

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1865.

NO. 5.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.
(Sundays Excepted.)
AT VICTORIA, V. I.

TERMS:
One Year, (in advance).....\$10 00
Six Months, do.....6 00
Three Months, do.....3 50
Single Copies,.....10 cents.
Subscribers in Victoria will be supplied by the carriers for 25 cents a week.

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AGENTS.

John Meakin,	Nanaimo
Clarkson & Co.,	New Westminster
Barnard's Express,	Queensle, B. C.
"	Lytton
"	Yanwinkle
"	Richfield
"	Barkerville
"	Camerontown
"	Clifton
L. P. Fisher,	San Francisco
F. Algar,	Clement's Lane, London
G. Street,	30 Cornhill, London

THE BIG BEND.

The news which we publish to-day from Big Bend is the most cheering of any intelligence yet received in the colony, not even excepting the announcement of the discovery of Cariboo. It is cheering, not so much because it has enabled a certain number of miners to take out large amounts of gold, but because it discloses to us the fact that the most extensive as well as least expensive mines yet opened out in British Columbia, or probably in any country north of California, are now discovered. So far as is yet known the gold region extends over a hundred miles; the sinking is shallow; the ground rich; and the mines comparatively easily reached. Here are facts that ought, under proper management, to attract the largest population that has yet visited the neighboring colony. From all the accounts we have received, and they are almost strangely unanimous, there is but one conclusion to come to, and that is that the greatest gold mining region in any country on the Pacific has been discovered. This is no idle assertion. If we take the statements of those men who have had practical mining experience at Big Bend, we find that the average yield of the gold fields when opened is computed at from half an ounce to four ounces a day per hand. It is needless to say that no gold mining country in the world can equal this. California nor Australia, nor Montana nor Idaho, cannot pretend to a comparison. Let us, therefore, make the most of our position. Let us take a leaf from our American neighbors and advertise our mineral wealth. Portland get the lion's share, and still gets it, of all the traffic north of her State. When she had the longest route to the Rock Creek, the Kootenay, and even the Big Bend, she managed to secure nearly all the travel and all the traffic that went to those places. At present our advantages over Oregon in competition for supplying any mining region in British Columbia are beyond question, and yet the enterprise of our neighbors is gradually counterbalancing this good fortune. As we informed our readers a few days ago, a steamer is built and no doubt now running between Colville and within thirty miles of French Creek. This brings Walla Walla within pretty easy distance of the new gold fields, and will no doubt give the Oregon people a monopoly of the traffic, if a steamer is not placed on the Shuswap and Kamloops lakes by April next. If this latter be done; if Mr. Wright who, we believe has obtained the exclusive privilege of putting on a steamer, can manage to run his boat early in the spring, we shall have all the travel; and it will be immense, if the two Governments only see that the advantages of our position as well as the richness and inexpensive character of our new mines, are laid properly before the California public. If we can show to the California miner that for a reasonably small amount he can reach Victoria and from thence to the gold fields in nine or ten days, and that these gold fields when reached will afford him the opportunity of making from eight to sixty dollars a day, we shall have a large and energetic population travelling through this city as soon as spring sets in. And we can show all this. With direct steam communication, we bring the miner from San Francisco in four days; five or six more will then take him to Carnes and French creeks, where, unless all the narratives from the energetic class of men who have been working these this summer are false, he will be able to make more money, with a less expenditure, than in any other gold region in the world. Let us not, therefore, lose sight of the position in which we stand. From Walla Walla to Colville is a distance of two hundred and fifty miles of a very bad country. Fifty

miles of the way is in fact so bad that pack animals cannot attempt to cross it until the middle of May. Then when we come to the boat travel; out of the two hundred and fifty miles on the Columbia River, seventy-five are full of navigable difficulties. Counting the distance from where the steamer lands the passenger to the mines, the navigable reach on the Columbia River, and the road from Colville to Walla Walla, we have the total distance about five hundred and thirty miles, nearly three hundred of which is land travel. Now if we take the Fraser river route and set Yale against Walla Walla, we have to Kamloops lake one hundred and fourteen miles of land travel; then a distance of two hundred and thirty miles to the end of Shuswap lake; and from thence to the mines about seventy miles, giving altogether a distance of three hundred and thirty-four miles or nearly two hundred miles less than the Colville route. When to this we add the very significant advantage of being able to reach the mines, which it is said can be worked in March, nearly two months earlier in the year than can be done on the Oregon route, we may safely calculate on the whole of the trade, if we make the proper exertions.

WHEREABOUTS OF CONFEDERATE GENERALS.

A Southern paper gives the following account of the whereabouts of the leading officers of the late rebel army: General Loring is in Jackson (Miss.) with the intent to go to New Orleans, and engage in mercantile pursuits. General Gardner has taken up his residence in New Orleans, and gone into business with General Bragg. General Joe Johnston will probably receive the appointment of President of the principal railroad companies in Alabama or Georgia. General Hardee was the recipient in Mobile the other day of a handsome compliment in the shape of a dinner, tendered him by several of the United States officers on duty at that post. General Longstreet, who arrived in Mobile a few days ago, has been pardoned by the President. General Lee has entered upon his duties as President of Washington College (Va.). Jubal Early is an applicant for pardon. General Forrest is reported to be managing a saw-mill somewhere in the interior of Mississippi. General Stewart, who commanded a corps in Hood's army, designs going to New Orleans to practice law. General Macon is reported to be in Germany with his family. General John G. Walker is in England—so it is reported. Kirby Smith, at last dates, was at Matanzas, in bad health. General Hindman is practicing law in Mexico. The New Orleans Picayune says: "We catch a glimpse now and then, on the street, of several other officers who held the rank of Brigadier or Major General in the late Confederate army, who are hard at work now at one or another branch of business. The majority of them are old residents, either of the city or the State."

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.—An affair occurred lately at the President's house. A man somewhat inebriated called and desired to see the President. He was boisterous and officer Crook refused him admittance up stairs. He became very disorderly and was put out of the Executive mansion. When about fifty feet from the door he turned and drew a revolver on the officer, when the guard made a lunge at him with his bayonet, and he was captured and taken before Justice Walker, who fined him the enormous sum of \$2,000 for carrying concealed weapons. Having no money he was committed. He gave his name as Robbins Sumner, and said he was a brother of General Sumner. He came from Alexandria, and his name is probably an alias.

THE ROUTE TO BIG BEND.—We understand that Mr. Wright has obtained the contract offered by the British Columbian Government for the construction of a steamboat to ply between the western extremity of Kamloops Lake and the upper or eastern end of Shuswap Lake, in connection with the wagon road proposed to be made from Ashcroft or thereabouts to Savana's Ferry on Kamloops Lake. The contractor will have the exclusive privilege of conveying passengers and freight at fixed rates between those points. It is further stated that Mr. Wright will at once procure the necessary machinery from this quarter or San Francisco.

ON THE TRACK.—We learn from passengers by the Enterprise that a clue has been discovered to the murderer of the Scotchman named John Morgan, an employe of the Telegraph Company, who it will be remembered was recently butchered at the side of his camp, below Soda Creek. It appears that an Indian known as Yale Jim, who had been engaged in packing, offered a watch for sale to Mrs. Ritchie, of Canoe Creek, that was recognised as the property of the deceased. Information was conveyed to William's Creek, and the constable immediately started in pursuit of the culprit.

AN OLD TRUMP.—In Plattsburg, recently, the census takers found a French Canadian, aged 106 years, living in domestic felicity with his wife, 11 years younger. They have lived together 78 years.

THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE contains the Royal confirmation of the appointment of Henry Wakeford, Esq., as Auditor General of this colony.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday after a splendid run of six days from New Westminster with 73 passengers and a Cariboo Express. She was detained on the passage up by a snow storm and lay in Plumper's Pass until Saturday morning.

The steamer Lilloet also arrived shortly before the Enterprise from New Westminster with about 40 passengers.

The Columbian of Saturday contains no telegraphic or other intelligence of interest.

The Hon. Mr. Brew returned from Chilliwack on Wednesday, reporting that the Indians evinced no desire to be unreasonable in the matter of the land dispute, and did not appear unwilling to give up the rear of the white men.

A petition from the settlers to the Government on the subject was talked of.

FROM CARIBOO.

From a party who left Richfield two weeks ago we gather the following information:

Four companies were at work on the side hill, opposite Richfield, and had everything in order to enable them to work during the whole winter. The Cornish Company were running a drift some twenty feet from the bed of the creek and were averaging from \$10 to \$15 a day to the hand. The California Company were sinking a shaft on the line of the Cornish claim; they had struck five feet from the surface a stratum of gravel (already five feet deep, the bed rock being yet untouched) prospecting as high as \$2 to the pan. The Statesman Company were making on an average \$10 daily to the hand. Fuller's old claim which had been jumped by a party, was paying about the same as the latter.

According to our informant the population of the creek was 600 souls, all told.

BURNES' CREEK.

Moller & Co. had commenced finding pay. Two days before our informant left they had picked up a nugget weighing \$52.

The Columbian has the following: The steamers Onward and Lilloet arrived from Yale last evening with respectively 77 and 35 passengers. Our advices from Cariboo are to the 22d inst., but are unimportant. The weather was sharp and pleasant—two inches of snow having fallen. Six claims were still being worked, viz: Prince of Wales, Adams, Hart & Co., Davis & Co., Cameron, Dead Broke. Markets unchanged. Two Chinamen were killed on Thursday near Boston Bar by the falling of a tree.

LATEST MINING NEWS.

From Mr. Wm. Farron, who left the creek on the 24th November, we obtain the following intelligence:

WILLIAMS' CREEK.

The companies at work were the Oram, Dead Broke, Cornish, Australian, Welsh, Cameron (doubtful), and Foster-Campbell. A cave had taken place in the latter company's shaft. A French company of four men were sinking a shaft opposite the smithery at Richfield. The Dead Broke, Cameron, Oram, and the Australian would probably work through the winter. The Wake up Jake Company were drowned out on the 14th, and the Bald Head and Sheepskin shafts were full of water.

The Yellow Virgin Company were frozen out on the 15th, and the claim was laid over for the winter. The law suit instituted against them by the Aurora Company had been decided by Judge Cox in favor of the Yellow Virgin Company, giving them the benefit of the 1182 ounces that had been taken by them out of the ground and deposited in the bank pending the Judge's decision. The gross dividends yielded by this claim since the first week in October have been about \$11,000 to the interest, the various expenses incurred reducing that amount to about \$6000.

The foreman of the Cornish Company told our informant before he left that they had washed out on the 23d \$700, and if they continued as they had commenced would be able to declare a week's dividend of \$500. This is considered a good hydraulic claim.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain Evans had obtained a contract for 600 feet of the Bedrock flume, and had some men busy at work at it.

The Bed-rock drain will be pushed forward through the winter.

Mr. Greig of the Bank of British Columbia reached the Creek on the 23d. Mr. Ormandy, the messenger was met on his way up at Soda Creek.

There was about nine inches of snow between Williams Creek and Van Winkle, and none below Cottonwood. The weather was intensely cold. A law suit was pending between Van Bleek and Steele (a colored man). The former claimed from the latter a half interest in the Yellow Virgin Co., and in support of his claim produced an alleged bill of sale of the whole interest. Steele, who is an illiterate man, repudiated the deed, alleging that he believed he was putting his mark to a power of attorney in favor of Van Bleek to represent his interest, and that the deed was covered over when he signed it.

Mr. Blunt and several others were to leave the Creek on the 25th.

Mr. Farron came with a party of others all the way from Soda Creek to Yale in a canoe. He describes the river scenery as grand beyond description, but the trip is too dangerous to be recommended to any one. At Boothroyd's eighteen inches of snow had fallen, the weather being colder than on Williams Creek.

FROM BRIDGE RIVER.

From a miner who arrived on Saturday from Lilloet we learn that two miners who had been prospecting on Bridge River only sixteen miles from Lilloet had just returned

bringing back about an ounce of shot gold. They reported that they could make from \$4 to \$5 a day to the hand sluicing where they worked. John Macintosh, and three others had gone thirty miles higher up the river, to try the rich diggings supposed to exist there.

Later from Big Bend.

From Mr. D. W. Smith, who left Big Bend on the 15th November, we have the following interesting information respecting these promising diggings.

Mr. Smith, who has a claim on Carnes Creek, where he has been working during the summer, came over the divide by the Government route, the head of the Shuswap Lake, a distance of thirty-five miles. The trail is very good for a mountain trail, and can be walked easily with a pack in two days. Small lake boats run from thence to Savana's ferry, which takes an additional two days.

THE BIG BEND DIGGINGS.

Mr. Smith, who was one of the pioneers of the diggings, having travelled with Carnes, after whom one of the creeks is named, and reached the diggings on the 30th April last, states from his experience that he is of opinion that a range of ore, say from 100 to 120 miles, exists there that will pay from half an ounce to four ounces a day when properly opened to the hand. The party prospecting on their way up and found good prospects, equal to those found in the gravel of any of the creeks now known to be rich.

FRENCH CREEK.

On this creek two companies of 12 to 15 men remained when Mr. Smith left, intending to winter there, sufficient provisions having been brought in to maintain them by Messrs. Smith and Ladner. From 250 to 300 men had been on the creek during the season, some of whom never worked, and returned, reporting that there were no diggings. A good many tried to open claims but did not succeed in doing so before cold weather set in. Dupuy opened a hill claim and took out \$2500 in eight days, the biggest day's work being \$800 to two hands working on the bench rock. The Half Breed Company, or Discovery Claim (four men), in the creek in one day took out 64 ounces, averaging from two to four ounces to the hand on the bed rock gravel from 8 to 10 feet down. A company working in the gravel, from one to two miles above, averaged from an ounce and a half to two ounces a day to the hand in getting out their tail-race, when their wheel froze up, without expecting to reach the bed rock this fall. Shep. Bayley's Co., three in number, had got out as much as \$1500, getting

The bed rock on this creek is about 15 feet deep, coarse and heavy gold being found wherever it was reached. A man who sunk a hole about 4 feet deep 15 miles up the creek obtained a similar prospect of the same kind of gold to that found in the gravel lower down.

CARNES' CREEK.

On this creek 13 men were at work when Mr. Smith left, who found good prospects until they were washed out. One man panned out one evening in the loose gravel \$9. The bed rock had not been reached in consequence of the freshet although Mr. Smith's company had got down 36 feet, believing themselves within 10 feet of the bed rock when they stopped sinking. They then washed on a bar getting about \$15 to the hand in the loose gravel.

Carnes & Co. (two men) averaged about \$30 to the hand in the gravel in the bed of the creek without attempting to sink to the bed rock which they intend to do in the spring.

Chapron & Co. flumed the canyon and panned out about \$40 one day on the bed-rock, but their flume was carried away, and they stopped for the season.

Messrs. Smith & Co. turned the creek two or three times, and were washed out by heavy rains. Below the dam they got about four bits to the pan in the loose gravel, and believed they could make from about two to three ounces to the hand sluicing.

MCCULLOCH'S CREEK.

On this Creek, Barney Reilly & Co., five in number, averaged from two to three ounces per day to the hand, one day making 35 ounces working on the high bed-rock.

On the top of the hill where the creek was level some men prospecting got from four bits to a dollar and a half to the pan in the gravel without reaching the bed rock.

MOBERLY CREEK.

Our informant learnt from Mr. Moberly, who came to New Westminster with him, that he prospecting a creek emptying into the Little Shuswap, on which he obtained prospects of from 5 to 8 cents to the pan, on a bar, without using a pick. Mountaineer Perry, one of the pioneers, told Mr. Smith that the prospect was about 10 cents to the pan, and he intended returning there to prospect this fall. He gave it as his opinion from the look of the slate range and the quantity of quartz wash gravel that there were as good diggings there as any that had been prospected.

OTHER CREEKS.

In a creek about 30 miles above the mouth of French Creek emptying into Gold Creek, a man struck a prospect as good as that on any other creek, declaring that he preferred it to French Creek, and intended returning there with provisions to hold his claim.

On other creeks at the mouth of which casual prospects were made, equally good colors were found affording the presumption that as good diggings may be found on other creeks emptying into the Columbia as any that have been tested.

MISCELLANEOUS.

French and Carnes' creeks are large creeks about thirty miles long having plenty of pay

dirt and extensive benches. They are about fifty miles apart, the latter being lower down. McCulloch Creek also empties into Gold Creek. Judging from the experience of last Spring, the diggings can be worked as early as March, as the earliest prospectors found the ground though covered with snow quite soft when they arrived there in April.

Messrs. Smith (of Smith & Ladner), Romano and McNeil intended engaging a man each to blaze out a pack trail from the terminus of the Government trail on the Columbia to French Creek, good feed for animals existing all the way. The shortest and best route to the diggings is decidedly up the Fraser. The Kamloops and Shuswap Lakes, on which the British Columbian Government intend having a steamer placed are not generally frozen over beyond March, while the lakes on the Columbia River are not open till May, and the Columbia River is a long, tedious and dangerous route to travel.

Gold Creek or River, into which French Creek empties, is about 100 miles in length, and has fine prairie lands on either side producing fine hay. Four men reported having discovered something in the neighborhood of French Creek which they would not exchange for the best discovery in the country. They refused to disclose the secret until they had made themselves secure.

A miner who left Big Bend after our informant told him that six feet of snow lay on the Divide when he crossed over, and was still falling.

One-third of the miners who were at the diggings belong to Colville, and had returned to winter there. A big rush was expected to the diggings in the spring.

Mr. Perry reported having discovered silver ore on Moberly Creek.

PROVISIONS.

The following were the ruling prices of provisions at Big Bend:—Bacon, \$1 50 per lb; Flour, \$80 per 100 lbs; Sugar, \$1 50 per lb; Coffee, \$1 50 per lb; Tea \$3 per lb; Butter, \$2 per lb; Beef, 65c per lb.

From another informant just arrived from Kamloops we learn that Romano had reached French Creek with 25 mules laden with provisions, which would be a great boon to the miners at Big Bend.

At Kamloops several parties were organizing pack trains to convey provisions, drawn by dogs, to Big Bend during the winter. A fine opportunity presents itself here for speculators to make a clean sweep of the superfluous canine species.

Messrs. Dewdney and Mowberly had both returned from Big Bend.

POLICE COURT.

Sophie Colomb, a French woman appeared at the Police Court on Saturday, arrested on a warrant issued by the Magistrate, charged by

From the information which was furnished to the St. George hotel at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 30th of November and asked to see Mrs. Bendixen, and went into her room saying that she (Mrs. Bendixen) had spoken ill of her, and threatening to "spoil the pretty face of Mrs. Bendixen" and to kill the prosecutor she having a dagger with her and leaving two impressions of it on the door of the bed room.

On a former occasion, the prisoner had drawn a dagger on Mr. Bendixen.

Mr. Bendixen did not appear.

Mr. Pemberton said it was a very serious charge and one that he could not pass over lightly; he should remand the prisoner until Monday, taking bail for her appearance, two sureties in the sum of \$250 and herself in the sum of \$500, and would issue a summons for the appearance of Mr. Bendixen.

The accused said she could disprove the charge; that it was 10 o'clock at night when she went to the St. George, not two in the morning.

A GENERAL SMASH UP.—The late storms, we regret to say, will be the occasion of considerable loss and inconvenience to the Telegraph Company. From Oregon our last advices stated that the wires were down on both sides of Portland, the only portions in working order being the few miles between Portland and Fort Vancouver. From British Columbia we learn that the gales have torn the wires to shreds in innumerable places between Yale and New Westminster, while Puget Sound advices state that a similar state of affairs existed between Seattle and New Westminster. Under all these circumstances we are afraid that we shall have, for some time to come, to trust for news from the East to the arrival of the Active and coasting vessels.

LAST OF THE MOHICANS.—The only person left to perpetuate the family name of Daniel Webster is his grandson, Ashburton Webster, a son of Fletcher Webster, who is a very promising young man now in the American navy. Fletcher Webster left two sons and a daughter, the last still living, Edward Webster, Major, who died in Mexico, left no children. There are four other grandchildren by his much-beloved Julia, bearing the name of Appleton. This is all of the family of Daniel Webster.

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS.—A Kansas paper reports that two thousand families of Germans and of German descent from Berks county, Pennsylvania, and from the city of St. Louis, have selected extensive tracts of land in the valley of the Solomon, through their agent, Captain Brunswick. The lands selected are in Western Kansas, and are said to be as fine as any in that State.

Bendixon, L. A.
Baker, T.
Begg & Co.
Brown, Mrs. L.
Brown, C. B.
Bawden, J.
Bell, W. 2.

Conklin, J. H.
Clanton, R. T.
Cottrell, A.
Clinch, W.
Clare, J. S.
Cole, T.
Coetho, S.
Cowen, J. A.
Coffin, C.
Cline, P.
Clyde, A.

Devlin, R. B. 2.
Darman, J.
DeCugis, M.
Doyle, M.
Driard, M.

Eustace, E.

Fanning, J.
Fox, G. R.
Ferguson, O.
Fraser, Miss L.

Guttenburg, F.
Garthwaite, R.
Grunbaum, J.
Galaway, Mrs.
Gartrell, H.

Hosford, W.
Hume, P.
Hines, E.
Hickling, J. L.
Hopkins, H.
Heywood, Mr.

Jones, J. C.
Jamieson, Mrs.
Jones & Cahn.

Kirkpatrick, L.
Kellogg, O. E.
King, T.

Littlejohns, W. R.
Lloyd, G.
Lewis, Mr.
Lichtenstine, S. H.

McDowell, S.
Meeson, Mr.
McKinnon, H.
Macdonald, E. P.
Murphy, P.
McPherson, H. 2.
Moore, C.
Martin, J.
McLennan, R. G.
Mardon, H.
Moyle, J.
Martinen, M.
McMillan, C.
McDonald, J.
Marshall, C.
McBeath, G.
McCann, T.
McTernan, P.
Martin, Mr.
Numan, A.

Orr, G.
O'Connor, T.

Piercy, M.
Piaggio, G.
Parsons, Mrs.
Parry, M.

Richard, Mrs. O.
Rickford, Mrs.
Rossi, G.

Strong, A.
Scoble, A.
Sheehan, D.
Spearman, J.
Surrage, J.
Stell, J.
Scott, J.
Sterrett, R.
Steel, W.
Smith, W. H.
Sparks, J. D.
Spontenburgh, J. S.
Stainlay, M. J.
Saunders, H. D.
Sampson, H.
Stewart, A.

Tammadge, Miss.
Turnel, T.
Tong Sing.

Wallace, S.
Welcker, W. T.
Ward, T.
Williams, W. P.
Weishaar, F.
Walsh, J.
Wharton, H.
Waite, O.
White, R.
Wagner, P.
Wilson, R.
Wilson, Miss.

WRY WOOTTON,
Postmaster.

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The news which we publish to-day from Big Bend is the most cheering of any intelligence yet received in the colony, not even excepting the announcement of the discovery of Cariboo. It is cheering, not so much because it has enabled a certain number of miners to take out large amounts of gold, but because it discloses to us the fact that the most extensive as well as least expensive mines yet opened out in British Columbia, or probably in any country north of California, are now discovered. So far as is yet known the gold region extends over a hundred miles; the sinking is shallow; the ground rich; and the mines comparatively easily reached. Here are facts that ought, under proper management, to attract the largest population that has yet visited the neighboring colony. From all the accounts we have received, and they are almost strangely unanimous, there is but one conclusion to come to, and that is that the greatest gold mining region in any country on the Pacific has been discovered. This is no idle assertion. If we take the statements of those men who have had practical mining experience at Big Bend, we find that the average yield of the gold fields when opened is computed at from half an ounce to four ounces a day per hand. It is needless to say that no gold mining country in the world can equal this. California nor Australia, nor Montana nor Idaho, cannot pretend to a comparison. Let us, therefore, make the most of our position. Let us take a leaf from our American neighbors and advertise our mineral wealth. Portland get the lion's share, and still gets it, of all the traffic north of her State. When she had the longest route to the Rock Creek, the Kootenay, and even the Big Bend, she managed to secure nearly all the travel and all the traffic that went to those places. At present our advantages over Oregon in competition for supplying any mining region in British Columbia are beyond question; and yet the enterprise of our neighbors is gradually counterbalancing this good fortune. As we informed our readers a few days ago, a steamer is built and no doubt now running between Colville and within thirty miles of French Creek. This brings Walla Walla within pretty easy distance of the new gold fields, and will no doubt give the Oregon people a monopoly of the traffic, if a steamer is not placed on the Shuswap and Kamloops lakes by April next. If this latter be done; if Mr. Wright who, we believe, has obtained the exclusive privilege of putting on a steamer, can manage to run his boat early in the spring, we shall have all the travel; and it will be immense, if the two Governments only see that the advantages of our position as well as the richness and inexpensive character of our new mines, are laid properly before the California public. If we can show to the California miner that for a reasonably small amount he can reach Victoria and from thence to the gold fields in nine or ten days, and that these gold fields when reached will afford him the opportunity of making from eight to sixty dollars a day, we shall have a large and energetic population travelling through this city as soon as spring sets in. And we can show all this. With direct steam communication, we bring the miner from San Francisco in four days; five or six more will then take him to Carnes and French creeks, where, unless all the narratives from the energetic class of men who have been working there this summer are false, he will be able to make more money, with a less expenditure, than in any other gold region in the world. Let us not, therefore, lose sight of the position in which we stand. From Walla Walla to Colville is a distance of two hundred and fifty miles of a very bad country. Fifty

miles of the way is in fact so bad that pack animals cannot attempt to cross it until the middle of May. Then when we come to the boat travel; out of the two hundred and fifty miles on the Columbia River, seventy-five are full of navigable difficulties. Counting the distance from where the steamer lands the passenger to the mines, the navigable reach on the Columbia River, and the road from Colville to Walla Walla, we have the total distance about five hundred and thirty miles, nearly three hundred of which is land travel. Now if we take the Fraser river route and set Yale against Walla Walla, we have to Kamloops lake one hundred and fourteen miles of land travel; then a navigable stretch of one hundred and thirty miles to the end of Shuswap lake; and from thence to the mines about seventy miles, giving altogether a distance of three hundred and thirty-four miles or nearly two hundred miles less than the Colville route. When to this we add the very significant advantage of being able to reach the mines, which it is said can be worked in March, nearly two months earlier in the year than can be done on the Oregon route, we may safely calculate on the whole of the trade, if we make the proper exertions.

WHEREABOUTS OF CONFEDERATE GENERALS.—A Southern paper gives the following account of the whereabouts of the leading officers of the late rebel army: General Loring is in Jackson (Miss.) with the intent to go to New Orleans and engage in mercantile pursuits. General Gardner has taken up his residence in New Orleans, and gone into business with General Bragg. General Joe Johnston will probably receive the appointment of President of the principal railroad companies in Alabama or Georgia. General Hardee was the recipient in Mobile the other day of a handsome compliment in the shape of a dinner, tendered him by several of the United States officers on duty at that post. General Longstreet, who arrived in Mobile a few days ago, has been pardoned by the President. General Lee has entered upon his duties as President of Washington College (Va.). Jubal Early is an applicant for pardon. General Forrest is reported to be managing a saw-mill somewhere in the interior of Mississippi. General Stewart, who commanded a corps in Hood's army, designs going to New Orleans to practice law. General Magruder is reported to be in Germany with his family. General John G. Walker is in England—so it is reported. Kirby Smith, at last dates, was at Matanzas, in bad health. General Hindman is practicing law in Mexico. The New Orleans Picayune says: "We catch a glimpse now and then, on the street, of several other officers who held the rank of Brigadier or Major General in the late Confederate army, who are hard at work now at one or another branch of business. The majority of them are old residents, either of the city or the State."

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.—An affair occurred lately at the President's house. A man somewhat inebriated called and desired to see the President. He was boisterous and officer Crook refused him admittance up stairs. He became very disorderly and was put out of the Executive mansion. When about fifty feet from the door he turned and drew a revolver on the officer, when the guard made a lunge at him with his bayonet, and he was captured and taken before Justice Walker, who fined him the enormous sum of \$2,000 for carrying concealed weapons. Having no money he was committed. He gave his name as Robbins Sumner, and said he was a brother of General Sumner. He came from Alexandria, and his name is probably an alias.

THE ROUTE TO BIG BEND.—We understand that Mr. Wright has obtained the contract offered by the British Columbian Government for the construction of a steamboat to ply between the western extremity of Kamloops Lake and the upper or eastern end of Shuswap Lake, in connection with the wagon road proposed to be made from Ashcroft or thereabouts to Savanna's Ferry on Kamloops Lake. The contractor will have the exclusive privilege of conveying passengers and freight at fixed rates between those points. It is further stated that Mr. Wright will at once procure the necessary machinery from this quarter or San Francisco.

ON THE TRACK.—We learn from passengers by the Enterprise that a clue has been discovered to the murderer of the Scotchman named John Morgan, an employe of the Telegraph Company, who it will be remembered was recently butchered at the side of his camp, below Soda Creek. It appears that an Indian known as Yale Jim, who had been engaged in packing, offered a watch for sale to Mrs. Ritchie, of Canoe Creek, that was recognised as the property of the deceased. Information was conveyed to William's Creek, and the constable immediately started in pursuit of the culprit.

AN OLD TRUMP.—In Plattsburg, recently, the census takers found a French Canadian, aged 106 years, living in domestic felicity with his wife, 11 years younger. They have lived together 78 years.

THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE contains the Royal confirmation of the appointment of Henry Wakeford, Esq., as Auditor General of this colony.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday after a splendid run of six hours from New Westminster with 73 passengers and a Cariboo Express. She was detained on the passage up by a snow storm and lay in Plumper's Pass until Saturday morning.

The steamer Lilloet also arrived shortly before the Enterprise from New Westminster with about 40 passengers.

The Columbian of Saturday contains no telegraphic or other intelligence of interest.

The Hon. Mr. Brew returned from Chilliwack on Wednesday, reporting that the Indians evinced no desire to be unreasonable in respect of the land dispute with the settlers and did not appear unwilling to go the rear of the white men.

A petition from the settlers to the Government on the subject was talked of.

FROM CARIBOO.

From a party who left Richfield two weeks ago we gather the following information:

Four companies were at work on the side hill, opposite Richfield, and had everything in order to enable them to work during the whole winter. The Cornish Company were running a drift some twenty feet from the bed of the creek and were averaging from \$10 to \$15 a day to the hand. The California Company were sinking a shaft on the line of the Cornish claim; they had struck five feet from the surface a stratum of gravel (already five feet deep, the bed rock being yet untouched) prospecting as high as \$2 to the pan. The Statesman Company were making on an average \$10 daily to the hand. Fuller's old claim which had been jumped by a party, was paying about the same as the latter.

According to our informant the population of the creek was 600 souls, all told.

BURNS CREEK.

Moller & Co., had commenced finding pay. Two days before our informant left they had picked up a nugget weighing \$52.

The Columbian has the following: The steamers Onward and Lilloet arrived from Yale last evening with respectively 75 and 35 passengers. Our advices from Cariboo are to the 22d inst., but are unimportant. The weather was sharp and pleasant—two inches of snow having fallen. Six claims were still being worked, viz: Prince of Wales, Adams, Hart & Co., Davis & Co., Cameron, Dead Broke. Markets unchanged. Two Chinamen were killed on Thursday near Boston Bar by the falling of a tree.

LATEST MINING NEWS.

From Mr. Wm. Farron, who left the creek on the 24th November, we obtain the following intelligence:

WILLIAMS CREEK.

The companies at work were the Oram, Dead Broke, Cornish, Australian, Welsh, Cameron (doubtful), and Foster-Campbell. A cave had taken place in the latter company's shaft. A French company of four men were sinking a shaft opposite the smithery at Richfield. The Dead Broke, Cameron, Oram, and the Australian would probably work through the winter. The Wake up Jake Company were drowned out on the 14th, and the Bald Head and Sheepskin shafts were full of water.

The Yellow Virgin Company were frozen out on the 15th, and the claim was laid over for the winter. The law suit instituted against them by the Anora Company had been decided by Judge Cox in favor of the Yellow Virgin Company, giving them the benefit of the 112 ounces that had been taken by them out of the ground and deposited in the bank pending the Judge's decision. The gross dividends yielded by this claim since the first week in October have been about \$11,000 to the interest, the various expenses incurred reducing that amount to about \$6000.

The foreman of the Cornish Company told our informant before he left that they had washed out on the 23d \$700, and if they continued as they had commenced would be able to declare a week's dividend of \$500. This is considered a good hydraulic claim.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain Evans had obtained a contract for 600 feet of the Bedrock flume, and had some men busy at work at it.

The Bed-rock drain will be pushed forward through the winter.

Mr. Greig of the Bank of British Columbia reached the Creek on the 23d. Mr. Ormady, the messenger was met on his way up at Soda Creek.

There was about nine inches of snow between Williams Creek and Van Winkle, and none below Cottonwood. The weather was intensely cold. A law suit was pending between Van Bleck and Steele (a colored man). The former claimed from the latter a half interest in the Yellow Virgin Co., and in support of his claim produced an alleged bill of sale of the whole interest. Steele, who is an illiterate man, repudiated the deed, alleging that he believed he was putting his mark to a power of attorney in favor of Van Bleck was covered over when he signed it.

Mr. Blunt and several others were to leave the Creek on the 25th.

Mr. Farron came with a party of others all the way from Soda Creek to Yale in a canoe. He describes the river scenery as grand beyond description, but the trip is too dangerous to be recommended to any one. At Boothroyd's eighteen inches of snow had fallen, the weather being colder than on Williams Creek.

FROM BRIDGE RIVER.

From a miner who arrived on Saturday from Lilloet we learn that two miners who had been prospecting on Bridge River only sixteen miles from Lilloet had just returned

bringing back about an ounce of shot gold. They reported that they could make from \$4 to \$5 a day to the hand sluicing where they worked. John Mackintosh and three others had gone thirty miles higher up the river to try the rich diggings supposed to exist there.

Later from Big Bend.

From Mr. D. W. Smith, who left Big Bend on the 15th November, we have the following interesting information respecting these promising diggings.

Mr. Smith, who has a claim on Carnes Creek, where he has been working during the summer, came over the divide by the Government trail to the head of the Shuswap Lake, a distance of thirty-five miles. The trail is very good for a mountain trail, and can be walked easily with a pack in two days. Small lake boats run from thence to Savanna's ferry, which takes an additional two days.

THE BIG BEND DIGGINGS.

Mr. Smith, who was one of the pioneers of the diggings, having travelled with Carnes, after whom one of the creeks is named, and reached the diggings on the 30th April last, states from his experience that he is of opinion that a range of country, say from 100 to 120 miles, exists there that will pay from half an ounce to four ounces a day when properly opened to the hand. The party prospected on their way up and found good prospects, equal to those found in the gravel of any of the creeks now known to be rich.

FRENCH CREEK.

On this creek two companies of 12 to 15 men remained when Mr. Smith left, intending to winter there, sufficient provisions having been brought in to maintain them by Messrs. Smith and Ladner. From 250 to 300 men had been on the creek during the season, some of whom never worked, and returned, reporting that there were no diggings. A good many tried to open claims but did not succeed in doing so before cold weather set in. Dupuy opened a hill claim and took out \$2500 in eight days, the biggest day's work being \$800 to two hands working on the bench rock. The Half Breed Company, or Discovery Claim (four men), in the creek in one day took out 64 ounces, averaging from two to four ounces to the hand on the bed rock gravel from 8 to 10 feet down. A company working in the gravel, from one to two miles above, averaged from an ounce and a half to two ounces a day to the hand in getting out their tail-race, when their wheel froze up, without expecting to reach the bed rock this fall. Shep. Bayley's Co., three in number, had got out as much as \$1600, getting as high as 200 feet down.

The bed rock on this creek is from 6 to 15 feet deep, coarse and heavy gold being found wherever it was reached. A man who sunk a hole about 4 feet deep 15 miles up the creek obtained a similar prospect of the same kind of gold to that found in the gravel lower down.

CARNES' CREEK.

On this creek 13 men were at work when Mr. Smith left, who found good prospects until they were washed out. One man panned out one evening in the loose gravel \$9. The bed rock had not been reached in consequence of the freshet although Mr. Smith's company had got down 36 feet, believing themselves within 10 feet of the bed rock when they stopped sinking. They then washed on a bar getting about \$15 to the hand in the loose gravel.

Carnes & Co. (two men) averaged about \$30 to the hand in the gravel in the bed of the creek without attempting to sink to the bed rock which they intend to do in the spring.

Chapron & Co., flumed the canyon and panned out about \$40 one day on the bed-rock, but their flume was carried away, and they stopped for the season.

Messrs. Smith & Co. turned the creek two or three times, and were washed out by heavy rains. Below the dam they got about four bits to the pan in the loose gravel, and believed they could make from about two to three ounces to the hand sluicing.

MCCULLOCH'S CREEK.

On this Creek, Barney Reilly & Co., five in number, averaged from two to three ounces per day to the hand, one day making 35 ounces working on the high bed-rock.

On the top of the hill where the creek was level some men prospecting got from four bits to a dollar and a half to the pan in the gravel without reaching the bed rock.

MOBERLY CREEK.

Our informant learnt from Mr. Moberly, who came to New Westminster with him, that he prospected a creek emptying into the Little Shuswap, on which he obtained prospects of from 5 to 8 cents to the pan, on a bar, without using a pick. Mountaineer Perry, one of the pioneers, told Mr. Smith that the prospect was about 10 cents to the pan, and he intended returning there to prospect this fall. He gave it as his opinion from the look of the slate range and the quantity of quartz wash gravel that there were as good diggings there as any that had been prospected.

OTHER CREEKS.

In a creek about 30 miles above the mouth of French Creek emptying into Gold Creek, a man struck a prospect as good as that on any other creek, declaring that he preferred it to French Creek, and intended returning there with provisions to hold his claim.

On other creeks at the mouth of which casual prospects were made, equally good colors were found affording the presumption that as good diggings may be found on other creeks emptying into the Columbia as any that have been tested.

MISCELLANEOUS.

French and Carnes' creeks are large creeks about thirty miles long having plenty of pay

dirt and extensive benches. They are about fifty miles apart, the latter being lower down. McCulloch Creek also empties into Gold Creek. Judging from the experience of last Spring the diggings can be worked as early as March, as the earliest prospectors found the ground though covered with snow quite soft when they arrived there in April.

Messrs. Smith (of Smith & Ladner), Romano and McNeil intended engaging a man each to blaze out a pack trail from the terminus of the Government trail on the Columbia to French Creek, good feed for animals existing all the way. The shortest and best route to the diggings is decidedly up the Fraser. The Kamloops and Shuswap Lakes, on which the British Columbian Government intend having a steamer placed are not generally frozen over beyond March, while the lakes on the Columbia River are not open till May, and the Columbia River is a long, tedious and dangerous route to travel.

Gold Creek or River, into which French Creek empties, is about 100 miles in length, and has fine prairie lands on either side producing fine hay. Four men reported having discovered something in the neighborhood of French Creek which they would not exchange for the best discovery in the country. They refused to disclose the secret until they had made themselves secure.

A miner who left Big Bend after our informant told him that six feet of snow lay on the Divide when he crossed over, and was still falling.

One-third of the miners who were at the diggings belong to Colville, and had returned to winter there. A big rush was expected to the diggings in the spring.

Mr. Perry reported having discovered silver ore on Moberly Creek.

PROVISIONS.

The following were the ruling prices of provisions at Big Bend:—Bacon, \$1 50 lb; Flour, \$80 100 lbs; Sugar, \$1 50 lb; Coffee, \$1 50 lb; Tea \$3 lb; Butter, \$2 lb; Beef, 65c lb.

From another informant just arrived from Kamloops we learn that Romano had reached French Creek with 25 mules laden with provisions, which would be a great boon to the miners at Big Bend.

At Kamloops several parties were organizing pack trains to convey provisions, drawn by dogs, to Big Bend during the winter. A fine opportunity presents itself here for speculators to make a clean sweep of the superfluous canine species.

Messrs. Dawdney and Mowberly had both returned from Big Bend.

POLICE COURT.

Sophie Colomb, a French woman appeared at the Police Court on Saturday, arrested on a warrant issued by the Magistrate, charged by the Board of Health of the St. George Hotel, with threatening to do and give publicity to the

From the information which was read it appeared that the prisoner went to the St. George hotel at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 30th of November and asked to see Mrs. Bendixen, and went into her room saying that she (Mrs. Bendixen) had spoken ill of her, and threatening to "spoil the pretty face of Mrs. Bendixen" and to kill the prosecutor she having a dagger with her and leaving two impressions of it on the door of the bed room. On a former occasion the prisoner had drawn a dagger on Mr. Bendixen.

Mr. Bendixen did not appear. Mr. Pemberton said it was a very serious charge and one that he could not pass over lightly; he should remand the prisoner until Monday, taking bail for her appearance, two sureties in the sum of \$250 and herself in the sum of \$500, and would issue a summons for the appearance of Mr. Bendixen.

The accused said she could disprove the charge; that it was 10 o'clock at night when she went to the St. George, not two in the morning.

A GENERAL SMASH UP.—The late storms, we regret to say, will be the occasion of considerable loss and inconvenience to the Telegraph Company. From Oregon our last advices stated that the wires were down on both sides of Portland, the only portions in working order being the few miles between Portland and Fort Vancouver. From British Columbia we learn that the gales have torn the wires to shreds in innumerable places between Yale and New Westminster, while Puget Sound advices state that a similar state of affairs existed between Seattle and New Westminster. Under all these circumstances we are afraid that we shall have, for some time to come, to trust for news from the East to the arrival of the Active and coasting vessels.

LAST OF THE MICHIGANS.—The only person left to perpetuate the family name of Daniel Webster is his grandson, Ashburton Webster, a son of Fletcher Webster, who is a very promising young man now in the American navy. Fletcher Webster left two sons and a daughter, the last still living. Edward Webster, Major, who died in Mexico, left no children. There are four other grandchildren by his much beloved Julia, bearing the name of Appleton. This is all of the family of Daniel Webster.

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS.—A Kansas paper reports that two thousand families of Germans and of German descent from Berks county, Pennsylvania, and from the city of St. Louis, have selected extensive tracts of land in the valley of the Solomon, through their agent, Captain Brunswick. The lands selected are in Western Kansas, and are said to be as fine as any in that State.

WRY WOOTTON, Postmaster.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

House met yesterday at 1:30 p. m. Present—Dr. Helmcken, Speaker; and Messrs DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Trimble, Tolmie, Dickson, Duncan, Cochrane, Carswell, Dennes.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Speaker read pro forma the speech just delivered by the representative of the Crown at the opening of the Legislature.

NEW MEMBER.

Dr. Ash, member elect for Esquimalt and Metchoin Districts, was introduced to the House by Dr. Dickson, and took the oath and his seat as junior member for the said districts.

HOMESTEAD ACT.

Mr. DeCosmos moved the first reading of a bill, which he said was similar to the one introduced at the last session, known as the Homestead Bill. If the House considered it necessary the details of the bill might be discussed at the second reading.

THE BILL PASSED THE FIRST READING.

BARRISTER'S AND ATTORNEY'S BILL.

Mr. Duncan gave notice that he would, at the next sitting, ask leave to introduce a bill for amalgamating the professions of barristers and attorneys in this colony.

PROBATE AND BANKRUPTCY COURTS.

Mr. Duncan gave notice of motion for certain returns herein.

REPLY TO THE SPEECH.

Mr. DeCosmos suggested the appointment of a committee to draft a reply to the Governor's speech; but the matter was left over until the next sitting, and the House adjourned until three o'clock to-day.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29, 1865.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—The Speaker, Messrs DeCosmos, Dickson, Powell, McClure, Tolmie, Duncan, Dennes, Cochrane, and Ash.

CROWN LANDS AND HUDSON BAY COMPANY. The following communication, sent in by His Excellency the Governor, embodying dispatches from the Right Honorable E. Cardwell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, was read by the Speaker:

Copy of a Despatch from the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell to Governor Kennedy.

Downing Street, 14th August, 1865. Sir—I have had under my consideration your despatch, No. 23, of the 25th of April last, in which you transmit the minutes of proceedings of a select committee of the House of Assembly appointed to enquire into the present condition of the Crown Lands, and a Report of that committee, and a series of resolutions transmitted to you by the Speaker of the Assembly on the 29th June, 1864.

You have also had under my consideration your despatch, No. 10, of the 2d February, 1865, respecting Mr. Lowenburg's case, which had already formed the subject of a letter to the Duke of Newcastle from the Hudson's Bay Company, dated 16th July, 1861, and of Governor Douglas's despatch of 24th October of the same year.

The resolutions of the Assembly have reference to a proposal made by the Duke of Newcastle, that the Crown Lands should be placed under the control of the Legislature in return for a Civil List.

On this proposal they express no opinion, but they recommend, first, that an Indenture made on the 3d February, 1862, between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Emigration Commissioners, on the part of the Crown, should be annulled, and steps taken to recover from the Hudson's Bay Company large sums of money which that Indenture would entitle them to keep.

2ndly, That Mr. Lowenburg should not be confirmed in the possession of a piece of land called lot Z, which was sold to him by the Hudson's Bay Company, and to which your despatch of February 2nd refers, and

3dly, That the Government should take steps to prevent the Church Reserve in Victoria from being ever let out in lots or covered with buildings, in order that it may be preserved as a public square.

The first of these recommendations is by far the most important.

I enclose an extract of a Report from the Chairman of the Board of Emigration, exhibiting the grounds upon which my predecessors thought it advisable to sanction a compromise embodied in the Indenture of 1862. You will observe generally that the Hudson's Bay Company had previously to the grant of 13th January, 1849, claimed as their private property certain lands in Vancouver Island, and that a correspondence had passed between the Company, on one side, and successive Secretaries of State (Earl Grey and Sir J. Pakington) on the other, in the course of which the Home Government explicitly recognised the principle of their claim and accepted, without any expression of dissent, their specific description of the lands which they considered entitled to hold as their private property.

It was considered that the Crown could not either honorably or with any fair prospect of success attempt to dispute the Company's right to the lands to which their title had been thus acknowledged—that it was a matter of paramount importance to obtain for the Government immediate and unqualified possession of the Crown Lands, and unfortunately still in the legal possession of the Company, and that it was most desirable for the colony to close up a source of controversy which threatened to obstruct the management of the Crown property and to multiply animosities, litigation and embarrasment. It was therefore most inexpedient to protract discussion with the Company without a clear prospect of great ultimate advantage which did not exist.

The result was the compromise embodied in the Indenture of February, 1862. Whether under all the circumstances this compromise was wise or imprudent is a matter on which the Assembly are, no doubt, entitled to form their own judgment. But it is certain that the instrument which embodies it has been executed on the part of the Crown, and no ground has been established for concluding that the Crown has been so misled on the conditions of the agreement

so violated by the Company as to afford any sufficient reason, either in law or in good faith, for endeavoring to set aside an engagement thus solemnly undertaken. Indeed the committee of enquiry (par. 20) quote without any expression of dissent, a statement that without evidence of fraud the Deed must stand, and do not allege any reason for supposing that such evidence is procurable, or that such fraud exists.

Accordingly the Law Officers of the Crown, in a report to which I shall presently refer, have expressed their opinion that after all that has occurred the Crown cannot now dispute the right of the Hudson's Bay Company to regard the land of which they came in possession before 1849 as absolutely their own.

What may be the meaning and effect of the indenture is of course open to question, though I hope that no material difference of opinion will be found to exist. I expect to transmit to you shortly the draft of a deed, retransferring the land to the Crown, which will give precision and certainty to some of the provisions which at present are necessarily indefinite. In considering the terms of this Deed I shall require your careful assistance, and I shall give my best attention to any recommendations which you may make in the interests of the colony. But in making these recommendations I wish you clearly to understand that I regard the instrument itself as binding on the Crown and conclusive. I conceive that any attempt to deal with it otherwise will only have the effect of protracting controversy on matters where controversy is unavailing, and delaying the consideration of questions which are really pressing and practical.

The question of the Church Reserve is disposed of by considerations of the same kind. It appeared in the course of a correspondence, which took place in the year 1861, that certain land forming part of the land claimed as private property by the Hudson's Bay Company had been promised by them to the authorities of the Church of England. The Bishop claimed performance of that promise; the Company admitted the claim, and the result was that after communication with the Governor a deed has been executed by the Hudson's Bay Company with the sanction of the Crown; by which the land was conveyed to trustees for Church purposes.

I am not aware of any means by which that deed can be set aside. The case of Mr. Lowenburg is one of a more complicated kind. I caused that case to be referred to the Law Officers of the Crown, and I received from them the report of which I enclose a copy, and to which I have already alluded. I also enclose a copy of Sir E. Head's letter, to which the Law Officers in their opinion refer.

You will collect from their report the nature of the case which was laid before them, which was accompanied by copies of your despatch, and its enclosures. Those papers appear to contain all that is to be said on the case, and I do not doubt they were carefully and impartially considered by the Attorney and Solicitor General. But you will observe that the conclusion at which they arrived is that the grant to Mr. Lowenburg cannot be successfully impeached. Much, therefore, as I regret the inconvenience to which the Government may be exposed, I am unable to authorise you to treat it as invalid, or to take any steps for setting it aside.

Whether the suggestion of purchasing the ground for the use of the Government should be adopted, will be, I apprehend, mainly for the consideration of the Legislature, as it does not appear that the necessary funds could be at present supplied from the Crown revenue.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

LINCOLN'S INN, July 26, 1865.

Sir—We are honored with your commands signified in Mr. Elliott's letter of the 21st day of June, ultimo, stating that he was directed by you to bring under our consideration the following question, which has arisen in Vancouver Island respecting the sale, by the Hudson's Bay Company, of a lot of land—hereafter called lot Z—which is claimed by the Government as a Government reserve.

Mr. Elliott was pleased to state that in 1849 the Hudson's Bay Company applied to the Secretary of State for confirmation of their title to certain lands, then of little value, which they had occupied in Vancouver Island in connection with a certain license of exclusive trade, granted on the 13th May, 1838. [Parliamentary paper, House of Lords, 12th February, 1849, No. 1.]

That after a short correspondence, Lord Grey admitted the principle of their demand [Parliamentary paper 12th February, 1849, No. 4], and directed the Company to frame, for his consideration, a Draft Conveyance of the lands which they desired to obtain.

But that this narrow question was almost immediately merged and lost sight of in a larger proposal which was made at the same time, and ended in a grant of all Vancouver Island to the Hudson's Bay Company, for purposes of settlement [13th January, 1849].

That this grant [Parliamentary paper, House of Commons, 7th March, 1849, pages 13 to 16] was made in trust inter alia, to sell the land, "except so much thereof as might be required for public purposes," and to apply nine-tenths of the proceeds to the colonisation and improvement of the island, reserving the remaining one-tenth as profit to the Company. That it also reserved to the Crown the right of repurchasing the Island on certain terms, upon the expiration of the exclusive license to trade, viz. 13th May, 1859.

That the lands originally obtained by the Hudson's Bay Company were not excepted from the grant in trust. That the Company, however, on the strength of Lord Grey's admission, and in spite of the grant, continued to treat them as their private property. That they had, then marked out, on their own authority, apparently in 1851, to the extent of 3084 acres; in 1853 they directed them to be registered as belonging to themselves, and reported them to the Colonial Office as their own property. [Parliamentary paper No. 83, of 1852, page 2, Colonial Pamphlet pp. 10, 12, with Governor's despatch 10, of 2nd February, 1865.]

That in 1854 about ten acres of this land were dedicated as an Indian Reserve by the officers of the Company in the Island. That this Act was reported to the Company, by whom that reserve is in principle acknowledged.

[Despatch 10 of 2nd February, 1865, and enclosure, and memorandum by Company's solicitor.]

That in 1858 Mr. Douglas, who had been appointed Governor by the Crown [Parliamentary paper 7th March, 1849, page 18], and was also the Company's agent, with full authority in matters affecting the disposal of land, and Mr. Pemberton, who was acting for the Company as Surveyor General, framed and published an official plan of the proposed town of Victoria, of which a copy was annexed, printed subsequently in 1861. That in this plan the lands about the reserve were divided off into building lots; the reserve itself was marked as occupied by Government buildings, which were shortly afterwards built, and its southern and western boundaries were altered.

That the Company allege that the original boundary was what the Colonial Government describe as an open drain, but the Company as an old fence, separating that reserve from a farm called Bexley or Duntell's farm, which is marked in the printed plan by a dotted line in ink.

That the substituted southern boundary is that which is given in the official plan, and forms, as will be seen, one side of a proposed street.

That the strip of land lying between the two lines, and now marked on the plan as lot Z, was thus, according to the Company, added to the reserve. That it contains nearly three acres.

That the fact of an addition is admitted by the Government, but there is a question as to the exact position of the original boundary, and consequently as to the extent of the addition. [See tracing B, with despatch 10 of 2d February, 1865.]

That in January, 1858, the Home Government gave notice of their intention to repurchase the Island under the powers reserved in the deed of grant; and in the course of the year the Governor, Mr. Douglas, ceased to be an agent of the company. That he was succeeded in the latter capacity by Mr. Dallas.

That Mr. Dallas made fresh plans more or less at variance with those of 1858, under which he proceeded to sell for the exclusive benefit of the company what he considered as their private property.

That among other things he sold lot Z notwithstanding its reservation for public purposes in 1860, by Mr. Douglas and Mr. Pemberton, of which he declares himself to have been ignorant.

That this was an evident injury to the Government buildings as it deprived them of one of their street frontages and more than one-fourth of the ground attached to them. That it is also alleged to be an injury to those who had bought building lots on the opposite side of the street, believing on the faith of the plans of 1858 that they would have opposite them a Government reserve.

That meantime the notice of repurchase given in 1859 had raised a further and larger question which in 1860 it was determined to refer to the Judicial Committee of Privy Council, viz., the question whether the company were really entitled to treat as private property the 3084 acres above mentioned, which comprise the site of a great part of Victoria and for the sale of which they had now realized enormous sums of money chiefly in consequence of the gold discoveries.

That the negotiations for the repurchase ended in an arrangement intended to settle all these questions and to restore the lands of the colony to the absolute control of the Government.

That under that arrangement the Government was to pay the company a sum of about fifty-five thousand pounds, being the reimbursement of money spent by them in Government and colonization.

2. That the Emigration Commissioners, on the one side, and the company on the other, executed an Indenture dated 3d February, 1862, containing the following provisions [Colonial pamphlet, pages 41, 42].

(1). "That all sales made by the said company previous to the first day of January, 1862, of any portions of the land so occupied by them as aforesaid (viz. the 3084 acres) before the 31st January, 1849, including water frontages and the spaces between high and low water mark, abutting on such portions of land shall be valid and effectual as against Her Majesty, her Heirs and Successors."

(2). "That the Company shall retain for their own use and benefit the proceeds and purchase monies of all lands so sold by them as aforesaid."

(3). "That the whole of the remaining unsold lands in the said Victoria district lying to the South and West of James Bay including the site of the new Government Buildings, as far as the old fence in the rear thereof dividing it from a farm known as Bexley, Beckney, or Duntell's farm shall be forthwith conveyed and surrendered by the company unto and to the use of Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors."

That under these circumstances the Colonial Government desires to retain or regain possession of lot Z while the company desire that the title of their purchase should be completed or allowed.

That it is urged on the part of the Government and public of Vancouver Island that the sale of lot Z was no sale and should not be considered as covered by the Indenture of 1862—1st, because the company were not authorized by the grant of 1849 to sell land required for public purposes, and lot Z was so required; having been reserved for Government buildings by Mr. Douglas in his double capacity of Governor and company's agent; 2ndly, because the official plan of 1858, which represented lot Z as Government reserve constituted a pledge to the public that it should be so maintained, on the faith of which pledge certain lots of land have been bought and particularly those on the opposite side of the street.

That the Colonial Government therefore desire that proceedings should be taken against the present occupants under the grant from the Hudson's Bay Company.

That on the other hand the company will probably contend that reserves of this kind especially reserves of what they consider to have been their private property unaffected by the Trusts of the Deed of Grant, ought to be held to have been provisional, at any rate till confirmed or till granted to the Government in trust for the colony by them (the company); in the present case no such confirmation was given or grant issued, that as between the Government and the company, the sales of Government Reserves

could not doubt have been effected by common consent; and therefore whatever may be the rights of private persons the Crown at least is precluded from calling the sale in question, by the first clause of the Indenture of 1862.

That the company is of course, concerned to avoid any step which would throw a general doubt upon their right to deal as they have done with lands in and near Victoria under their second plan of 1849.

That it is extremely undesirable that the question should remain unsettled, because till it is decided the reconveyance of Vancouver Island to the Crown is delayed, and it is of course possible that much public inconvenience may be caused in the colony by this delay.

Mr. Elliott was therefore desired by you, sir, to request that we would take these circumstances into our consideration and favor you with our opinion.

1. Whether the Reserve and dedication of Lot Z to public purposes was effectually made by or on behalf of the Company.

2. If so, whether the Company with or without the concurrence of the Crown could afterwards cancel that reservation, so as to enable them to sell part of the reserve for their private advantage.

3. Whether the Agreement of February, 1862, would operate retrospectively as a confirmation of the cancellation and sale, or preclude the Crown from impugning their validity.

4. Generally, what course we would recommend the Crown to pursue, having reference to its duty to give all just protection to the interests of the colony; and, on the other hand, to its equitable or legal obligations to the Hudson's Bay Company.

In obedience to your commands we have taken this matter into consideration, and have the honor to report

1. That after all that has occurred we do not think the Crown can now dispute the right to the Hudson Bay Company to regard the land of which they were in possession before 1849, as absolutely their own; with respect to what is called the "dedication" of ten acres of this land we think that the Agreement of 1862 has rendered it unnecessary to consider any question, except as to parcel marked Z, which is admitted not to have been originally part of the ten acres; and as to this parcel it is not made out to our satisfaction; that, as between the Crown and the Hudson Bay Company, it was ever dedicated, in any binding manner, to any public purpose.

2. If Lot Z had been so dedicated, and given up to the Crown, the Company could not sell it without, but we think they might sell it with the consent of the Crown.

3. If the facts stated in the Memorandum enclosed in the letter of Sir Edmund Head, of May 2nd, 1865, be correct, viz. that Lot Z had been occupied and tiled by the Company, and sold to Mr. Lowenburg before February, 1862, and that all this was well known to the Government, we think, that the Indenture of the 3d February, 1862, operated to validate that sale, so that the Government cannot dispute it.

4. On the whole we think the most advisable course would be to purchase the land of Mr. Lowenburg; if, indeed, he should refuse to sell on reasonable terms, probably there would be no difficulty in obtaining powers of compulsory purchase from the Colonial Legislature on the payment of fair compensation.

We have, &c., (Signed) ROUNDELL PALMER, R. P. COLLIER.

P.S.—The following copies of papers were annexed to Mr. Elliott's letter, and are now returned:— (1) Parliamentary Paper, House of Lords, 18, 12th February, 1849. (2) Parliamentary Paper, House of Commons, 103, 7th March, 1849. (3) Parliamentary Paper, House of Commons, No. 83, 1852. (4) Despatch from Governor of Vancouver Island, No. 10, of 2nd February, 1865, and enclosures, including Colonial Blue Book. (5) Letter of Governor of Hudson's Bay Company, with Memorandum by Solicitor of the Company. (6) Copy of official plan of Victoria, (1858) printed 1861. (7) Present plan submitted by Company.

On the motion of Mr. DeCosmos the despatches were ordered to be printed.

BANK ACT.

Mr. Duncan gave notice of motion that on that day week he should ask leave to bring in a bill to amend the Bank Act.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. Dennes gave notice of motion that on Thursday next he should request that a day be named to go into a committee of the whole to consider an Act to amend the law as to imprisonment for debt.

JURISDICTION OF INFERIOR COURTS.

Mr. Dennes gave notice of motion that on Thursday next he should ask leave to introduce a bill to increase the jurisdiction of the Inferior Court of Civil Justice.

HOURS OF BUSINESS.

Mr. McClure gave notice that on the following day he would move that the House should meet for the dispatch of business at one o'clock, p. m., every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

RETRENCHMENT.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that at an early day he should move that the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the immediate necessity of reducing the present unnecessary and unjustifiable expenditure of the revenue of the colony, to a sum compatible with the circumstances and wants of the people.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on the following day he should move that His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to communicate to the House copies of all despatches or correspondence forwarded to or received from H. M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting a resolution in favor of union with British Columbia, passed on July 25th, 1865.

MONEY BILLS.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on a future day he should move that in the absence of a responsible ministry, this House will assert

and maintain its rights to initiate and alter money bills.

BARRISTER'S AND ATTORNEY'S BILL.

Mr. Duncan, in pursuance of notice, moved for leave to introduce a bill for amalgamating the professions of barristers and attorneys in this colony. Leave granted.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The following members were appointed as a select committee to draft a reply to the speech of His Excellency: Messrs. McClure, Trimble and Carswell. The report to be presented on the following day, and submitted to a Committee of the Whole.

The House then adjourned until three o'clock to-day.

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Michael Fitzpatrick.

INFORMATION WANTED.

MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, a native of New York City, who left Clayton, Contra Costa County, California, two years ago last August, and being more than a year ago he was in Victoria, V. I., intending to go to Sooke river. Information, addressed Fitzpatrick, post office San Francisco, California, will be thankfully received by his father and sisters.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on a future day he should move that in the absence of a responsible ministry, this House will assert

MR. MACFIE

One of Mr. Macfie's ideas of emigration from young women of to be sent out in until the number gentleman allude twenty females w mouth and Ro managed under but bad as it wa were steady and says, in obtaining fortably married. has taken a too gration. To bri women to this co months would b evil on the fema those who woul least injurious re such a wholesa wholesa depo the female lab Under present c give employem the reverend ge we are well a bility in his poe is disproportion the melancholy number of indig obtain employ very likely that an inundation When the colo tion scheme w will meet the In the meanti and to wait."

While, howe Macfie's ideas c confess that the the reverend ge England of an the manner in mischievous of the self-support It is shown at the Federal au in opening up c formed and dis wise assisting branches of the colony is left t burden of loca isolation from is one fallacy, of putting it strength of his younger class c footing with th territories of th Federal author the colonies me tion, define its wards the nat while the tera tion, have to Federal Gover as occasions ar giving them ev national autho ance upon the therefore in an right; it is sin and any argum taken the very Government v It should have assistance in the or of emigra vested—and t welfare of the tional demand ships of Engle extent done th of exports, fr extra distinct shown how colonial conne lations with f scarcely gene warranted. Corts in this re well excuse irr matter if any written will le ment less call drawn any nee tion with th vious insignif people as wel been rendere have earned, his book, a d colonies.

HARRIET M fourth year, active and ab polis. She h volume of h the Great P and totally A

What is th man and kill with intent t

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

MR. MACFIE ON IMMIGRATION

One of Mr. Macfie's ideas for regenerating the colony, morally and materially, is the emigration from England of five hundred young women of good character. These are to be sent out in batches of fifty every month, until the number is exhausted. The reverend gentleman alludes to the one hundred and twenty females who came out in the Tyne-mouth and Robert Lowe as a very badly managed undertaking from beginning to end; but bad as it was those of the emigrants who were steady and industrious succeeded, he says, in obtaining good situations or got comfortably married. We are afraid Mr. Macfie has taken a too sanguine view of female emigration. To bring five hundred unmarried women to this colony within the space of ten months would be to inflict a very serious evil on the females and a very useless cost on those who would defray the expense. The least injurious result that could happen from such a wholesale immigration would be a wholesale deportation to California, where the female labor market is not so confined. Under present circumstances, we could not give employment to one-fourth the number the reverend gentleman suggests. No colony, we are well aware, can hope for much stability in its population if the female element is disproportionately scarce; but above all the melancholy sights in a new country is a number of indigent women who cannot obtain employment. It is, however, not very likely that we shall run the risk of such an inundation as Mr. Macfie speaks of. When the colonies are united an immigration scheme will no doubt be devised that will meet the requirements of all classes. In the meantime we shall have to "labor and to wait."

While, however, objecting to many of Mr. Macfie's ideas on immigration we cannot but confess that the colony is much indebted to the reverend gentleman for his advocacy in England of an emigration scheme; and for the manner in which he has exposed the mischievous effects on young countries of the self-supporting fiat of the Colonial Office. It is shown at considerable length how much the Federal authorities in America expend in opening up communication with the newly formed and distant territories, and in otherwise assisting the younger and more helpless branches of the republic, while the British colony is left to struggle on beneath a heavy burden of local taxation, and in almost a total isolation from the rest of the world. There is one fallacy, however, in Mr. Macfie's way of putting it that takes away from the strength of his argument. He places the younger class of British colonies on the same footing with the Imperial Government as the territories of the United States are with the Federal authorities, overlooking the fact that the colonies make their own system of taxation, define its amount, and pay nothing towards the national exchequer for defence; while the territories, besides their local taxation, have to contribute their quota to the Federal Government in customs duties, and, as occasions arise, in special war taxes, thus giving them every legitimate claim upon the national authorities. Our demand for assistance upon the English Government cannot therefore in any sense of the word be called a right; it is simply a reciprocal arrangement, and any argument on the question should have taken the very high ground with the Home Government of pounds, shillings and pence. It should have been shown that Imperial assistance in the way of mail communication or of emigration would be money well invested—and that anything that promoted the welfare of the colony would create an additional demand for the manufactures and the ships of England. Mr. Macfie has to some extent done this—he has given the amount of exports from England to her colonies in contradistinction to her foreign trade, and shown how much more important is the colonial connection than the commercial relations with foreign countries; but he has scarcely gone the length which the occasion warranted. On the whole, however, his efforts in this respect will do good, and we can well excuse irrelevant or even questionable matter if anything which Mr. Macfie has written will tend to make the Home Government less callous to our wants. If we are drawn any nearer direct steam communication with the mother country—or if our previous insignificance in the eyes of the British people as well as the British Government has been rendered less marked, Mr. Macfie will have earned, with all the imperfections of his book, a debt of gratitude from these two colonies.

HARRIET MARTINEAU, now in her sixty-fourth year, still continues one of the most active and able writers in the British metropolis. She has just sent to press the last volume of her "History of England during the Great Peace." She is now nearly blind and totally deaf.

What is the difference between stabbing a man and killing a hog? One is assaulting with intent to kill, and the other is killing with intent to eat.

SUMMARY COURT.

[BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM.]

Dennis v. Hart.—Action for \$242. Mr. Copland for plaintiff, Mr. Bishop for defendant. Upon the application of the Attorney for defendant, hearing postponed until next court.

Assignees of Bayley v. F. W. Griffin.—Judgment for plaintiffs for \$29.

The same v. Wakeman.—Judgment for \$17 8 1/2.

The same v. Peter Lind.—Judgment for \$29 11 1/2.

Maitre v. Francis.—Action to recover \$100 damages for levying a wrongful and excessive distress. Judgment for \$30 and costs.

Some other cases set down were struck out owing to the non-appearance of parties to the suit. On some judgment was confessed, time for payment being given, and other cases were ordered to stand over for want of service and other causes.

Carfras v. Green.—This was an action to recover from the defendant the sum of \$150 damages alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff from injuries received through the carelessness and negligence of the defendant or his servant, in having driven his carriage over and against the plaintiff.

Mr. Bishop appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Green for the defendant. The plaintiff was examined and three other witnesses, who testified to the circumstances of the accident and the injuries inflicted. The defendant and three other witnesses gave evidence and showed that the accident occurred in Waddington Alley, which although the highway to Esquimalt road, is a narrow thoroughfare and was partially blocked up at the time by a water cart, between which and the defendant's carriage the plaintiff attempted to pass, instead of keeping on the proper side, and owing to which circumstance the accident happened.

His Honor rendered an elaborate judgment. The suit was brought to recover a sum of money for injuries sustained through the alleged careless and unskillful driving of the defendant and his servants. What constituted negligence or unskillfulness was not determined by any fixed rule, but was left to the court to determine. There was some conflict in the evidence adduced, and the great point was, where was the water cart at the time of the accident? The plaintiff's witnesses averred that there was sufficient space between the vehicles to have enabled defendant to pull out of the way, but he did not, and so the accident happened. The witnesses on the other side, who were fully capable of judging, fixed the water cart exactly in the position where the accident happened, and owing to its close proximity the plaintiff in attempting to pass between met with the accident. He felt bound to say so far that he could not impugn the veracity of these gentlemen, and the balance of testimony was therefore in favor of the defendant on that point. That being the case, the question was, did it present a case of negligence? It had been shown that it was a private road, and although a water cart might properly be there, there was no evidence to show that it was the proper thoroughfare for omnibuses. There was another public thoroughfare, although this might be the shorter way. The nature of the passage, however, its narrowness, the slippery boards and the difficulty of managing horses in large vehicles, rendered not less but more than ordinary care necessary while passing through it, and upon the whole the conviction in his mind, acting as Court and jury, was that there was not that ordinary amount of care and vigilance exercised that should have been observed, and the defendant being guilty of negligence in entrusting the driving to a passenger, was liable for the consequences.

His Honor gave judgment for \$15 surgeon's expenses, and wages for twenty-two days to plaintiff, who is a boiler maker, at \$4 50 per diem.

Mr. Green gave notice that he would move for a new trial before a jury.

Simpson v. Greenstade.—Suit to recover \$75 for services rendered in tending sheep at Elk Lake in July and August last. Mr. Dennis for plaintiff, Mr. Copland for defendant. The defence was that the plaintiff had agreed to perform the services for his board. The plaintiff was examined, also the defendant and three witnesses on his behalf. Mr. Dennis replied upon the whole case, contending that the plaintiff was entitled to recover upon the quantum meruit. His Honor gave a verdict for defendant.

SUPREME COURT.

BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM AND A JURY.

Gentile vs. Anderson & Co.—This was an action to recover from the defendant the sum of \$500 for services rendered by the plaintiff in taking certain photographic views at Alberni in May, 1864.

Mr. McCreight, instructed by Messrs. Peakes & Green, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. Ring, instructed by Messrs. Drake & Jackson, for the defendants. The defence set up was that the plaintiff went to Alberni on his own account without any specific contract having been made with him, and that if a contract did exist it was only made by Mr. Johnson, the Manager at Alberni Mills, after his arrival there. The plaintiff was examined and cross-examined at length.

For the defence Mr. Matthew T. Johnson was examined, and depositions of Mr. Gilbert M. Sprout and Captain Henderson taken before the Registrar were read.

His Honor in summing up reviewed the evidence at length, and charged in favor of the plaintiff. The jury retired for a few minutes, and the foreman, Mr. Bendixen, handed in a verdict for the plaintiff for \$250 free of all charges for passage money, &c., against the plaintiff.

Hartley vs. Carey.—This action for damages arising out of an assault alleged to have been committed by the defendant upon the plaintiff, on the 4th July last, at Cadboro Bay, was called on and postponed upon the production by the defendant of an affidavit of the absence of material witnesses, until January next, he paying the costs of the day.

Hutchinson vs. Carson.—Carson vs. Hutchinson.—By agreement all questions at law and equity and matters in difference between the parties to be left to the determination of His Honor the Chief Justice.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE

The Governor's Speech.

The third session of the present Parliament was opened by His Excellency Governor Kennedy in person Tuesday afternoon at one o'clock. A guard of honor of the Volunteers under Lieut. and Adj. Vinter and Ensign Elliot, were in waiting at the Court House door and presented arms to His Excellency as he entered, accompanied by his Private Secretary and other officials, the Band playing the national anthem. The Governor having taken his position on the Bench with the Hon. Chief Justice attired in his judicial robes on his right hand, and the official and civil members of the Legislative Council seated at the table, waited the arrival of the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly who were immediately ushered in and requested to be seated. The body of the Hall and the gallery were crowded with spectators, considerably more interest being manifested in the proceedings on this than on previous occasions. Seated on the right hand benches were Mrs. and the Misses Kennedy, Mrs. and the Misses Needham, Mrs. Wakeford, Mrs. Watson, and other ladies, the opposite benches being occupied by the Resident Magistrate, Sheriff, Post Master and other officials.

When the members were all seated His Excellency delivered the following

SPEECH.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I have deferred calling you together until this late period of the year, in the expectation that I should be thereby enabled to submit to you in some conclusive form matters affecting the settlement of important questions concerning the future condition and prosperity of the Colony. In that hope I regret I am compelled to inform you I have been disappointed.

Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the Crown Lands of Vancouver Island will be laid before you. I forbear to enlarge upon this subject beyond expressing an earnest hope that the wisdom and moderation of the Legislature may find a way to a final settlement of this question, the agitation of which so injuriously retards the progress and settlement of the Colony.

I regret that I am not in a position to make any communication to you in reply to the resolutions adopted by the Legislature in the last session recommending the Union of this Colony with British Columbia. I have no doubt that the subject is receiving that consideration from Her Majesty's Government which its importance demands, and that due weight will be given to the wishes of the people expressed through their representatives.

The discredit and danger to public health arising from the unrepared streets and want of drainage in the city of Victoria cannot longer be ignored without seriously deteriorating the value of private property, while the inhabitants are without legal power to raise a revenue for the correction of the admitted evils. The municipal government of the city might probably be rendered more effectual by attempting less. Schemes of inferior importance have been presented, while more important needs have been neglected.

The importance of direct steam communication between Vancouver Island and San Francisco cannot be overrated, and the absence of it is now most seriously felt. I would recommend liberal provision being made to enable the government to carry out this service at the earliest period, either separately or in conjunction with the government of British Columbia. The anomalous state of the law regarding the Postal Service of the Colony generally demands your attention. There is no law authorising the Executive Government to frame rules and regulations or fix the rates of postage. The expenditure for this branch of the public service, during the year 1864 amounted to \$14,487 while the revenue reached only \$3,510, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue amounting to \$10,977—a disproportion which must be expected to continue in the absence of suitable laws and regulations.

I would earnestly bespeak the attention of the legislature to the insufficiency of the law for the prevention of the sale of intoxicating liquors to the native tribes by which they are demoralized and decimated. This iniquitous traffic is carried on by a worthless and degraded class of men, the cost of whose maintenance in prison and repeated convictions arising from inadequate punishments, falls heavily upon the public funds. Moving appeals have been made to me by Ministers of every denomination and by the Chiefs of several Indian tribes to put an end to a crime which must eventually recoil upon the legitimate commerce of the colony and society at large. Deplorable murders of Indians *inter se*, as well as the murder of white men by Indians are of frequent occurrence and notoriously resulting from the illegal sale of liquor on the coast of this and the neighboring colony. I can see no difficulty in suppressing this unholy traffic if the existing faulty and insufficient law be amended, and with that object I have directed a Bill to be prepared and laid before you.

The existing law of debtor and creditor in this colony will come under your consideration. I feel confident that in whatever changes may be deemed necessary the principle will be held in view that imprisonment should be a punishment for crime and not for a simple failure to pay unaccompanied by dishonesty.

I regret to state that the expenditure of the current year has exceeded the revenue, still leaving demands for public improvements unsatisfied. On the other hand sums have been expended in connection with the projected Harbor Improvements considerably exceeding the original estimate for that service, and also for providing a Government House, which cannot occur again, and ought not to be regarded as belonging to the ordinary expenditures of the colony. To restore the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure is a matter of the first importance, and I apprehend little difficulty will be found in devising legitimate means of raising the receipts and reducing the expenditure with-

out either pressing unduly upon the people, or impairing the efficiency of the public service. While I deem it beyond the province of my duty to discuss matters the decision upon which properly belongs to the Legislature, I feel bound to offer as the result of my experience that grave and numerous objections exist to new countries being drawn into debt except for the purpose of reproductive investment. I regard this Colony as a growing, not a stationary community, whose interests must be looked for in the future rather than the present.

I have caused the Attorney General to prepare the following Bills, which will be submitted for your consideration without delay, namely:

1. To provide for the reception of Native Evidence.
2. To regulate the use of Weights and Measures.
3. To regulate and provide for Postal Services.
4. To regulate Gold Mining.
5. To Provide for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
6. To provide for the Administration of Intestate Estates.
7. To provide Exemption from Imprisonment for Debt.
8. To grant jurisdiction to Stipendiary Magistrates for the Recovery of Small Debts.
9. To provide for the Exemption of Home-steads from Liability.
10. Coroner's Bill.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The Estimates for the coming year will be laid before you without delay, and I trust you will find them framed with every regard to economy consistent with the efficiency and credit of the public service. A Statement will accompany the Estimates showing the probable condition of the public finances on the 31st December, 1865.

Sums are annually voted to a considerable amount for services and establishments over which the Executive Government has no sufficient control, as for purposes of local rather than general utility; and I would beg you to consider the propriety of these charges being borne by the general revenue and this practice continued.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen:—

Though the year about to close cannot be considered one of great progress, I have full faith in the future of this colony, and it is gratifying to observe the increased number and improved character of the middle class dwellings which have sprung up and are still springing up, affording one of the most conclusive proofs of the confidence of the people in its resources and stability. The agricultural classes have struggled manfully with the difficulties which beset the farmer in new countries, and the excellence of the produce exhibited at the annual show places the fertility and capability of the soil and climate beyond a doubt.

We have during the last year experienced the inestimable blessings of peace and public health, and I trust that the same beneficent Providence which has watched over us in the past may guide us in the path to future prosperity and peace.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, Nov. 28.

A ROGUE AND A VAGABOND.—James Wright was charged at the Police Court yesterday with being an idle and disorderly person. Sergt. Farrell said he arrested the prisoner on Johnson street on Saturday at 10 o'clock, on the sidewalk, and had only been out of prison about four hours; he had no visible means of support. The prisoner—I have been at work on the Emily Harris and on a schooner: I have visible means of support (showing some silver coins) I will appeal to your Honor for a character, you have known me for eight years. (Laughter.) Mr. Pemberton said he should order the prisoner to find sureties, himself in \$100, and two surties in \$50 to be of good behaviour for six months. Prisoner—You might as well send me to prison for 20 years! I expect to get work in a short time. Mr. Pemberton—I will accommodate you in any way that I can; if you can get work I will alter the sureties so that they will not debar you from earning your living.

GRATITUDE.—We have the authority of our evening contemporary for stating that a handsome silver Communion service has been presented to the Wesleyan Methodist Church of this city by a gentleman in England whose son, while in a delicate state of health out here, received kind attentions from Dr. Evans.

TREASURY.—The Bank of British Columbia will ship to-day per steamer Active \$146,357 47.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29.

SAILED AND RETURNED.—The steamer Active left yesterday morning for Portland with 125 passengers, about 70 of whom were Chinamen, and a few tons of freight. Before 2 o'clock, finding that she could not face the strong westerly gale blowing up the Straits, Captain Thorne returned and anchored near the Labouchere, where she remained last night intending to make a second effort so soon as the weather moderated, which it did suddenly about nine o'clock. The second mate had his face injured by being struck by the jib sheet.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The hon. members of this Council had a short sitting yesterday, after the Legislature had been formally opened by His Excellency the Governor. The only business transacted was the swearing in of the Hon. Chief Justice Needham, to whom the oath was administered by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, and the Council then adjourned until to-day.

THE DOG CASE.—The case of Dorman v. Medina, for permitting a savage dog to roam at large, came up again yesterday before the police magistrate, and was adjourned for one day to enable the defendant to dispose of the offensive animal.

THEATRE.—Every nationality is distinguished by certain humorous characteristics.

The somnolent German with his peculiar relish for interminable pipes of tobacco, countless pots of lager beer, and mystical divings into the speculative philosophy of the objective and subjective, whatever may be the meaning of these abstruse terms, the effeminate and courtly demeanor of the polished Frenchman, always supplemented by a predilection for toasted frogs and snail soup; the insipid languor and sentimental enthusiasm of the accomplished Italian; the "darned smartness" and reckless go-aheadism of the genuine Yankee with his lavish generosity grafted upon Down East outness; or last though not least the affected lip and everlasting appetite for unlimited supplies of roast beef and plum pudding supposed to be the birth right of every sterling Britisher. Without any ill-feeling so much innocent amusement is derived from the contemplation of the failings and idiosyncrasies of foreigners with a facetious obliviousness of our own, that it has been an inexhaustible mine of fun with dramatic authors from time immemorial. A piece de circonstance has recently been produced in San Francisco entitled "Our Friend from Victoria," which has afforded intense delight to the play goers of that city. As a literary composition the farce possesses slight merit, the dialogue, when not of the baldest and most common place description, is disfigured with wretched puns purloined at random from the modern burlesque writers. However suffice it to say it had a long run, Mr. Charles Wheatleigh personating the hero, an Englishman, we presume reared within the halloved precincts of the far famed Bow Bells. The introduction to the play though not original, having been borrowed from a French piece and a small English farce entitled a "Row in the House," is nevertheless so novel here that it entirely deceived all the audience last night who were not aware of the plot. Mr. Ward, the Manager, during the music rushed on before the curtain in an apparent state of excitement, begged the leader to desist, and immediately threw himself upon the kind indulgence of the audience, as owing to the unaccountable absence of the performers there was not an actor left to appear before them and the entertainment could not proceed. The audience looked aghast and murmurs of discontent were muttered round the house. The surprise of the auditor doubled as one after another from various parts of the house protested against the imposition. Paterfamilias was vehement in his demands to have the money returned. The newspaper critic threatened an exposure in his next issue. Mr. Witherspoon, an Englishman in the dress circle, came to see our "Friend from Victoria" and nothing else, while voices from the pit were loud in their denunciations of the "bilk." There were serious calls for the police, but that useful body of course did not put in an appearance, and the astonishment of the people was in no way lessened when the different salooniers, having tendered their services to the manager, rose and walked deliberately on to the stage. The real business of the play then commenced. The plot of this trifle has already been reviewed in these columns. Mr. A. R. Phelps played the Englishman, "Mr. Witherspoon," with much spirit, toning down the exasperation of the "h's" and the reckless substitution of the "w" for "w" in excellent taste; the author, who should know better, having mistaken the domain of cockneydom as a common type of a native of the British Isle. Mrs. Fanny Morgan Phelps delivered the "slang" of her part with much naïveté, which elicited enthusiastic applause from a "discriminating audience." The "Smibert" of Mr. Clarke, and the local imitator of the "Daily Teetotum" of Mr. Torrence also deserve a word of praise for their careful acting. The evening's entertainment concluded with Charles Matthews' adaptation of "L'Homme Baise," entitled "Used Up." The "Sir Charles Coldstream" of Mr. A. M. Harris was well conceived. The languid, used-up swell "who has seen everything, done everything and knows everything" and finds there is "nothing in it" being capitally rendered, the only fault being a nervous restlessness suggestive of a victim to acute rheumatism. The John Ironbrass of Mr. Pratt was an agreeable surprise, the sturdy blacksmith being represented with great naturalness, an excessive solemnity of manner, which somewhat marred the effect of some of the scenes. Mr. Daniel enacted Sir Adonis Leech with much gentlemanly vivacity, and by his capital blyplay and *ad libitum* contributed materially to the success of the comedy. There was a very fair house, and the entertainment seemed to afford general satisfaction. To-morrow night Mr. Fischer's concert and dramatic entertainment will take place under distinguished patronage.

FROM THE SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson arrived from Puget Sound yesterday at noon, having encountered very rough weather in crossing the Straits. On getting alongside her wharf she was blown with such violence against the piles as to carry away her guards. Her passenger and freight lists appear under the proper head. Her news was anticipated by the Active.

TREASURY SHIPMENTS.—In addition to the amount of \$146,357 47 shipped per Active by the Bank of British Columbia, the Bank of British North America shipped \$80,094 58 and Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co., \$10,000, making a total of \$236,452 05 forwarded by that steamer to San Francisco, besides sums in the hands of private individuals.

THE PILOT CASE.—The Resident Magistrate yesterday in case of Gardner vs. Wright, decided in favor of the defendant on the ground that the plaintiff was not licensed under the Act of 1864.

ROUGH WEATHER.—A strong south west gale raged all day yesterday with occasional violent squalls, causing some of the strongest built houses in town to tremble and shake as if set in motion by an earthquake. The aspect seaward was the most stormy we have witnessed for an age.

to initiate and alter... CORNER'S BILL... notice, moved... bill for amalgam... and attorneys... SPEECH... ward appointed as... reply to the... Messrs. M'Clare... report to be... day, and submitted... until three... & Rueff... MERCHANTS... Wholesale Dealers... Provisions... and Shoes... VICTORIA, V. I... REMEDY... STION, &c... PILLS... ended as a simple but... digestion. They act as... aperient; are mild in... for any circumstances;... can now bear testimony... in their use... d. 2s. 9d., and 11s. each... and Storekeepers in all... payable London... M. SEARBY, Chemist... achic Weakness... LINE... & SON... Manufacturers of... WINE, are enabled to... substitute for the Gastro... W UNIVERSAL... 1000s., and obtainable of... edicine Vendors... LOZENGES, POW... ELATINE, and all... PARATIONS, &c... cal. Pharmaceutical and... Preparations... AND SON... Hampton Row, London... on, are most carefully... of Glasgow... SURANCE... \$3,000,000... 500,000... 14,415,990... OFFERS TO... combined advantages... curity, Moderate... ral participation... great freedom in... gence and... powers under... rliament which... rge of claims in... dying abroad... NOTICE... OF PROFITS... ected on or be... nuary, 1866, par... ur years standing... of profits in Janu... every information can be... to the undersigned, who... TON STEWART... STREET, VICTORIA, V. I... and Vancouver Island... MARK... DS & TACKLE... Crickets... Croquet... ARTICLES ONLY... WRIGHT... ND, LONDON... SALE & RETAIL... Fitzpatrick... WANTED OF MICHAEL... native of New York City... tra Costa County, Califor... August. A little more than... Victoria, V. I., intending to... formation, addressed Patrick... San Francisco, California... received by his father and...

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

THE "WHAT IS IT."

Of all the articles in Barnum's collection of curiosities the "What is It" attracted more than any other the attention of the public. There was something in its hideous and unnatural appearance that caused the spectator to gaze on it with a feeling of wonder and perplexity. Although the museum and the nondescript have been reduced to ashes, there are still "What is It" in the world, horrifying as well as puzzling with their hideous deformity. There are moral "What is It" and mental "What is It," and there are monsters which represent both these unsightly distortions combined. It is to this latter class to which we wish to allude just now. As the laws of physical beauty were outraged in the thing which Barnum placed before the public, so the laws of truth and harmony are violated in the creation of this double monster—the mental and moral "What is it." Everything is seen through a distorted lens, but the loaves and fishes on which it feeds. Poor Polonius never made so many shapes out of the clouds as this creature does provided Hamlet only jingles a little specie in his pocket. Black then becomes white, the crooked is immediately straight, and what was as dark as Erebus is transparent as a noon-day brilliance. The monster, however, with all the suddenness of its gyrations, is clumsy. Like a bungling conjuror it reveals the shallowness of the trick. There is nothing of the mezzotinted blendings in its truth and falsehood; but all is crude, rough and abrupt. Can our readers fail to discover for a moment the original of this picture? We think not. We believe on the first faint outline they will have perceived that the mental and moral "What is It" is the Daily Chronicle, published at Victoria, Vancouver Island, and sold by carriers at the small charge of 25 cents per week. This curious creature has been carrying on with more than usual vigor of late its characteristic distortions and its word swallowing tricks, and for various reasons we are constrained to mark its course.

The "What is It" tells us in Thursday morning's issue that it has no desire to add to the discomfiture of the minority that opposed the Hudson's Bay Company and acted against it (the What is It's) remonstrances, and further says: "The majority of intelligent people have always regarded the petition of the Assembly to set aside the carefully considered award of the Imperial arbitrators as hopeless, if not unreasonable."

The petition of the Assembly was based on the report of the Crown Lands Committee, and it is rather a remarkable feature that at one time the "What is It" thought against the "majority of intelligent people." After attacking the claims of the Company in the most violent manner it says of the proceedings of the Crown Lands Committee, (April 27, 1864):

"Enough of the truth has been already elicited to warrant us in saying that all or nearly all the illegal encroachments will be recovered." In another place we have the case put even more strongly: "The alarm and excitement which Dr. Tolmie has evinced in the committee-room and in the House has assured the public that in that gentleman's estimation the secrets of the Company's management and the nature of their title will not bear the light of day, nor the test of a legal investigation."

It will thus be seen that what was black in 1864 is white in 1865. This, however, is not much for a "What is It." In Thursday's article it says:

"Those who are conversant with the history of the question must remark how baseless the popular prejudice against two of the most prominent and useful members of the Assembly has been. The solemnity will find nearly every important assertion the Hudson Bay men made in opposition to the useless resolutions of last year, substantiated in the despatches from Mr. Cardwell."

The following tit-bit from April 8th forms a rather amusing contrast to the song which the creature sings now:

"We are admittedly one of the poorest colonies in the Queen's dominions, not because we have never had that which could have made wealth, but because we have been disgracefully robbed and stripped of every bit of land that could be turned into money. No other colony was ever farmed out by a selfish and unscrupulous trading Company in the way ours has been. Not content with disposing of the town site and suburban lots, and handing over the pick of the farming lands to a fictitious company, they have encroached upon the public park, the Government reserve and the Church reserve and swallowed up the whole of the Governor's reserve, and completed the catalogue of their greedy offences by selling the public streets after they were macadamized."

Becoming, however, fastidious, and deeply concerned for the reputation of the Hudson Bay members in the House it says:

"It only remains for those gentlemen who have built up their reputations by unjust accusations against the veracity and the motives of the senior member for Victoria District and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to make the amende honorable."

We sincerely hope they will; but would it not be as well to commence with the "What is It." We find that creature, which is now so careful about the reputation of the Company's officials, getting off, in April 2d, the following in alluding to the results of the Crown Lands Committee:—

"They will expose the frauds which common rumor had charged against the chief officials of the Company and the Land Office."

On April 10th it has an article of the most violent character against Dr. Helmsken and the Company generally,—calls the Speaker all manner of invidious names; accuses him

of disloyalty, and alludes to his efforts to supplant Governor Kennedy by a man "with less talent and more unscrupulousness than Sir James Douglas even in his early days." In the next and following issues we have the very gentle term of "embezzlement" applied to what is now called just and proper.

We have been so often called upon to expose the mental as well as moral obliquity of our morning contemporary that the task has become actually burthensome. When we come to think of its free port to tariff and back again to free-port-in-a-week gyrations, its boxing the compass on every question from the Crown Lands to the City Council, and from the Hudson Bay Company to the Church Reserve, we begin to form a conception of the endless work in carrying out the exposition. We have no fault to find with either an individual or a journal changing its opinions on both men and things;—change is but another name often for progress;—but when we find the same individual or the same newspaper calling a man a scoundrel for performing a certain act, and then afterwards lauding him, not for anything new that he has done, but for the self-same action, we are inclined to think that there is or has been some hallucination in the matter. Whether that hallucination takes the form of the gratitude that looks out for "favors to come," it would be difficult to say; but as the free port party rewarded, the "presto change" in February last with a few advertisements, may we not by a parity of reasoning look for some substantial recognition shortly from the Hudson Bay Company, and get a view of the respectable diet on which this hideous creature feeds?

THE BIG BEND.

We have been favored with the following extract from a letter received here yesterday from a Cariboo miner who left that country for the Big Bend and Blackfoot:—

COLVILLE, NOV. 7, 1865.

FRIEND—, We arrived at New Fort Colville, otherwise Pinckney City, on the 3d inst.—18 days from Cariboo. Said Pinckney City, by the way, is one of the meanest places a man ever got out of, being inhabited chiefly by thieves and cripples, who get their living out of the soldiers, all the others having left for Blackfoot. We are on our way to the latter mines and have about 370 miles to travel. From such items as we have been able to pick up we have seen no reason to regret that we gave Big Bend the go-by. Down through British Columbia, Big Bend was in every body's mouth; we couldn't get a man to say Blackfoot for \$100, even in Colville it was the same—the wish being father to the thought—till about the time we got there, when the arrival of three or four men from Blackfoot gave things a turn that way. Capt. White's new steamer is nearly finished on the Columbia, 16 miles from Colville, at the spot where the English Boundary Commission wintered in 1860. I saw her myself; part of her machinery was in her on the 3rd, and they expect to launch her next Saturday; she will be ready to take a trip up the Columbia, a good way towards the mines, in about three weeks. The steamer is about the size of the Hope, and the Colville folks think she will knock the Thompson river route into a cocked hat next spring.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

[BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM.]

Re Curtis.—The assignees in this case applied for leave to take out of Court the sum of \$203 which had been paid into Court by Mr. Bowman, the defendant in an action in which Messrs. Guild, David & Co. were plaintiffs. After hearing the evidence of Messrs. Guild & David and Bowman, and reading the evidence of Curtis taken before the late Chief Justice, His Honor decided that the plaintiffs were entitled to the money and not the assignees.

Mr. S. Green appeared for Messrs. Guild, David & Co. and Mr. Bowman; Mr. Jackson for the assignees.

Re Walter J. Carr.—An order was granted directing Messrs. Jacson, Green & Rhodes to produce to the Court the bills of lading of certain goods consigned from England to the bankrupt.

Re Moore.—The bankrupt came up for his second examination when called upon.

Re Ernest Muller.—Mr. Carswell appeared pursuant to an order of Court to prove his title to certain chattel property sold under a mortgage. No affidavit of the due execution having been filed, the Court ruled that the personal chattel property he sold belonged to the bankrupt's estate, and he was ordered to lodge the proceeds, \$148, in Court within one week. With reference to the leasehold estate was adjourned till Wednesday next for argument. Mr. Courtney appeared for Mr. Carswell, Mr. Bishop for the assignees.

Re Culverwell's Estate.—Mr. Turner was ordered to appear with reference to a bill of sale of a horse, piano, &c., executed by the bankrupt in his favor before bankruptcy. Mr. Turner was asked if the bill of sale was registered pursuant to statute, but could not state, and the matter was adjourned for one week to enable Mr. Turner to obtain advice on the subject.

Re Macdonald's Estate.—Mr. Copland produced mortgages belonging to the estate which may realize several thousand dollars. His Honor directed that they be foreclosed and the proceeds paid into court for the benefit of the creditors.

Two hard things: First, to talk of yourself without being vain; second, to talk of others without slandering.

LETTER FROM COWICHAN.

SOMERNOE, COWICHAN, NOV. 29th. THE MAGISTRACY.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—His Excellency has done us the honor to appoint us a magistrate, who seems anxious enough to deal out justice by the Imperial measure. All power to him, say I, but I'm a little afraid he will find his hands somewhat tied, without a constable. He says he will swear one in whenever he wants one, and this undoubtedly he may sometimes be able to do, but there are periods when men engaged in agricultural pursuits cannot easily be induced to leave their occupation, and at such times, should an occasion occur, he would find it difficult, if not impossible, to procure any one to undertake the office of constable. I think a constable who could be depended on and who at all seasons would be at hand to carry out the instructions of the magistrate and the requirements of the law is as necessary as the magistrate himself. As I believe Governor Kennedy is sufficiently an Englishman to dislike doing things by halves, I trust he will see that a constable is a necessary adjunct to a magistrate and act accordingly.

GALES AND FLOODS.

We had a few days ago what the Indians call a "hyas solax wind," anglicized, a very heavy gale. The roads in every direction have been choked, several Indian houses have been blown down, stake and rider fences were levelled with the ground, thousands of trees that had withstood the storms of many a winter's day—venerable fellows that had bowed their heads "death may a furious blast have at last been prostrated. Happily less harm has been done than might have been expected, beyond crushing a settler's cow shed and breaking any amount of fences, no material damage appears to have been done. I have heard of several narrow escapes, but a miss in such cases is as good as a mile. We have had a flood of a "hyas solax" nature too, but it has also done but little damage and is fast subsiding.

MARVELOUS DEER STALKING.

Strange hunting adventures are sometimes recorded, but I have seldom heard anything in that line more remarkable than the following: Mr. Potter, who has earned for himself the reputation of being the most successful as well as the most indefatigable hunter in the settlement, went out this morning and seeing at a distance of over a hundred yards a deer's head peering above some tall bushes he fired at it and the head disappeared; he loaded his rifle again and walked a short distance towards the spot, when he saw what appeared to be the head of the same deer presenting itself in the same place. He took aim and fired again and the head disappeared for the second time. After loading again he went a few steps forward, the head appeared in the same place, another shot followed, and the head went down the third time. After reloading his rifle the marksman went up to the place and found to his astonishment three deer lying in a cluster, two of them actually lying across each other.

STEAM COMMUNICATION.

I am glad you have put us on a steamer again. It did one good to hear the welcome whistle as she stood up Cowichan Bay on Saturday. Thanks to the steamer, we heard our old friend Mr. Browning yesterday, who, though he had been a truant for two Sundays, was as well received as ever, and fairly excelled himself on the subject of Mr. Monitor's old text of "Faith, Hope, and Charity." I have, &c.

WILLIAM SMITH.

NANAIMO ITEMS.—Henry Bankson, a coal miner, was severely injured on Monday, 20th, by jumping from the trucks and striking his head against a beam. A boy named Randall had his leg crushed by the cage of the Douglas pit on Saturday last. The storms of last week were felt with far more severity at Nanaimo than here. Great numbers of the largest trees were blown down, people being obliged to leave their houses for fear of being crushed. The ship Portlaw could barely keep off shore with three anchors down. The Comox trail is completely blocked up by fallen timber. Capt. Franklyn had two fine oxen killed, and a cow of Mr. Westwood's was also crushed. Some scoundrels entered Mr. Webb's garden and destroyed a number of young fruit trees. The main level of the Douglas pit is driven half a mile from the bottom of the shaft.

WATCHING THE FENIANS.—A correspondent of the Louisville Journal writes from Chicago: "I have it from the very best of authority that there are parties in this city in constant communication with the Chief of Police in London, England, regarding the Fenian Brotherhood in the West, and the present exodus of many of the prominent members of that noble and patriotic Order. I am told that there is not a Fenian that leaves this city whose name and destination is not immediately forwarded to the police authorities in London. There are in this city to-day a number of spies in the employ of the English Government, ferreting out every movement of the Fenians. Indeed, some assert that they have become members of the Brotherhood, the better to be able to divine the workings of the association. However this may be, I know positively that the spies are here, and that not a European mail leaves our shores that does not carry from these dogs the intelligence they have been able to glean regarding the movements of the Fenians."

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NANAIMO.—Captain Franklyn, J.P., has kindly placed the Court-room at the disposal of the Rev. Mr. Jamieson for a few Sabbaths for the observance of Christian worship after the manner prescribed by the Church of Scotland. The rev. gentleman is hopeful from the number of residents here who have been educated in the Presbyterian faith, soon to have a congregation sufficiently large to necessitate the erection of a suitable building for their special religious behoof. Service was held yesterday for the first time, in the temporary church, and was attended by a numerous and devout assemblage.—Gazette.

THE BLACKFOOT MINES.

As some anxiety is felt to know something of these distant mines the following accounts may be of interest, always bearing in mind the source from which they emanate and that accounts received here represent the Eldorado as a comparative "fizzle."

The Walla Walla Statesman publishes the following correspondence from a man signing himself Peter Miller, who writes from Walla Walla on November 15th:—

Having recently arrived from the heart of the far-famed Blackfoot country, and having derived a good deal of experience from a sojourn of a year and a-half there, it has occurred to me that a few lines might not be uninteresting to your readers.

Much has already been said in its favor, and no doubt more will continue to be said, but as yet I have seen no report that has placed it beyond what it really is—the richest and most extensive gold-diggings ever discovered on this coast since the early days of California. Quartz mills have already found their way to within a few miles of the summit of the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, and more are on their way. McClellan's Gulch, on this side, and Alder Gulch, on the eastern slope, are as yet the richest placer diggings which have yet been discovered, but many other gulches, nearly if not quite as good are known to exist on both sides. In Last Chance, on this side, a fine piece worth eighteen hundred and seventy-five dollars, was picked up by one of the fortunate owners.

The climate during the winter, owing to the great altitude and northern position, is of course very severe; but the working season is much longer than many suppose, having lasted nearly six months last year. Through the past winter, many poor fellows were severely frost-bitten, and having been among the number I can speak all the more feelingly. To this incident I owe my present visit to your beautiful valley, having come for the purpose of receiving proper medical treatment.

Last winter provisions were very high—four two dollars per pound, and everything else in proportion; while the lovers of the weed were required to fork over a cool fifteen dollars per pound for tobacco. But as I met upwards of four thousand pack animals on the way, I presume there will be a different state of affairs this winter.

While crossing the Spokane river, or rather just as I reached this side, I was, through the polite attentions of a gentleman, commonly known as Irish Jim, relieved of all my loose cash, and the further necessity of taking care of my own mule, having received a blow from a stone on the left temple, which left me insensible for a long time, awakening to the sad reality that I was alone without either money, blankets or mules.

The Mountaineer gives the following:

Mr. Samuel Brooks, a citizen of the Dalles, has just returned from Montana Territory. He left Blackfoot City on the 31st of October, and reports that at the time of his departure, snow had fallen in the mines to the depth of from six to ten inches. There was a little snow in spots in Deer Lodge Valley, and a light fall had occurred in Hellgate Ronde, but had gone off, and the weather there was delightful. He found snow down the Hellgate Canyon to within ten miles of Big Blackfoot. In consequence of the cold weather, washing was pretty much suspended in the mines, but drifting operations continued with unabated energy.

The trade at Blackfoot City was quiet, and the following are the prices of leading articles: Flour—Salt Lake, per one hundred pounds, \$23; Oregon, \$25@26, and some talk of advancing the price to \$28. Bacon—cargos sales of Oregon at 50c, retailing at 60c@65c. Lard—retailing at 60c@70c. Beans, 40c@45c, with sales of damaged and inferior at 35c. Butter—Isthmus, \$1; ranch, \$1 50. Coffee—Rio, 90c; Costa Rica, \$1; ground, \$1. Tea—common black, \$2 50; Japanese, \$2 75@3 25; choice green, \$3 50. Dried Fruit—States apples, 62c@65; California peaches, 75c; States peaches, 65c. Sugar—Sandwich Island, 55c; S. F. refined 65c; crushed, 75c. New Orleans, 60c@65; Syrup—S. F. golden, 5 gallon kegs, \$27 50; Belcher's St. Louis, \$35 per 20 gallon keg. Fresh beef was retailing at 18c@25 per pound. The new diggings on the tributaries of the Big Blackfoot are situated about fifty miles from Hellgate, between Hellgate and Big Blackfoot rivers. Most of the ground yet proven to be good is on the tributaries of Elk Creek which flows out of the dividing ridge between the two rivers and empties into Big Blackfoot river ten miles below Stevens' Prairie. Diggings on the same range have been found north of the Big Blackfoot. These new discoveries are fifty miles this side of the Little Blackfoot mines, and are by that distance closer to the sources of supply on the Pacific side. There are about six hundred men in the new district, and they are generally very short of supplies and nearly destitute of the principal conveniences of miner's life. These new mines are of particular importance to the commercial community on this side of the mountains, as they are nearly as close to the head of navigation on Snake River as to Fort Benton and within a day's ride of Hellgate Valley—the agricultural district nearest to them. The prosperity of this valley secures a lucrative trade to this side in any event, and that prosperity is enhanced by the existence of such mines close to it.

Mr. Brooks brought back several fine specimens of gold quartz, and one specimen of galena, holding mechanically a large piece of gold. This is a combination hitherto, we believe, unheard of.

The following exciting incident is also related by the Mountaineer—

Gold Creek, or American Fork, is the name of a tributary of Hellgate river, which comes into that stream from the west side, about twelve miles below the Little Blackfoot. The creek carries a few hundred inches of water, and after falling very rapidly from a cluster of remarkably broken, bare granite peaks, debouches through a high, gravelly bottom, of half a mile in width, into the main Hellgate river. Gold was discovered on this creek on the flat and gravel parts in 1861, and has been worked ever since to a considerable profit. Some pretty rich gulches were

found upon the tributary creeks, and some dozen of men are still at work on them. At the mouth of the creek a settlement of some twenty log houses was built in 1861-2, and a portion of them were burnt down last year. Four years ago the Blackfoot Indians infested the adjacent country, and one fortified corral bears marks of where these predatory savages tried to cut away the gate frames, to steal a band of horses which was enclosed in it at night. The gate was built with an iron frame, concealed between two boards, and the Indians patiently cut into the wood until their knives met the iron, when they desisted. This corral witnessed one of those cases of swift retributive vengeance which so frequently overtakes criminals in the mountains of Montana. The circumstances are these: Two men called at the camp of a man named Bull, who was camped on Elk City prairie, in the Nez Perces mines, in the fall of 1862, and asked to stay all night. Bull kindly entertained them, and they, with detestable ingratitude, got up in the night and stole five horses and mules from him. Bull, nothing discouraged by the fact that he was sick at the time with ague and fever, started with a friend in pursuit. Crossing the Bitter Root Mountains, one hundred and sixty miles to Fort Owen, he followed them down the Bitter Root river, thirty miles to Hellgate, and seventy-five miles up the Hellgate river to Gold Creek. Twenty days had elapsed and the thieves felt safe from pursuit. When Bull arrived in the camp he called upon a trader, to whom he had letters explaining his errand, and from him learned that the men were at that time in a neighboring drinking house. Hastily loading a double-barrelled shot-gun, accompanied by the friend who had attended him from Elk City, went over to the drinking house. The establishment was a low hewn log cabin, with a thatched roof, and here were the long sought villains who had set him a-foot. One of them saw Bull as he came up, and immediately jumped upon a horse, which was hitched to the corral and fled. The other, whose name was Bill Arnett, was dealing a game of monte. As Bull entered the door Arnett recognized him. Springing to his feet, with his cards in one hand, with the other hand he reached for his pistol. But Bull was too quick for him and brought him to the ground dead, with two charges of buckshot and slugs. The other man was pursued about ten miles down the river—caught—brought back, and hung on a gallows hastily improvised by two logs laid over the top of the corral, with a cross piece on it. Both were buried in a clump of bushes near by, which grew around a stagnant water hole, and Arnett was laid in the grave with his monte cards still grasped in his hand. The verdict of the miners was, "Served 'em right."—Mountaineer.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

The members of this Society met Thursday, at two p.m., for the installation of the officers elect. This completed, the members adjourned to the Presbyterian Church, where divine service was performed and an excellent discourse delivered by the chaplain, the Rev. T. Somerville, M.A. At seven o'clock the St. Andrew's annual dinner took place at the Colonial hotel. J. G. Shepherd, Esq., the President of the Society, occupied the chair. On his right sat His Excellency Governor Kennedy, and on his left Sir James Douglas, K.C.B. Among those present were D. Cameron, Esq., late Chief Justice; L. Franklin Esq., Mayor; Dr. Tolmie, M.L.A.; J. J. Cochrane, Esq., M.L.A. Vice-President; Captain Lang, V.V.R.C.; J. F. McCreight, Esq.; Rev. T. Somerville, M.A.; Jas. Lowe, Esq.; E. H. Jackson, Esq.; J. G. McKay, Esq.; Captain Reid and others, about forty in all. The room was decorated with flags, and the dinner was well provided by Messrs. Dryard, Messrs. Palmer, Wilson and Fischer, who enlivened the proceedings with some excellent music. A number of speeches were delivered, to which we had not the pleasure of listening.

The following is the printed list of toasts: "The Queen," proposed by the President; music, "God save the Queen." "The Royal Family," proposed by the President; music, "Rule Britannia." "His Excellency the Governor," proposed by the President; music, "What'll be King but Charlie"; responded to by His Excellency Governor Kennedy. "The Navy, Army and Volunteers," proposed by the President; responded to by senior officers present; music, "Red, White and Blue." "The Legislative Council and House of Assembly," proposed by Captain Reid; music, "Let Whig and Tory agree." "The Mayor and City Council," proposed by Mr. J. S. Drummond; responded to by the Mayor; music, "What's a' the steer Kimmer." "The Clergy," proposed by Mr. J. G. McKay; responded to by the Chaplain; music, "Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon." "The St. Andrew's Society," proposed by His Excellency the Governor; responded to by the President; music, "Scots wha hae." "The Patron of the Society," proposed by the President; responded to by Sir Jas. Douglas; "Auld lang syne." "The Retiring Officers," proposed by Chief Justice Cameron; responded to by Mr. D. M. Lang; music, "Here's the year that's awa." "The Newly Elected Officers," proposed by Sir James Douglas; responded to by Vice President Stewart; music, "The Campbells are coming." "Our Guests," proposed by Mr. J. Lowe; music, "For a' that and a' that." "The Land we live in," proposed by Mr. D. M. Lang; music, "Oh! why left I my name." "Our American Neighbors," proposed by Dr. Tolmie; responded to by Mr. J. A. McCrea; music, "Hail Columbia." "The Land o' Cakes," proposed by Rev. T. Somerville; music, "The Blue Bells of Scotland." "The Brotherhood of St. Andrew," proposed by Vice-President J. J. Cochrane; music, "London's bonnie woods and braes." "The Press," proposed by Mr. J. Wright; responded to by senior members present; "We're a' noddin'." "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. M. T. Johnston; responded to by Mr. McLean; music, "Green grow the rushes, O!"

THE YELLOW VIRGIN CO.—Through a misprint in our Cariboo news in yesterday's COLONIST the \$19,000 taken out by this company was said to be the result of two instead of ten days washing.

In our yesterday's Cardwell's despatch Attorney General England, on the Lands. The effect has been as any one may see, one end of the thing but the in except perhaps the Bay officialism and lacy—our morning lectable institut brilliancy and pride outrage on the Hudson's Bay Co. Her Majesty's G rather a good job its hands with a g have evinced. " Bay Company to the Church reser Church of Engl his hands with iv water." We hav much pretence to very iniquitous the day's Chronicle whole history of the most shamef Home Govern the days of W over the spoliati go into raptures possessing him something either verging on the fact not becau the attention of out of it, but be feeble and unpr has been made this patient com over an act of ic couver Island pr they can call th

Mr. Cardwell he is very anx Crown Lands s the manner an subordinate thi eluding the nega all, he has over has not yet co there is not m will. So long sincerity and the Colonial O Crown Lands, w the burdens, w whole face of changed. We are not to have claimed by the of the disputed of this we a Governor and the Civil Lis we have very also that in co Home Govern cases more tha we know that tain powers w touch, and po decision of the General and t office null an make the "L acres as the I and it will be longs to the B and not the p mnd Head; Colonial Offi of speculative pathway to what we ar Our parental auspicious m handed mea blow at a time North Americ they have t rule when th from one side when everyth ing done to d the folds of t taken from us and we are a beast of burd fits of so be crushing we this the way on the Pacifi the British i

A JOKE F Lake Union Young, on h sought the h actress who guardianship Waldron is be can play Romeo, and time Brighta oution into

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

MR. CARDWELL AND THE COLONY.

In our yesterday's issue we gave Mr. Cardwell's despatch, with the opinion of the Attorney General and Solicitor General of England, on the question of the Crown Lands. The effect on the community has been as any one might have expected. From one end of the city to the other there is nothing but the intensest indignation—if we except perhaps that exponent of Hudson's Bay officialism and land aggrandizing pre-lacy—our morning contemporary. This delectable institution, with characteristic brilliancy and principle, thinks the gigantic outrage on the colony perpetrated by the Hudson's Bay Company of the first part and Her Majesty's Government of the second, rather a good joke than otherwise, and rubs its hands with a glee that Uriah Heep might have envied. "The title of the Hudson's Bay Company to the town site is recognised, the Church reserve is the property of the Church of England," and Uriah "washes his hands with invisible soap in imperceptible water." We have seen newspapers without much pretence to principle do a great many very iniquitous things, but we think yesterday's Chronicle eclipses anything in the whole history of journalism. To glory in the most shameful transaction of which the Home Government has been guilty since the days of Walpole—to laugh with joy over the spoliation of our public lands—to go into raptures at the idea of Bishop Hills possessing himself of a city square—is something either very near akin to idocy or verging on the malignant. We notice the fact not because it is really worth in itself the attention of any person in the colony or out of it, but because it is the only effort—feeble and unprincipled as it may be—that has been made or could be made, even in this patient community, to justify and gloat over an act of injustice that leaves the Vancouver Island public without an acre of land they can call their own.

Mr. Cardwell shows in his despatch that he is very anxious that the question of the Crown Lands should be settled, and makes the manner and terms of settlement quite subordinate things to the desire for concluding the negotiations; but we think, after all, he has overshot the mark. The colony has not yet consented to the Civil List, and there is not much probability now that it will. So long as there was anything like sincerity and integrity to be hoped for from the Colonial Office, on the question of the Crown Lands, we were willing to assume all the burdens, with certain stipulations. The whole face of things is now, however, changed. We are told distinctly that we are not to have a cent's worth of all the land claimed by the Company, or an inch of any of the disputed reserves; and in the face of this we are to vote \$15,000 for the Governor and the other thousands of the Civil List. We know as a colony we have very little outside force. We know also that in coming into collision with the Home Government we may lose in many cases more than we can hope to gain; but we know that we have at the same time certain powers which Mr. Cardwell dare not touch, and powers that can if properly applied render for all practical purposes the decision of the most learned the Attorney General and the ultimatum of the Colonial office null and void. There is a way to make the "Lord Bishop" drop his ill-gotten acres as the Irishman did the hot potato; and it will be done. Vancouver Island belongs to the British people who are on it; and not the pompous and scheming Sir Edmund Head; nor the fussy Barnacles of the Colonial Office; nor all the unctuous Grace of speculative divines will block up our pathway to right and justice. What we have got we will maintain, and what we are wronged of we shall have. Our parental guardians have taken an inauspicious moment to carry out their high-handed measures. They have dealt us a blow at a time when the nationality of British North America is trembling in the balance—they have tried to disgust us with British rule when the cry of annexation is heard from one side of the continent to the other—when everything that America can do is being done to draw the British colonies within the folds of the Republic, our patrimony is taken from us through Imperial instigation, and we are asked to stoop down meekly, as a beast of burden, and for partaking of the benefits of so benign a Government, assume the crushing weight of a ruinous taxation? Is this the way to build up British sentiment on the Pacific coast? Is it the way to make the British name respected?

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Present: The Speaker, Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Dickson, McClure, Duncan, Trimble, Denness, Carewell and Ash.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. McClure applied for leave on behalf of the committee appointed to draft the reply to His Excellency's address, for one day's delay in preparing the same, which was granted.

PROBATE COURT.

Mr. Duncan, in pursuance of notice, moved for a return of the estates recorded in the Probate Court, together with a list of the names of the testates and intestates whose property had been administered to, and full particulars of the realization and disposition of the same. In so doing, he said that as yet no necessary to dilate upon the necessity for some definite information on the matter.—Sums of money had been paid into the hands of the official for the time being, which had never been accounted for. He had no doubt that if his Honor the Chief Justice was applied to, the request would be complied with as far as practicable.

PUBLIC ECONOMY.

Dr. Dickson gave notice of motion that on a future day he should propose, "That with the view of exercising the greatest possible economy in the expenditure of the revenue of the colony, a standing committee be appointed, to consist of three members, with power to send for persons and papers, for the purpose of auditing the public accounts, such committee to be authorised to employ the services of an efficient clerk, if they deem it necessary, at a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars."

UNION.

Mr. DeCosmos, in pursuance of notice, moved "That His Excellency be requested to furnish copies of despatches and correspondence with reference to a resolution of the House passed in July last respecting the union of this colony with British Columbia. He said it was needless to enlarge again at any length upon the question of union, as its vital importance to the community at large was generally admitted. In July last Governor Kennedy was asked to transmit certain communications from that House to the Home Government, and to those documents as yet no answer had been received. It was a duty that the representatives of the people owed to their constituents to enquire into the cause of the delay. Carried.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. McClure gave notice of motion to introduce a bill to amend the Franchise Act of 1859.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. McClure, in pursuance of notice, moved that the House do meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at one o'clock p.m. He said that his object in suggesting this alteration was not so much to extend the limit of the time devoted to the public business, as to get the members to consent to certain days, and by remaining longer at one sitting to reduce the number of days requisite for attendance. A great deal of time was spent in walking backwards and forwards to the House to little purpose.

UPON THE AMENDMENT OF MR. DUNCAN.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday were decided upon, and passed nem. con., commencing on Monday next.

PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL CO.

Dr. Ash gave notice that on a future day he should move that a committee of five be appointed, with power of call for persons and papers, to enquire into all matters relating to the right and title of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company to hold lands in this colony, and also into the particulars of any claim made by or on behalf of that company on the Colonial Trust Fund.

BANKRUPTCY MATTERS.

Mr. Duncan in pursuance of notice moved for a return of all the persons who had been adjudicated bankrupts, with a detailed account of their estates, and the disposition of their assets. There had been sad maladministration in this court, and it had been a crying evil in the city. It was indispensable that commercial men should be placed in possession of these facts, to enable them to remedy the abuses, and to assist them in placing the court upon a proper footing. Passed.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Dr. Dickson gave notice of motion for a return to be made with as little delay as possible of the amount of money returned for Marriage Licenses from 1860 to 1865, with the disposition of the same.

BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEY'S BILL.

Mr. Duncan moved that this bill for amalgamating the two professions, thus enabling a client to employ one lawyer instead of two as heretofore, be read for the first time. Carried.

JURISDICTION OF INFERIOR COURTS.

Mr. Denness asked leave to introduce a bill to increase the jurisdiction of the Inferior Court of Civil Justice. A similar bill had been brought before the House last session. It was intended to extend the amount that could be recoverable to £100, and that the court should hold its meetings twice a month which would be a great advantage to the mercantile classes. Leave granted.

LIEN LAW.

Mr. Duncan gave notice that on Thursday next he would ask leave to introduce a bill entitled the "Lien Law."

The House then adjourned until three o'clock to-day, when the Homestead Law, and the bill respecting Imprisonment for Debt will be taken up.

Friday, December 1st, 1865.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—The Speaker, Messrs. DeCosmos, Dickson, McClure, Trimble, Duncan, Denness, Carewell, Tolmie, Cochrane, and Ash.

TAXES ON REAL ESTATE.

Mr. Cochrane gave notice that on Wednesday next, he should move for returns of all lots sold for colonial or municipal taxes, and also that a suitable salary be placed in the estimate for a tax collector.

NORTH SAANICH ROAD.

Mr. Cochrane gave notice that on Friday

next he should move for a return of all sums of money expended on the roads from Victoria to North Saanich during the past year.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on Monday next he should ask leave to introduce a bill to make proper provision for Marriage License Fees, and for the payment of the same into the general revenue of the colony.

LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he should ask leave to introduce a bill, entitled "An Act respecting the law of Partnership."

MATRIMONIAL FEES.

Dr. Dickson, in pursuance of notice, moved for a return of the sums of money received as fees for Marriage Licenses. He said that a similar motion was made by him on a previous occasion, and was passed unanimously; but he was under the impression that as yet no reply had been received. He believed that it was not the intention of the Executive to treat the request with disrespect, but he premised that it had been overlooked in the press of business.

The Speaker observed that upon reference to the records of the proceedings of the House, it was found that a reply had been received, stating that the fees in question belonged to the Crown Revenue, and were then under consideration in the proper quarter.

Dr. Dickson was of opinion that further details were required, as last year the amount derived from this source realized in the aggregate upwards of \$700; he moreover wished to include the number of marriage licenses issued. The term was extended to 1850, and the motion was then carried nem. con.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. McClure, the chairman of the committee appointed to draft a reply to the Governor's address, presented the following report:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, Her Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Members of the Assembly of Vancouver Island, have received with much attention Your Excellency's address on the opening of the present session of Parliament.

We beg to assure Your Excellency that the Crown Lands despatches alluded to in your Excellency's address will receive our most earnest consideration.

We regret that your Excellency is unable to lay before us any definite proposition in connection with the Union of the Colonies; a question which we have already maintained is of paramount importance to the well-being of the colony.

The dangers to the public health to which your Excellency alludes as being consequent upon imperfect municipal institutions, will, we hope, be dissipated by the granting of proper powers to the municipality.

We beg to assure your Excellency that we are fully alive to the importance of steam communication with San Francisco, and to the necessity of a proper postal system.

We respectfully agree with your Excellency that measures should be immediately devised to suppress the present nefarious Indian liquor traffic.

The law of debtor and creditor will meet with our earnest attention.

We regret with your Excellency to find that the public expenditure of the current year has exceeded the colonial receipts,—a fact which necessitates, as your Excellency no doubt perceives, a policy of economy consistent with the exigencies of the colony and with the efficiency of the public service.

We are especially gratified to find that your Excellency, in the list of bills to be prepared by the Attorney General, is in favor of measures that have previously met with our favorable consideration; and we hope that no obstacle may arise to prevent these necessary bills from becoming, without further delay, the law of the colony.

In common with your Excellency, we congratulate the people of the colony on the possession of the inestimable blessings of health and peace, and we hope that nothing in the future will arise to disturb this satisfactory condition.

LEONARD MCCLURE, Chairman.

JAMES TRIMBLE, JAMES CAREWELL.

It was referred to a committee of the whole, to be considered on Monday next.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW.

Mr. DeCosmos in moving the second reading of the Homestead Bill, said that he need not dwell at any length upon the importance of the measure, as honorable members would doubtless let it go to a committee of the whole House. A very general opinion prevailed throughout the community of the necessity of exempting the homestead of a settler from legal distress. The only difference of opinion that he was aware of, was a question of amount, which is fixed in this enactment at \$5000. In California, Oregon and Washington Territory, this sum was found to answer all purposes. In order to prevent emigrants from migrating to the American side, it was essential, to protect the occupants of honest, industrious, and in many cases moral households from having their houses ruthlessly taken from over their heads, and thus turned in perhaps a penniless condition into the streets. It would also be an inducement for people to reside here, and for single men to marry and settle in the colony. Of course, due notice would be given to the public, when such a bill came into operation, but it would be impossible to levy upon the homestead for debts contracted after such a date is determined on. There would be no further opportunity for fraud in the different clauses of the enactment, than under the present law in force in Vancouver Island. Property can now be settled by the husband in the hands of trustees for the benefit of the wife as well as by what are called post nuptial contracts. The real object of the bill was, when a man was unsteady or unfortunate, to afford some kind of protection to the wife and children. A similar law worked very well in other countries and there was no reason why it should not be applicable here.

The bill was read a second time and referred to a Committee.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. McClure, in pursuance of notice, asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the Franchise Act of 1859. He said that it was

similar to the one he brought forward last session.

Leave granted.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Mr. Denness' bill respecting Imprisonment for Debt, Mr. Cochrane in the chair.

Mr. Denness in rising to support the bill, said that it was not of the same purport as the one negatived last year. He proposed to abolish the law of imprisonment for debt altogether, unless under very exceptional circumstances. His professional experience caused him to feel very strongly on the subject. Foreigners came to this colony and cast debtors into prison, very frequently upon false affidavits. He had himself been engaged to assist as a lawyer in liberating many during the last two years. A poor man owes a few dollars which he is unable to pay, and the creditor being unrelenting, the debtor is consigned to jail. He proposed to abolish in toto the *capias ad respondendum* as well as the *capias ad satisfaciendum*. It was worse than useless to retain a man in prison for simple debt. He admitted there was some difficulty as regarded the writ *ne exeat regno*, more especially in the matter of partnership accounts. It would perhaps be better, as a precaution against a dishonest man going away, who is in partnership with three or four others, that this writ should remain in force, and security demanded until the settlement of the dispute. He felt very strongly upon the subject, as he had seen so much wrong inflicted under the present law.

Mr. McClure had great pleasure in supporting this bill from its sweeping character. Our iniquitous debtor and creditor law had literally stank in the nostrils of the Pacific Coast. Two-thirds of the persons who had left this colony had been driven away by it. He was opposed to the present law because it was stupid, inasmuch as it paralyzed industry, and deprived the country of the results of that industry. There is nothing that we should guard more scrupulously than the person of the subject, and it was a disgraceful fact that about the easiest thing to do on Vancouver Island was to put a man in prison.

Mr. DeCosmos wished to know what policy it was intended to pursue, supposing a man was leaving the country to evade just debts? He was of opinion that no man should be kept in prison for debt. It was, however, no province of the law to punish the debtor. A charge of fraud should be regarded as a criminal act. The creditors should have nothing to do with this offence, which should be left entirely in the hands of another tribunal.

Mr. Denness observed that fraud was a wide term, and very difficult of definition, but that as far as he was concerned, he had no objection to insert a clause to meet the case.

Dr. Helmecken strenuously advocated the retention of the writ *ne exeat regno*. He did not see how it could be done away with. He admitted that it was difficult to define precisely when a fraud was committed. It almost amounted to a fraud, when people lived in high style and were lavish in their extravagance, spending their money in every way except in paying their creditors. He considered that it was actually necessary that this writ should remain intact, as by the abolition of it there would be no resource against a debtor abruptly going away. It was true as a rule of those people who ran away that the colony perhaps was better rid of them, notwithstanding the assumed profit made out of them (laughter). The fact was the subject had been overrated, and it was absurd to suppose that under the present system of credit the writ in question could be done away with.

Dr. Tolmie thought the penalty should be heavy when a debtor kept back his assets from his creditors.

Mr. DeCosmos could not see why the abolition should not be entire as regards personal arrest. There is a certain class of business transactions adjusted in Chancery, and others in Common Law, and there was no reason why either should enjoy any advantage over the other. Partnership was a case in point. In other countries the charge of fraud was made direct against the offender.

Mr. Denness was aware that a great deal could be urged in favor of the retention of the writ *ne exeat regno*. He alluded to some of the facts of the dispute about the Sawmill claim. He would, however, suggest that very heavy damages should be given in the event of false imprisonment.

Dr. Helmecken here mentioned that as a bill would be sent down from the Upper House it would be expedient to wait a short time.

Mr. Denness—I most decidedly object to waiting for any bill emanating from that house.

Mr. McClure urged the prosecution of the bill. If the Speaker could give them a guarantee that the bill from the Upper House would be sent down in any reasonable time he would be in favor of delay. But last session had destroyed all his confidence in the "legislative despatch" of the Council.

Dr. Dickson did not think that the bill which would be transmitted from the other house would be so liberal in its provisions. Protection should be afforded to the creditor as well as the debtor, and equal justice accorded to both parties. He strenuously advocated the abolition of imprisonment for debt unless for fraud.

Mr. DeCosmos considered after all that had transpired, that the members of the Assembly should act independently of the other house.

Dr. Trimble said that as regards waiting for the Legislative Council, it might be a month before that bill reached them, he however was in favor of a reasonable time being conceded.

The bill was then reported and the House adjourned until 1 p.m. on Monday next.

WESLEYAN TEA-MEETING AT NANAIMO.

The anniversary tea-meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Church came off at Nanaimo last Wednesday evening and was successful in every respect. Capt. Curtis, of the ship *Portland*, of whom by the way, the *Gazette* speaks in a very able manner, occupied the chair in a very able manner, and made a most humorous speech. He was followed by Rev. Messrs. Browning and Jamieson. The last named gentleman is very highly complimented by the *Gazette*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Council met yesterday at 3 p.m.—Present, the Hon. President, Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Surveyor General and H. Rhodes.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Hon. H. Rhodes presented the following draft of an address framed by the Committee in reply to the Governor's speech at the opening of the Council, which upon motion of the Hon. Attorney General was adopted:

To His Excellency Arthur Edward Kennedy, Esq., Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath; Governor in and over the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies, &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

1. We, the Legislative Council of Vancouver Island, have read with much attention the speech with which Your Excellency has opened the present session of the Legislature.

2. We join in Your Excellency's regret that you are unable to announce a definite decision in respect of those important matters affecting the future of this colony which have of late engaged so much attention. We would hope that such decision may soon be forthcoming for we cannot but view the present unsettled state of the public mind in connection therewith as obstructive to the advancement of the colony in chilling enterprise, fettering the transactions of commerce, and retarding the permanent settlement of the country.

3. We are gratified to learn Your Excellency's expressions of confidence in the future of the colony, and we would render to Your Excellency the earnest assurance of our desire, so far as in us lies, to aid Your Excellency in maintaining and providing laws not alone to promote present welfare, but likewise to be a firm and substantial basis for the future.

4. We acknowledge with devout thankfulness the blessings which a kind Providence has vouchsafed to this colony in the past, and we join in Your Excellency's prayer that the same Almighty Power will guide us in the future to prosperity and peace.

It was agreed on motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary that the address be presented to the Governor on Monday next, at noon if that hour be found convenient, to His Excellency, and that the Council adjourn until then.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.—The wife of Francis Joseph is one of the most beautiful women of Europe; and famed equally for the kindness of her temper and the charms of her manner. She is tall, slender, graceful, with a very pretty skin, and, when pretty well, a good deal of color, large limpid blue eyes, and an amazing head of very light hair, which she wears in eight massive braids, wound round and round her head, forming a magnificent diadem of hair, such as very few women could match, from their own resources. She speaks all the principal tongues of Europe, and is particularly fond of the English language, which she speaks perfectly, as though it were her native dialect. She is an excellent musician, paints and draws extremely well, and is one of the boldest and most skillful of horsewomen.

MORE CONVENIENT.—It would be well if the House of Assembly would resolve upon holding their sittings during the winter months earlier in the day than heretofore. From 2 to 5 p.m., would be infinitely more convenient than from three to six, and if business was urgent evening sessions might for a time be held at seven o'clock. We understand that an honorable member intends moving that the House shall sit continuously until eight o'clock. Of course this is out of the question; for we should like to see the politician sufficiently patriotic and devoted to the interests of his constituents and devoted to the country, as to prefer retaining his seat in a cold legislative hall to tucking his feet under his mahogany, and his dinner under his waistcoat, before his own cozy fire-side.

THE FINAL CONFLAGRATION.—It is not a little remarkable that the predicted burning of the world, and the circumstances attending it, as foretold in Scripture, are both natural, and have a strict coincidence with scientific probability. It is computed by French astronomers that more than fifteen hundred fixed stars have disappeared within the last three centuries. La Place says that one of these stars, situated in the northern hemisphere, gave the most indisputable evidence of having been consumed. It was so bright as to be visible to the naked eye as mid-day—"first of a dazzling white, then of a reddish yellow, and lastly of a sabbly pale color. The conflagration lasted, and was visible, sixteen months, when the star forever disappeared.

HORRIBLE SCENE AT A BULL FIGHT.—A Paris correspondent gives the particulars of a sad catastrophe which occurred lately in the suburbs of Montpellier, where a bull-fight had been organized in the presence of 6,000 spectators. The performance was given in a wooden structure erected in the form of an amphitheatre, and while it was going on the structure gave way, hurling a mass of people into the arena, where the bull was careering in full fury. A dash was made by the beast into the thickest of the crowd, a mother and child were tossed aloft, more than a dozen were frightfully gored, and the crowd got their fill of what they sought—sensation.

HORSE WISDOM.—Anything that the horse can touch with his nose without being harmed he does not fear. Therefore the hand, the halter, girth, blanket, saddle, harness, umbrella, buffalo robe—whatever is brought in proximity with him—should be introduced and touched by that sensitive organ. A knowledge of this important fact is the main secret of Raray's success in horse taming.

BELLA BOYD ON THE STAGE.—A report is circulating that Miss Hardings, better known as "Bella Boyd, the Confederate heroine," is about to try her fortune on the London stage.

NEW'S DAY.

This Society met Thursday the installation of the completed, the members of the Presbyterian Church, where performed and an excellent by the chaplain, the M.A. At seven o'clock musical dinner took place J. G. Shepherd, Esq., Society, occupied the at His Excellency Gov- on those present were Chief Justice; L. R.; Dr. Tolmie, M.L.A.; M.L.A., Vice-President; R.C.; J. F. McCreight, ville, M.A.; Jas. Lowe, n, Esq.; J. G. McKay, and others, about forty was decorated with flags, well provided by Mons. mer, Wilson and Fischer dings with some exuber- of speeches were de- had not the pleasure of

the printed list of toasts: posed by the President; e Queen." The Royal by the President; music, "His Excellency the by the President, music "Charlie"; responded to Governor Kennedy. "The plunteers;" proposed by sponded to by senior off- "Red, White and Blue." Council and House of As- by Captain Reid; music, y agree." "The Mayor proposed by Mr. J. S. nded by the Mayor; "the steer Kimmer." posed by Mr. J. G. McKay; e Chaplain; music, "Ye bonnie Doon." "The St. proposed by His Exceles; responded to by the Scots wha hae." "The ty;" proposed by the ed by Sir Jas. Douglas; "The Retiring Officers;" Justice Cameron; res- r. D. M. Lang; music, year that's awa." "The cers;" proposed by Sir sponded to by Vice Presi- "The Campbells are easts;" proposed by Mr. "For a' that and a' that." e in;" proposed by Mr. e." "Oh! why left I my erican Neighbors;" pro- e;" responded to by Mr. e." "Hail Columbia." e;" proposed by Rev. T. e." "The Blue Bells of Scot- herhood of St. Andrew." e." "President J. J. Cochrane; e." "bonnie woods and braes." posed by Mr. J. Wright; e." "The Ladies;" pro- e." "Johnston;" responded to music, "Green grow the

A JOKE FROM BRIGHAM YOUNG.—The Salt Lake Union *Vedette* relates that Brigham Young, on hearing that Waldron, an actor, sought the hand of Miss Alexander, a young actress who is under the "President's" guardianship, put in his veto, and said: "Mr. Waldron is a gentleman and a good actor, he can play Richelieu, Richard 'three I's,' Romeo, and what not, finely; but (by this time Brigham brought his best sarcastic elocution into use) he ca-a-n't play Alexander!"

VIRGIN CO.—Through a

virgin news in yesterday's 00 taken out by this com- be the result of two instead ng.

The Weekly British Colonist

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE

The last session of the present House of Assembly was opened yesterday by His Excellency Governor Kennedy, and the Executive's programme laid before the two branches of Legislature. It was a source of disappointment to the public, as no doubt, it was to His Excellency, that the expected despatches on the Union question were not received from the Imperial Government. It has been generally understood that despatches had arrived some time ago to the effect that the union of the colonies would be immediately consummated; but the details of the scheme were wanting, and it is conjectured that the communication which His Excellency was expecting was to enable him to lay the matter before the Legislature in a more definite shape. Be that as it may, but little important business can be transacted until we receive a proper answer to the union resolutions which passed the Assembly last session. When we consider that these resolutions were forwarded to His Excellency for transmission over ten months ago, we are forced to come to the conclusion, that there has been some strange remissness either in the Colonial office here or in the Imperial department in Downing street. Had an equally important measure been passed by the Legislature of Washington Territory, we feel bound to say that an answer would have been received from the Federal authorities in less than three months. Of course, with the dignified ideas of government, which obtain among English officials, this would be called indecent haste; but we incline to the opinion, nevertheless, that the dignity theory is pretty nearly exploded, and that the sooner the relations between the mother country and her colonies are established on practical business-like grounds, the better it will be for the national connection.

The first question to which His Excellency draws attention is the vexed one of the Crown lands. As despatches on the subject have been received from the Imperial authorities, it is needless discussing the matter until these documents shall have been laid before the House. The next topic in the speech is Municipal Government. His Excellency bewails the wretched condition of the public streets and the serious want of sanitary measures, but never hints at the necessity of a new act or that there is any desire on the part of the Executive to mend matters. This is futile enough; but when we come to the closing part of the paragraph in which the City Council is rebuked for not doing something the law gave it no power to do—for attempting "schemes of inferior importance" while "more important needs have been neglected?" we think His Excellency has overstepped the dignity of his office in becoming the censor of a City Incorporation.

The necessity of proper steam communication with San Francisco is next touched upon. The subject is one which we think a Governor Kennedy has by no means overrated, and we have no doubt the House will be willing to take into consideration any feasible plan that may be proposed for remedying the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. The Indian whiskey selling is taken up, and the evils of the present laxity or rather inefficiency of the law pointed out. We have already expressed ourselves on the necessity of more stringent measures being adopted, with those engaged in the nefarious traffic, and we only hope that His Excellency's views in this respect may be carried out. On the matter of finance, we are told what every one expected, that the expenditure of the current year has exceeded the revenue, still leaving demands for public improvements unprovided for—an acknowledgment that makes the necessity of wholesale retrenchment more than ever absolute.

The legislative programme which His Excellency presents to us, is unfortunately an old story. Out of the ten bills promised by the Government, seven were passed last session by the Assembly, but through the Executive or the Upper House—it matters not which—were prevented from becoming law. The colony in the meanwhile has suffered in their absence beyond precedent. How many men and families have been driven away the present year through the want of a Home-stead Act, and through the infamous law that imprisons honest men for debt, it would be difficult to tell; but we can safely say, if immediate steps are not taken to remedy present evils in this respect, the disease, before another year shall have transpired, will have cured itself by a process that is rather disheartening to contemplate. Governor Kennedy and the Upper House have already received a good deal of abuse for their obstructive attitude last session, and we have no desire to recur to the disagreeable subject, especially when we see such practical reformation as is evinced in bringing forward the very bills they had previously ignored. It may be objected that, Prometheus-like, they have stolen others' fire; but we care not from what source legis-

lation emanates so long as we get good laws on our statute book, and the gentlemen whose bills have been quietly assumed by the Executive have as little reason to grumble; for they have brought the latter body down to the necessity of borrowing its legislative inspiration from the representatives of the people. This in itself is worth a great deal; for of all the rocks on which Executive Governments in new countries split, is the vain fancy that they know better what the people want than the people do themselves. We hope that this fallacy is now finally exploded in Vancouver Island, and that Governor Kennedy will see that it is much more comfortable to himself and more beneficial to the colony that the House of Assembly should not be impeded in its action, or its labors of a session destroyed, through the whim or caprice of the Executive. The people are depending for their daily bread on good Government, and they look to their representatives, not to the officials of the colony, for those measures which are most conducive to their interest. We hope, therefore, we have seen the last of unwise interference on the part of the Executive with the bills of the Lower House, and that in entering upon another session we have reasonable assurance that the public time as well as the public money will be rigidly economized.

THE COLORED CONVENTION.—We see by a late number of the Elevator, a colored organ in San Francisco, that the statement which has figured in some of the California papers in reference to a proffer of assistance from the colored people to the Fenians, is to some extent denied. It is there asserted that the resolution in the Convention held in Sacramento, about "40,000 colored soldiers to aid Ireland in her struggle for national independence" was "merely a humorous jest to elicit the opinions of members." The resolution reads as follows: "Resolved—That we sympathize with the Fenian movement to liberate Ireland from the yoke of English bondage, and when we have obtained our full citizenship in this country, we should be willing to assist our Irish brethren in their struggle for National Independence; and 40,000 colored troops could be raised to butt the horns off the hypocritical English bull." In looking over the proceedings of the Convention, we are forced to the conclusion that California is not so intellectually represented by the colored race as she might be; certainly not so well represented as Vancouver Island.

ELECTION INCIDENTS.—The following is related among the curious incidents of the recent parliamentary elections in the mother country: "Last month, one Mr. Reardon, a Connaughtman, who keeps a provision shop in London, stopped a night at Athlone, Ireland, on his way to Galway, made himself very friendly with the 'boys' in that borough, who were dissatisfied with their late member; treated them all round to drink, and talked politics between each tumbler of punch; was waked up early in the morning and invited to go on the hustings to witness the nomination; heard the late member proposed for election, and two of his new acquaintances proposed Patrick Reardon, Esq.; replied in a slashing manner to the rival candidate's feeble speech; received the greatest 'show of hands'; and his opponent having retired in disgust, was duly declared member for the ancient borough of Athlone, as much to his own surprise as satisfaction."

THE PORTLAND DREDGER.—This machine has closed operations and been stored for the season of 1865. Our shippers, by looking over their bills of lading for the season, can see the amount of good the dredger has accomplished. Usually, heretofore every ship and every steamship arriving during a portion of September, October and November, have been obliged to lighten at great expense. This year but one vessel has been lightened, and she but twice, on the inward voyage, and but one on the outward voyage, at a cost of not more than \$2,200. The expense of the dredger has been but a fraction above that sum, and the stigma of the bar is sufficient obliterated. Another season will be sufficient to remove it entirely.—Oregonian.

FREE MASONRY IN THE STATES.—The grand officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Pennsylvania have issued an appeal to the Brotherhood in the United States, to renounce the bonds of union. They say: "We owe our country and the world the duty of our example. Let us make it apparent. Come among us, we will go among you. Your temple is our temple; your masonry is our masonry; whither masonic teachings bid us go, let us go together. Brethren, we invite you, by the great glory of our indestructible Order, by the undying light which illumines our pathway to and from the communion of the craft, by your precept and example, and efforts among your fellow countrymen, to begin the great work of reconciliation."

NEW MANUFACTURE.—A new specimen of "Brummagen ware" has been invented in England. It is the manufacture of precious stones and mosaics out of mineral earths. The mineral earths are pounded into a paste and in that state can receive any tint. The paste can then be converted into brooches, door knockers, gates, chimney pieces, picture frames, crucifixes, and an infinite variety of articles. Good Prospect.—The Fenians, says the New York Saturday Press, propose to evacuate New York and proceed to take possession of Dublin on or about the 1st of April. It is supposed, however, that there will be Celts enough left among us to fill all the important municipal offices; so that the general condition of the city will probably remain as sound and sweet as it now is!

CITY COUNCIL

The Council met last evening at a quarter past seven. Members present—The Mayor and Messrs. Gowen, Lewis, Layzell, Hebbard, Jeffrey, sen., and Jeffrey, jr.

Mr. Hebbard wished to know if the Councilors took their position at the table according to the number of votes they had obtained in their respective wards, or in the numerical order they were elected as Councilors.

The Mayor had nothing to do with the matter, and considered that all members were equal in the Council whatever might have been the number of their votes.

COMMUNICATIONS.—A communication was then read from the Colonial Secretary—in reference to the application of the Council for funds—declining to take any other position than that previously assumed.

Mr. Elford asked for permission to lay a sidewalk before his house on Fort street. Granted, under the supervision of the Committee on Sidewalks.

Mr. Earles asked for permission to lay a crossing from the Red Lion public-house across the street. Granted as above.

Mr. Fischer solicited the patronage of the Council on the occasion of his benefit at the Theatre on Wednesday night.

Mr. Norris' bill of expense for election services came up, when the Mayor said that the Act stated that the candidates should bear the election expenses equally—the whole amount not to exceed £20.

Mr. Layzell thought that the Council had nothing to do with the matter. It was left to the candidates of the respective wards, and he therefore moved a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Lewis was of the same opinion.

Mr. Jeffrey seconded the resolution, which was carried.

A communication from Mr. Hemmingway, rendering an election account, was read and referred to the candidates according to previous resolution.

CHANGE OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Mr. Lewis brought up his motion in reference to changing the present Council Chamber to the Police Court. He did so on the ground of economy. The Council had no funds, it had, in fact, not been able to meet its liabilities, and, therefore, under present circumstances, had no right to incur any expenses. The Council got along very well previously in the Police Court, and he saw no reason why they should be paying rent when they could obtain chambers gratuitously.

Mr. Gowen thought if their constituents could not afford to pay \$25 for rent it was high time they should all leave the Council Board. He was opposed to giving up the present Chamber where a good many fixtures for the Council's convenience had been erected. The Councilors gave their labor gratuitously and he thought that it was as little as the city could do to pay the small rent of \$25. He was of course opposed to giving out contracts or plunging into great expense.

After several communications had been read in reference to the dispute between the first Council and Mr. Pemberton on the Police Court question the motion was put and lost, Mr. Lewis only voting in the affirmative.

LEAVE GIVEN

to Messrs. McOutchan and Callingham to occupy portion of Fort street in constructing a wall under the supervision of the Committee.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Gowen gave notice of the following motions: "That all communications between the Corporation and the Government bearing upon the subject of the financial position of the Corporation be laid before the Council."

"That the Council take into their consideration the subject of the making proper arrangements for having certain streets and sewers of the city cleansed."

"That a Committee of three be appointed to attend to the cleansing and repairing of the streets and sewers of the city."

FIRE WARDEN.

At the request of Mr. Hebbard the name of Mr. Gowen was substituted for his own as Fire Warden for Johnson street Ward.

NUISANCE.

Mr. Layzell called the attention of the Committee to the dangerous state of the public landing at the foot of Yates street. Some railings being absolutely required to protect life and limb.

The Mayor thought the matter was important. The only question was, what could be done?

Mr. Hebbard was glad to see that the Council had real estate to protect.

COMMITTEES.

Mr. Gowen drew attention to the fact that no Councilor belonging to Johnson street was on the Street-nuisance Committee, and he could point out numerous nuisances in the ward.

CITY CLERK.

On motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Gowen, Mr. Leigh was appointed Clerk of the Council.

ON MOTION OF MR. HEBBARD THE SERVICES OF THE MESSENGER WERE RETAINED.

Laid over. An account of \$5 from the Evening Post was ordered to be laid over. Council adjourned till Monday evening next.

THE GAMBLING CASE.

Carlos Dherregus was charged on remand at the Police Court yesterday with being a banker and dealer at the game of monte. Similar evidence to that adduced at the examination of W. H. Wheeler was heard. The prisoner pleaded in extenuation that the country where he came from all played at monte, that was the national game. The Magistrate said that the prisoner was liable to a fine of £100, but as he was not the principal he should fine him the mitigated penalty of \$50 to be levied by distress. H. Foster, C. Shears, James Taylor, Solomon Stevens, Antony Godey and Isaac Johnson were also charged with frequenting a common gambling house. The prisoners pleaded guilty, and the Bench fined them 6s. 8d. to be levied by distress. The charge against John Uphur was dismissed as there was not sufficient evidence to convict.

LONDON LETTER.

[FROM THE DAILY POST.] LONDON, Sept. 30. PIPING TIMES OF PEACE.

The condition of things in England may be gauged by the fact that the military are turning grocers. At Woolwich they have established stores for the use of the garrison—but in their zeal for business they have been pushing the trade outside, and the consequence has been that the tradesmen have protested against such competition, and the Grocer's newspaper comes out strong against the government grocers. "We are so peaceful now with our neighbors that Othello's occupation is gone and the sons of Mars are actually carrying out tea and sugar to their neighbors instead of sending shot and shell to their enemies."

THE GOLD RETURNS.

I have on previous occasions pointed out that the official returns ignore British Columbia or place it in a blank where its gold is conspicuous by its absence. During the last week a letter has been printed in the Times from Nova Scotia in which the same lays is pointed out with regard to their gold exports. In the case of Nova Scotia the matter is of small amount, but in the case of British Columbia it is much more serious, and I would strongly urge that steps should be taken whereby a true record should be made of the quantity of precious metal produced and exported. Surely the banks might make a semi-official return, which can be used by the government authorities. The case is so well stated in the letter to which I have alluded that I enclose it to you.

IMPORTS OF GOLD AND SILVER TO ENGLAND.

I also send you the official statement just published of the imports of the precious metals. It will be observed that quantity of silver sent through Egypt is very large, and a note explains that it is for India and China. If the account cannot show the produce of gold in British Columbia, it ought, at least, to state that it is included in the figures given for the United States. I urge this matter in detail because I feel sure that it would be an advantage for British Columbia if the gold export from her ports were fairly stated in official returns.

ANOTHER ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

It is evident that John Bull and Jonathan are determined to have close talk, and not to depend on peppery despatches or sensation leaders in the Herald and the Times. No doubt your readers are aware of what is doing in your latitudes. In the Times of yesterday it is reported that over 400 miles of the Russian-American telegraph have been completed on the Pacific coast of British America. The work is progressing rapidly, and bids fair to be completed before a cable can be laid across the Atlantic. There are many telegraphic enterprises on the tapis in America. Besides a proposed line connecting South America, Cuba, and Porto Rico with Florida, and another between Cuba and Vera Cruz, an American company has procured from Maximilian the exclusive right to construct various lines in Mexico. They are to have 15 years' monopoly of the business, provided they construct 125 miles in eight months.

This week the announcement of a new route is at length publicly brought forward. The route selected is by Falmouth, Oporto, the Azores, and Halifax. Application is now made for so much of the capital (£150,000) as will complete the line from Falmouth to Oporto, a distance of 600 miles, and in itself a line of telegraphic communication which is much needed, and will doubtless be remunerative. The cable selected is that of Mr. Thomas Allan; in fact, as the name indicates, the company has been organized upon the basis of selecting Allan's system. First of all, the new cable is only 1/2 in diameter, while that of the Atlantic is 1 1/10th in. The principle, moreover, of its construction is entirely different from those hitherto used. Allan, instead of placing steel wires in the circumference, thus leading to the possibility of accidents with bits of broken wire, such as we read of in Dr. Russell's account of the late attempt, surrounds the copper core itself with finely spun steel wire, and then embeds the whole in gutta percha and other coverings. The steel wire by this means is made a protection to the core, and not a source of danger. Another broad distinction between the form of a cable now proposed and that which has failed is the weight. The weight of Allan's cable in the ship will be only 9 1/2 cwt. per knot, while that of the Atlantic was 35 1/2, and in the sea Allan's will be 3 cwt., while that of the Atlantic was 14 cwt. The direction of the new company is of an excellent business character. It includes Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., Mr. James White, M.P., Captain Ingfield, Mr. Engeldine, of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and Mr. F. J. Van Zeller, Consul General for Portugal.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The meeting which is to take place during the next week will no doubt be a cheerful one; the report which has been issued to the public, and is then to be presented, states that after paying all charges, deducting rebate of interest on

bills not due, and making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, the undivided profits amount to £20,078 13s 8d, which sum it is proposed to appropriate as follows, viz.: £9,375 in payment of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; £7,000 to reserve fund which will then amount to £20,000; leaving £3,703 13s 8d to be carried forward to the current half-year.

A GOOD MINE.

The Devon consols, on which £1 only is paid, has just declared a dividend of £9 per share, and the price of the £1 share is £580.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

This great building is now almost deserted, the old salts being allowed to have a pension and live at home. The men are going home in cart and omnibus. The average pension given is 14s 6d per week.

LETTER FROM QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLAND.

SCHOONER "GOLDSTREAM," SKIDEGATE BAY, 31st October, 1865.

To the Editor of the British Colonist, Sir,—Allow us to send you a short account of our trip to Queen Charlotte Island, which you will favor us exceedingly by publishing in your widely circulating journal, for the benefit of our friends and those interested in this expedition, as well as to thank the gentleman who superintended the arrangements in fitting out the expedition.

After leaving Victoria on the 7th, we arrived at New Westminster in 36 hours, and being detained by the Custom authorities for a much shorter time than we anticipated, were enabled to leave again by 4 p.m. on the 9th for this place. The early part of the voyage we had a continuation of light winds with thick fogs and calms, and day after day we made but small progress. We arrived at Fort Rupert on the 23rd at noon, and at 8 a.m. on the 25th left again on our route, with still light winds and fine weather, which continued till nine o'clock the next evening, when the wind shifted and commenced to blow from the south-east just as we entered Queen Charlotte Sound, and blew fresh all night. From noon next day the wind came in violent puffs and increased rapidly to a strong gale with such a heavy sea that, although the schooner was put under reefed canvas previously, at 5 p.m. she could run no longer and was compelled to lay to, which the good little vessel did in gallant style, scarcely allowing a spray to wet her decks. At 7 next morning the weather having moderated a little, we again turned our head for our destination, arriving inside of Skidegate Channel at 9 p.m., and anchoring just in time to escape another gale. Next morning left, and stood up the bay for the site of the proposed works of the Queen Charlotte Coal Mining Company, and anchored at noon near the schooner Alpha, which had arrived the previous morning.

We must again beg to thank the gentlemen of the Company who so kindly thought of our every want up here, and beg to assure them that our only anxiety during the passage was the want of winds during the early part of it, to take us to our journey's end. Should anything worthy of communicating take place during our stay here, we shall feel great pleasure in forwarding you an account of the same, and by placing this in your columns, you will greatly oblige

TEN OF THE PASSENGERS, Per schooner Goldstream.

THE COLLISION IN THE BAY.—Mr. Tomlinson, who was killed on Thursday by being run down in a boat by the steamer Louise, in the bay, was, as we learn, an Englishman by birth, and the son of John Tomlinson, who was formerly engaged as an oyster peddler in this city for quite a number of years. The father, it will be remembered, was shot at by Moses Boucher and John Callahan, on Sansome street, about a year since, they having attempted to rob him. A few months since the old gentleman left for New Westminster, B.C., to sell some property for the purpose of bringing the remainder of his family out from England, and has not yet returned. Young Tomlinson had no relatives here, and an acquaintance—George Mayes, proprietor of stalls Nos. 33 and 34 Washington Market—has made arrangements for the funeral, to take place from Trinity church, on Sunday afternoon, himself becoming responsible for the necessary expenses. Mr. Mayes informs us that the young man had in his possession, as he believes, when the fatal accident occurred, the sum of \$30, which cannot be found. There was also a subscription taken up for him on the boat to the amount of \$40 or more, and Mr. Mayes desires that the holder of the money—whose name he does not know—should pay it towards the funeral expenses, which would seem to be the most proper manner of disposing of it under the present circumstances.—S. F. Bulletin.

THE COLUMBIA RIVER DEFENCES.—The detention of the Active at Baker's Bay enabled some of the passengers by that steamer to inspect the fortifications erected to protect the entrance to the Columbia River. In addition to Fort Stevens on the south side of the entrance the U. S. Government have constructed three batteries on the promontory on the northern side, on which stands the light-house. These batteries are completed, with the exception of mounting the guns, which process is now going on. On one of these batteries nine guns have been placed in position, comprising a fifteen-inch Columbiad, and eight guns of ten and twelve inch calibre. The other batteries will have eighteen guns between them, and when ready for action will present a formidable front to any hostile marine invader. Fort Stevens, on the opposite shore, also mounts one of the destructive fifteen-inch Columbiads.

CHART.—The desks of the late Confederate Congress have been sold at auction in Richmond. They brought only 25 cents a piece. Confederacies are as ungrateful as the older Republics.

THE TEST

Colonial loyalty It is as malleable as tempered as Damascus as the finest gold, vigorous hammering and the most unrelenting fidelity is no less helplessly to the bounding to its origin Like an opera ball it in our pocket again to its former If in fact we looked expresses at one at most pliability and should seek for "colony produced in "Brummagen" in colonial manufacture, deceit or wrong of it will hopelessly the load; we may rights of kings and we cannot make of an additional of article is, however sterling stuff. It cuffing—beating a heap on its back wrongs that the mind can conjure the burden with Christian. This is rife, it prevents the colonial mind in its vain our Atlantic, with gives us a good—rib, gores us loving horns, and sends motion of his hind look, if not indeed much hurt no doubt still a docile creature of paternal With all the ordinary weather at this in a great measure rainbows, and the human humanity floats on the surface probably never give for the vigorous we receive ocean street. To such & Co. we are indeed the most sublime we hope we should show in a becoming and make a fitting the parental kind We hope Vancouver how its patrimony its trustees—and office consented to Island a pauper—despatches which the purity, the redemption of those groves in the British in substance that made with the settlement of over Island—whether "wise" iniquitous, is—while being the all concerned in its say in its settlement an instance of by even the Khan who had nothing 1862, should be the "outrageous" morality of a street! The things we were called interest of the of justice would lated, nor reason amends, however our sense of right allows us to form he says, "under compromise (1) matter of which entitled to form to knock you down pockets. If you of improvident titled to form transaction; but under any and the dime's." Wh footpad he is to however, not but he mistakes notion with the grant, that the plainly recognized party's claim, expression of d tion of the lands selves entitled perty." What Exhilaration may we have a much Newcastle—who property claimed repeatedly decl

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

THE TEST OF LOYALTY.

Colonial loyalty is a wonderful substance. It is as malleable as the best of iron, as good tempered as Damascus steel, and as ductile as the finest gold.

With all the occasional swearing in this rainy weather at the clouds, we are indebted in a great measure to their influence for our rainbows, and the beautiful phenomenon of human humility and long-suffering, which floats on the surface of colonial life.

From passengers who arrived by the Enterprise we have news from the mines to the 16th inst. The chief topic of excitement on Williams Creek was a fresh strike of a rich ore made by the Yellow Virgin or Davis Co.

Mr. Perrier, well known as one of the Hills Bar miners of '58, and who has been on French Creek since the 18th of June last, arrived in this city on Monday, having left French Creek about three weeks ago.

the grant would be allowed. We cannot, however, quarrel so much with Mr. Cardwell when this very gentleman—the late Duke of Newcastle—allowed his own repeated declarations to be set aside by the Indenture.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. The steamer Enterprise arrived Wednesday from New Westminster with 63 passengers, Deitz & Nelson's Express and some treasure, several passengers having heavy swags.

Great Strike! From passengers who arrived by the Enterprise we have news from the mines to the 16th inst. The chief topic of excitement on Williams Creek was a fresh strike of a rich ore made by the Yellow Virgin or Davis Co.

CHEERING NEWS. [From the Columbian.] Mr. Perrier, well known as one of the Hills Bar miners of '58, and who has been on French Creek since the 18th of June last, arrived in this city on Monday, having left French Creek about three weeks ago.

Later from the Big Bend. The Perrier Company, four men, had just commenced mining, and had taken out \$600, when they were obliged to go below for provisions. This was about two months ago, and they were expected back to winter on the creek.

The Brabant Company, four men, 1500 feet higher up the creek, were taking 5 to 8 ounces in the top gravel. Half a mile higher up several companies had got prospects of from one dollar to one and a half dollars to the pan.

M'ULLOCH'S CREEK. This creek empties into Gold Creek, about four miles below French Creek. Only one company (Clements & Co., four men) were working on this creek.

CARNE'S CREEK. empties into the Columbia River, about 50 miles below Gold Creek running parallel with the latter stream. On this creek there were two companies mining taking out from two to ten ounces of gold a day to the hand.

FURTHER OF BIG BEND DIGGINGS. Their Richness Confirmed—Excitement at Colville—White's Boat Completed

We have been permitted to publish the following extracts from a private letter received by a gentleman in this city from a friend of his then at Colville. The writer is thoroughly reliable, and the information has this recommendation about it—that it was not intended for publication.

SHAKY.—The old Congregational Church on Fort Street, at present used as the Boys' Common School, vibrates and shakes to such an extent during a high wind and makes such a rattling noise that the head-master, finding it impossible to continue the studies, has been compelled to dismiss the boys during school hours.

AMMUNITION. TARGET 12 FEET SQUARE. Represents average shooting at 500 yards, with ELEY'S REST ENFIELD CARTRIDGES. ELEY'S AMMUNITION of every description for Sporting or Military Purposes.

BALL CARTRIDGES. For Enfield Rifles, also for Westley Richards', Terry's, Wilson's, Mont-Storm's, Green's, and other breech-loaders.

SAUCE—LEA AND PERRIN'S Worcestershire Sauce. Only Good Sauce, and applicable to EVERY VARIETY OF DISH.

Caution. Lea & Perrins. WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE. L. & P. having discovered that several of the Foreign Markets have been supplied with spurious imitations, the labels closely resemble those of the genuine Sauce.

Dinneford's FLUID MAGNESIA! H. A. BEN DURING TWENTY-FIVE years, emphatically sanctioned by the Medical Profession, and universally accepted by the Public as the BEST REMEDY FOR Acidity of the Stomach, Heartburn, Headache, Gout, and Indigestion.

Chlorodyne. CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, DIARRHOEA, CRAMP, AGUE, FEVER, RHEUMATISM, CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, COUGHS, &c.

Extract from the General Board of Health London, as to its efficacy in Cholera. So strongly are we convinced of the immense value of this remedy, that we cannot too forcibly urge the necessity of adopting it in all cases.

DAY & MARTIN'S REAL JAPAN BLACKING. 97, HOLBORN, LONDON. For affording nourishment and durability to the Leather it stands unrivalled.

BURGOYNE & BURRIDGES. PURE DRUGS, CHEMICALS, &c. COLEMAN ST. LONDON.

GEMS OF GERMAN SONG. A collection of the most BEAUTIFUL VOCAL COMPOSITIONS. Published by Oliver Ditson & Co., 27 Washington Street, Boston.

The Invalid's Friend. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS. What is more fearful than a breaking down of the nervous system? To be excitable or nervous in a small degree is most distressing, for where can a remedy be found? Here is one—Drink but little wine, beer, or spirits, or far better, abstain from them altogether.

Disorders of the Kidneys. In all diseases affecting these organs, whether they secrete too much or too little water, or whether they are afflicted with stones or gravel, or with pains settled in the loins over the region of the kidneys, these Pills should be taken according to the printed directions, and the Ointment should be rubbed into the small of the back at bed time.

Debilitated Constitutions. In cases of debility, languor, and nervousness generated by excess of any kind, whether mental or physical, the effect of these Pills is in the highest degree bracing, renovating and restorative.

PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS, &c. MANUFACTURED BY CROSSE & BLACKWELL, PURVEYORS TO THE QUEEN, SOHO SQUARE, LONDON.

HER MAJESTY'S TABLE. Oxford Sausages, Patent Preser pa's Ham, Cheese and Bacon, Foxshire Game and Pork Pies, French Oysters in Tins, Salmon Cutlets, Whitebait, Fillets of Soles, Bologna Sausages, Herrings in the Sardines, Soups, Meats, and Vegetables in Tins.

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The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday, Nov. 30.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL met yesterday afternoon, at three o'clock, in the Supreme Court. Present:—The Hon. Chief Justice (President), Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, R. Finlayson, and H. Rhodes. Owing to the pressure of other matter of paramount interest and importance on our columns, we are compelled to epitomise the proceedings as much as possible. The Governor's speech was read, the Hon. Colonial Secretary desired to be informed what were the standing orders governing the proceedings of the Council, as he believed no rules of order existed at all, and the Council were under the impression that the rules regulating the House of Lords should be adopted by them in extenso. He desired to see shorter and more concise rules framed, that, instead of confusion and delay would admit of the most business being done in the shortest possible space of time, and quoted from the Queen's Commission for the Government of the Colony, to show that the Council had the power to frame their own rules. The Hon. Treasurer having explained, as a member of the last committee on standing orders, that the committee deemed it advisable to be guided by the previous minutes of the Council, it was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, that a committee be appointed to draft and frame rules and regulations for the guidance of the Council in the transaction of its business. Hon. Mr. Rhodes moved the appointment of a committee to draft a reply to the Governor's speech. Hon. Attorney General obtained leave to introduce a bill "to amend the law of arrest and imprisonment for debt." The *modus operandi*, he said, was the same as obtained in British Columbia, and he thought it advisable that the laws of the two colonies should be assimilated as far as possible. The bill did not affect the law of arrest but only imprisonment for debt for satisfaction. On motion being made for a second reading, the Hon. Mr. Rhodes and the Treasurer thought the bill should be first printed and a copy submitted to each of the Council, otherwise they would not know what they were passing. The Hon. Colonial Secretary and Att. General contended that the bill was urgently required, and that the principles were well known, and had been fully discussed. The Hon. President considered it unseemly in a matter of such importance that the Council should be asked to adopt the principle of the bill in such haste, and urged more consideration and more deliberation, in order that hon. members who had not received a legal education might not only be in possession of the whole law as it stands, but what it was proposed to alter. The mover and seconder having replied to the previous remarks, it was agreed, after some further discussion, that the bill do come up for second reading on Wednesday, December 6th. The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and H. Rhodes were appointed the Committee on Standing Orders; the Hon. Colonial Secretary, Surveyor General, and H. Rhodes, a committee to draft a reply to the Governor's speech; and the Council adjourned until Friday, at three, p. m.

FOR SITKA.—The Russian steamer Alexander II. left yesterday afternoon for the Russian possessions.

Friday, Dec. 1.

SUPREME COURT—*Royer vs. LeClerc*—The plaintiff, as the administrator of Amedie, deceased, sued the defendant in trover for two horses or their value. Leclerc brought a cross action for the keep of the animals, and by consent both actions were tried together. Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Bishop, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. Wood, instructed by Messrs. Pearkes & Green, for the defendant. The sale of the horses by Leclerc was admitted, but it was alleged that they were sold to prevent further expenses being incurred. Royer valued the horses at \$200 and \$110. Leclerc sold the \$110 horse for \$60 and the \$200 horse at auction for \$20. Several witnesses were examined on both sides, and the judge directed the jury to ascertain the value of the horses and the value of the keep, and to set the one against the other. The jury assessed the value of the horses at \$150 and the value of their keep for which \$152 was claimed, at \$25, leaving the defendant \$125 to pay. The judge decided that Leclerc should pay the costs of the action for trover and Royer the costs of the cross action.

TIGER FESTIVAL.—The members of the Tiger Engine Company No. 2, with a few guests, attended at the Company's Engine House, Johnson street, last evening on the invitation of their Foreman, Mr. J. E. Hunt, to celebrate his wedding. A splendid bridal cake from the establishment of Messrs. Piper and Alisky, surmounted with the figure of a tiger, and other well executed emblems, and adorned with the name of the company in gilt letters decorated the table on which was spread a copious supply of champagne and other refreshments. The worthy bridegroom on entering was loudly cheered, and the President of the Board of Delegates, Mr. Chas. Gowen, thereupon proposed several toasts in succession which were heartily received, and responded to by Messrs. Hunt, Drummond, McCrea, Burns, Dr. Powell, members of the Press, and officers of the Department. The joviality and good will manifested by all present contributed to a most agreeable evening. Our printers have to thank the bridegroom for regaling them with cake and wine.

MR. AIKMAN'S APPLICATION.—The adjourned application of Mr. H. W. B. Aikman to be admitted and enrolled as Attorney of the Supreme Court of this colony, came

up yesterday before His Honor the Chief Justice. Mr. Bishop withdrew all opposition and testified to the ability and integrity of the applicant. At the suggestion of Mr. Ring, His Honor consented to the admission of Mr. Aikman during Hillary term upon the production of a certificate of his competency from Messrs. McCreight, Pearkes and Green, who were appointed the examiners.

THE DEBATE LAST EVENING, "Whether Capital Punishment should be abolished or not," was carried on with great spirit. Messrs. Gillard, Fell and Babbit spoke at length in favor, and Bessie, Huskinson, Bull and Flint against its abolition. The time allowed for debate having expired, and taking into consideration that several members were unavoidably absent a motion was carried that the debate be reopened on Thursday evening next.

Saturday, Dec. 2.

ACCIDENT.—A son of Mr. Brown, of Parson's Bridge, while standing with hands resting over the muzzle of his rifle, caused the gun to go off, and the ball taking one of the fingers of the right hand off passed through the palm of his left hand. Application was made for the admission of the boy into the Naval Hospital, and Admiral Denman immediately on hearing of the accident kindly caused the sufferer to be conveyed there and placed under proper medical treatment.

LEECH RIVER.—From Mr. Alfred Barnett, who arrived last evening from Leech River, we learn that there has been another severe flood at the mines and the bridge has been carried away. Snow commenced falling during Wednesday night and lay nearly 12 inches deep in some places on the road. Mr. Homfray is still engaged in surveying for the new ditch, the bad weather having interfered with his work. There are about 70 miners on the creek, the majority of whom are compelled to be idle.

THE WEATHER.—Although the wind has abated the weather continues variable, wet and unpleasant. Yesterday morning there was another heavy fall of rain, that turned during the day into sleet. In the afternoon, when it cleared up, the neighboring hills presented a thick mantle of snow. The Olympian mountains are also clad with a thick wintry vesture.

NAVAL.—H. M. S. Olio is daily expected from the North. She will probably remain here with the Sparrowhawk during the winter; H. M. S. Satej proceeding to the South Pacific, and H. M. S. Tribune taking her departure in the course of a few days for England.

ROBBING CLOTHES LINES.—Two Fort Rupert Indian boys, named Charley and Tom, were yesterday convicted in the Police Court of stealing linen from a clothes-line, and were each sentenced under the "Juvenile Offenders Act" to pay a fine of \$20 or to suffer two months' imprisonment. The fines were paid.

LEFT HER HOME.—A fair young damsel left the residence of her parents in this city without previous notice, on Thursday morning, and is supposed to have proceeded by the Eliza Anderson to the house of a relative near Olympia.

SNOW.—There was a lively fall of snow yesterday that gave the whole country a complete winter's garb. In the evening it cleared off and turned to a dry frost. Should more snow fall to-day it will afford good sleighing to the lovers of that healthy recreation.

SUPREME COURT.—His Honor was engaged all day yesterday in investigating the mutual claims of Messrs. Hutchinson and Carson. The enquiry was not concluded and will be resumed to-day.

A COURT MARTIAL was held yesterday at Esquimalt on several seamen belonging to H.M.S. Tribune who deserted in one of the ship's boats, while she was lying off Taboga Island, Panama.

ANOTHER COAL MINE.—It is rumored that Mr. Horace Smith, the former Superintendent of police, has discovered a large seam of coal on the west coast, on which he has had men secretly at work for some time.

HIGH TIDES.—The late gales have caused very high tides in all directions, while the heavy rains have been the means of swelling every rivulet and stream and filling the Straits with drift wood.

SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.—Within twenty four hours three firemen, a member from each of the companies have entwined themselves in the Gordian knot. Scarlet acts as a talisman all the world over.

THE WHISKY TRAFFIC.—Sergeant Ferrall and police officers seized a quantity of whiskey while leaving the harbor in a Fort Rupert canoe, on its way north.

FOR EVERET SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson left yesterday morning for Olympia and way ports.

Monday, Dec. 4.

FROM COMOX.—The schooner Amelia arrived last evening from Comox and Nanaimo. The schooner Goldstream from the Queen Charlotte Coal Company's mine, was passed near Nanaimo on Saturday morning, and is on the way down.

COAL.—The schooners Meg Merrilies and Matilda, and the sloop Alama, arrived on Saturday and Sunday, with 175 tons Nanaimo coal to R. Brodriek.

SKATING.—Saturday was a bright and cloudless day. The air was keen and frosty, and the fallen snow was sufficiently hard and dry to render open air exercise thoroughly enjoyable. The sharp frost of Friday and Saturday gave the lovers of skating an opportunity of indulging in this invigorating exercise yesterday on Harris' pond and Skinner's bottom, where the ice was found to be in good order, although on the former it was sufficiently tender in some places to give two or three parties who were sporting themselves on its surface an involuntary header.

THE GREENAMARA.—The speculation regarding the arrival of this ship off the harbor on Friday night turned out to be a myth. Early on Saturday morning Capt. Pike, pilot, took the Woodland out to the Straits but could see nothing of the stranger.

COMMERCIAL VICTORIA MARKETS.

Transactions during the past week have been too limited to effect any change in prices. There have been no arrivals from foreign ports, importations having been confined to live stock and produce, chiefly from Puget Sound per steamer Eliza Anderson and small craft. The Exports to American ports during the month of November amounted to \$25,832 39, of which San Francisco took \$13,550, Astoria \$7,168 22, and Port Angeles \$5,114 17.

Jobbing rates: FLOUR—Extra, \$9@50 50 p bbl.; Superfine and Common, \$7 50@8 25 do. BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—\$8 50 50 p 100 lbs. CORNMEAL—\$7 50@8 25 p 100 lbs. OATMEAL—\$6 50@7 50 do. BEANS—White, \$3 75@4 do; Pink Bayon, \$3 25@3 50 do. RICE—\$7 50@8 25 p 100 lb. SUGAR—Raw, 9c@10c 50 lb; Refined, 13c@15c 50 do. CANDLES—\$6 00 p bx SOAP—\$2 50 do. COFFEE—\$22 50@25 do. TEA—\$4@3 50 p lb chest BUTTER—Best, 50c@55c 50 lb case; Ordinary, 45c@47c do p 40 lb. HADON—Prime, 25c@27c do p dozen sides; Ordinary do, 20c@23c do do. HAMS—Best, 26c@27c do p dozen; Ordinary do, 18c@23c do do. WHEAT—\$2 25@2 50 do p case. BARLEY—\$2 25@2 50 do do OATS—\$2 25@2 50 do do BEAN—\$1 25@2 do do. MIDDLING—\$2 25@2 50 do do. POTATOES—\$1 25@1 50 do do. ONIONS—\$3 25@3 50 do do. HAY—\$1 25@1 50 do p bale.

VESSELS LOADING AT UTALADY MILLS.—The ship Cyclone, for Australia, and the brig Advance, for San Francisco, will both complete loading next week.

VALUE OF EXPORTS. From Victoria V. I. to American Ports For the Month ending November 30, 1865.

Table with columns for destination (ASTORIA, PORT ANGELOS, TO SAN FRANCISCO) and various goods (Liquors, Carpets, Hardware, etc.) with their respective values.

TO SAN FRANCISCO. Coal, 2,700 tons.....\$13,550 00

Grand Total.....\$25,832 39

PASSENGERS. Per stmr ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—George Wall, Dr. Cohen, O. H. Blair, A. J. Smith, Geo. W. Harris, W. N. Spence, Spurlock, Johnson, Reece, Linde, Shane, W. S. Porter, Babcock, Boorian, Arnot, Wilson, Mrs. Wicklow, two squaws.

CONSIGNEES. Per stmr ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—R. Greenbaum, C. Butler, Wilson & Murray, Hicken & Cline, C. Wren, B. Brodriek, Hutchinson, Order, W. H. Cox, D. W. Miller, Spurburg & Reuff, T. Dean.

IMPORTS. Per stmr ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—40 bxs apples, 2 rolls leather, 188 sheep, 20 sks oysters, 3 coops chickens, 10 bbls flour, 6 hogs, 8 dresses, do, 38 head cattle and calves, 4 sows and 3 bxs pigs, 7 sks seeds, 39 do onions, 25 bxs bread.—Value, \$2,670.

Per stmr ENTERPRISE from New Westminster—62,000 feet lumber. Value \$530.

Per stmr LETITIA, from Port Townsend—5 tons hay, 200 bush oats, 20 bbls flour, 10 tons furniture, 3 coops chickens.—Value, \$556.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE. ENTERED. Nov. 27—Schr General Harney, Roeder, New Westminster Schr Anne, Goin, San Juan Stmr Alexander, Lemashipky, Nanaimo Stmr Enterprise, 4000, New Westminster Schr Alpha, George, Queen Charlotte Island Nov. 28—Schr Black Diamond, McCulloch, Nanaimo Stmr Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles Nov. 30—Stmr Enterprise, Mout, New Westminster.

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Slip Ocean Queen, Watkins, Cowichan Slip Letitia, Adams, Port Townsend Dec 2—Schr Codiah, Whitford, Salt Spring Island

Nov 27—Stmr Active, Thorn, Astoria Stmr Enterprise, Mout, New Westminster Schr Brant, Francis, New Westminster Nov 28—Schr Black Diamond, McCulloch, Nanaimo

Schr Industry, Carleton, Nanaimo Stmr Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles Nov 29—Schr Anne, Elvin, San Juan Schr A J Wester, Mills, Port Angeles Schr Alpha, George, Nanaimo

Canoe, Hannan, San Juan Stmr Alexander, Lomoshipky, Sitka Nov 30—Schr General Harney, Griffin, Port Angeles

Stmr Enterprise, Mout, New Westminster Brig Woodland, Mankin, Port Angeles Dec 2—Canoe, Morgan, Lopez Island Boat Mary, Page, Orcas Island

IMPORTS To the Port of Victoria, V. I., for the month ending November 30th, 1865.

Table of imports from San Francisco and Portland, listing various goods like flour, sugar, coffee, tea, and their values.

FROM PORTLAND. Apples, 149 bxs \$ 164 Fruit, 6 bxs.... 6 Butter, 24 cs.... 970 Hops, 1 bale.... 50

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA. Lumber, 206 m. \$21,819 Fruit, 145 bbls. 725 Horses, 9 head. 1000 Furs, 28 pgs.... 200

FROM SAN JUAN. Potatoes, 18 tns \$ 292 Hogs, 16 head. 250 Wheat, 3 tons.... 69 Lime, 387 bbls. 387 Oats, 11 tons.... 230

FROM ENGLAND. Ale and Porter, 5182 Glassware, 19 pg 1082 Guns, 2 cs.... 172 Ammunition, 4 Groceries, 25 cs 428

Grand Total.....\$260,239

MARRIED. On the 29th instant, at the residence of the Bride's parents, by the Rev. A. C. Garrett, M. A., Albert Frederick, youngest son of Henry Hicks, Esq., Inspecting Commander H. M. Coast Guard Service, South Brent, Somersetshire, England, to Mary Agnes, eldest daughter of K. M. Hutchinson, Esq., of Victoria, V. I.

Any One can use Them. A basin of water is all that is required to produce the most brilliant and fashionable colours on Silks, Woollens, Cottons, Ribbons, &c., in ten minutes, by the use of

Judson's Simple Dyes. Ten colours, Prices, 6d., 2s. 6d., and 5s. per bottle, These Dyes will also be found useful for imparting colour to Feathers, Fibres, Grasses, Seaweed, Ivory, Bone, Wood, Willow Shavings, Paper, also for

Tinting Photographs, and for Illuminating. May be had of all chemists throughout the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

WHOLESALE DEPOT—19a, Coleman st., London W. 1864

D. LINDSAY, ACCOUNTANT, VICTORIA, V. I.

OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE IN THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY, REAL ESTATE AGENT, HOUSE FACTOR, ACCOUNTS COLLECTED, LOANS NEGOTIATED, AND A GENERAL AGENCY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

REFERENCES IN VICTORIA. G. M. SPROAT, Esq., Anderson & Co.; JOHN ROBERTSON STEWART, Esq.; E. GRANVILLE, Esq.; JOHN WRIGHT, Esq.; JAMES GARDNER, Esq.

Settlements made every Tuesday.

PHENIX FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY LONDON. [ESTABLISHED IN 1782.]

For Insuring every kind of Property in all parts of the World from Loss or Damage by Fire.

THE PROMPTITUDE AND LIBERALITY with which its engagements are always met by this Company are well known, and the importance of its relation with the public may be estimated from the fact that since its establishment it has paid more than EIGHT MILLIONS STERLING in discharge of claims for losses by fire.

The security offered to the public by the Phenix Office is unlimited, comprising in addition to the large invested capital of the Company, the whole fortunes of numerous proprietors, composed of some of the most opulent merchants and others in the United Kingdom. Annual and short time insurances effected on all kinds of property in Vancouver Island and British Columbia on the most favorable terms.

Rates and particulars of insurance may be had on application to the Agents at their office, corner of Wharf and Fort streets.

THOS. C. NUTTALL & CO., Wharf street, Agents for Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

ALBION HOUSE, FORT STREET, JUST RECEIVED BY "EXPRESS," WINTER GOODS!

Dark and light Winseys; all-wool Plaids, Clan and other patterns; Printed Flannels; French Merinos; black and colored Bonnet Velvets in Silk and Terry; a choice assortment of Embroidered Skirts, in Silk, Lustre, and Wintsey; Ladies' and Children's Cloaks; Hats; Bonnets; Ribbons; Millinery, &c., &c.

MRS. PICKLES, no 20

BEST MUSICAL INSTRUCTORS. THE BEST PIANOFORTE BOOK. Is Richardson's New Method.....\$3 75

THE BEST ORGAN BOOK. Is Zundel's Modern School..... 4 00

THE BEST CABINET ORGAN BOOK. Is Winner's Perfect Guide..... 7 50

THE BEST MELODEON BOOK. Is Zundel's Instructor..... 2 50

THE BEST GUITAR BOOK. Is Curtis' Method..... 3 00

THE BEST VIOLIN BOOK. Is Fessenden's Modern School..... 2 50

THE BEST FLUTE BOOK. Is Berbiglier's Method..... 3 00

THE BEST VIOLONCELLO BOOK. Is Romberg's School..... 3 00

THE BEST ACCORDEON BOOK. Is Winner's Perfect Guide..... 7 50

OLIVER DITSON & CO., Publishers, Boston, Mass. For sale also by the Music Dealers of Victoria and San Francisco.

DANIEL SCOTT & CO. AUCTIONEERS, Commission Merchants, CITY AUCTION ROOMS, Fort Street, next Wharf, VICTORIA, V. I.

Cash advanced on Merchandise, to any amount, consigned for sale. REFERENCES—J. O. R. Finlayson, of H. B. Co. and Lloyd's Agent.

\$10 Reward. STRAYED FROM MY FARM, A small thick-set BARK, with coal. Color of Mare reddish iron grey; branded O on left hip; bred at tanger's plain, formerly owned by Mr. Clark, Captain Pike, and Mr. Reynolds, and believed to be in the neighborhood of Mount Tainia or Cedar Hill. Any person bringing the mare and foal to the undersigned will receive the above reward.

J. D. FEMBERTON, East Dairy Farm, near Victoria.

DO, PAPA! Buy me a Musical Box, at BAGNALL'S MUSIC STORE, OCCIDENTAL BUILDING, FORT STREET.

THE COLONIST... VOL. 7... THE BRIT... EVERY... One Year, (in advance) Six Months, do Three Months, do Single Copies, do Subscribers in Victoria carriers for 20 cents... THE WEEK... Published... John Meakin, Clarkson & Co., "Barnard's Express" L.P. Fisher, G. Street... THE COLONIST... Every day the... exclusively the... representative... At present, with... discovered rich... fore us, the best... be shipwrecked... Executive of the... Government... want of capacity... Kamloops Lake... tages of Big Be... to us, and the... through America... overtake such a... channel of trad... and all the indu... finally spread... will be offered... the sufferance... the American... again it out... side direct... San Francisco... of the Govern... will have been... under such cir... Portland. The... city of the two... Of course the... lumbia could... British inland... rely on such... interests w... Since the first... Columbia, the... never looked... mismanagement... easily characte... colonies, be no... year than we... responsibility un... rests of course... Government... to open up... communication... be carried out... in the mean... previous issue... lay all neces... California... route, should... distances an... ed, and pub... Such a course... to the rath... Westminster, less a neces... been said and... bia, there is a... colony in Can... part of the w... vertising just... or occupation... A C... Of all men... perhaps the... Their lives ar... dent that it... can get out... the past. W... pressed him... imprisonment... out the lega... much excepti... assumed, be... stances, be m... over, of the... las, open u... in the learn... ing that the... genies of th... tion of impr... Justice, as a