

The Weekly British Colonist. Wednesday, January 19, 1870. The Colonial Question. Unquestionably the Times newspaper is great and powerful. But it owes its greatness and its power to the literary talent at its command, rather than to the possession of any great principles of liberty and truth, or the practice of consistency. As our readers are aware, an effort was put forth in London, a few months ago, with a view to holding a convention of leading men from all the colonies for the purpose of considering the relations subsisting between the Colonial and Imperial Empires, and the best means of improving these relations. It will also be recollected that the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, discouraged the sending of delegates to this Convention. Several meetings of prominent colonists now in London have been held for the purpose of discussing colonial affairs. Not the least active of these has been Sir George Grey, sometime Governor of New Zealand. Sir George has taken a decided stand with the colonies, against the heartless and paternal policy adopted towards New Zealand, and has spoken some disagreeable words, more none the less disagreeable for being true. Although far from admiring Sir George Grey, or his administration of the affairs of New Zealand, yet it is true that the less true for coming from his lips; and it may be admitted that, in his recent espousal of the cause of the colonies, he has given utterance to the most liberal and state-manlike sentiments, and has displayed an amount of boldness and pluck which, when exhibited in so good a cause, cannot fail to excite admiration. As might well be expected, the Times has taken up the cudgels in defence of the powers that be, and, of course, against any one who presumes to meet in London, and talk about colonial matters. Referring to a meeting of colonists held in the end of November, the Times, in a leading article, animadverts, with considerable severity, upon the proceedings. It says, "It is not very easy to understand what useful objects are proposed to itself by the Convention of colonists which has now held two meetings at the Cannon-street Hotel." After criticizing the proceedings of the Convention in general, and the position taken by Sir George Grey in particular, the Times then concludes, "If there are really grievances from all parts of the Empire against the oppressive colonial policy of Great Britain, let us at least be told in some article, or form, wherein that oppression consists. We have the use of proclaiming that no Government can deprive a colonist of the British citizenship, which is his birthright. Such an idea, we venture to say, has never crossed the mind of a Colonial Minister. All Kingfishers regard colonists as brother Englishmen, and fellow subjects. We are all willing they should enjoy the full privilege of British citizenship without any of its burdens or obligations, of which there is no other example in history. We only demand to hearing their business treated, in a manner, which the conscience of this nation condemns, without receiving any service, whatever, in return. Here, the Times is guilty of exhibiting the most unaccountable ignorance or perpetrating a wanton insult. Are not colonists deprived of the benefits of British citizenship when they are governed by the most arbitrary despotism, through a single office in London? To go no farther than our own colony, what could possibly constitute a more oppressive and arbitrary rule than that of the Times? Here have lived a colony of British subjects, for a whole decade of years, denied any share in the management of their own affairs. Has not the Colony, gone from British Columbia? Did not the Colony, in its numberless petitions, and through its living delegate, sent to London, tell the Imperial Government, in some articulate form wherein that oppression consists? No taxation without representation, is a birthright of British citizenship secured under the Magna Charta—it is the corner stone of British liberty, cemented and sealed with the blood of our more spirited ancestors. Have not we in this colony been deprived of that right? Denied all share in the government, we have been taxed without stint—governed off the face of the earth by a horde of irresponsible appointees of a Minister from time to time plucked into the Colonial Office, not seldom grossly ignorant about the colony, its wants, and its kind, color and genius of its population. Yet, after enduring all this wrong, ignominy and outrage for ten long years, we are to be told that such an idea as that of depriving a colonist of the rights of citizenship has never crossed the mind of a Colonial Minister! Englishmen regard colonists as brother Englishmen and fellow subjects, do they? Why, then, do they not treat them as such? If the more powerful of the British colonies enjoy the Government to-day, no thanks to the Colonial Office for that. What is the history of every colony but one continued struggle for those rights of which we are told no Colonial Minister ever dreamed of depriving the colonists? Some colonies enjoy those rights because they had the strength and the pluck to extort them at the cannon's mouth, if need be; others have them not because they possess neither strength nor pluck to compel their oppressor. The Colonial Office dares to be unjust to the weaker colonies. The Times makes a closing allusion to national conscience! Bah! For the Times to prate about 'conscience' is enough to make a monkey sick.

Accountancy and Law Enforcement.—What a thing is the law of Providence! What a lesson against accident have both professions in the period our grandfather finished. How completely changed is all this now. Most good men now insure against death accidents, or both. Every truly provident man insures against one or both. Thus we find Lord Lyndhurst saying, "A policy of life insurance is always an evidence of prudent foresight, and no man with a dependent family is free from respect if his life is not insured." Thus we find Benjamin Franklin saying, "A policy of life insurance is the cheapest and safest mode of making a certain provision for one's family. It is a strange anomaly that men should be careful to insure their houses, their furniture, their ships, their merchandise, and yet neglect to insure their lives, thereby the most important of all to their families, and far more subject to loss." Listen also to Lord Brougham: "Associations for the insurance of lives are to be ranked amongst the very noblest institutions of civilized society, and their usefulness can be seen by thousands of happy and independent families rescued by their means from the terrors of poverty and the degradations of charity." When we urge upon our countrymen the duty of insuring against accident or death, or both, let us not regard what we say in the light of a mere trade policy. The matter is so important, the duty so sacred, that it is our duty to see it fully understood and acted upon. A greater number of life policies have been taken out during the past three months than for three years previously, while the total amount of the Accident Insurance Company has just shown us a list of thirty-three policies, representing an aggregate of one hundred thousand dollars, as the result of ten days' operations. This is truly gratifying, giving assurance, as it does, of a firm provision being made for so many families—so many of our fellow-citizens insured against the degradation of having to make the too common appeal for charity, in the event of losing their natural providers.

COLONIAL MADE FLOURING TAKING THE LEAD.—At the last Flouring Match at Saanich, a plough manufactured at the Albion Flouring Mill in this city was awarded the first prize—strength and strength, and the thorough manner in which it performed the work assigned it, winning the admiration of everybody present. Since the match the demand for the plough has steadily increased. Day before yesterday three were furnished to order and sent to Saanich for farmers there, and the Albion Company have seven or eight others in hand for other districts of the Island, and for the Mainland, which will be ready for use in a few days. Farmers who have seen the plough at work repudiate the idea of any other plough competing successfully with it in any respect. The Albion Plough is, indeed, a field treasure, and the low price at which it is sold (\$85) places it within the reach of the poorest settler. Another two-fold point is that any part of the plough can be supplied at an hour's notice by the manufacturer, so that, in case of accident and accidents will not come even to the best-made agricultural implements, the broken section may be applied and the plough repaired instead of being cast aside as useless.

THE GREAT WARE.—It is at this moment, where the unemployed thousands in California are getting eager eyes towards our new gold fields, that the want of regulation of renewable steam communication is most keenly felt. Did adequate steam communication exist between San Francisco and this our little island, population would now flow to us as fast as the colony is prepared to absorb it. As it is, however, only the most persevering can be expected to force their way through all deterring obstacles and discouragements. It is really too bad that no effort should be made to improve matters in this respect. The Government is open to the charge of dereliction of duty in regard to this all important question; but the people, so far as they are concerned, are sufficiently great to justify the establishment of a colonial railway, backed up, as it would be, by a local railway subsidy. It is really discouraging to find a colony so completely disgraced that no attempt is being made to meet this want.

NARROW ESCAPE.—Day before yesterday the steamer of the war was attracted by a horse and dray following it in the mud in the middle of Broadway. At one time it became a serious question whether the engine, rig, driver and all might not wholly disappear under the surface—a question only averted by the timely intervention of a party of marines, who fortunately came up just in time to extricate horse and driver from their perilous position. We looked around anxiously to discover one of the City Fathers, but not one horse in sight. It is, indeed, no jesting matter that a street of such importance has been metamorphosed into a bottomless quagmire, utterly impassable for man or beast. The residents of Paadora street have a right to expect that the city authorities will take an early opportunity of either metalling or bridging over what they have turned into the disgraceful thing it now is.

BRAD TAX.—The case of Dr. Ash came up for decision yesterday. Mr. Green, on behalf of the Crown, stated that he was authorized to receive the claim of \$63 28 and costs, on behalf of the defendant to pay this sum. The Magistrate at once made an order for the fall amount set down in the Assessment Roll which, by a mere error in the evidence, was made to appear \$75 32, in lieu of \$81 31, order for \$75 32 and costs. Dr. Ash, on a former occasion had tendered \$50 in settlement, and prior to the summons but \$19 odd, now said he would appeal the case.

THROUGH TO RED RIVER.—Mr. Dawson has reported the road from Thunder Bay to the bay gable waters at Summit station, half completed, and promises that communication with Red River will be open upon midday, 18th, 1870.

Reform in France. One of the chief difficulties in the way to reform in France, now as in 1798, seems to be the excessive and extravagant personal feeling brought into the discussion. An example is found in the case of Rochefort who replied with mockery to the pledge of the Minister of the Interior that the Government wished to establish liberty but with prudence and firmness. A further illustration of the waspish character of the enemies of Louis Napoleon is found in the following extracts: ROCHFORT'S ANSWERS TO HIS 'PARVOUS' (Paris Journal) under date of Nov. 6th to 14th: "Mr. DEAR FATHERS.—The journals of the court are absolutely bent on persuading me that I am under an obligation to the Emperor because having had me arrested at the frontier, he ordered my release eight hours after. I should prefer the public to the Constitution for my judge. The fact is that, at noon, a Commissary of Police said to me: 'You are a prisoner,' and at 8 in the evening he added: 'You are free.' Such is the incident in its entire simplicity. The magnanimity of the government is therefore confined to making a blunder at midday and perceiving it eight hours after; that is to say—as it has done for 18 years—when it was too late. I should have never been left the journalist of the Chamber to dust in peace their seats there; if they had not mingled with their eulogium on the sovereign the story of a sale of bonds, which they recount the more dogmatically that it does not contain a word of truth. The sale of bonds is a mere dream; nobody spoke to me of one, and I have never seen it. If the government had had the bad taste to offer me one, I should probably have repented that I was anxious to be safe, and that I did not wish to be conducted—I should have most likely have thrown it in his face. This explanation was necessary, I think, to excuse my ingratitude, which is more radical than ever. Accept, etc."

HENRI ROCHFORT'S ANSWERS TO THE IMPERIAL TRINITY.—M. Cremieux, just elected to the third circumscription, means to take the oath, but with the proviso that he is not to be bound by it. Addressing a meeting he said: "Citizens—I was told that if I came here among you I would be putting my head in the lion's mouth. Now I am not afraid of the lion's mouth. I may put my head into his mouth—I know he won't bite me—I should prefer the mouth of that lion, the people, to the jaws of the Imperial tiger. But I see M. the Commissary of Police looking angry; let us soothe his ruffled nerves. [Great laughter.] I only go into some forms. I want some institutions reformed, and I want some persons reformed, too; I mean persons who possess seventy-five millions of our money by way of a yearly income. I want mention names but you know who I mean. [Cheers of 'We do, we do!'] In addition I want three more persons reformed—you know who I mean—I mean the whole Trinity. [Loud laughter, the speaker meaning the Emperor, Empress and Prince Imperial.]

POPULATION OF THE EARTH.—There are on the globe 1,285,000,000 of souls, of which 300,000,000 are of the Caucasian race, 552,000,000 of the Mongolian race, 190,000,000 of the Ethiopian race, 176,000,000 of the Malay race, 1,000,000 of the indigenous Americans. There are 3,642 languages spoken, and 1,400 different religions. The yearly mortality of the globe is 33,333,333 persons. This is at the rate of 91,554 per day, or 3730 per hour, or 62 per minute. So each population of the earth must be the decrease of some human creature. (That average of human life is 33 years.) Married men live longer than single ones. One eighth of the whole population is military. There are 336,000 Christians, 6,000,000 Muslims, 80,000 Asiatic religions, 1,900,000,000 Mohammedans, and 300,000,000 Pagans. In the Christian churches, 170,000,000 profess the Roman Catholic, 75,000,000 profess the Greek, 18,000,000 the Protestant, and 18 and 18 and 18.

ORIGIN OF MARGARIT FURNITURE.—About the sixteenth century a West India Captain came through some mangrove logs as ballast for his ship, and gave them to his brother, Dr. Gibbons, an eminent physician, who was then building a house. The wood was then used as a log for the workmen's tools. Some time afterwards his wife wanted a table-top. The doctor thought of the West India wood, and out of that the box was made. Its color and polish reminded the doctor to have a bureau made of the same material, and this was thought to be beautiful that it was shown to all his friends. The Duchess of Buckingham, who came to look at a begged wood enough to make another bureau for herself. Thus the doctor and his wife became a domestic article of trade.

NOTHING LIKE CORK.—A new and important improvement in the manufacture of horse collars has just been devised by a Philadelphia mechanic. The collar, being stuffed with elastic cork, is light in weight and adapts itself to the shape of the animal as readily as if it was moulded. It is highly elastic, does not chafe or gall the neck, and the cork being a non-conductor, injury from the heat is prevented.

THE REASON WHY.—During a recitation on natural history in one of our well-known colleges, a student in the pursuit of knowledge concerning the habits of animals, said: "Professor, why does a cat while cat-tog, first turn her head first one way and then the other?" For the reason, exclaimed the Professor, "that she cannot turn two ways at once."

WHAT IS EUROPE COMPARED TO AMERICA?—said a Fourth-of-July orator. "Nowhere! Where is England? Nowhere! They call England mistress of the sea, but what makes her go to sea is to turn the Mississippi into the Mammoth Cave, and the English Navy will be foundering in the mud!"

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The Canadian Pacific

The circumstance of the United States Government having refused aid to the company proposing to construct the Northern Pacific imparts accumulative hopefulness, interest, and importance to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

With all the undoubted advantages possessed by the route of the latter, it would still be idle to deny that the opening of a parallel and competing line of railway along our very frontier would present an element of discouragement. Now is Britain's opportunity.

It will be well for the British people, both at home and on this continent, to bring themselves to regard the immediate construction of a railway which as yet only exists on paper, in the light of a national duty and a national necessity.

So far as this colony is concerned, but one opinion exists on the subject. All feel that without it the new empire can never hang together.

Must prove a rope of sand. By the eternal laws of gravitation, British Columbia must either be bound to Canada by bonds not weaker than iron, or abandoned in that manner by which it is now abandoned.

True, there are to be found persons in British Columbia who doubt or doubt everything—poor drivelling minds, unprepared for any great enterprise, hesitating at every onward step.

Such persons, if they cannot lay claim to the true Apostolic succession, can at least justly claim to be in the direct line of the succession of one of the Apostles.

In Canada and in England the feasibility and the commercial and political necessity of this great work have come to receive very general recognition.

Indeed, how could it be otherwise? Feasible? The man who doubts it insults the nation—outrages common sense.

If the nation alongside of us has been equal to the task of constructing a longer and far more expensive and difficult line of railway, why should not British capital and British skill prove equal to the occasion?

These have for the most part constructed the net-work of railway which covers the face of the United States, at a cost of a billion and a quarter of dollars.

Will a nation which has hitherto furnished the money and the brains for nearly all the great enterprises of modern times be found wanting when the construction of the great artery of its second self comes to be in question?

If it should, the act could only be regarded as an indication of the condition by which the gods are said to prepare their victims for destruction.

Feasible? It has already been demonstrated from an unexceptionable fact that our people possess enormous advantages over all others that we in fact possess that Northwest Passage which the nations have so long been searching and in quest of which an interperid Franklin and his party sacrificed their lives and the hope of the far North.

Taking Halifax as the eastern terminus, we have a saving in water communication between Great Britain and Asia of 140 miles over the American line.

If we compute water travel at 12 miles an hour, this difference will give us an advantage in time of 104 hours. Just think of that! Try and realize the import of these figures. One hundred and four hours less communication on a shipboard, 104 hours less tossing and sea-sickness, 104 hours subtracted from the risk of shipwreck, with all the involved difference in time saved, reduced rates of insurance on life and property.

The item is, in itself, sufficient to determine the track of travel and commerce. Let this item stand not alone. The enormous advantages the Canadian Pacific will possess, in the matter of gradients, curvatures, water and fuel, and all the way traffic and cheapening influences incident to the magnificent country which it will open up and fill up, will be something overwhelming.

And it is due to the subject to remember that, as Professor Murray has demonstrated, the trade winds place Vancouver Island on the way side of the road from China and Japan to San Francisco so completely that a vessel trading under canvas to the latter place would take the same route as if she were bound for Vancouver Island.

Need it be added that steam vessels would take the same route to on account of trade winds and our coal stores? Again, the distance from Vancouver Island to Sydney is one thousand miles shorter than from Panama to the latter place; and we have recently seen that the travel and the trade between the Mother Country and her Australasian possessions is about to flow through San Francisco, and pass over the Pacific Railway, unquestionably to be transferred to our own shorter, cheaper, safer and better route, so soon as it shall have been opened.

Furthermore, the distance from Liverpool to Shanghai by this route is four thousand miles shorter than by the Cape, and nearly the same distance shorter than by Panama, while Liverpool is five hundred miles nearer to Halifax than to New York.

In these estimates we have made Halifax the eastern terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. But suppose we shift the terminus from Halifax to St. John's. With Newfoundland in the Dominion—not in yet, but certain to be in ere long—St. John's would ultimately become the eastern terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and for the following cogent reasons: Science has more effectually annihilated time and space on land than on water, in so far as at least as travel and commerce are concerned.

Electricity triumphs alike over land and under ocean; but men and merchandise cannot as yet be transported by means of the electric telegraph. Ergo, that part of terra firma jutting farthest out into the Atlantic from the Continent of America, being a part of the Dominion, and, at the same time accessible by railway, must become sooner or later the eastern terminus. Such is St. John's, Newfoundland, with its magnificent harbor, Valentinia is now reached from London in sixteen hours. Steamers constructed mainly with a view to speed and carrying only mails and passengers, can readily accomplish the voyage between Valentinia and St. John's in one hundred hours. A railway from St. John's to St. George's bay would be about 250 miles in length, and would be traversed in 84 hours. A steam ferry between St. George's and the Shippen Harbor, bay of Chaleur, would, in 15 1/2 hours, deposit passengers and mails on a branch of the Intercolonial Railway. Thus would the ocean passage proper be reduced from 264 hours (the average of the Cunard line) to 100 hours, thereby, not only effecting a material saving in time, but immensely diminishing the discomfort and miseries endured by passengers crossing the Atlantic. Such a route would not only give an immense advantage to the Canadian Pacific Railway, but it would also command the patronage of the United States, bringing, as it would, London and New York within seven days of each other, instead of ten days, as at present. Having dwelt so long upon the feasibility of the undertaking, we cannot do more than merely assert that it is a national necessity, both in a commercial and political point of view. This proposition is, we rejoice to find, gaining very general acceptance both in England and in Canada; and there is every reason to hope that the nation will avail itself of this its great opportunity. But, in order to do so, it must be in earnest; and it must be in earnest now. Let it be the duty of every colonist of every British colony, to realize the full force of these important truths, and to seek to impress them upon others. Let the wisdom of impossibility be banished more; but let every colonist cultivate that noble virtue of perseverance that noble virtue of perseverance that noble virtue of perseverance.

Without a Leader.—The great Conservative party in England appears to be in search of a leader in the House of Lords, and now Lord Cairnes has, it is stated, felt it to be his duty to resign a position he was well fitted to fill, on account of feeble health. To add political labor to the work of a judge would, it is assumed, be to deprive the country of the full benefit of his great judicial powers.

THE QUEEN'S GOLD DRESS.—For many years Indians have frequently brought nuggets to the Hudson Bay Company's stations on Peace River, which they exchanged for goods; but the Company's agents appear to have attached little importance to the circumstance. Viewed in the light of the recent discoveries, however, these Indian finds become of interest.

Box Post.—The rates of postage to the United Kingdom on Books and Trade Publications from and after this date, will be as follows: On every package, if not exceeding one ounce in weight, 2 cents; or exceeding one ounce and not exceeding two ounces in weight, 4 cents; above two ounces, 6 cents. A ton is above two ounces. Will it go through for 8 cents?

THE ASSISTANCE ASKED OF THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES BY CAPT. SMITH, of the despatch bark M. J. Smith, was not furnished. The senior officer, we believe, declines to send one of the ships outside to cruise for the disabled and abandoned vessel, with the remote chance presented of finding her still afloat.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL will be convened for dispatch of business early in February by commission. His Excellency deeming it advisable, in view of the important matters that press upon the Government, not to postpone the opening beyond that period.

THE ROYAL BAND OF THE KING OF BELGIUM has been engaged for sixty days, and will give forty concerts at the Grand Opera House, New York. The band numbers 75 performers, led by Victor Bender.

BACHELORS BALL.—A very agreeable ball, given by the Bachelors of Victoria to the married folk, took place at the Alhambra on Friday night. About 160 lady and gentleman guests attended, and the dancing was continued until an early hour in the morning.

ROAD TAX.—The names of 207 defaulters under the Road Tax Act appear in yesterday's Gazette. We give this notice for the benefit of the parties most interested, for not one in one hundred ever see the Gazette.

THE MEMORIAL CALIFORNIA is supposed to have left San Francisco for Victoria yesterday. The Guelphic Bell goes to Nanaimo today.

THE SHOW.—The show is now in progress at the Crystal Palace, and is well attended. The show is now in progress at the Crystal Palace, and is well attended.

WARRIOR.—This company, just starting up in the year, from the superior facilities and advantages which it presents, and secure policy holders, will find it difficult to be short of the most formidable competitors in the insurance line. A glance at the names of the directors of the company and a careful perusal of the recommendations of the press and most solid and influential men in the principal cities of the United States, must convince any unprejudiced mind of the stability of the Washington Life Insurance Company, and of the certainty of its promises being fulfilled to the letter. We congratulate the company upon its selection of agents for this colony. Mr. Seelye possesses most valuable and valuable qualities, and is thoroughly conversant with the principles and advantages of life insurance.

ROAD TAX.—The case of Jones Thrope came up for hearing yesterday morning, when a somewhat novel feature appeared. The defendant, charged as resident in Sooke, desired to be tried at the old and better place for eleven months, but his wife and family were all there, and he went to see them occasionally. He had not paid in Victoria City. The Magistrate decided that where a man's family resides is his home, and he was rightly charged as resident, but as there might have been some doubt in the defendant's mind on this point he would order him to pay \$2 without costs; paid before defendant left the court.

A SWAB CUR FOR SMALL-PX.—An effective remedy for small-pox is said to have been recently found by a surgeon of the British army in China. The mode of treatment is as follows: When the preceding fever is at its height and just before the eruption appears, the chest is rubbed with croton oil and tartaric ointment. This causes the whole of the eruption to appear on that part of the body, to the relief of the rest. It also secures a full and complete eruption, and thus prevents the disease from attacking the internal organs. This is now the established mode of treatment in the English army in China, and is regarded as a perfect cure.

MIXED.—To illustrate still further the miry condition of the thoroughfare, we may mention that a carriage, drawn by two horses and containing two persons, sunk to the hubs on Pandora street on Friday evening and was only extricated after the occupants had alighted and walked to their destination. The Corporation should not have graded the street until they were prepared to meet it as well.

FASHION'S SLAVE.—A young woman in Chicago having short, stumpy feet, and desiring to make them appear slender, submitted to the amputation of the small toe from each extremity.

Thrilling Scene on a Tight Rope.—An English paper thus details a thrilling affair which occurred during one of Blondin's recent exhibitions. After he had crossed in a net, stood on a chair, and done some other of his minor feats, it was found that the rope which was a new one, had slackened so considerably that it would be necessary to tighten it in order to allow of his performing his new and extraordinary feat of crossing it on a bicycle, and he was therefore compelled to appeal to the audience for time to tighten the rope. Half an hour was asked for and cheerfully given, but after the guy ropes had been loosened and the rope tightened up some difficulty was found in refixing the pole to which the guys were attached in consequence of the tension of the rope having dragged them forcibly out of the ground. Quite three-quarters of an hour elapsed before this was done, and then Blondin appeared again and starting from the west end of the building carried his assistant over on his back. It was evident, from the lowering of some ballast bags on the guy poles, that during this passage across the rope slackened a great deal, but Blondin either did not observe this or did not think it important for after a short interval, during which he changed his dress, he appeared on his bicycle and amid the cheers of the spectators, started on what seemed a really perilous journey. He had not gone far when it became apparent from the decline of the rope that it had slackened very much, and people who understood the nature of bicycles and the impossibility of propelling them uphill began to calculate the probabilities of his getting up the incline he must inevitably meet at the other end of the rope, but Blondin looked extremely cool and confident, and no fears for his safety seemed to be entertained till, after stopping several times midway, he began to traverse the incline. It then became apparent, from the gradual slackening of his speed, that he was doing some hard work, and murmurs began to rise from the audience.

When about twenty yards from the landing stage, he came to a dead stop and appeared to rest, balancing himself cautiously with the great pole he carried. He then made another effort and got a few yards further, when he stopped again. It then became very apparent that he could not get farther, as the equilibrium he tried to jork the machine over, it refused to move. People left their seats; ladies, with frightened faces, made for the doors, and the general mass of the people at the east end of the building made a rush to the west end. Hundreds jumping into the arena. When the rich and noble had subsided, a marvelous williness succeeded. The crowds on the floor beneath the rope and in the galleries, nearest the spot, seemed to be hushed in eager expectation of something unexpected, some gesture with horror-stricken faces on the performer, who sat motionless as a statue on the rope, two or three yards from the landing-place, while his assistant leaped over the stage and appeared to be speaking to him, but looked helpless in the emergency. After the delay of two or three minutes, which seemed an age, the assistant, evidently by Blondin's directions, produced a rope which he threw out bravely. It fell on the performer's shoulders and he with some difficulty managed to pole with one hand while with the other he held the rope round his waist. The assistant then gently pulled him in. Every move of the wheels was watched by the audience in silent terror till the machine ran on to the landing-stage, when the suppressed excitement culminated in those great outbursts of joy, succeeded by the wildest demonstrations.

CONGRESS.—Mr. Fenton, in an article in the November number of the Atlantic Monthly, states that he has tried in vain to ascertain the total cost of a Session of the Congress of the United States, but that it amounts to \$1,000,000, or more than \$200,000 a month for six months, more than \$300,000 a day. The complaints usually uttered are \$150 worth of time every morning. The mere list of contingent expenses of the House alone amounts to \$200,000, with its mass of charges such as 20,000 post-offices, above 100,000 clerks at about \$3 each, ink, staves, pocket-glasses, hairbrushes, tobacco, cotton, stencils, newspapers, stationery by the amount. Mr. Fenton says, "I spend my whole time from January to December in one unending task of spotting white paper, but I cannot get through more than three reams per annum which cost about \$20. I read with amazement of the quantities consumed about the Capitol. He maintains that privileges and perquisites with means of corruption, and that members should increase their salaries, but pay their own mileage and their own postage, buy their own writing paper and pay all their officers by salary. Now that a member from Oregon can get to the Capitol in 11 days, it is too absurd to pay him 15 times as much mileage as Henry Clay used to get for his six weeks' horseback ride to Kentucky. Dying in an expensive affair—the bill of the Sergeant-at-Arms for conveying the body of a deceased member from Washington to Eastern Pennsylvania, amounted to \$2,144. It cost the country \$18,000 to publish in a volume of 962 pages, the addresses of confidence called forth by the assassination of President Lincoln—and there may perhaps be ten pages worth preserving. A joint resolution in 1864 ordered that 50,000 copies of the Army Register of Volunteers be printed for sale, at cost, in 8 volumes. A little experience of the demand for the work led to a reduction of the order to 1,000 copies. Those who have held the office of public printer are of opinion that \$500,000 a year are wasted at the public printing office.

JOHN was told of a supper at which goblets of ice formed by evaporation, were used to drink champagne. John heard the story through, and then exclaimed, "Well, I see were!"

The Latest Sensation.—THE MARRIAGE OF THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF THE PORTUGUESE MINISTER TO A COLORED BRIDE OF WASHINGTON CITY. How all has come out! After many postponements and some obstacles that would have appalled most people, the long promised nuptials of Mons. Paul Gerard, brother-in-law to the Portuguese Minister, and Miss Maria Boreka Wormley, daughter of a colored citizen of Washington, took place this evening at the residence of the Rev. Dr. White, pastor St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church, corner of Fifteenth and H streets. The postponements and obstacles were principally the following: The gentlemen desired to be married by a Catholic priest, and the lady by a Presbyterian minister of her own color. The gentleman wished the ceremony at an earlier day, but the lady objected, declaring that she could not be ready sooner. Last Sunday both these difficulties were arranged, the lady graciously yielding to the gentleman's wishes in both particulars, and it was agreed that they should be wedded on this evening. This having been settled, Mons. Gerard went to the Rev. Dr. White, to notify him that he would like to have the ceremony performed by that clergyman at St. Matthew's Church. Dr. White made the usual inquiries and discovering that the lady was not a baptized Christian, informed Mons. Gerard that a dispensation would have to be obtained from the Archbishop before the ceremony could be validly performed. Mons. Gerard acquiesced in the propriety of sending for a dispensation, but declared privately to some of his friends that should the required license not be granted he would have the marriage performed by one of the district judges. Happily the dispensation arrived here this morning, and the marriage was, therefore, decided to come off at half-past 8 this evening. An effort was made to keep the matter a great secret; nobody was to know of it but a few friends, the Herald correspondent and a member of the French legation; but somebody let the cat out of the bag, and long before nightfall a large proportion of the colored community was in the highest state of expectation and excitement. The newspapermen too, were in a ferment, contriving all sorts of plans to get a peep at the remarkable nuptials. About 8 o'clock this evening a large crowd was gathered about the bride's residence, waiting for the appearance of the nuptial train, and discussing freely the peculiar features of the impending ceremony. About Dr. White's house, on H street, there was a still larger gathering—the sidewalk was blocked up and the stoop was crammed. Inside the hall was in possession of some fifty colored people, and the parlors were graced by a number of dark belles neatly dressed, and attended by their payladies. Not more than three or four white people were among the spectators in Dr. White's house; among those few were ex-Mayor Barry, Mr. Arthur Shappard, Mr. H. J. Bamford, Mr. B. Brooks, Don Platt, Mr. Boreka and your correspondent. At about 20 minutes to 9 o'clock the bride and brides-groom, with the accompanying cortège, arrived at the house, and there was an immediate flutter. Every body stood near the hall door to witness the grand entry. The bride appeared leaning upon her father's arm; next came Monsieur Paul Gerard, the bridegroom, leading the mother-in-law. There were no bridesmaids, or groomsmen, but several colored ladies, and gentlemen accompanied the nuptial party, and entered Dr. White's parlors, filling them completely. Miss Wormley was arrayed in a beautiful white satin dress, trimmed with white lace; wore on her head a wreath of white flowers, from which hung a costly large veil, also white. She carried in her hand a beautiful bouquet. Large, dark, swimming eyes, jet black hair, delicate peachy complexion, a full, plump figure and stature rather above that of ladies in general, make up a very rough description of the bride. She is quite pleasing altogether in appearance, although not what properly could be called beautiful. Her white robes were hardly calculated to set off to advantage her peculiar style of features. The bridegroom can be briefly described as a dark little Frenchman—in fact darker than the bride, very young and with most of the French characteristics in appearance and manners. He was dressed in a plain black suit, white necktie and gloves. After a delay of five minutes Dr. White came into the parlour, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Mackin and Mr. O'Hare, sexton of the church. He paid his respects to the couple, and then performed the ceremony which united them for life. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the residence of the bride, on Fourteenth street, where they received all their friends in hospitable style.

The irreconcilable journal La Rappell has adopted the calendar promulgated by the revolutionary epoch in the last century. For instance, its number of Tuesday is headed "18th Vendemiaire (Vintage month), year LXXVIII." This calendar, established in 1792, lasted fourteen years, and was abolished by Napoleon in 1806.

Washington (Dec. 15) Correspondence of the New York Herald.

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By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE ONLY BRITISH COLONIST.

Europe. PARIS, Jan 9.—The resignation of Peters, Prefect of Police, is not yet officially announced, but he will soon resign.

MADRID, Jan 9.—The ministerial crisis has terminated. Señor Rivera, President of the Cortes, has accepted the ministry of the Interior, Admiral Lopez of the Marine, and Señor Sago of the Department of State.

LONDON, Jan 9.—A trades union riot occurred at Thorncliffe, near Sheffield, yesterday. Much excitement prevails at Sheffield.

ROME, Jan 8.—At a session of the Council today notice was given of the nomination of Cardinal Bismarck as president of the committee on dogmas commenced its sittings by several extra sessions to the Roman Father. Several signed their names to a petition to the Pope praying his holiness to present to the Council an opportunity for declaring the dogma of infallibility. It is evidently their design to force the Holy Father into this position.

They are doubtful about obtaining a sufficient number of adherents unless he publicly commits himself in favor of the dogma. They report that the Pope will allow no discussion on the point of infallibility by the Council unless he is sure of the result. It is inferred the received such petitions as the above simply as expressions of homage to the Holy See.

Portland, Maine, Jan 9.—It has been arranged that 48 hours will elapse between the arrival of the Peabody fleet and the funeral ceremonies, during which the body will lie in state in the City Hall, which will be held in mourning. The ceremonies on the day of departure will be grand and impressive. Governor Chamberlain and his wife will be present and Thornton, the British Minister, is expected to attend.

The colored paragon were refused admission into the dress circle of a theatre at Charleston, South Carolina. They had produced tickets for reserved seats. The manager was arrested on a charge of violating State Law.

New York, Jan 10.—Two hundred and fifty Chinese arrived at New Orleans yesterday and started immediately for Texas.

The treaty for the acquisition of San Domingo, negotiated by the President, will be sent to Congress on Monday. Senators assert that San Domingo is of much importance as Cuba, as the acquisition of one will lead to the other. Treaty not yet made public. The country is to be called a Territory, not a State.

The Supreme Court of Alabama has decided that there has been no property in slaves since 1853, and the proceedings of Courts during the four years of the war are null and void.

Washington, Jan 10.—General Sherman, in general orders to-day, announces the death of Gen. Mower, "a brave man," he says, "a better soldier or a braver man never lived."

The President has sent several communications to the House today, among which are S. S. Quinn of Chicago for Governor of Washington Territory.

A large number of bills were introduced including a resolution by Corbett in favor of including the acquisition of British Guiana in the subjects for negotiation with England. Stewart moved to take up a bill entitled Virginia to representation in Congress. Sumner opposed action on the bill until a committee investigate the condition of affairs in Virginia. The bill was taken up and an animated discussion ensued. Stewart urged prompt admission of the State on the ground that the faith of Congress was pledged thereto. Sumner argued as a reason for delaying action, the condition of things in Tennessee which should teach the Senate caution. If the bill was allowed to go over until next week, he would not oppose its consideration. Howard opposed the admission of Virginia, and said he could not overlook the fact that the legislation was everwhimingly rebellious. Edmonds wanted the bill postponed till he could investigate the condition of affairs in Virginia. Morton took the ground that the spirit of the entire reconstruction act gives all rebels the right to take part in the reorganization of the State except such as are embraced in the third clause of the 14th amendment of the State. Drake moved an amendment providing that any future reorganization by a state of its ratification of the 15th amendment should operate to exclude it from representation. The debate continued without reaching a vote. In the House a large number of bills were introduced, a large portion of which was a bill appointing representatives to Congress by Paine. Section of one provides that after March, 1871 the House of Representatives shall consist of three hundred members. The other acts provide details for carrying out the bills.

Washington, Jan 11.—Secretary Boutwell last night lectured for the benefit of the charity fund of the grand army of the Republic at Lincoln Hall, which was filled to overflowing.

New York, Jan 11.—The Western Union Telegraph Company are firm—so are the strikers—no present compromise is visible. Meanwhile the funds of the operators are getting low, various labor organizations have undertaken to tax their own members for contributions for the benefit of their suffering brethren.

Cuba.—A large number of military vessels were reported to have been sent to the work of the present. The fleet has been extended to the large plantations in the district of Sagua la Grande have been in rebellion. The military were shooting all who could be caught. Nobody here believes the hope of a triumph by the semi-official journal. Success facts continually belie the assertion. The Spanish treasury is perfectly exhausted and the Government can send no money to Cuba. General Caballero de Oted has to borrow sixty millions piasters from Havana merchants to provide for war expenses.

California.—SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 11.—Legal tenders quiet at 82 buying, 82 1/2 selling.

The bark Mut with coal from Lota for San Francisco has been burned at sea. No particulars. The steamer Nebraska will be off by noon to-morrow as Vallico to close out mortgage held by W. H. Webb. The ship Dashing Wave, now out 100 days from New York for this port, has gone to Valparaiso in distress, captain and mate sick and crew in a state of mutiny. She was previously detained at Rio for sometime for repairs.

DELAIED DISPATCHES.

West Indies. New York, Jan 1.—The news from Hayti is to the 20th of Dec.

The revolutionists war banner succeeded in transporting troops to Port and Grand Grove and turned the blockade of Port au Prince. Acting in concert with the land forces, an attack was made simultaneously by sea and land, on the night of the 13th. The land forces entered the city, driving in the different outposts before them. The enemy retired in disastrous confusion and voluntarily the forces took unresisted possession of every point. The advantage was for their favor and the entire city was speedily in their hands. Meantime the volunteer troops were doing their part to the attack. Salnavé's war vessels, the Algonquin, while all the occupants were asleep, was taken without any bloodshed. The Algonquin and the city were then captured without a shot being fired. Salnavé made his escape from the city and took refuge in Port Neuvale, situated on the heights overlooking the city on the north side. Salnavé is in imminent peril, but he expected the foreign Consuls would interpose for his protection and attempt safety. The entire population of the city are rejoiced at the turn affairs have taken. Baget and staff have left for Port au Prince.

Eastern States. Boston, Dec. 20.—Two companies of Fenian volunteers, armed, equipped and uniformed, forming part of the Fourth battalion of the Legion of St. Patrick, were mustered into service here last evening by Col. John Brown, the mastering officer in the legion for Massachusetts. Each company numbers fifty men, properly officered. The Legion is in command of Gen. Burke, whose headquarters are in New York. It is a military force of the John Savage wing of the Fenian Brotherhood for no avowed purpose. This movement is to prepare for any opportunity for a coup d'etat in Ireland. There are companies in Lawrence, Lowell, and in all the cities and considerable towns in this section. Their numbers are said to be formidable.

New York, Dec. 20.—The World's Japan correspondent writes that Russia has seized some of the northern islands of the Japanese Empire. The belief prevails that it is the intention of the Czar to ultimately absorb the entire country.

The sale of pews for Beecher's church last evening amounted to \$37,000—a considerable increase over last year.

Europe. A letter from Dr. Livingston is published, which was written on the 30th of May last. He was then exploring the sources of the Nile in 13 degrees south latitude.

AIR MAIL ADVERTISING. Desires to inform the inhabitants of Victoria and its vicinity, that he has returned from the Argentine Republic, with a Choice Collection of

New Photographic Views. Mountain Scenery and other highly interesting Subjects.

CARTES DE VISITE. GROUPS. The Gallery is situated on Fort Street

INFORMATION WANTED. OF JOHN HOLDEN LAWTON, AGED 25 years, a native of Manchester, England. The last heard of him he was in the Royal Hospital at Victoria, Vancouver Island, laid up of a fractured thigh, caused by a falling in getting an engine out of the ship RISING STAR. Any information of him will be thankfully received by his father, James M. Lawton, 314 Coast Street, St. Louis, state of Missouri, America. d-15 at

Mineral Boiling. THE UNDERSIGNED HAS BEEN HAD many years experience in boiling the mineral and enjoying every facility for acquiring thorough practical knowledge of the Coal States of this Colony, begs to inform parties who are about to prospect for Coal that he is now open for an engagement and holds himself in readiness to conduct any operation of that nature which may be entrusted to him. H. J. BICK, Nanaimo. References: Messrs. J. B. Stewart, Manager of the Dunsmuir, Manager Harwood Co., d-15 at

BLANKETS! TO ARRIVE PER PRINCE OF WALES and "ALBA" from London. 2500 PAIRS. 2 1-2 Point Blankets, Assorted Colors, FOR SALE BY

HENRY NATHAN, J. & CO. 250 Queen Street, Victoria. d-15 at

THE BEST REMEDY FOR INDICATION, &c. NORTON'S CAMOMILE PILLS

ARE CONFIDENTLY RECOMMENDED AS A simple but certain remedy for Indigestion. They act as a powerful tonic and gentle aperient; a mild in their operation, and under "very circumstances" are thousands of persons can now bear testimony to the benefits derived from their use.

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CURES AND COMFORT FOR THE BED-RIDDEN.

Holloway's Ointment.

The wonderful Ointment and Pills are in relief of all kinds of skin diseases, such as eruptions of the skin; when rubbed on the surface it penetrates and purifies the pores, and restores the most beautiful complexion, and cures the most obstinate itching humors, and restores the hair to its natural color and growth.

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Victoria Nursery & Seed Establishment

MITCHELL & JOHNSTON, HAVE NOW ON SALE ORBAP

25,000 FRUIT TREES

Including most of the leading varieties in Cultivation. The trees are from one to four years old, and in prime condition for transplanting. Also

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Consisting of small Fruits, Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Standard and Dwarf Roses and other Flowering Plants, Asparagus, Seakale, Rhubarb, &c.; and

GREENHOUSE PLANTS, A large Assortment of SEEDS and every requisite for the Farm and Garden always in Stock at the Store,

OCCIDENTAL BUILDINGS, FORT STREET, VICTORIA.



Many years ago, the writer of these lines and an invalid physician, while visiting the Island of St. Cruz for their health, experienced and witnessed many surprising and beneficial effects of the Balm there produced upon many of the invalids who were (themselves) seeking health; and upon inquiry and investigation, obtained a full history of its medicinal virtues. He was delighted and surprised, and after his own recovery, which soon occurred, determined, if possible, to procure the Balm to be made, and to sell it in the United States.

The result of his labor was a glorious success for himself and suffering humanity, for the celebrated PLANTATION BITTERS was thus made known to the world. PLANTATION BITTERS being an article of real merit, founded upon pure principles, and relying wholly upon the vegetable world for its medicinal effects, varied a rapid revolution in the history of medicine and became as a household word all over the civilized world. The celebrated S. T. 1860—X was a tallman of health, and the demand for the PLANTATION BITTERS soon far exceeded the abilities of the manufacturer.

Notwithstanding the large importation of St. Cruz Balm, made expressly for the purpose of supplying these Bitters, the quantity was inadequate, and therefore became necessary that arrangements should be made to procure a supply of the Balm to be made, and to sell it in the United States.

As an antidote to Fever and Ague, Intermittent and Malarial Fevers, Dyspepsia, and other kindred diseases, the use of the PLANTATION BITTERS is unimpaired in the history of the world. Over five million bottles are disposed of annually. They are adapted to old and young, male and female. They are agreeable in taste, and always produce an immediate beneficial result.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND. EXHIBITION MEETING, 1868. UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS. THE FOLLOWING PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO

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