

Free Port—Do We Want It?

As in religion so in politics—line upon line, precept upon precept; here a little, there a little. Agitate! agitate! agitate! Some of our readers may possibly have become tired of seeing Free Port in type; but the interests involved in the question we take to be of far too great importance, too closely associated with the wellbeing of this community to warrant silence for fear of annoying the sensibilities of some. In view of the certainty and imminence of great constitutional changes we have, therefore, felt it to be our duty to revert to a subject which has already occupied much of our space, and we would invite the earnest attention of all who have a direct interest in the issue to a few homely and practical reflections. And we would say, in the outset, that the question of the desirability of a Free Port is to be considered in the light of Confederation, and the Dominion Tariff of Customs. Were we called upon to weigh the advantages of a free port as against the advantages of a Customs Tariff framed expressly for this Colony, and, therefore, adapted to its peculiar wants and interests, we are free to confess that we might reach a different conclusion. The verdict would, in all probability, be for the defendant. But such is not the issue before us. Under Confederation the tariff of the Dominion must and will be our tariff. We have no desire to conceal the fact that this proposition is controverted by some persons—we cannot dignify them with the word party, inasmuch as there are but two men in the United Colony, so far as we are aware, who have ventured to assert a doctrine so absurd, and the sincerity of at least one of these we cannot but suspect. All things are said to be fair in time of war. The same principle may be applied to electioneering; yet we are bound to condemn the act of raising a false and deceptive issue upon such a subject at such a juncture. There can really be no question about this. The revenue or Customs laws of the Dominion will unquestionably extend the Dominion over. Insurmountable constitutional and practical obstacles forbid the hope that it can be otherwise. Clause 12 in the schedule of terms of union adopted by the Yale Convention, fully recognizes this: 'At the time of admission, the Revenue Laws of the Dominion of Canada to extend and apply to British Columbia, and thereupon the Revenue Laws of British Columbia to be thereby affected to be null and void, and all Duties and Revenues derived in and from British Columbia under the Revenue Laws of the Dominion of Canada to belong to Canada.' Strange to say, the author of the above section is now endeavouring to make the farmers believe that this Colony can have a special Customs Tariff of its own, under Confederation! We venture to think that few persons can be found verdant enough to believe anything of the kind. They know very well that the customs revenue will at once become Federal revenue, and that the customs laws must be Federal laws—laws which no provincial authorities will ever be permitted to touch. We have thought it our duty to be explicit upon this point as it is the hinge upon which the question of Free Port turns, and we have reason to believe that an attempt has been made to mislead the farmers and manufacturers with regard to it. The Canadian tariff, then, will become our tariff, so soon as this colony becomes a part of the Dominion. Most of our readers are already familiar with those items in that tariff which bear more directly upon the interests of this colony. Dry goods will be subjected to a duty of 15 per cent., whereas 12½ per cent. is the rate now. Farm produce of every description will be admitted either altogether free or at a merely nominal rate. But there is another law which will follow upon the heels of the Customs tariff, and make a clean sweep of any crumb of protection that might be left. We allude to a treaty of commercial reciprocity certain to be sooner or later established between the Dominion and the United States. Now, these remarks are made not with a view to creating a prejudice either against Confederation or the laws it will bring with it. So far from that, we can see many and important advantages in Confederation; and it is a great recommendation that the revenue laws which it must impose will be of such a nature as to relieve us of about one-half of that class of taxation which becomes Federal revenue. The reciprocity treaty, too, must be regarded as a boon, rather than an evil, inasmuch as it will throw open a good market at our very door for the staple exports of the Colony. But our object in drawing attention to the bearing that the Canadian tariff, accompanied by a treaty of reciprocity, will have upon the interests of this Colony, is to

demonstrate how much more desirable a free port would be under that dispensation than under the present. The chief objection to Free Port now is that it would deprive the farmers and manufacturers residing within its bounds of protection against foreign competition, a thing they are not yet strong enough to stand; but as this objection will be swept away by the Canadian tariff and reciprocity, it cannot possibly be urged against the policy of a Free Port under Confederation. The farmers 'cannot have their cake and eat it.' The choice is not between free port and protection; but, shall we have Confederation without both? Unable to retain protection under Confederation, shall we secure the advantages which a Free Port offers, when no sacrifice has to be made for it? This is really the true issue. These are the questions to which farmers and merchants, mechanics and manufacturers are called upon to return a practical answer. Regarding the question from a commercial point of view, one would scarcely be justified in assuming that two opinions could possibly exist in intelligent minds. Indeed, when the prospective development on the immediate south of us is considered, and when it is borne in mind that the Canadian tariff puts the duty on the very class of goods which would enter most largely into our foreign trade—up to 15 per cent. instead of down to 5 per cent., as proposed by the Tariff Commission, a free port under Confederation would appear to be an indispensable condition to the commercial success of Victoria. We earnestly invite a careful and candid consideration of this whole subject, and we would again warn those whose interests appear to demand protection to avoid the mistake of imagining that they are called upon to make a choice between protection and free port. Confederation, immediate Confederation is inevitable. Protection you cannot have under Confederation. Would it not, then, be your true interest (we address the farmers on this island especially) to secure the advantages which a free port offers, viz., the building up of a great commercial and manufacturing city, with a large consuming capacity, presenting a good market in which to buy and sell? There can be but one intelligent answer.

Royalty "Running the Slides."

His Royal Highness Prince Arthur has been performing the feat of "running the slides," at Hull, immediately above Ottawa. As the phrase is a localism, unfamiliar to most of our readers a brief description of the exploit, and its accompaniments may not prove altogether devoid of interest. The slides are inclined plains, constructed of wood, and designed to ease timber over precipitous falls which occur in the river, and where the logs would otherwise stick and form what is called "a jam." The slides in question form a channel about thirty feet wide, with high wooden walls on either side, and the bottom so inclined as to give a fall of forty feet in six hundred. Of course the large body of water rushes down this declivity with fearful impetuosity. Nor is the descent regular, the current taking five distinct leaps from three to six feet in height, giving it anything but a tame appearance to the uninitiated, as the water boils and leaps on its downward career. The "cribs," as they are technically called, are nothing more nor less than a number of logs of square timber, from twenty to forty feet in length, joined together by means of transverse timbers (or "traverses" as they are called) to which the square logs are fastened either by means of wooden bolts or, as is commonly the case, by "withes," or twisted saplings. These cribs are generally about twenty-six feet in width, leaving two feet to spare on either side, in passing through the slides. It is in cribs thus constructed that the timber (pine, oak and elm) for some time the staple export of Canada, is conducted down the more rapid and unnavigable rivers, first of all having been, in most instances, floated down the small creeks and tributaries to these rivers in single logs. When these cribs reach the broader waters of the lower Ottawa or the St. Lawrence they are connected together and formed into what are termed "rafts," in which form they run the larger and still more terrific rapids of the St. Lawrence, and ultimately find their way to Quebec, whence the timber is shipped to England and elsewhere. It was upon one of these "cribs" that Prince Arthur "ran the slides," above Ottawa city, on the 12th ultimo. But there were some annual features about the "Royal Crib." A flooring raised about two feet, kept the royal feet clear of damp. The crib was beautifully decorated with flags, flowers and evergreens and had an arch on it. Three splendid easy chairs were set upon the floor, a portion of which was richly carpeted, so that the royal feet might not come in contact with the boards which composed the floor. These were novelties to the hardy lumbermen who thronged the sides of the river, which they showed some disposition to regard as an unjustifiable inno-

vation. There were two of these "cribs." On the first went His Royal Highness, accompanied by Sir John and Lady Young. Sir John is said to have manifested some little trepidation, not on his own account, but for Lady Young, who he appeared to think would be as well on shore. Not so thought Lady Young, however. Her curiosity and spirit of adventure were fairly awakened, and she was determined to make the strange passage. The crib was unmoored and moved onward, slowly at first, but increasing its speed as it neared the seething current, and was soon leaping into the vortices in reckless haste. The three bridges under which it passed were gaily decorated, and crowded with people, and more than one bouquet of flowers was dropped upon the royal crib as it passed. A few minutes of thrilling excitement and both cribs floated in the placid waters beneath. Hear the party beheld for the first time and with surprise two more cribs. One was moored out in the middle of the river, and was tastefully ornamented, and spread out on it was a substantial luncheon, prepared for the intrepid navigators. A short wry off was the other, without ornament, occupied by lumbermen. In the centre blazed a great wood-fire, on which were placed immense pots, containing the pork and pea-soup. Plates of this soup came to the royal table, and it was sopped and praised by royal lips. It is thought pea-soup will be all the rage throughout the Dominion.

Thursday Nov 11

The Langford Lake Murder.

Patrik Fowler, late proprietor of the Goldstream House, was brought before the Police Magistrate for examination upon a charge of being concerned in the murder of Joseph Baker, a Leech River miner, while the latter was on his way to Victoria with a sack of gold dust in his possession. The deposition of officer McMillan, which was read, is as follows:

On or about the 14th day of December, 1868, a man named Joseph Baker, a miner at Leech River, I am informed, left the said river on his way to Victoria in the Colony aforesaid, and called at the house of a man named Patrik Fowler, situated at Goldstream, about 11 miles distant from Victoria; from thence he started again, in company with the said Patrik Fowler and another man named Leonard, commonly known as 'Butch,' and when at a distance of about a mile and a half from the house of the said Patrik Fowler they parted company, the said Patrik Fowler and Leonard returning to Fowler's house; since that time the said Joseph Baker has not been seen alive or in any way heard of; on the 19th of August last past, the remains of a human being were found in a small pool on Langford Plains, about two miles from the said Patrik Fowler's house, and about half a mile from the place where Joseph Baker parted company with the said Patrik Fowler and Leonard, alias 'Butch'; some clothes were also found which were identified as those of the said Joseph Baker. I have reason to believe, and do believe, that the remains so found were those of the said Joseph Baker, and that he was murdered by some person or persons at present unknown. Yesterday, the 9th of November, instant, I was in company with Inspector Bowden when the prisoner, Patrik Fowler, was arrested as he was about to leave the Colony on the steamer Wilson G. Hunt. From information I have received I have reason to believe and do believe that the said Patrik Fowler was concerned in the wilful murder of the said Joseph Baker, and I charge him accordingly.

Mr. Bishop appeared for the defence and stated that Fowler owned property on the American side as well as here; he had a family in Washington Territory, and was about to visit them when arrested. His client was not flying from justice, and although he had sold his place he had still a claim upon it, as he had not been paid in full. The Magistrate said the case was one which demanded the strictest investigation. The prisoner was the last person who saw the deceased alive, and the officer had done precisely what he ought to have done in laying the information.

Mr. Bishop said the prisoner was not the last person who had seen the deceased. There was another man with him. The prisoner was remanded until Monday next.

NEW WESTMINSTER ITEMS.—Peter, the Indian condemned for the murder of Murphy in 1861, has published a card in the local paper denying the statement that he confessed having committed the crime, and making a final declaration of his complete innocence. In the case of Stamp vs. B. C. & V. I. Mill Co., Chief Justice Begbie sustained the decision of Chief Justice Neisham in refusing to grant an injunction on application of defendants; so that the plaintiff is entitled to enter up judgment and take possession, but he is restrained from selling for a period of 28 days, to permit of communication being had with the Company in England. On Monday James Cooper, a shoemaker employed in Mr. Johnston's establishment, died suddenly of paralysis. An Indian brought a good prospect of gold from Pitt River. He states that he obtained it in a small stream, on the north side of the river, and has offered to conduct a party thither. The affair caused a good deal of interest, and a party were preparing to start out.

The Races.

A beautiful springlike morning was succeeded yesterday afternoon by a raw wind from the northeast and a clouded sky, which deterred many from visiting Beacon Hill course. The attendance, however, was large and the races passed off satisfactorily. For the Trial Stakes four horses were entered. The race was won by Lasselle's bay horse White Stockings. For the Prince of Wales' Plate, Fitzpatrick's roan horse Antelope and Lasselle's grey horse Greyhound contested, Greyhound started off ahead and maintained the lead through-out the two miles, winning easily. For the Hurdle Race, two miles with six flights of hurdles, Gerow's Royal Charles, Sandover's Buttons and Harris' Royal Bill ran. Royal Charles led off, and all the horses took the first and second hurdles beautifully. At the third hurdle Buttons tumbled and was withdrawn, and Charles and Bill finished the race. Charles cleared all the hurdles beautifully, while Bill appeared to hesitate before making each leap, thus losing ground which he vainly endeavored to regain between the flights. Charles won after a sharp struggle. The Naval Plate of \$50, added to a sweepstake of \$2 each, 1 mile, ridden by Officers of the Royal Navy, was the most interesting race of the day. The following horses were entered: Blue Dick, ridden by Lt. Holbeck; Osef au lait, ridden by Commander Egerton; Yorick, ridden by Mr. Stewart; Joe Lane, ridden by Mr. Harbord; Soiled Dove, ridden by Lieut Thomas; Birdie, ridden by Mr. Messom. The horses had a bad start. Osef au lait leading. In ascending the first slight rise, Yorick made a dash and swept by all the others, but he soon went all behind; the rider of Joe Lane lost his stirrup at starting and was thrown at a spot 200 yards beyond the Judge's stand, escaping without severe injury. At the last quarter Osef au lait was ahead. He was closely pressed by Soiled Dove, but won the race by two or three lengths. The Blue Jacket Plate was carried off by a sailor of the Charybdis, who rode Royal Bill. The Scary Stakes were won by Saunter Boy.

THE CIRCUS.—THE CANVAS REST AND BLOWN DOWN.—GREAT CONFUSION.—NOBODY HURT.—Last evening the Great World circus was filled to its utmost capacity. There were old and young, rich and poor, the grave, the gay, the frivolous the severe—all gathered in a heterogeneous mass to behold the unfolding of Wilson's repertoire. Shortly before dark the wind set in stiffly from the northeast and continued in fitful gusts, increasing steadily in strength until 8½ o'clock, when it assumed the respectable proportions of a gale, and swept down upon the city like a demon in season of prey. Of course it is not to be supposed that when the winds their revels keep, so prominent an object as a huge circus-tent densely packed with humans is likely to escape their observation; and so it proved with the Great World Circus. After flapping its great roof and sides for all the night like a huge bird preparing to rise, crack! the top parted just over the dress circle with a report like a distant roll of musketry. The trained ponies were being put through their paces at the moment, and although the audience betrayed some uneasiness no one withdrew and the performance proceeded for a few moments when, up! and away went another breadth of the canvas on the south side, and out went most of the lights. A few of the audience withdrew at this point, but the remainder kept their seats and ground and lofty tumbling commenced. This had proceeded but a few moments when another and another great rent appeared, and the loose ends of the canvas flapped most unpleasantly about the ears of the inmates. The manager here announced that the lions would be shown; but the howling of the storm, which would have drowned the roaring of ten thousand lions, so affronted the greater portion of the audience that they rushed pell-mell towards the entrance to escape. At this moment the east side of the tent blew in, followed shortly by the great pole or mast in the centre, which settled down so easily and gracefully that not a person was even scratched. The fall of the pole brought the canvas down upon some 400 persons who still remained within and who, when they had recovered from their surprise, scrambled out and went laughing home. The damage to the tent is slight and the whole affair assumed much more of a ludicrous than of an alarming character. The canvas will be repaired in time for the matinee, which will come off if not interdicted by the clerk of the weather.

COONENAY.—Dr. Brown, who arrived by the Enterprise last evening, has just come from Coonenay. He left the mines on the 21st ult., but has nothing of importance to add to previous advices. The weather continued pleasant. The bottoming of the deep shaft on Perry creek, already announced, resulted in a prospect of about forty dollars on the bed-rock. The shaft has been hoisted in and arrangements made for working the claim through the winter. Increased confidence in the existence of rich and extensive diggings has resulted from these operations. In the Armstrong claim excellent prospects, as much as \$8 to the pan, had also been obtained. Operations on Wild Horse creek had assumed no new feature. On Weaver creek several claims were paying well. The markets were well supplied with goods and provisions, and it is thought there will be no scarcity although the number wintering in that country will be larger than usual.

GRAND MATINEE.—Yielding to the request of numerous heads of families, Mr. Wilson will give a grand matinee performance at his circus this afternoon, commencing at 3 o'clock. A full programme will be gone through with, including Lambert in the lion's den. In view of the uncertain state of the weather and the probable departure of the Active for San Francisco to-morrow, no other opportunity will be afforded the little ones to witness the wonderful performances of the great troupe. We advise all who intend going at all to go this afternoon.

POTATOES are selling at 12½ cents a bushel in the prosperous American State of Iowa. Here the farmers can't get rich at \$1 per bushel. Poor fellows!

CARIBOO NEWS.—We have the Sentinel of the 30th Oct. W. W. Hill, an old resident of Barkerville, died at Cottonwood on the 23d October. He was a Mason and was buried by the Cariboo Lodge. Great indignation is expressed at the hoggish course of the Peace River prospectors, who were fitted out by Government and private subscriptions. It is now said they brought back \$18,000 in dust, and that they have taken several friends with them to the new placers. An application by the party to the Gold Commissioner to be allowed to pre-empt claims larger than the usual size was refused by Commissioner Brew. The Government and the people are entitled to know the results of the exploration and the prospectors have acted in very bad faith with their employers. On William Creek the hydraulic claims have suspended operations for the season. The claims on Stout Gulch, Conklin Gulch and Lightning Creek maintain their reputation for richness.

UPON the invitation of Capt. Lyons and officers of H. M. Fleet, about 200 ladies and gentlemen attended a ball at Alhambra Hall on the evening of the Prince of Wales' Birthday. The gaudy entertainers were present in large number, and were unwearied in attentions to their guests, who passed several hours very agreeably. The party broke up about 3 o'clock yesterday morning. During the evening a beautiful collation was spread for the refreshment of the guests.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt. Swanson, returned from the river at 5 o'clock last evening. She brought Barnard's Cariboo Express, 200 lbs salmon, ten bushels cranberries and 61 passengers. Amongst the passengers we observed Mr. Jones, of the Bank of British Columbia; Cariboo, Mr. Holloway, of the Sentinel, Dr. Bronson and Mrs. Bronson of Yale, and Mr. Franklin, of New Westminster. There was no Bank treasure this trip, but about \$12,000 in private hands.

TWO GRAND GIFT ENTERTAINMENTS.—Morey will not perform again until Saturday afternoon, when there will be a gift matinee for families, the leading prize to which will be a handsome China tea set. On Saturday evening the Professor will appear again, and will present as his leading gift a silver tea service of six pieces.

ON DR.—That Mr. Barnard has received a very pressing invitation to allow himself to be put in nomination for the Yale-Lytton District and that he has consented to stand. We hope the rumor may prove to be correct, as Mr. Barnard would make a useful member.

AS COWICHAN.—Mr. James Lowe is at Cowichan, where we presume Mr. DeCosmos also is. Mr. Lowe has decidedly the advantage of his opponent in having issued a written address. A speech may be altered to suit the locality in which it is delivered; but a written address pins the candidate immovably to his pledges.

THE steamer Newbern ran ashore near Toogas in coming down and lost her fore-foot. She will be repaired at San Francisco. On the way up she ran on a reef but floated off at high tide without damage.

PEACE RIVER GOLD.—A gentleman who arrived on the Enterprise last evening brought ten ounces of Peace River gold, which may be seen to-day at the store of Millard & Beedy, Wharf street.

A TERROR TO ROGERS.—Charles Clark for obtaining money under false pretences, was yesterday sent to the obaingang for three months.

THE Cape Fox Indians, who robbed the sloop Minnie of Victoria, a few weeks ago, have been captured by Gen. Davis, U.S.A., and taken to Sitka for trial.

IN TOWN.—Mrs. Fanny Morgan Phelps is former days a great favorite with Victoria theatre-goers, arrived in town by the Wilson G. Hunt.

Confederation with Terms.

VICTORIA, Nov. 10, 1869.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I notice in your yesterday's issue a letter headed 'Vox Populi,' to which I beg to take exception. First, I entirely agree with you—though myself as well known, not an ardent Confederationist—but that it is time and high time to speak out now that Confederation is inevitable, and make known our terms. We may get our own terms by speaking plainly, firmly and unanimously at once. It is extremely improbable that we shall be asked the question by the other party to the compact; it would be folly to wait to see. The Municipal elections now being over, something must be done. Now, to reply to 'Vox Populi.' He calls to remembrance, as who might please to remember the 5th of November, &c., 'the great meeting' held in the theatre, 29th of January, A. D. 1865; and the works of the famous committee following—appointed, not as 'Vox Populi' says, 'to take such action as they might deem proper to further the object of union.' They were appointed, no doubt, with powers within sensible bounds, but to arrogate to themselves the right, as they undoubtedly did, and absconded the community by doing, of corresponding with the Government of Canada; the latter considering themselves properly authorized, communicating at once with the Imperial authorities; for all this, I repeat, the community have not forgotten. Louis XIV. on a certain occasion said—'France, I am France!' The assertion has been always considered sublime for its audacity; but the conduct detailed under the teaching of 'Vox Populi' most certainly savors of the ridiculous and more nearly resembles the strut of the three celebrated tailors who spoke for all England. To conclude, let us have terms by all means, and make them at once, and negotiate as you detail through a constituted and responsible channel. E. M.

The Water Q.

It would be a grave and a fatal one, to permit to be diverted from the project of a water supply, by the present railway desire to borrow any results, it would heighten of thoughtless forget that the rainy season followed by the dry season as winter succeeded that the same conditions so much concerned rain set it, are created another year, passed form. Such would only be equal postponing action until out of the present moment should be borne in mind of providing an wholesome water is of a large outlay, a considerable time; and aware that the subject is one less likely to general interest at windows of heaven a aqueous element is being in great abundance, pond, and streamlet, been a fortnight ago family became the solitude as to where the water was to come from to urge this water supply upon now. It is no secret when the supply been gradually failing and it is scarcely to be will continue to diminish supply will be even year than it has been. Now, surely necessary to direct the prospect thus to secure for the thoughtful and practical importance demand which has just closed, kable for the absence we have only to magnify small-pox, or any which the community picture to ourselves, proaching its height, wholesome water give realize the threatened and death; add to back-ground to the pation, and the mind was grade degree, realize doom of this otherwise. We need not dwell upon that exists of having of good, wholesome, render a city situated reasonably free from to be necessary to police expecting to retain a tion, much less attractive as a limited and execrable water meet. These we take to be obvious to require. The great object of to urge the importance. It will probably to have a Bill passed legislature for the purpose necessary to the supply of water. Lasting that object in view few days before the Bill was so long and there appeared to as to whether the were in favour of the measure or not that option left to the Legislature. This much we body most unwarranted aqueous and flatulent place. The consequence should a serious this year. If for power to bring Lake, or, indeed, intended to bring a survey should be introduction of the rate-payers may know about, and the Legislature in possession of such it to deal properly as a measure of such a whole community. All at once, and a proper provision endorsed by should be carefully admitted of its introduction part of the session. ties would be the earnestly appeal to Council to discharge respect and thus a responsibility which vouch to them, should a dereliction of duty, tute by far the which will devolve oil, and it would be at once and in earnest

Semi Weekly British Colonist

Saturday, November 13, 1869.

The Water Question.

It would be a grave error, it might be a fatal one, to permit the public mind to be diverted from the important subject of a water supply for this community by the present rain-fall. Without any desire to borrow trouble or anticipate results, it would surely be the height of thoughtless imprudence to forget that the rainy season is usually followed by the dry season, as surely as winter is succeeded by summer, and that the same conditions which occasioned so much concern before the present rains set in, are certain to be repeated another year, possibly in an intensified form.

It is no secret that the fountain whence the supply is drawn has been gradually failing year by year; and it is scarcely to be doubted that it will continue to diminish, so that the supply will be even more scant next year than it has been during the present. Now, surely it will only be necessary to direct the public mind to the prospect thus presented, in order to secure for the subject that earnest thought and practical action which its importance demands.

with Terms.
Nov. 10, 1869.
I notice in a letter headed 'Vox Populi' that you, though not an ardent Confederationist, are in favor of the measure or not that there was really no option left to the Legislature but to abandon it. This much we say in justice to a body most unwarrantably attacked by an aqueous and flatulent scribbler in another place. The consequences may be very serious should a similar mistake be made this year.

What has been done.

A communication from 'S' which appeared in our columns yesterday, claims a few words from us. The writer of the communication in question finds fault with the manner in which the subject of Confederation has been treated in this journal. He appears to think that we have overlooked the action taken by the friends of the cause, and that we do them injustice in now calling upon all, without distinction, to unite in an endeavor to secure the most favorable terms.

There was very little enthusiasm shown by either side—muddy water having one's feet and a small, eastern falling from one's hat, being more conducive to something widely different from enthusiasm. A few jokes—'silly ones'—were attempted by bangers-on, who smiled feebly at their own wit and wondered that no one else saw the point and laughed too. The elections generally voted in grim silence, heaved a deep sigh as if they had saved the country and hurried off home again.

FROM SITKA, ETC.—The steaming Geo. S. Wright returned yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, bringing Lieut. T. T. Thoruburgh, U. S. A., and Lieut. Geo. B. Hansell, of the U. S. Revenue Service, lately attached to the cutter Lincoln. Lieut. Thoruburgh and Hansell sailed from Sitka on the 25th ult. in the U. S. S. Newbern, Capt. Freeman, touching at Fort Wrangel and Tongas, and arrived at Nanaimo on Monday. Among her passengers are Mr. Dodge, ex-Mayor of Sitka, Mr. Bingham, Vincent Collyer, U. S. Indian Agent for Alaska, Rev. Raynor, wife and family, Geo. Geo. J. Payne, and some 20 others.

MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE.—Lieut Brodie, R. N., has consented to read at the Mechanic's Institute on Tuesday evening next. There will also be vocal and instrumental music.

The Election.

Drizzle & drop & pour & stop & fall & long & not a dry place anywhere. More miserable, soaking weather could not well be imagined. Little pools of water here, there and everywhere; rivulets of water trickling down the backs of electors, little pearly drops pendant from the ribbons of umbrellas, or coursing their way down the honest faces of Municipal Electors whom duty called away from home on such a soggy, moxy foggy day as yesterday. The rain commenced early, before the sun rose. Indeed it's a question if the sun got up at all yesterday, no person in this latitude having caught a glimpse of his cheerful countenance.

FOR MAYOR.
Trimble.....236 | Macdonald.....167
Majority for Trimble.....69
FOR COUNCILLORS.
Yates Street Ward.
Alloep.....55 | Walker.....50
Lester.....29
James Bay Ward.
McKay.....63 | Carey.....53
Green.....42
Johnson Street Ward.
Gerow.....188 | Russell.....122
Hall.....50

THE LANGFORD LAKE MYSTERY.—Patrick Fowler, until lately proprietor of the Goldstream Home, was arrested by Inspector Bowden yesterday on suspicion of having been concerned in the mysterious murder at Langford Lake. The steamer Enterprise sailed yesterday morning for New Westminster, carrying a few passengers, among whom were Hon. A. T. Bushby and D. C. Maunsell, Esq. The steamer Wilson G. Hunt arrived at noon yesterday, and sailed again for Puget Sound at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The late gunboat Forward reached San Francisco from Victoria on the 31st ult. The U. S. S. Newbern will sail for San Francisco on Thursday, from the outer harbor. The steamer Geo. S. Wright will sail at 9 o'clock this morning for Portland, carrying a mail. The ship Cowper is loading at Nanaimo for San Francisco.

THE ACTIVE should arrive to-day, the late winds having been behind her.

Erroneous Reminiscences Regarding Confederation.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—The fair and candid comments made by you on my communication of Tuesday prompts me to desire on my part for a reply, further than to merely repeat, that in your urgent appeals to the public, to give expression to their views in regard to the form of government likely to be imposed upon this Colony in connection with the impending union with Canada, sufficient prominence was not given to the fact that the friends of Confederation had repeatedly, early and late, in their advocacy for union, insisted upon terms equitable and acceptable to the people of this Colony—representative government being the keynote, basis and essence of all their actions in the matter.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Your correspondent 'S' asserts that the people of this Colony have decided in favor of Confederation, and also upon the conditions which they would accept. He appeals to history in support of his assertion, that history being the so-called 'Yale Convention.' Now, I appeal to history—historical truth. It is well known that the greater number of the people of Cariboo did not know that delegates had been sent to that Convention until they learned it from the Victoria newspapers. It is equally well known that other places took no interest in the matter, and that Nanaimo did not send any at all. With regard to Victoria, history shows that very many of those who were at that meeting were unfavorable to Confederation—history shows that very many denied that the self-styled delegates from Victoria, represented or had any authority to represent their views and opinions—and history further shows that the apostle of Confederation, Mr. DeCosmos, was defeated at the election in this city. History also shows that the people in the agricultural districts of Vancouver Island and those at Nanaimo, were not desirous of Confederation, seeing that they returned anti-Confederate members. With regard to the other representatives from the Mainland, it cannot be gainsaid that great difficulty existed in finding members at all, that great apathy existed among the people there; and that the elections did not then turn upon any fixed principle, certainly not upon the terms of the Yale Convention. A though, then, the Yale Convention may have sent certain documents containing terms to the Canadian Government, those terms were never agreed to by the people; nay more, although two of the delegates of the Yale Convention had subsequently seats in the Legislative Council, not only did they not bring forward those terms there, but on the contrary they affirmed that until the intervening (north-west) great territory is transferred to the crown and contains a larger and more settled population it would be premature to express any definite opinion upon the subject.

THE CHRIST CHURCH BENEFIT.
Mr DEAR SIR.—Allow me to tender to you my sincere thanks for your liberality in exerting your talents in aid of the Building Fund for the restoration of Christ Church Cathedral, lately destroyed by fire. I had the pleasure of being present on the occasion, on Friday evening, with some members of my family, and I can truly say that the perfection of your performances, the gentlemanly feeling and good taste which pervaded them, and the utter absence of anything objectionable from beginning to end, made the exhibition of your astounding powers one of real enjoyment—an enjoyment on my part, enhanced by the reflection that you were exercising your powers for the benefit of persons to whom you were a perfect stranger. I can only wish you success in your profession, and those other benefits which God can bestow. Hoping that I may have the pleasure of again bringing my family to pay you a visit, believe me, my dear sir, I am, most sincerely yours, E. CRIDGE.

VOX POPULI on Confederation.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—In your issue of yesterday a letter appears under the heading of 'Vox Populi,' referring to a meeting at the theatre, held on 29th January, 1868, as unmistakably proving that the majority of the people of the city of Victoria were in favor of Confederation. If this was the case, how was it that Dr Helmcken and Mr. Drake were returned to the Legislative Council in November, 1868, upon distinct anti-Confederation principles? How was it that the largest and most influential community spoke decidedly against Confederation? Paoked meetings are easily understood; and we know the number the theatre can hold was about the number that voted for Confederation. Your correspondent ignores the result of the poll on this very question. Let me, sir, refresh your recollection with the result of that day's vote: Helmcken, 696; DeCosmos, 461; Drake, 623; Powell, 415. The votes for Helmcken against Confederation are more than the whole vote cast for the rest of British Columbia; so let us hear no more of the Vox Populi being decidedly in favor of Confederation; and I trust that your readers will not be led away with such specious reasoning as that contained in your correspondent's letter, but let them remember the facts that the four popular members for Vancouver Island were returned on anti-Confederation principles.

A BABY STABBED TO THE HEART.

OF the most singular accidents we have had to record for many a year occurred at the residence of Mr. Vinage, near Jones Station, on the line of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad, last Tuesday night. A married daughter, who lives in Kenton, was on a visit to her old homestead, with her child, some seventeen months old. The little one, being hungry asked for a piece of bread, which the mother ordered the servant girl to get.

THE WATER QUESTION.
It would be a grave error, it might be a fatal one, to permit the public mind to be diverted from the important subject of a water supply for this community by the present rain-fall. Without any desire to borrow trouble or anticipate results, it would surely be the height of thoughtless imprudence to forget that the rainy season is usually followed by the dry season, as surely as winter is succeeded by summer, and that the same conditions which occasioned so much concern before the present rains set in, are certain to be repeated another year, possibly in an intensified form.

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