to the banks of the Neva, where it was embarked in a vessel constructed on purpose to receive it; and thus conveyed about the same distance to St. Petersburg. When landed at St. Petersburg it was 42 feet long at the base, 36 at the top, 21 thick, and 17 feet high; a bulk greatly surpassing in weight the most boasted monuments of Egyptian or Roman grandeur. On this pedestal Falconnet raised a spirited statue of colossal size of the founder of St. Petersburg.

To what city in Europe is a man going when he marries?  
Young lady.—Oh! it's Nice.  
Old maid.—It's Hamburg.  
Solid Dutchman.—Bologna.  
Bridget.—To Dublin, sure.  
Fractical parent.—He's going to Havre.  
Startling old bachelor.—He's going to Rouen.

0; horned cattle, 11,200,000; sheep, 1,000; pigs, 5,300,000.

only, a swordfish, measuring about 10 feet in length, and weighing about 200 lbs., captured in the Thames, off Southend, it had been up and down the river, as far as Hungerford, for some time.

in Hannam has just ejected the pro- of no less than 81 houses which are demolished in order to widen the Rue. The landlords of these tenements receive a compensation.

underpeep having broken out afresh in the Bavarian government has re- to allow a large number of ex-re- for the English market to cross the

investigation of the recent Parliamen- tions in England shows that in Lan- 717 electors had been bribed.

almost incredible piece of news is y La France—that the Ministers of and Belgium, at Copenhagen, have ne mad.

reconstruction of the French army for a standing army of 250,000 of—the quarter-part to be artillery and

seimen of 'black hair' is to be exhibi- the great exhibition, which is valued 0.

## The Paraguayan War.

the morning of September 12, the gunboat Decade ran up the Parana- to Curuzu. She had on board unt, de Beaumont, attache in the Foreign Office and Special Commis- out from France, together with burne, American Minister to Para- At that point the Brazilian gunboat alongside and notified the French that she should go no further up the s the channel was full of torpedoes, idee cast anchor, and the commander shy went aboard to notify the officers ecide that he would, at all events, obtain the permission of Admiral ar, who was at Cerreto superintend- necessary after the late battle at

commander of the Decade, accompani- Count de Beaumont and Minister went the next day to Cerreto, y were well received by the Admin- however refused his permission for out to ascend the Parana. The returned to Corrientes, but the s placed at their disposal to convey m Tres Bocas to Curuzu. The Beaumont having obtained pass- to Assumption—capital of Para- the land route. It is his intention interview with the French Consul ce and obtain all the information concerning this war, which is but y understood in Allied headquarters, he will trip to the camp of Marshal Lopez, wards to the allied headquarters, for e of laying before them whatever ification may be suggested to him trip to Assumption, basing his pon his own personal observation.

FUN OF THE AMERICAN COLONY KIXE.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* is ver the exploits of the Maine col- o have gone to the Holy Land,

tegraph notices the curious fact plety Helen, from New York ver to Jaffa a whole assorted ankee emigrants, who of all places ld had pitched upon the plains of a settlement. There is really od and striking in this importa- newest people into one of the ut localities and populations of a greater contrast than that be- and New York could not be l the world. Everybody knows merican city is; that of Syria is a town perched upon a little hill, rbor, no life, no bustle, nothing but, nothing to take up the atten- office and pipes, and the occasional of Nazareth dogs who land there to Jerusalem. Jaffa sits blinking atop of its hillcock, with the deau waves fussing into it, froth tumble down just as if it iting of the antique times, when the language of these visitors, ace." For only to remember what to be makes these "Yankees, as could say, "sons of yesterday," ue, however, doubt that these cute anders know what they are doing. little account for business, beauty, g else except melons and ancient ut outside and behind the city lies urpassed for richness. It is the haron, whose roses blossom and ue through the religious literature world, and which boasts the finest lemon gardens in all the earth. a can produce such fruit ought, e culture, to do almost anything; e the plain of Sharon never wanted than water and a little scratching eked stick called the syrian plow what is wanted. Our transatlantic ays had a sharp eye for 'water and 'almighty hue locations'; but they must have had for them to fat and likely place from the globe! Doubtless, they will e country, now they are there; e go north to the plain of Es- anders the hills of Nazareth, they ill more promising site for the Yankees, if they can only manage and bribe the Turks. The richest corn ground in the world, ard table, and close to the sea, nd by the hundreds of thousands ut it is untilled, and yields only e, the great Syrian thistle, and lilies, for the Turks have no ill to keep Arabs from turning out to the barley of the peasants e up. The Yankee and the ppe the lilies of Jesreel, come only her; but we should not grudge if it could do something for sad

and A. W. Shott fought a duel. e that they changed conditions. e, and Shott was not. It was ott than Knott.