

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 5, 1864.

It is worth noting how powerfully, and in most instances how usefully, our different institutions forming part of the grand total of our system of constitutional government operate the one with the other, in assisting to render so far perfect as in human nature is possible, the machinery by which the British rule is carried out and maintained; no individual part of the system of constitutional government can be called perfect by or in itself as a whole, but the integral parts may be fairly estimated as nearly as perfect as the wisdom of successive ages can make them. One of the time honored institutions of our country is the right of trial by jury, and the assembling together of juries from time to time, secures an observance at least of the rules of social justice and jurisprudence. But the grand jury is in itself one of the great bulwarks of constitutional government; not only is it a safe guard against the machinery of the law being put in force, without full grounds for it, but it operates as a safety valve, so to speak, when there is any undue pressure upon any part of the system. Sitting on a grand jury, a body of gentlemen put forth their views on certain subjects which come before them, who are in general the representatives of the most influential, independent and responsible portion of the community of the district to which they belong. They act in fact as monitors and censors of the several departments of the state, and are accustomed to speak unhesitatingly of any evils which present themselves to their view; and to hold up to public notice all short comings of those with whom lies the administration of justice. There has been a movement during the present century equally strong and remarkable, tending to the purifying of every portion of legislative and executive government; but since the days when King John under the compulsion, or moral suasion of the barons, affixed the sign manual to Magna Charta, the class from which grand juries are drawn, have been free, independent, and proverbially faithful to the trust which their situation imposes on them. Great progress has also been made in identifying the jurisprudential system of our laws and those that administer them with the whole nation. The yearly increasing interest in the education question, the growing desire to see education spread over the whole breadth of the land, is in every way conducive to such progress. The tendency of the study of our more intimate acquaintance with the laws of the country, has undoubtedly been to make Englishmen think less of the internal differences and political dogmas, which separate class from class, and party from party, and to foster with greater care every institution which claims in any way to be co-ordinate with the life and prosperity of the nation. Hence we find that a far greater intelligence exists amongst those who now perform the functions of grand jurors, and they enjoy a far more intimate knowledge of the laws of the country than formerly; consequently we do not find at the present day that the grand jury perform routine work only, but they form almost a Court of Appeal from the Stipendiary Magistrate, by deciding where the evidence is not to their notion sufficiently conclusive, not to put persons accused of crimes and misdemeanors on their trial before a jury of their countrymen. Whether or not the system of introducing a tribunal by which a prisoner is tried between his committing and final trial, is beneficial, is not for us to say; as it has for so long been a part of the constitution, its uses must have been to a great measure apparent and acknowledged. If it is interpolated a power, and a force to our system of criminal jurisprudence, it cannot be considered either unnecessary; and yet there are not wanting those who hold the opinion that the system might with advantage be abolished, but apart from their duties in passing criminals through one stage of the ordeal of trial, their position, in cases cannot be ignored, and its efficiency in cases which cannot readily be brought before other tribunals will not easily be lost sight of. It may be certainly be used with a very beneficial effect to the interest of the community. How far has it been so in our own affairs? Only so far, we think, as its strength, and this it may do very materially indeed, the value we attach to our distinctive national life and prosperity, and consequently, to everything which binds closer the unity of the people, and to every thing which contributes to the perfecting of our system of laws, and the development of our true social position as a nation. Abused from time to time creep into the social system, and show themselves upon the face of society, which can very aptly be illustrated by grand juries, and it is possible in some instances to take more forcible steps than simply presenting the state of facts, and the prevailing judgment with respect to misdoings, it is more desirable that the initiative should be taken by indicating those who are instrumental in upholding them; and more especially with regard to those of a nature which are complained of by the property holders on Johnson street in a petition to the grand jury. These misdoings, as well as the increasing illicit trade which is so extensively

carried on with the Indians in intoxicating liquors, demand prompt attention. Another point to which the grand jury call attention, ought to meet with attention in its proper quarter, much public money and time is in our opinion wasted, by sending up for trial cases which might and ought to be summarily disposed of by the stipendiary magistrates. The administration of civil justice in the colony does not escape without a censure, and a very just one, as is that also which is dealt out to the legal members of the court. In no court in the world, we should suppose, are delays, and as a natural consequence, expenses, so deplorable as in the court of civil justice held at James Bay. It is quite time there was a thorough reformation. Is there no one amongst our legislators bold enough to introduce some sweeping measures of reform in the practice of our courts? Some of our members are we see beginning at the small end and endeavoring to simplify the recovery of small debts and demands, surely they might do the like with claims of a large amount. In a country situated as our own with no court of appeal from the sole judge of the supreme court, verily, the grand jury is a noble institution. When abuses become too glaring in the administration of justice to be passed over, we may be thankful that we have an independent body of gentlemen to take cognizance of their existence, who will fearlessly present them for the consideration of the court and to the notice of the public.

Crown Lands Committee. Editor BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir: There is some of the evidence given by Mr. Pease before this committee which is really worth perusal, especially that in which he tries to throw discredit on Mr. Homfray's statements. He begins by doubting Mr. H.'s capability as a professional man, and the next day admits that he is "an able and competent engineer." When asked if he had made verbal application to Mr. Homfray for his field notes before writing him that peremptory letter to give them up, he answered "None whatever." Now is that at all likely? Mr. Homfray, in his answer to that letter, states that he had given a perfect map compiled from his notes. Mr. Pease said Mr. H.'s letter does not state so by definite terms, and that Mr. Homfray told him afterwards that he could not make either head or tail of them. How is it possible that Mr. H. could make a perfect map from his notes, if he did not understand them? Mr. Pease, when asked if he thought it likely that Mr. Pemberton would ask Mr. Homfray to falsify the amount of rock in the Albert Head Co. land, when he (Mr. Pease) was present, answers "very likely indeed." When asked if his own statement in regard to Mr. Dallas 1100 acre repudiation did not confirm what Mr. Homfray had said about Mr. Pemberton ordering him to mark "sold" on land which was not sold, he replied that "the question was an ungentlemanly, unmanly, and an un-English one." Why was he afraid to say it did? When asked by Mr. Ridge if Mr. Dallas repudiation of the 1100 acres had caused any loss to the colony, said it had not the next day he said it had, and stated the amount. He goes on to say that the reason of the complaints of intending settlers not being able to get land was on account of the rush when there were few surveys here. Now Mr. Pease must recollect that it was after the rush was over that people came to settle here; when there plenty of surveys in the colony, that these complaints were made, and at last they became a daily occurrence and so notorious that settlers were advised by the towns people as a rule that the only place where land could not be procured was at the Land Office. Mr. Pease further states that he never knew Mr. Pemberton to be guilty of such a transaction as reserving land for himself or friends. We old settlers can tell a far different tale. Was he not reserving the land for Mr. Dallas by not putting his name on the books as the purchaser, thereby enabling him to wait until he could sell it at a profit or repudiate it and no one would be the wiser? Mr. Homfray said that the Requisition survey was completed in 1853 if so Mr. Dallas must have held that 1100 acres one year and a half after it had been surveyed before he drew it up. Then how can Mr. Pease say that the reason Mr. Dallas' name does not appear on the books as the purchaser was that the land was not surveyed at the time he repudiated it. Mr. Pease in his letter to Mr. Lowenberg signs himself as Acting Surveyor General. Mr. Pemberton being then in England, and it was not until the date of that letter (March 23, 1860) that Mr. Dallas appears to have been appointed to that position, and it was by whom? Not by Mr. Pemberton, for he was in England, but by Mr. Pease, and we old settlers know that Mr. Dallas and he were upon the most friendly terms. Yet Mr. Pease states most solemnly, that he never knew Mr. Pemberton to be guilty of favoritism. I would ask this question, has not Mr. Pease by his contradictory answers, given great cause for suspecting that many more similar transactions have been carried on in the Land Department? The government party are vainly endeavoring to persuade the public that "the great wrong has been committed against an absent man by Mr. Homfray, in giving a straightforward answer to a plain question put to him by the Committee. What clap trap! As though Mr. Homfray or any other man would have said what he knew to be untrue, simply because Mr. Pemberton was here; if claims to be attached to any, it is to the House of Assembly for appointing the Committee before Mr. Pemberton's return and not to Mr. Homfray, who has only done what every man should do in a public matter of such importance, viz, speak the truth without fear or favor." Yours truly, An Old Settler.

Mr. Rookin has built for himself a regular Swiss chalet on the mountain side overlooking the bay. He proposes to study the mountain effect throughout the greater portion of the year, and it reports speak truly, the results of his observations will be given in a volume of glowing Ruskiess.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, Dec. 29. BAIL FORFEITURE.—Marguerite Hoffman, charged by Mr. Zind with shoplifting, failed to appear yesterday in the Police Court, when called, and her recognizances were ordered to be estreated. Mr. Wright appeared for the two sureties, who were bound in the sum of \$250 each, and applied to the court for the exercise of its prerogative in a reduction of the amount on the ground that the clients were no parties to the non-appearance of the accused, and would not have entered into bonds had they thought that she intended to absent herself. Mr. Pemberton replied that the charge was a very serious one, and should be visited in such a manner as to put a stop to its repetition. He thought the bail taken had been too light, as guilt could be inferred from the non-appearance of the accused. He imputed nothing to the sureties, but would not have accepted their recognizance had they not been solvent, responsible persons.

EMANCIPATION.—The colored citizens of Victoria intend celebrating on the first of January, 1864, the first step in the emancipation of the 4,000,000 of their brethren who are yet held in bondage on this continent. Wisely, and with true patriotic feeling, they consider that no event of greater importance in the history of their race has ever transpired. It matters not to them through whose hands, or through instigation, or from what cause, the freedom of the oppressed is brought about; the great fact remains the same, and it must be a subject of congratulation among the friends of freedom, of whatever creed or color, all over the world, that this fratricidal and deplorable war will at least have the effect of breaking the chains which have been so long and firmly riveted on such a large portion of the human family. For, let the war terminate how it may, this, in the opinion of the sagacious non-sectarian statesmen, can hardly fail to be the inevitable result, and looking forward to this result, the kindred of the enslaved millions have right good cause to celebrate, as they propose to do, the initiatory step towards this grand consummation. And while they do so they may feel that they have the cordial sympathy of lovers of liberty, not only throughout the British Empire, but wherever freedom has found a permanent footing.

THE REAL ESTATE TAX.—It is highly gratifying to observe the hearty support the public are evidently determined to accord to the Corporation in their efforts to maintain the credit of the city. The town clerk was in his office yesterday for the first time to receive the taxes on real estate, and in the short space of less than five hours, the sum of \$297 was paid in, and by many of our most respectable citizens. Several of our councillors were among the first to meet the call, and the rest of the municipal body have either followed the laudable example or are prepared at once to do so. It is confidently expected that the full amount required to meet the city's liabilities, amounting to the 31st inst., will be made up to-day. There could not be a more effectual answer than this to the arguments of unscrupulous agitators, who either having no tax to pay themselves, or wishing to shift the prompt payment of what they really are liable for, are endeavoring to create public feeling against the acts of the council and legislature, and thus indirectly, but not less fatally, bring the city and colony into financial disrepute.

FROM BENTINCK ARM.—M. Wallace, a resident of Bentinck Arm settlement, and an occasional correspondent of the COLONIST, arrived in town by the Emily Harris on Saturday. Every thing is quiet at that locality with the exception of an occasional row with the Indians caused by the introduction of liquor among them, but are endeavoring to create public feeling against the acts of the council and legislature, and thus indirectly, but not less fatally, bring the city and colony into financial disrepute.

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.—The Queen Charlotte Mining Company will send by the ship Rosedale, to Liverpool direct, 164 bags of copper ore from their mine on Queen Charlotte's Island. It is only by this means that British capitalists can be convinced of the permanent richness and value of our mineral resources, and be induced to invest in them that amount of capital which alone will ensure their successful development.

THE SAMSTER COPPER MINE.—A large quantity of the Red Rover on Sunday last. The rock looks very well, and has caused a considerable demand for shares. Judges of copper ore can view some of the specimens at Messrs. Franklin's, or at the office of Mr. Barnett, the Secretary of the Company.

THE ST. GEORGE QUARTZ MINING CO.—This company, who are on a good looking vein of quartz on Gold Stream, had a meeting last night, and determined to commence sinking a shaft 60 feet deep, with the view of ascertaining the value of their capital in thirty shares of thirty-five dollars each.

SELLING WHISKY.—Changhuig, a Fort Rupert Indian, was sentenced in the Police Court yesterday to a fine of \$50 or to suffer three months imprisonment with hard labor, for disposing of spirit to his wife.

STEALING BLACK DIAMONDS.—Two Fort Rupert Indians named Simon and Charley, were brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday charged with stealing coal from Little's Wharf and sent for 14 days to the chain gang.

The members of the Roman Catholic Church intend shortly to have a bazaar and social tea gathering. Particulars will hereafter be announced.

DESERTER.—Robert North was brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday charged with being a deserter from H. M. S. Topaze, and was remanded for two days.

REMANDED.—John Thompson charged with stealing a ham, was remanded for one day.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30. ENERGETIC.—The Sansum Copper Mining Company, having disposed of all their stock which was put in the market, have now advertised for contractors to tender for running a tunnel and sinking a shaft at their mine, and will on Friday morning despatch authorized persons to show the ground, and give all necessary information.

COMMITTED.—John Duncan sentenced by W. H. Franklin, Esq., at Nanaimo to two months' imprisonment for giving spirits to an Indian, was yesterday committed to jail. Also Clephane, an Indian, sent to take his trial for cutting and wounding Quinas, a Nanaimo Indian, with intent to do him bodily harm.

SUPPLYING SPIRITS.—David Stewart who stood remanded from the 26th inst., upon a charge of supplying spirits to Indians, was again brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday, and ordered to pay a fine of \$50 or in default to suffer four months' imprisonment with hard labor.

THE LATE CAPT. STUART.—An inquest was held at Nanaimo on the 24th inst., on the body of the late Capt. Stuart, which had been conveyed from Sangster Island. Dr. Grant's evidence went to show that the deceased had died from the effects of a severe attack of bronchitis, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

BURGLARY.—On Monday evening a house on the north side of St. John's Church was forcibly entered while the occupants were in town, and ransacked of its contents. Some clue was yesterday discovered which it is thought may lead to the detection of the offender or offenders.

DESERTION.—Elijah Kemp, the marine who had a narrow escape in the assize court last week, was charged in the Police Court yesterday with desertion, and ordered to be given up to his own officers.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31. THE PARAMETER QUARTZ CO.—At a meeting of the shareholders in this company held yesterday, it was unanimously resolved to organize the company under the Joint Stock Company's Act, with limited liability. The stock will consist of 250 shares of \$50 each, and each share will represent fifteen feet Great confidence is felt by the shareholders in the richness of the vein; assays made by private parties, having confirmed to some extent the assay lately made by Mr. Gambiner. The rock is from 12 feet below the surface of the lead, and the difference in the quality of the ore at that depth from that near the surface, is very remarkable. As high as one dollar per foot has been refused by parties interested.

BOOZY.—Benjamin Martin was charged by Deanes Coughlin yesterday before Mr. Pemberton, with stealing a pair of boots of the value of \$4. The complainant, who evidently claimed his property from the Emerald Isle, said he missed his boots on Christmas, and had subsequently seen them on the accused. In answer to Mr. Wright, Coughlin said "I never saw them, but the boots if they were on me, or any other man." (laughter.) "Didn't I buy them, and pay for them myself?" Coughlin, however, caudally admitted that he had been drinking, and was so tight that any man might have eased him of his boots without his knowing it, and Mr. Pemberton considering the evidence insufficient, discharged the prisoner.

CREDITABLE.—Notwithstanding the attempted opposition raised by obstructives, our townspeople are displaying a most commendable effort to support the corporation in their efforts to provide for the city government. Yesterday a large number of tax payers paid their assessments at the Town Clerk's office, and every hope is entertained, from the alacrity displayed by the inhabitants, that the city will not end the year by dishonouring her engagements.

CHARGE OF COW STEALING.—Wm. McNeil was charged yesterday in the Police Court with stealing a cow of the value of \$56. Complainant deposed that he missed his cow which was running near the accused's farm, and found her hide in his barn. The case was postponed till Tuesday for further evidence, bail being taken for McNeil's appearance. Mr. Deanes appeared for McNeil.

CHARGE OF ASSAULTING SEAMAN ON DESERTER FROM H. M. SERVICE.—Lucas Simon O'Brien appeared yesterday in the Police Court to answer a charge of assaulting three men to desert from H. M. service, and was remanded till Monday next, bail being accepted for his appearance. Mr. Wright appeared on behalf of O'Brien.

DISCHARGED.—John Thompson, the deserter from H. M. S. Topaze, was discharged yesterday on entering into his own recognizance to appear on 10th January, 1864.

DISCHARGED.—Robert North, charged with deserting from H. M. S. Topaze, was ordered to be delivered over to the naval authorities.

CHANGE OF BOBBY.—Three men named Joseph Shephard, Wm. Fisher and Richard Wallace, were charged in the Police Court with stealing seven twenty dollar pieces and other monies the property of Andrew Blyth, and were remanded until Monday next.

A BARBER ON SHORT.—The other day, says the Wheeling (Va.) Register, of the 6th November, Mr. Jenkins arrived in this city from New York, and put up at one of our hotels. While sauntering around the city yesterday afternoon, he dropped into a barber shop and threw himself into an easy chair. He had a fine, black, bushy hair, of which he was not a little proud, and frequently he submitted it to the curling tongs of the barber. After being shaved, he desired the barber to trim his flowing locks a little. The barber clipped off the ends of the hair, and asked Jenkins if that was sufficient. "No," he replied; "I want it trimmed a little shorter; cut away, and I will tell you when to stop."

Jenkins had risen from his bed at an early hour, and after having rambled most of the morning, he began to feel a little drowsy. This feeling was augmented by the soothing sensations of the tonorial process, and while the barber quietly pursued his avocation, Jenkins as quietly fell asleep. The barber went entirely over his head, cutting off a couple of inches of hair with every clip of the scissors. He then rested for a moment, expecting his customer would tell him that it was sufficient; but the unconscious Jenkins uttered not a word, and the barber thinking he had not cut the hair close enough, went over the head again. Again did he wait for an answer, little thinking that his patron was asleep. Remembering that Jenkins had told him "cut away and he would tell him when to stop," the innocent barber went over the head a third time, cutting the hair nearly as close as if he had shaved it with a razor. Having finished, he again waited orders from his customer, but he uttered not a word. The barber was surprised, and that surprise was increased by a sound which sounded very like a snore, coming from the nasal organ of his unconscious victim. The poor barber, saw the error he had committed, and in dismay, as if by mistake, he struck Jenkins on the side of the head with his scissors, and awoke him. He started to his feet, looked in the glass, and to his utter horror saw that he was uncut; to appear in public without a wig. He seized like the soldiers in Flanders, but it was of no avail, the deed was done. As he put on his hat, which dropped loosely over his eyes, some merciful man recommended the use of sand paper to his cranium.

AS TO DEWINE'S COLD WATER.—Cold water ought never to be drunk within half an hour of eating; for the colder it is, the more instantly does it arrest digestion, not only by diluting the gastric juice, but by reducing its temperature, which is near 100 degrees. Hot water is something over 32 degrees, and when swallowed mixes with the gastric juice and lowers its temperature, not to be elevated until heat enough has been withdrawn from the general system; and that draft must be made until the 100 degrees of warmth are obtained. But some persons have so little vitality that the body exhausts itself in its instinctive efforts to keep the stomach, from which its life and health comes; and the person rises from the table with a cold chill running down the back or over the whole body. Sometimes these drafts upon the body, for warmth to the stomach are so sudden and great that they cannot be met, and instantaneous death is the result. Many a person has dropped dead at the pump or at the spring. Such a result is more certain if, in addition to the person being very warm at the time of drinking, there is also great bodily fatigue. A French general recently fell dead from drinking cold water on reaching the top of a mountain, overheated and exhausted in the effort of bringing up his battalions with his troops.

Under all circumstances of heat and fatigue the glass of water should be grasped in the hand, held half a minute, then, taking not over two swallows, rest a quarter of a minute; then two swallows more, and so on, until the thirst is nearly assuaged. It will seldom happen that a person is inclined to take over half a dozen swallows thus.—Hall's Journal of Health.

CAPTURE AT SEA.—The following story of an American eagle captured at sea, is told by the Honolulu Advertiser: Capt. Stivers, of the whalerip Cicero informs us that during his last cruise northward, and when about 500 miles from the Fox Islands, a large American eagle came on board during the evening, alighting in one of the boats. As the vessel approached and seized him, but the eagle struggled and fought bravely, and it required all the power of the sailor to capture him. He was secured and kept on board for several days, as his food did not agree with him and he appeared likely to die. Capt. S. loosed him and let him go. The bird flew off nearly out of sight, but soon returned, and commenced flying in circles round and round the ship, till he alighted and was again secured. Wild birds and fish were then caught for him, which he greedily devoured, showing that these were his accustomed food, on which he thrived, and was brought into port. He has been taken to the American Hospital, where he will find a home, food and shelter, so long as his old guardian and patron Uncle Sam continues to provide for the wants of his roving sons. This eagle's mate, and a very large bird. Some years ago a female eagle was brought here by a whaler, and probably living here yet. Perhaps if placed together, they may recognize their relationship, and the union prove a happy one that many other unions that occur in this world.

TALLEYRAND'S FAMOUS MOT.—The saying of the crafty French politician, that language was given to man to consist of what he could not think, is a very good one. It is a very good one, and the union prove a happy one that many other unions that occur in this world.

ROBERT SOUTH, in Westminster Abbey, on the 30th April, 1676, on the "Windows of the World." It occurs thus: "Men speak with designs of mischief, and therefore they speak in the dark. In short, this seems to be the true inward judgment of all our politic ages; that speech was given to the ordinary sort of men, whereby, to communicate their mind, but in the wise whereby in conceal it."

Advertisement for 'The Weekly Colonist' and various medical products including 'Bad Breasts', 'Ringworm', 'Quinsy', 'Pills', 'Sailing', and 'Barges'.

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Thursday, January 5, 1864.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

How much, and yet how little, has occurred to us all since last we addressed our readers! A few short hours have passed and no stirring or startling events have taken place in the interval, but another step on the ladder of time has been commenced. The good old year of 1863 is now numbered with the past. A well known friend has ceased to be, and we have all to enter upon a fresh year, in the same state of uncertainty as to what may be its joys and pleasures, what its cares and trials. In our own city the past year, although not by any means a brilliant period in our history, has not been uneventful. Our progress has not been marked by any very rapid strides, but upon the whole it cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory. Does the end of the year find us in a more prosperous condition than the commencement did? How many differences of opinion will this simple question elicit in its answer, very much depends upon the standard from which we take our starting-point, upon the point of view from which we regard our position; if we are to take the appearance of the city as any criterion of the rise or fall in her prosperity, there could be little doubt that one and all would acknowledge the improvement. If we consider the price of land and lots those who wished to settle down in their own houses in this colony, and those who seek a safe investment and not an exorbitant rate of interest for their money, will not say that we have retrograded. Many evil reports that have been promulgated by those who expect too much from the colony, came out in 1862, and returned in disgust to the old country, which they never ought to have left. Yet, in spite of these reports, our population has increased, though the very large area over which the town is spread, prevents us from noticing at first sight how much it is year by year spreading and improving. If we take into consideration the social comforts, we must all confess they have been greatly augmented. No material change has taken place in the administration of the government of the colony. The new Governor has not come with the new year. We have, however, seen a well deserved honor bestowed upon our present Governor. A new House of Assembly has come into office during the year, but of them we can only say at present that in addition to passing some few good measures, they have out themselves out plenty of work for the present year; may they persevere and get well through with it. The increasing business in our law courts and the delays in getting cases tried, have for some time past been bringing our present system into disrepute. The last half of the year has seen the business carried on by one judge and one official who "acts" in more capacities than we have space to enumerate, already we see signs of an improvement in prospect. Bills are to be introduced to provide for the more speedy hearing of cases in which the amount in dispute is of small value, and we think it probable that before the end of the year, there will be an efficient staff to administer the law promptly to all classes. An old prophecy has said that the present year is to be one of change and strange events; it will not be surprising if we see considerable change amongst the legal dignitaries of the colony. A noticeable feature in the latter part of the past year, has been the attempt to destroy the existence of our corporation and the credit of our city, and in a combined attack of self-styled conservatives and ultra liberals has been witnessed a futile attempt to excite a feeling hostile to our municipality; but we are happy to find that the Mayor and Council have withstood the attack bravely, and have proved themselves fully worthy of the confidence placed in them by the electors, and the attempt of our misguided contemporary to interpret the judgment of the Chief Justice on the rule for a prohibition, into an extinction of the corporation altogether, has not had the effect of weakening the authority of the Mayor and Council one iota. The small circle of malcontents who desire to have a municipality without any taxes, and which represents something like the proportion of six to forty-seven, have not been able, although bringing in a little talent to bear upon their view of the question, to convince good citizens that they ought not to pay any municipal taxes. Passing from our own affairs to those of the nation at large, it is a matter of congratulation that England, during the past year, in spite of rumors of war, in spite of iron-clads, in spite of Russia and Poland, and many other troubles and stumbling blocks in the way of peace, has managed to steer clear of war with all civilized nations; and with the fearful example before her in the desperate conflict raging amongst our neighbors, all right thinking Englishmen must rejoice that this is the case. When the year 1863 commenced, how great were the hopes and expectations that it would see the termination of the American War. How painful the result; the miseries of civil war have discolored great portions of that great country and yet with what a marvelous regularity under great difficulties, has the com-

mercial traffic of the United States been carried on; a power of endurance astonishing to lookers on has been shown by every section of the community whose interests are all more or less affected by the war. To speak of the future is a very different task to commenting on past events. How utterly obscure to our limited perception are the coming events which at this time next year the pen will glibly chronicle as historic facts. Who can say whether the issue of the American struggle shall ere this period arrive have been told? To express a wish that such shall be the case, is but to echo the desire of every sensible man. Can we hope to speak hereafter of the year 1864 as one which, beginning with rumors of war and threatened ruptures in every part of the world, ended peacefully for our own country? Fortunately for humanity, we cannot foresee. We have no reason to dwell on the gloomy side of the picture. The same policy which has guided England safely through difficulties in many quarters up to this time, may, it is to be hoped, guide her through to the end of the year. Amongst other things that have been prophesied of this year, is the millennium, but we can hardly suppose that any prediction had ever fewer believers. Amongst the Asiatic Mahomedans, however, a very prevalent idea exists, grounded upon a somewhat obscure prophecy of Sheikh Hussein—or Hassan, we know not which—that the English rule in India will succumb to that of the true believers in the present year, and that a vast empire under the immediate dispensation of the Prophet will be established in Asia. So strong is the belief in this theory amongst a people fanatic and superstitious beyond credibility, that it is more than probable that the standard of rebellion will again be raised in the East; but not, we confidently trust, with any dangerous results to the British rule in India.

Looking nearer at home, have we any reason to look forward to a gloomy year? Day by day we notice new companies being formed for working mines and otherwise developing the resources of the country. Capital will be brought into use more and more every year as the business of the mines increase, and if the people of the two colonies are true to themselves, and the one to the other, the Government lending that necessary aid to developing the resources and fostering the commercial interests of the country, there is nothing to prevent our increase in trade and business of every description. In the coming year our population, our wealth, our business, and our properties, must increase. Have we not then reason to wish upon another Happy New Year? That the comforts, the riches, and the pleasures of the new year may fall thick and heavy upon our readers, and their cares and toils be light, is our greeting for the New Year.

PLAGIARISM.—Such of our readers as may have chanced to glance over the Chronicle of yesterday morning will no doubt have been slightly upon an item headed "Emancipation," indited by the Bombastes who does the light artillery of that journal. There is nothing worthy of note in the effusion in question, except in its cool impudence. We are not only charged with espousing the opposite side to that which our readers are aware we upheld, but the writer has the assurance, after waiting to see which way the tide was turning, not only to borrow the ideas expressed by us on the subject, but to clothe them in almost the same language. We do not object to be copied, but must have credit for our tuition.

The Services of Rebel Women.—The services of the Union women of the North have been steady, patriotic, and self-sacrificing, from the commencement of the war. They have done an immense amount of work without pay or reward. The North-western Fair, which realized over \$50,000, was the work of the Union ladies of Cincinnati. The rebel women, however, have been equally conspicuous. The army correspondent of the Chicago Journal says on this subject:—

I shall never be done admiring the patriotic faith and undying devotion of the loyal women of the land, but I must tell you that the rebel women of the South are worthy, in everything but a sacred cause, of their Northern sisters. There is nothing that will not surrender with a smile; the gemmed ring, the diamond bracelet, the rich wardrobe, they cut up the rich carpets for soldiers' blankets, without a sigh; they take the flue linen from their persons for the bandages.

When four hundred of Linggret's men came up to Nashville, prisoners of war, a war the roughest, driest, wildest fellows the sun ever shone upon, and a flight of stars in the building they occupied fell, killing and wounding a large number of them, you should have seen the fair young beauties come forth from the old aristocratic mansions, bearing restoratives and delicacies in their hands, mingling in the dingy crowd, wiping away the blood with their white handkerchiefs, and uttering words of cheer; you should have seen them doing this, with hundreds of Union soldiers all around, and sending back upon the rough blackguards of rebels as they left. But in all there was a defiant air, a pride in their humanity, strange to see. O a truth they carried it off grandly.

And almost all these girls were in mourning for dead rebels, brothers, sisters, friends, whom these same girls had sneered into treason and driven into rebellion, and followed as the South with their graves, and the least they could do was to wear black for them, and flout black rags from the windows. Clothed in their souls in sackcloth. I said they were worthy of their sisters at the North, in all but a righteous cause; but I said wrong. There is a bitterness there are glimpses of the Prisoners, the black you shrink from them. But they are fearless in earnest; they are almost grand in self-sacrifice. O! that they were true and loving daughters of the old flag.

TRUTHS EVER LOVELY SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN.

Editor, British Colonist.—Sir, one of the most difficult tasks to perform, is to give a fair and truthful representation of a new country. Hence the need of great caution and discretion on the part of those who undertake such a task; for if there is any one set of guilt, more deep dyed, and cruel than another, it is that of falsehood or deceit, particularly in the matter alluded to. Who can see up the manifold miseries that ensue from persons being deceived into the abandonment of a quiet and comfortable home, for the discomforts and hardships of a new and strange land, where all is different from what they inferred and firmly believed, from the accounts that they had received, previous to their emigration. Dr. Wayland, in one of his admirable discourses on veracity, defines falsehood as a deception of the mind, either by word, gesture, or in any conceivable way; and the guilt of the falsehood lies with the party who caused or permits the deception. Now, can it be denied that upon the principle here stated, many misrepresentations have been given of these Western Colonies, not by stating what is not true, but by not stating what is true. That the Colony of British Columbia is a vast and fertile land, and other minerals, there needs no further proof than has already been manifested; and who, in writing the country's praise, has been frank enough to state what each dollar taken from the mines has cost, or that poor man's diggings are to be found upon a reef of the adjacent coast. He had been wandering over the country about Mount Elliott, a lofty hill above 4000 feet in height, near the mouth of the Burdekin, and he must have been but a short way to the east of McKinley's party, as they passed down the river. His name was James Morrill, and he was born near Maldon, in Essex, England, and had been a seaman of the wrecked vessel, the Peruvian. He was supplied with clothes by his new friends, and after a short interval taken to Port Denison, where a subscription was made on his behalf, and where both himself and his narrative were the subject of very general interest.

The captain of the Peruvian had warned the "watch against broken water," that dangerous symptom of the coral reef coast. The vessel was wrecked during the night, and the watch had indeed detected the fatal symptom ahead, but too late to be of any avail. There was a considerable gale blowing; the two boats were lost, and with them the first and second officers. The construction of a raft was the next resource. It was promptly made, launched and loaded with its living freight, but it broke away from the wreck before any adequate supplies of either provisions or water had been secured. There had been fourteen of a crew, and seven passengers, and for 42 days those miserable creatures were drifted to and fro, until at length they were rescued by a small schooner, which was cast ashore on the north side of Cape Cleveland. They had prolonged their lives mainly by catching three sharks, part of a legion that followed the raft for the sake of the dead bodies that were at intervals committed to the waters.

Ashore at last, they were at a time undisturbed, and subsisted on mull fish; but after a fortnight they were discovered by the aborigines. They were by this time reduced to four—the captain and his wife, Morrill, and a boy. The natives, after gratifying an intense curiosity by examining all of them, from head to foot, behaved kindly after their rough fashion, and took them to the great tribal camp in the neighborhood, where they again underwent a thorough examination, their white skins causing a general astonishment, and inspiring some with such terror that they at first ran away. For some time the neighboring blacks were arriving in streams to gratify their common curiosity, but no violence was used, nor was insult ever offered to the female. Meantime the poor outcasts were at first supplied with food, and afterwards were shown how and where they could find roots and other edibles for themselves. Exposure and privation caused much suffering, especially when their clothing, gradually falling to pieces, had disappeared and left them nearly naked. The poor wife, the only female of the party, contrived to retain to the last a few scraps of covering. Severe rheumatism attacked them all, and in little more than two years, Morrill found himself the sole survivor. The captain had died before his wife, and she, these months and forsaken, survived him but four days. Morrill had a strong frame and a good constitution, and survived the trying ordeal of his new mode of life.

His narrative of his life among the natives is interesting in its account of native manners and habits. He forms a very low estimate of their qualities, as they are cruel and treacherous, even to each other of the same tribe. "There is," he says, "a sort of partnership of private friends and private foes in each tribe. Some individuals are occasionally the victims of these enemies, but many more are preserved by the watchfulness of friends." He himself had both friends and enemies, and would have fallen on many an occasion by the hands of the latter, but for the vigilance of the former, who threatened the direst vengeance in case any injury happened to him. He confirms the now perfectly authenticated cannibalism of the Australian natives. He brightens the dark picture a little by stating that they will not kill their fellow men merely for the sake of eating them. In eating their friends or relatives, after death, there seems some vague notion of appropriating yet something of the virtues of the deceased; at all at least that the grasping appropriator death has left them.

It is remarkable that he scarcely ever heard reports of his countrymen, many of whom must have traversed the country at no very great distance from the scene of his protracted wanderings, not a few having from time to time been murdered, or killed in hostile attacks. This circumstance is to be accounted for, perhaps, partly from the desire of the natives to withhold information of his countrymen from him, as they seem really to have raised his presence amongst them; and partly from the mutual hostility, or at least the alien feeling generally prevalent between the various tribes, which greatly restricted any intercourse, and prevented the spreading of news, however wonderful. At length, however, reports most, he says, which he cannot understand. The new settlement of Bowen, about two years before his departure, had attracted the natives' attention,

Extraordinary Narratives of Personal Adventure.—A White Man Living for 17 Years among the Aborigines of Australia. An expedition started from the colony of South Australia, in 1850, to penetrate the interior and ascertain the fate of Burke and Wills, the distinguished Australian travelers. An account of this expedition was lately published by William Westgarth, in a volume entitled Tracks of McKinley and Others across Australia. A chapter of this book contains a strange and deeply interesting account of one James Morrill, who, just six months after McKinley's party had departed from Port Denison, suddenly presented himself to two shepherds at an outpost of the same station which had given the explorers so hearty a reception. A more striking story of adventure it would be difficult to find in the entire history of Australian colonization, rich though that history is in novel experience and dramatic positions. The facts of the case are thus told by Mr. Westgarth:—

Quite naked, and of a reddish yellow hue, he was seen to be no aboriginal native. On the shepherds seizing their firearms under a sense of possible danger, he called out in English, although speaking with difficulty, that he was their countryman. He then informed them that he had lived for 17 years with the aborigines in the neighborhood, being the sole survivor of the crew and passengers of a ship that had been wrecked as far back as the year 1846 upon a reef of the adjacent coast. He had been wandering over the country about Mount Elliott, a lofty hill above 4000 feet in height, near the mouth of the Burdekin, and he must have been but a short way to the east of McKinley's party, as they passed down the river. His name was James Morrill, and he was born near Maldon, in Essex, England, and had been a seaman of the wrecked vessel, the Peruvian. He was supplied with clothes by his new friends, and after a short interval taken to Port Denison, where a subscription was made on his behalf, and where both himself and his narrative were the subject of very general interest.

PETROLEUM.

How have any idea of the immensity of the Petroleum trade. The Philadelphia Press, speaking on the rapid extent to which this business has increased in the United States within a few years past, says:— It has added materially to our national wealth, and has probably contributed more than any other source to swell our national commerce. American rock-oil is now exported to most every quarter of the globe. From the first of January until the close of October, 1862, there were 5,195,481 gallons shipped from New York alone. For the same period this year New York has exported 15,038,166 gallons; Philadelphia, 4,263,244 gallons; Boston, 1,604,846 gallons; Baltimore, 806,951 gallons. The increase of the New York trade from over five to over fifteen million gallons in a single year may be taken as a fair average of the increased shipments of the other ports, and shows how rapidly the traffic is being developed. In round numbers, the total value of the exports from the ports above named, from January first, until the close of last month, will not fall short of ten millions of dollars; so that hereafter petroleum is fairly entitled to rank among the staples of the country; and Pennsylvania, which for the past three years has yielded almost two million barrels annually, according to the best estimates, may claim the largest share of credit for having swelled the commerce in this article to its present dimensions.

It has never been a secret that rock-oil, or Barbadoes tar, as it is sometimes called, is indigenous, if we may use the term, to very many countries, including the British West Indies, which Philadelphia has, nevertheless, supplied with 22,682 gallons thus far this year. But it would seem that the Pennsylvania and Canada wells have a monopoly of the markets of the world, whatever be the cause. In the Antwerp, Liverpool and Hamburg market reports, and the case is the same with a hundred other European cities and towns, the price of "Pennsylvania crude," and "Pennsylvania refined," is a standard quotation. Whether it will always be thus, we cannot say. In the course of a few years other nations may become our rivals in the production of petroleum. Already we hear that "a district has been discovered in Russia of similar formation to that of the oil-producing region of Pennsylvania, and other parts of America;" and a late Paris letter states that Col. Gowan, made famous by clearing the harbor of Sebastopol of the sanken war vessels, has obtained a grant of fifty thousand acres from the Russian government, which he is about to "prospect for oil," being now on route for this country to obtain the necessary machinery. Again, we are informed that mineral oil has been discovered at Gaspe, a thriving part of Canada East, where its existence was indicated fully twenty years ago in the geological reports of that section. The well is a flowing one, and the oil of a pale, greenish brown color, and even in its crude state, less offensive than some of the refined oil of Ensisheim. Notwithstanding these discoveries, and others that we cannot now recall to mind, we do not much fear that our commerce in petroleum will ever suffer from foreign competition. If the trade should ever fall off, it will only be when the wells have become exhausted; and from the enormously increased yield of the past year, it is safe to infer that the possibility of such a result is yet very remote.

TO LADIES ONLY.—To those of our lady readers who are happy in the possession of one of Grover & Baker's machines, it is no secret that the beautiful embroidery now so the rage, is as well as as easily done upon it, as the plainest sewing. Our object is to inform those who are not the happy possessors of one of these invaluable inventions, that this is really the case. There are other good sewing machines, but this, by its marvellous properties, combines the facilities of both sewing and embroidering, and as it is the only one in the market that does, no lady about to purchase a sewing machine, in these days, will hesitate to select, when the important fact we have stated is brought to her notice. R. H. Adams, Pioneer Hat store, Yates street, agent for Victoria.

FRUIT COFFERS.—It is mentioned by Mrs Hannah More, that in her time it was the fashion for ladies to ornament their hats not only with flowers but with fruit; and Garrick, to ridicule this fashion, had a hat made for a scene in a comedy, with turpins and carrots by way of ornament. We are coming to that again.

ANNOY OF MIND.—A young lady threw herself into the box in the postoffice window instead of her letter, nor did she discover her mistake till the clerk asked if she were single.

A SENTIMENTAL young man thus feelingly expresses himself: "Even as nature best volently guards the rose with thorns, so does she endow women with pins."

RICH men have commonly more need to be taught contentment than the poor, because all men's expectations grow faster than their fortunes.

DIFFICULTY.—Nothing is more difficult than to suffer without complaining.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE REAL ESTATE TAXES.

four days have elapsed since we received notice that the real estate tax for the past year were due (and could not have been made than the intervening days before New Year) yet up to the last evening the Town Clerk close on \$7000. It is gratifying that most of the large landowners, worthy example, and prompt assessments. Our gentleman a large amount of property, yesterday \$800 to the city tax payers in general have selves most forcibly in the Council in this matter, the factors and antiquaries has been pursued by the of this city. It is difficult to motives can have influenced adopting a line of conduct so judicial to the best interests of the city, which it should be their advance and protect. We one opinion expressed by our community, with reference to and groundless opposition maintained by them,—the unqualified condemnation.

Suspension of Business.—mas day there has been quite mercantile community, and appearance of things, one may at least one half of the business holiday making. To this contributed the death of local columns. There are have hourly expected from England and elsewhere, whose a healthy impetus to the trade the year of grace 1864.

GOVERNMENT TAXES.—The notice that all returns and Licenses Amendment Act of handed into his office on or inst, and owners of real estate in accordance with the provisions of the first proviso.

CHANGED HANDS.—Mr. O has disposed of his interest in the Exchange Reading Hardy Gillard, who announces will re-open after undergoing and improvements.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—I by a notice appearing eleven first performance of this announced to take place in Monday, the 11th inst.

LITERARY INSTITUTE.—I that there is a movement on in our city a first class Library which shall amongst other the following objects: 1st. A to be supplied with leading periodicals. 2d. A Library, rare and scientific works. 3. The need of such an institution felt, and if carried out on liberal principles, its effect intellectual and moral character, especially of the young would very soon be apparent. Attempts have already been made similar institutions, but have causes heretofore resulted in are sure however, from the position of the gentlemen, the initiative in the present, whose names we have seen a quotation to the Mayor to call upon the subject, that they would not have been given of its utility, and that they are party in onward to a success would suggest to the Chamber and the Board of Brokers, giving their aid to this movement in a measure a kindred institution. It is usual in cities of importance to have at least a respect with such bodies, and by judiciously combining the suitable building might be would afford ample accommodation, public commercial and literary prove both an ornament and a city. We hope that at the which is contemplated by the Literary Institute, the suggestion may be taken up by gentlemen who are interested in the movement, and its practically tested.

COLLEGE OF ST. LOUIS.—The attention of our readers to the new college of St. L. the Dolate Fathers have recent our city. The school which ducted for upwards of a year street assures us of the success attend their new establishment given to understand the college on Thursday, the 17th inst.

ARRIVAL OF THE PACIFIC steamer Pacific, Capt. B. Equilante yesterday at about from San Francisco, which the 30th ultimo. The Pacific cross the bar of the Colony consequently came on with own, as the usual quantity of a very large mail.

Weekly

Thursday, January 5, 1864.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

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Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 5, 1864.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 1.

THE REAL ESTATE TAXES.—Although but four days have elapsed since the public received notice that the real estate taxes for the past year were due (and probably the call could not have been made at a worse time than the intervening days between Christmas and New Year) yet up to the hour of closing last evening the Town Clerk had received close on \$7000. It is gratifying to notice that most of the large land owners have set a worthy example, and promptly paid their assessments. One gentleman who represents a large amount of property, alone paid yesterday \$300 to the city funds. Indeed the tax payers in general have declared themselves most forcibly in favor of sustaining the Council in this matter, notwithstanding the factious and unparliamentary course which has been pursued by the other journals of this city. It is difficult to conceive what motives can have influenced these papers in adopting a line of conduct so obviously prejudicial to the best interests and credit of the city, which it should be their special aim to advance and protect. We have heard, but one opinion expressed by all classes of the community, with reference to the invidious and groundless opposition so pertinaciously maintained by them,—that of the most unqualified condemnation.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS.—Since Christmas day there has been quite a lull in the mercantile community, and from the general appearance of things, one may conclude that at least one half of the business population is holiday making. To this cause may be attributed the dearth of local matter in our columns. There are several ships hourly expected from England, Scotland, and elsewhere, whose arrival will give a healthy impetus to the trade of our city in the year of grace 1864.

GOVERNMENT TAXES.—The Assessor gives notice that all returns under the Trades Licenses Amendment Act of 1862 must be handed into his office on or before the 9th inst., and owners of real estate in any electoral district, are required to send in returns in accordance with the prescribed form by the first proximo.

CHANGED HANDS.—Mr. Christopher Loat has disposed of his interest in the property of the Exchange Reading Room to Mr. Hardy Gillard, who announces that the room will re-open after undergoing certain repairs and improvements.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—It will be seen by a notice appearing elsewhere, that the first performance of this association is announced to take place in the Theatre, on Monday, the 11th inst.

MONDAY, JAN. 4.

LITERARY INSTITUTE.—We understand that there is a movement on foot to establish in our city a first class Literary Institute, which shall amongst other matters embrace the following objects: 1st. A Reading Room, to be supplied with leading newspapers and periodicals. 2d. A Library of standard literary and scientific works. 3d. A Museum. The need of such an institution has long been felt, and if carried out on enlightened and liberal principles, its effect for good on the intellectual and moral character of the community, especially of the younger members, would very soon be apparent. Sundry attempts have already been made to establish similar institutions, but have from various causes heretofore resulted in failure. We are sure however, from the known character and position of the gentlemen who are taking the initiative in the present movement, and whose names we have appended to a requisition to the Mayor to call a public meeting on the subject, that their countenances would not have been given unless persuaded of its utility, and that they are also determined to carry it onward to a successful issue. We would suggest to the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Brokers, the propriety of giving their aid to this movement, as being in a measure a kindred institution with their own. It is usual in cities of commercial importance to have at least a reading room connected with such bodies, and we think that by judiciously combining their resources, a suitable building might be erected, which would afford ample accommodation for all public commercial and literary purposes, and prove both an ornament and a benefit to the city. We hope that at the public meeting which is contemplated by the projectors of the Literary Institute, the suggestion we now throw out may be taken up by some of the gentlemen who are interesting themselves in the movement, and its practicability satisfactorily tested.

COLLEGE OF ST. LOUIS.—We beg to call the attention of our readers to the prospectus of the new college of St. Louis, with which the Oblate Fathers have recently ornamented our city. The school which they have conducted for upwards of a year in Humboldt street assures us of the success which will attend their new establishment. We are given to understand the college will be opened on Thursday, the 17th inst.

ARRIVAL OF THE PACIFIC.—The mail steamer Pacific, Capt. Burns, arrived in Esquimaux yesterday at about 4:30 p. m. from San Francisco, which port she left on the 30th ultimo. The Pacific was unable to cross the bar of the Columbia River, and consequently came on without waiting. She has the usual quantity of freight and a very large mail.

RIFLE MATCH.—The shooting match for the Harmonium, which came off on New Year's day at Clover Point, was very successful, nearly fifty competitors presenting themselves at the butts. The target was of the regulation size, and the distance 150 yards; any rifle admitted, position from the shoulder. The match was rather devoid of interest, owing to the great superiority of Mr. Dinwoodie, a Canadian and partner in the Prince of Wales claim, who, using an American breech-loader, completely distanced his rivals. His score was as follows: No. of shots, 27; points, 46; bulls-eyes, 3. Of the other marksmen, the best scores were: Mr. John Wightman (American rifle), No. of shots, 12; points, 12; Mr. J. J. Austin (English rifle), No. of shots, 12; points, 9; bulls-eyes, 1; Mr. P. E. Gray (English rifle), No. of shots, 12; points, 8; bulls-eyes, 1. After the termination of the match, Mr. Dinwoodie gave a more striking specimen of Canadian sharp-shooting, by standing on the high bank, opposite Henley's, and knocking over a wild duck at a distance of between two and three hundred yards, firing from the shoulder, the duck being in motion at the time. This feat, although not uncommon in Canada, rather astonished some of the spectators, and drew forth much applause.

NEW YEARS RECREATIONS.—Light hearts and happy faces seemed to be the motto of the majority of our fellow-citizens on the first day of the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four. There appeared to be a general unbending from the toils and care inseparable from the usual vocations of life, and the desire to shake off, for the moment at least, the trammels of business, was afforded abundant scope by the round of games which followed the festive season. A large crowd of pleasure-seekers congregated on Beacon Hill during the day to witness the races, which went off very satisfactorily; another crowd collected at Henley's and indulged in athletic sports, leaping, throwing the hammer, putting the stone, quoits, etc., and also in watching the rifle match, at which some forty or fifty competitors strove to beat off the prize, a fine harmonium. A great many kept up the genial old custom of making New Year's calls, while the evening was enlivened by numerous private parties and social gatherings, at which the memories of absent friends and happier times were not forgotten. The New Year has begun cheerily and auspiciously for us all, and we cordially wish that none of our readers may have cause during the year to look back with regret on the brightness of its beginning as but a transient gleam, rendering darkness only more visible.

A MERITED HONOR.—We are glad to learn that Robert Brown, Esq., the talented Scotch naturalist who has been spending some time in this colony under the auspices of the Edinburgh Botanical Society, has just been presented with a certificate as corresponding member by the California Academy of Natural Sciences. There are only two British subjects, both Scotchmen, members of this Society, of whom Dr. Brown is one, and the compliment is the greater in his case, as the honor was totally unlooked for.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—In our advertising columns will be found a statement of liabilities and assets of this bank for the last quarter of the past year. The abstract indicates a healthy and encouraging state of affairs, and with a continuation of the same careful and judicious management this establishment should rank as the most flourishing of our Banking Institutions.

FROM BUTE INLET.—The sloop Rand om Captain Dirck, arrived from Bute Inlet yesterday afternoon, bringing 15 passengers, the workmen from the canon. The Rand om left on Tuesday last. The weather at Bute is very fine, but snow lay about three feet deep. The workmen had got the trail through the canon.

Gold, in paying quantities, is reported to have been discovered on Mr. J. Todd's farm, about four miles from Victoria.

CANADA.

The present Canadian Government have effected an annual saving of \$47,740 in salaries of Departmental officers. The York Roads Company, alias Jas. Beatty, of the Leeds, has been convicted of fraudulent sale of property, material, etc., thereby robbing the Government. Beatty had transferred the property of the company to his brother, but will pocketed the dividends. A verdict has been returned against Beatty for \$24,000. Three men, named Lawrence, Negent, Thos. Dunnelly, and John Parker, were drowned on the 17th ult., while attempting to cross in a boat from Kingston City to Garden Island. One J. L. Poirer had committed suicide in Montreal by hanging himself in his bedroom in the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Cause—Disappointment in love, and stock-broking. T. D. McGee, Esq., M. P., has been delivering an address on the "Future of Canada." The oration did not come up to the expectations formed regarding it. Several of the Drill Instructors who were sent out to Canada during the Trent difficulty, have not only been sent home, but their services being no longer required. Large numbers of young men, chiefly French Canadians, are leaving Canada for the United States. It is thought that within the past two weeks several hundred have left the vicinity of Montreal for the mines in Pennsylvania and other parts. It is feared that the propeller Water Witch, from Chicago to Barina, with a crew of 23 men, a few passengers, and a cargo of flour, has been blown up in Lake Huron, and all on board lost. The Military School for Upper Canada is to be established at Toronto. The Government have appropriated \$5000 to build a drill shed at army in that city. Admiral Milne has left the North American station for England. Professor Pepper's ghost has been successfully introduced at the Royal Lyceum, Toronto. The Canadian Government have transferred their account to the Bank of Montreal.

H. M. S. Devastation was at Guzman on the 16th December, also the U. S. S. Lancaster. The shooting match for the Harmonium, which came off on New Year's day at Clover Point, was very successful, nearly fifty competitors presenting themselves at the butts. The target was of the regulation size, and the distance 150 yards; any rifle admitted, position from the shoulder. The match was rather devoid of interest, owing to the great superiority of Mr. Dinwoodie, a Canadian and partner in the Prince of Wales claim, who, using an American breech-loader, completely distanced his rivals. His score was as follows: No. of shots, 27; points, 46; bulls-eyes, 3. Of the other marksmen, the best scores were: Mr. John Wightman (American rifle), No. of shots, 12; points, 12; Mr. J. J. Austin (English rifle), No. of shots, 12; points, 9; bulls-eyes, 1; Mr. P. E. Gray (English rifle), No. of shots, 12; points, 8; bulls-eyes, 1. After the termination of the match, Mr. Dinwoodie gave a more striking specimen of Canadian sharp-shooting, by standing on the high bank, opposite Henley's, and knocking over a wild duck at a distance of between two and three hundred yards, firing from the shoulder, the duck being in motion at the time. This feat, although not uncommon in Canada, rather astonished some of the spectators, and drew forth much applause.

DEATH OF THE KING OF DENMARK.

At Copenhagen, on the 15th November, news was received from Glocksburg that the King of Denmark had died at half-past two o'clock that afternoon, and it is said that the grief and consternation which prevailed were, inevitably, his most costly death of his reign, which was attended by violent fever, delirium and want of sleep.

The late King is succeeded as King of Denmark by the father of the Princess of Wales, under the name of Christian IX. But his right to succeed the late King as Duke of Schleswig and Holstein is contested by the Prince of Augustenburg, who has already been recognized as Duke of Schleswig and Holstein by the Government of Sax-Coburg.

ENGLISH SUMMARY.

We have received our paper this morning on the 15th, and it contains the principal topic in the London papers is the speech of the Emperor, which has created quite a nine days' sensation, and is echoing throughout Europe, but the responses are scarcely such as Napoleon would desire. Russia is not repelled, Prussia consults Vienna, Vienna is contented by England and England has, it is said, and we believe truly, simply asked for more exact definitions. As to the popular opinion, the speech caused a fall in the funds, averaging 2 per cent., every where except in England, where the Stock Exchange, misled by thirty years of unbroken experience, always sees peace in delay. Only from Italy has there arrived rapid or cordial acceptance, and the Imperial dream of a world-wide Congress to settle all questions and redistribute Europe, like the Congress of Vienna, but in the interest of the peoples as well as the Kings, is already at an end. The only subject of speculation now is the minor one to which a partial gathering may, notwithstanding, be turned.

The Emperor has followed up his speech by a letter to the crowned heads, to the German Diet, and to the Swiss Republic. The letter, which was first published at Frankfurt, and then reprinted in the Monitor, and is evidently his own work, repeats the assertion that at the "European edifice is crumbling away on all sides," calls on the thrones "to regulate the present and secure the future by Congress," points out that "civilization has ended war still more destructive; alliances by his own "training in the school of adversity," which binds him "not to ignore the rights of sovereigns or the legitimate aspirations of nations; accounts for his initiative by boldly assuming that he "is the sovereign to whom ambitious projects are most attributed," and finally "prays them to accept Paris as the place of meeting" for "Europe would see, perhaps, some advantage in the capital from which the signal for subversion has so often been given becoming the seat of the conference destined to lay the basis of a general pacification." The letter, though Imperial in style, and containing an undertone of menace, seems dictated primarily by a wish to appear exceedingly moderate.

The Paris Presse says:—"The Imperial proposition has been addressed to 15 Governments—to England, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, Belgium, Greece, Holland, Switzerland, and the Germanic Confederation." It is generally understood that the answer of the English Government to the Emperor Napoleon's invitation to a Congress, is inquiry as to the precise topics to be discussed, and the exact ends to be compassed. As the invitations extend to so many Powers it would seem that a series of questions will be opened. When the Emperor particularises the questions which he is intended to submit to Europe, it will be the duty of the British Government to judge whether these can be advantageously discussed, and whether the decision of the Congress can be in any way enforced against a recalcitrant Power.

A telegram from Vienna dated 14th Nov. mentions the acceptance of the Emperor's proposition in the following terms: "The Courts of Vienna, Berlin and London, have agreed to accept the proposal of a Congress, under certain modifications. The Ministers of the Great Powers will confine themselves to the consideration of questions at present pending. Only States concerned in the contest of the programme will have a seat and vote at the Congress. Most positive guarantees for the thorough carrying out of the programme will be required."

The Poles have accepted the Emperor's speech as a promise of war in the spring. The National Government in the Emperor's honor to redouble its efforts. Its press has lately been seized, and in Warsaw the Russians have exacted their war tax in spite of the Regulator's prohibition, but the Poles have now an armed force in every palatinate. Gen. Berg keeps their zeal at fever heat, for he has been ordered to make wholesale arrests of young girls, who are sentenced in batches to transportation into the interior, sent off without warm clothing or communication with their friends, and usually without being informed of the charge against them. It is stated that some have been whipped for wearing sad-colored clothes; but there are limits to the barbarity even of men who have once owned serfs, and the story is hardly worthy of credit. The truth is bad enough without exaggeration, and it is to be hoped that General Berg will be held personally responsible for his acts. A year of Ceyenne might teach him what Siberia really means.

There have been the usual semi-official speeches by members to their constituents. At the Lord Mayor's dinner on the 9th Nov., Lord Palmerston was enthusiastically received. He received, he said, not only the highest personal gratification from the Lord Mayor's splendid entertainments, but "acquaintances are formed on these occasions which ripen afterwards into friendship, and it is well known that the transactions of business are made much more easy when those who meet to carry them on know and like each other." Friendship may add interest to such transactions, but scarcely we should think, materially facilitates them. But Lord Palmerston was not content with a little at a loss for remarks. He alluded to the stringencies of the most remarkable character, and "in the far West and distant East;" but while Lord Palmerston's west longitude stretched across the Atlantic, his east longitude conventionally stopped at the mountains of Warsaw, and he took account of the stringencies which make us shudder for humanity, "in the far West and distant East;" but while Lord Palmerston's west longitude stretched across the Atlantic, his east longitude conventionally stopped at the mountains of Warsaw, and he took account of the stringencies which make us shudder for humanity "in Japan." He expressed his

wish that Russia might at length "cease to pursue" her present course in Poland, but did not even affect an intention of further interest. In short, the Premier's speech was pacific, and admitted in congratulating London, a little inopportunistly, that bills are drawn upon it to pay debts all over the world—a fact of which the city is just now, with the diminishing bullion in the Bank and a threatening of 7 per cent, painfully conscious.

Mr. Villiers addressed his constituents on the same day, at Wolverhampton, in a speech containing the strongest declaration of Northern opinion yet made by a member of the Cabinet. He compared the case of the South to that of Ireland. Repeal was once a great question—Yes he never remembered one English member who was for it, or one that would not have voted any means to maintain union, or any Minister who would not have been called a traitor who had thought of yielding it; and he did not know what chance they would not have gone to retain the Union had he eminent man who agitated that question so perseveringly not died. If Ireland seemed to moover, the very men who rave at the North would arm to put her down, and, probably, while slaughtering Irish secessionists would keep on a strong objection for setting up his temporal power.

On the American question another speaker on the same occasion says: "Mr. Lincoln has been tested as few governors have ever been tested, and though he may not always have risen fully to the level of a great emergency, he has seldom failed to display a noble impartiality, a great firmness of purpose, and a sagacious, if somewhat utilitarian, judgment. The Alexandria case is again under trial, and the Chief Baron also. That eminent judge directed the jury in a speech which all the world and the jury understood to be a dissertation for acquittal, on the ground that unless equipment could be proved in Liverpool the law has not been violated. The Attorney-General tendered a bill of exceptions, but the Chief Baron now says he said something, or intended to say something, of quite a different tenor. If, therefore, the new trial which a writ has been granted should ultimately be refused, but an appeal on the law conceded, the basis of the appeal must be the Chief Baron's second thoughts. It will not be a little difficult under these circumstances either to reverse the decision or to lay down the law with any like adequate fulness."

Colonel Vase, the Conservative candidate has been returned for Windsor, by a majority of 51 over Captain Hayer.

It is reported that the Premier is likely to figure in the Divorce Court as a co-respondent. It is said that the noble lord will meet the accusation and fully relate the charges brought against him.

Dr. Trench is appointed to the Archbishopric of Dublin, and Canon Stanley succeeds him in the Deanery of Westminster.

Commissioner Bonlaque is dangerously ill, and Sir William Aherton, the late Attorney-General, very seriously ill. Sir Hugh Rose the Commander-in-Chief in India, is said to have tendered his resignation.

In the obituary we notice the death of Lord Clonbrock, better known as Gen. Hon. C. Cavendish, formerly M. P. for the county of Buckingham. By his Lordship's decease a vacancy occurs in the representation of the same county by the succession of the late member to the peerage.

Mr. Hawksley, the eminent engineer, comes forward as a candidate for Andover in the Liberal interest.

The latest mail advices received from Europe are to November 22nd.

The Attorney-General and Solicitor-General of England had spoken in the Alexandria case before the members of the Court of Exchequer. The Attorney-General enlarged the decisions in the American prize courts as "an honor to jurisprudence."

England had replied to Napoleon's invitation to attend a European Congress. The Queen does not give an unqualified acceptance, but asks for further information, to the precise points to be proposed for discussion. A further correspondence between the two Powers on the subject was expected. The papal government accepts the invitation to attend the Congress. It was thought that most of the other Powers would ask for further explanation respecting the basis of the debate in the Congress. The London Times assails the plan of a congress editorially.

The Emperor of France had asked from the Legislature a supplementary credit of \$1,000,000 of francs to meet expenses in Spain. It was said approves of Maximilian's candidature for the throne of Mexico.

The Paris Monitor now publishes only the Russian version of events in Poland and the other Paris journals were instituted to treat the Polish question more mildly towards Russia.

The British Parliament was prorogued to the 13th of January.

The English government had concluded a contract for a monthly mail to and from New Zealand by way of Panama.

The Bank of France continued to loan specie.

The steamship Great Eastern was to be sold at auction.

PAINT, POWDER AND PATCHES.—The European fashion of powdering the hair white, was long an astonishment and a stumbling-block to other nations. To simulate an effect of old age seemed to them an absurdity worthy only of savages. When the ambassador young George III. exhibited his royal master's portrait to a Mandarin, the latter only remarked, "This cannot be, for you told me your king was young, whereas here is a grey-headed man." Eastern nations, indeed, were powder also; but with them it was only for the purpose of turning the hair black, for which purpose, as "savages" have, and always have had, certain devices. At the end of the last century there was a particular fashion of red hair (and very beautiful, but very rare it is; you may see it in the pictures of old masters), which came into fashion. And to give the tinge to hair which did not possess it, a powder was invented by a French artist, and much patronized by Marie-Antoinette. This was the poudre martiale. It was of a sparkling reddish brown, and had such an effect in heightening the complexion that actresses took to it kindly, and abandoned their own hair. Now this poudre martiale was only a return to that old mode whereby reddish hair was esteemed the only killing color

for a lady. But I think the old modish red (of the Saxon or instance) was only red in the sense that gold is said to be so by the poets. Certainly golden hair was a snare to Saxon hearts; and the girls whose heads lacked that enchantment used to try to acquire it by sitting in the sun; and when that process failed they were wont to sprinkle their locks with powder of saffron, and in cases where this failed with powder of sulphur. The old fathers vehemently censured this custom, and declared that hell-fire would come of it; but the female part of Teraklian's congregation Gallicized themselves with saffron or sulphur powder only the more vehemently. We laugh at this vanity, but "jessamine butter," it is not to be forgotten, was largely used to King Charles's time with a similar end in view. In the same king's reign first arose the fashion of using hot irons to frizzle the hair. After all, this was but a plagiarism from the Romans. The hair, which in Charles's time was brought down over the forehead, in both men and women, and almost down to the eyebrows, went up again under the Roundheads, who brought powdered foreheads into fashion, as denoting righteousness.—Cornhill Magazine.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

FROM THE WEATHER ENDING SATURDAY, 23D JANUARY, 1864.

Table with columns: DAVES, HEART OF THE, BAROMETRE, WIND, WEATHER. Rows for various locations like Victoria, Esquimaux, etc.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Table with columns: Amount of the share Capital, Amount of the share Capital, Amount of the share Capital, etc. Rows for various locations like Victoria, Esquimaux, etc.

Protection from Fire.

Prize Medal 1859. The Paris Monitor now publishes only the Russian version of events in Poland and the other Paris journals were instituted to treat the Polish question more mildly towards Russia.

BRYANT & MAY'S Patent Special Safety Matches.

Wax Vesta and Cigar Light. LIGHT ONLY ON THE BOX.

The Patent Safety Match affords an instantaneous light as readily as common matches, while it is entirely free from all their dangerous properties.

Patent Safety Matches in neat slide boxes, and Patent Safety Vestas in paper slide boxes, and in spanned tin boxes, of 100, 250, 500, and 1000.

BRYANT & MAY, Manufacturers of Wax Vestas in round plain boxes, and in spanned tin boxes, of 100, 250, 500, and 1000.

Sole importers of Jonkoping's Tandstickor (slide-boxes). All orders made payable in London will receive immediate attention.

WHITECHAPEL ROAD, LONDON, E.

CALEDONIA BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

OTHER ABOVE ASSOCIATION, WHICH has been formed by Scotchmen for mutual provident and benevolent purposes, is now in full operation.

The members pay a small monthly fee, the proceeds of which are accumulated as a fund to meet the wants of any of the number who may require the same on account of sickness or destitution.

All Scotchmen who may desire to join the body, are requested to leave a written note, with their names, residence, and references, with the undersigned.

The Association will meet on FRIDAY, the 12th instant, at 8 1/2 o'clock, at the residence of THOS. GORRIE, By order of the C. C. B. A. Fort Street, 31st Dec. 1863.

