

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

## And Victoria Chronicle

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### WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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### AGENTS

S. D. LEVY, General Agent, No. 11, St. James Street, London.  
H. B. HARRIS, General Agent, No. 11, St. James Street, London.  
W. H. B. HARRIS, General Agent, No. 11, St. James Street, London.  
W. H. B. HARRIS, General Agent, No. 11, St. James Street, London.

### The Speech of His Excellency

The Governor at the opening of the Legislative Council appears to-day. The document is not remarkable for ability or vigor, but while as a State paper there is very little to be commended, we do not hesitate to say that it possesses fewer objectionable features than any speech or message we have known to emanate from his Excellency since the proclamation of Union. The messages of his Excellency have heretofore been indefinite, undecided and exceedingly diplomatic. There pervades throughout the document before us a spirit of candor which had it been developed at an earlier day must have produced a better state of public feeling, and have added greatly to the popularity of the Government. The financial state of the country occupies the first position in the speech. His Excellency is not without hope that the revenue of the country will soon be found adequate to meet all legitimate demands made upon it, and he points with an evident glow of satisfaction to the "signs of considerable elasticity" which have been developed within the past few months. The Home Government appears indisposed to accede to the proposition to guarantee a loan to assist the Colony in its financial straits, and his Excellency thinks that we should observe the utmost economy until we shall have relieved ourselves of local debts on which a crushing rate of interest is charged—an observation which will, we know, be received with a hearty "amen" by our Island readers. But the promised economy should be real, not simulated. The burthen should not be flung from one shoulder to find a resting-place on the other. The Supreme Court imbroglio—if we may so term it—is to end with the passage of a bill, "approved by the Law Officers of the Crown," to define the "power and jurisdiction of the Courts, and to establish the position of the two judges, who will severally, perhaps occasionally jointly, preside in each." While we rejoice that all doubts as to the status of the Courts are to be removed, we are still of opinion that, for the sake of economy, the two Courts should be rolled into one and that a position elsewhere should be found for Mr. Begbie—who, although the older appointee, is Mr. Needham's junior at the Bar, and before and since Union occupied a position inferior to that held by the last named gentleman. The proposed bill, however, should it prevent in the future a repetition of the vexations and doubts of the past, will be as useful and satisfactory, and may prove a long stride in the desired direction. Confederation is touched upon in a manner which shows the proposition find little sympathy with His Excellency. The only obstacle to the accomplishment of Confederation, we are given to understand, is the intervening territory, which must first be incorporated in the Dominion. The Dominional Parliament voted last session that the present session the object will be consummated. Let the friends of the movement take courage. The "obstacle" is already demolished. Our speedy admission is certain.

### The remark that Confederation is

seized upon by a disheartened community longing for a change of any kind is absurd. If such be his Excellency's real conviction, we can inform him he was never more "at sea" in his life. The people of British Columbia would not welcome Confederation as they would welcome "any" change. There are many changes they would not accept if they could obtain them; but there is one they will have, and that is a restoration of their political rights and the control of their public affairs. Mr. Seymour and his Government may as well know this to-day as to learn it in a different form a few months hence. The "change" is coming—coming as surely as the glorious sunshine succeeds the gloom of night—and the sooner the Government "accepts the situation" and prepares for the "change," the better will it be for its own happiness and the prosperity and tranquility of the country. We come next to the "Capital Question." What can we say on this topic more than that the Home Government has accepted the "Victoria" view of the subject, and that one of the privileges of which Union robbed us is expected to be restored by a vote of the Council immediately after the Reply to the Speech has been passed? To-morrow the vote will probably be taken. His Excellency has striven long for New Westminster, but is at length compelled to succumb to the superior claims and influence of Victoria; and we must say that he yields gracefully. Every friend of Victoria should be in his place to-morrow. Let no prior engagement interfere. No excuse can be accepted. One vote may determine the location of the Seat of Government forever. Who would falter at a time when such weighty interests are at issue? The seat of a true friend of Victoria should be vacant when the eyes and noses are called. The favorable prospects of the miners and farmers, the Grouse creek war and the paucity of population are briefly touched upon. The Speech concludes with the following paragraph, which is really the best in the document:—"I trust that all differences are now merged, and that the Union—though as yet barren of good results—will cause a community of interests leading to a feeling of forbearance and Christian charity pleasing to Him, whose support I humbly invoke on this solemn occasion." The people in this section are now and ever have been actuated by a feeling of forbearance and Christian charity towards their Government; they have labored long and waited patiently for the first sign of sympathy or evidence of a desire on the part of the Executive to cultivate amicable and intimate relations, and that such sentiments did not exist long since has been through no fault of theirs.

### Opening of the Legislative Council

The morning of the 21st of March, 1868, fixed for the opening of the Council, promised to be unpropitious; but by mid-day the storm passed away and the Queen's weather prevailed. The ceremonies were quiet but complete. The Volunteer Rifle Corps, under the command of P. J. Pritchard, were out in full force as an escort to His Excellency, and looked remarkably neat and soldierlike, while the Sparrowhawk lay at anchor off Government House, decked out in holiday attire. At half-past one o'clock the Governor entered the Chamber, accompanied by the private Secretary. The House rising, received him after a few minutes' delay the oath was administered to the new members, and the Governor then proceeded to read the speech, which occupied barely twenty minutes. There were only fourteen members present, viz: the Acting Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Collector of Customs, Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works, Judges O'Reilly and Cox, and Messrs. DeCosmos, Barbard, Walkom, Robson, Smith, Elwyn and Kerr. Leaving as will be seen, only four popular members present. The Acting Colonial Secretary presided. On the Governor retiring the Colonial Secretary presided, when Mr. DeCosmos moved and Mr. O'Reilly responded, that the address received and printed. Carried unanimously. The President appointed Hon. DeCosmos, Robson, Hamley, Ball and Barnard on the committee to prepare the reply, when Mr. DeCosmos desired the withdrawal of his name, as it would not affect the nature of the reply. After some discussion the name of Mr. O'Reilly was substituted. Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Wednesday next he would ask the Collector of Customs "Whether the revenue laws of the Colony provide for granting drawbacks on merchandise imported on which duties have been paid? If not, whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure to grant drawbacks on such exported merchandise?" This led to a slight debate on the infringement of the usual practice of not proceeding to business on the first day of the session, but the notice was accepted. Mr. Robson then gave notice that he should, on the next sitting of the Council, move an honorable address asking that a comparative statement may be laid before the House, showing the Civil List of the Colony of British Columbia for 1863 and that of the United Colony in 1868. Accepted. The Attorney-General gave notice that on Wednesday he should ask leave to introduce the Limitations of Action Ordinance; Supreme Court Ordinance, and Testate Estates Ordinance. Accepted. The House then adjourned till Monday, at 8 o'clock. The notice of the Attorney-General called forth a cheer and congratulation from Mr. DeCosmos that the Government had really become progressive; which the Attorney-General looked upon, I suppose, as ironical; for he replied quickly that the hon. gentleman from Victoria had been a long time in discovering that fact. From the time of those who participated in the proceedings, I think I saw a spirit that promised hereafter to enlighten the dullness of ordinary debates. We shall see. The Governor looked in excellent health. He reads well, but was generally inaudible. THE WRECKS.—Accounts received from the wrecks yesterday state that both vessels are lying on their beams ends towards the Straits side, the sea making a clean break over them. The rigging of both ships is still standing. The crews are encamped on Discovery Island, awaiting the subsidence of the blow to wreck the vessels. It is not known yet whether either of the ships are insured. Both will prove a total loss. POSTAL.—The following appears in the last Government Gazette:—"For the present, letters and papers can be prepaid in Colonial Stamps for the United Kingdom only. Mail matter for or from other countries will be subject to the old rates of Colonial and United States postage, both when mailed or delivered." The previous notices in the Gazette dated 17th January and 6th February, are withdrawn. ON DUTY.—That the editor of the *Columbian* is about to resign the "gray goosequill" and betake himself to an avocation more fitted to his talents (talents), viz, stump eradicating. We wish our late contemporary success in his congenial employment. THE FIDELITY.—The *Fideliety* left last evening with five stock and army stores for Sitka. We understand she will remain at the North in U. S. Government employ during the summer months.

### The Enterprise arrived from the River

about one o'clock yesterday afternoon, bringing a number of gentlemen who were present at the opening of the Council. Snow fell at New Westminster on Saturday. The U. S. Lincoln sailed at half-past 8 o'clock on Saturday evening for San Francisco, carrying a mail and express. Mr. Hepburn went with her as bearer of despatches from the Admiral. INCORRECT.—One of the *New Westminster* papers states that Mr. Harnett has been lately installed as Editor of the *Colonist*. This statement is incorrect. There has been no change, nor will there be, present any change in the editorial conduct of the *COLONIST*. A NUN Afloat.—A U. S. officer, belonging to San Juan Island, will go to New Westminster on a visit to His Excellency in the steamer *Diana*. IN THE TRIAL OF THE CAUSE OF REGINA V. GAGALOTTI, WALSH AND MOSES, for assault upon a little girl at "Big Bend," a jury at New Westminster rendered a verdict of "not guilty." An American is reported to have been murdered on Waldron Island, near San Juan. The position of telegraph operator, vacant by the death of Mr. Jasper, has been filled. OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH. Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: It is with much pleasure that I find myself enabled to call you together to-day, and thus relieve myself of the serious responsibility which the deprivation of your assistance would entail on me. I need scarcely add that an honest Government must be always glad to find constitutional means of making public its views and to render to a competent authority an account of its proceedings. It is a common error to suppose that the year 1857 was the first in which British Columbia was thrown on its own resources. Heretofore loans raised in England, and overdrafts against the local banks, largely contributed to the support of the Government and to the formation of roads from which the country may derive a pride somewhat tinged by a melancholy consideration of the vast indebtedness now weighing on us. The spending large sums of borrowed money gave employment to labor and an impetus to all branches of trade; now, we have simply to rely on the proceeds of local taxation, largely reduced by remittances to England on account of interest and sinking fund on our debt. The financial position last year was greatly aggravated by circumstances to which it is somewhat painful and not necessary to now allude. Time will cure the evil, and I have to state that the revenue has begun to show, within the last few months, signs of considerable elasticity. The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure will shortly be laid on your table. I should bring them at once before you, were I not indulging in the hope that the attention of Her Majesty's Government has been attracted to the financial position of this Colony. This hope is the cause of the delay which has occurred in my calling you together. Assisted or unassisted, however, I think that we should observe the utmost economy until we shall have relieved ourselves of local debts on which a crushing rate of interest is charged. I propose to address you by message during the course of the Session respecting the past and present financial position of the Colony. You are aware that on the Union of the Colonies being completed, doubts were raised as to the position of the two Courts of Supreme Jurisdiction, found in full power, "going" with some of the ancient questions, the existence of one of the Courts shall lay before you a Bill to remove all such doubts and define the power, the jurisdiction of the Courts, which I regret to say will for the present have to remain separate, and to establish the position of the two Judges, who will severally, perhaps occasionally jointly, preside in each. The Bill has been approved by the Law Officers of the Crown. I have, however, again ventured to repeat to Her Majesty's Government the expression of my opinion that a fusion of the Courts under one Chief Justice would be the more satisfactory arrangement. I shall also lay before you a Bill for the more effectual protection of Her Majesty's Naval Stores. One amending the Ordinance relating to Weights and Measures, and another amending that respecting the limitation of certain causes of Action and Suits. Perhaps I may, during the course of the session, bring under your notice other Bills, but it is my intention not to overburden your table with papers at this late season of the year. In the present transitional state of the Colony it appears to me that we should rather watch events than attempt to guide them by legislation necessarily tentative and tentative. The external Postal arrangements are complicated and inconvenient. I shall bring papers connected with the subject under your consideration. During the last session your Honorable Council unanimously passed a Resolution in favor of negotiations being entered into for the Union of this Colony with the Confederation which has been formed among the Eastern British Provinces on this continent.

### Although I could not be blind to difficulties

which made me consider the Resolution principally as the expression of a disheartened community longing for change of any kind, yet the possibility alone of something arising out of it to promote an overland communication with Canada, was enough to induce me to support your Resolution. I learn in reply to my communications on the subject, that the consideration of it is not, at all events, a wait the time when the intervening Territory now under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company shall have been incorporated with the Confederation. A year's residence in the United Colony has convinced me that there are few questions in which the people of the Lower Country feel a deeper interest than that as to the selection of a Capital. Had the Colony been prosperous no such earnestness of feeling would exist, but under present circumstances I think it right that I should explain at greater length the steps to be taken in regard to its settlement than would be convenient on this occasion. As soon, therefore, as I am honored by a reply to this address, I shall forward a statement of the case as it stands to you by message. I do not now to say that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that in my message of the 27th March, 1867, I took an extreme view as to extent to which public faith and honor are pledged to the purchasers of land in New Westminster. Further, that I should consider the public convenience from time to time as the main guide in the selection of the Seat of Government. I am commanded to come to a decision without further delay, and I desire to avail myself—although the matter is one of Executive prerogative—of your assistance in so doing. My message will contain every information, and I shall be glad if you will come to a decision on the subject. Every argument is exhausted. I have now but to act. A Governor must allow himself no personal feelings in a matter of this importance. I congratulate you on the great improvement which I observed last year in the farms of the Upper Country, and on the favorable prospects which seem opening to our Gold miners, as well as on the tranquillity of the Colony and the absence of serious crime. A dispute between two mining companies on a distant creek, during the summer, threatened at one time to assume serious proportions, and it is creditable to the Colony to note the cessation, which the prospect of a breach of the peace produced throughout its vast extent. But the good sense and love of order, so general among our miners, allowed of settlement of the question without a resort to force, and the law speedily resumed its way. I wish that among my subjects in general I could inculcate that of an improvement in the material condition of the Colony and something like a return of the tide of immigration which gave birth to British Columbia. It seems strange that a country which possesses every advantage of climate and soil which the English race could desire, where land in the upper country can be had virtually for nothing, where mines of all the precious metals hold out their attractions, where hired labor is extraordinarily remunerated, that such a country should not even have the power of retaining all of those who have sought their fortunes on its distant shores. I am of opinion that both sections of the present Colony have suffered much from their former antagonism. I trust that all differences are now merged, and that the Union—though as yet barren of good results—will cause a community of interests leading to a feeling of forbearance and Christian charity pleasing to Him, whose support I humbly invoke on this solemn occasion. PREHISTORIC MAN IN GREAT BRITAIN. An interesting communication to a scientific congress in France quite recently, the author shows that man lived in Great Britain in association with the fossil hyena, cave bear, lion, tiger, Irish elk, reindeer, bison, hippopotamus, horse, rhinoceros, mammoth, and other animals. The evidence of this consists in finding bones of these animals in caves and river deposits, associated with human bones and implements, under circumstances equally precluding the possibility of subsequent interposition of the latter; the animal remains in many instances charred and split, evidently by the agency of man, and bearing frequent traces of his rude tools. Of the various species enumerated, the mammoth, the horse and the bison were most abundant; the rapacious animals comparatively rare, and man himself not numerous. At that time Great Britain was united to the continent of Europe, and the Thames flowed northward and united with the Rhine and the Elbe in forming an estuary. The climate was very severe, glaciers abounding in the mountains, and reindeer and musk oxen feeding on the plains. Next the land became depressed, the lowlands were submerged beneath the waters; and the climate of all Europe became warmer. The reindeer and the musk oxen (called elk in Europe) moved northward, and the musk ox became known only as a living species in Arctic America. Health and Strength Restored! "I am satisfied that Bristol's Sarsaparilla and Pills are the best medicines of their kind in the market. I have tried many others, without relief; my trouble being general bad health, with great debility. These remedies have entirely restored my health and strength." D. W. CRAPANZAN, Folsom, Cal. Let the sick and suffering put their trust in these two great remedies; they will not be disappointed. Health and comfort will be the result. 689

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Tuesday, March 24 1868.

Steps should be taken early in the coming session of the Legislative Council to assimilate the systems of education in this Colony. On the Mainland there is denominational education—a system which, no doubt, answered very well when the world was emerging from a state of barbarism—at a time when Sunday schools were unknown and Bibles being scarce it was found necessary to mix up with a limited amount of secular knowledge a certain amount of information upon theological subjects; but in this advanced age, when every household contains a copy of the Holy Writ and Sabbath schools abound, we hold that the necessity for investing the secular teacher with the character of a theological preceptor has passed away. In England denominational instruction is becoming unpopular. It has been ascertained that nothing tends more to keep alive the fires of discord, to turn friend against friend, and to sever family ties, than the perpetuation of a system of education which teaches the Jew to hate the Christian and the Christian to hate the members of every creed save his own. As the most bloody and relentless wars are those waged for religious ends, so the most bitter feuds have sprung from the same cause. We do not, of course, desire to be understood as wishing to cast a slur upon religious education per se. On the contrary, we have the highest respect for religion and its teachers. But we are an uncompromising opponent of State aid being extended to any system of education that intermingles religious with secular instruction. "Every tub should stand on its own bottom," so, also, should every religious sect. If religious education is demanded for the young of any particular body, let them have it; but let it be understood that they are to look for no aid from the Colonial revenue. Free Secular Education—such as we have on the Island—is the only system that should be aided by the Government of any country. The Free School system after four years' trial here, has been found to work well. There has not been a single complaint made to the Board of Education of the inefficiency of the schools or the teachers. The children have progressed favorably in their studies; most earnest watchfulness has been exercised over their morals; and the expense of carrying on the institution has been inconsiderable. Had Government devoted \$6,000, (as it promised it would devote), to the support of the Island schools, the amount would only have averaged some \$15 per scholar. This sum would have discharged every liability. On the mainland \$4,000—or an average of \$50 per pupil—was reserved for the purposes of instruction upon the denominational plan. These facts prove that the Free School system is by far the least expensive of the two, while in point of efficiency it compares most favorably with denominational education. In the Mother Country, at the present moment, statesmen are agitating not only for free secular education but for compulsory education, too. This would compel every parent to send his children under a certain age to some school, after the Prussian plan. There is a strong probability of a bill of the kind becoming law during the present session; and it seems strange, at a time when England is striving to set aside antiquated rules and laws, that in this young Colony there should be found a party who are "moving heaven and earth" to rivet upon our limbs chains the people from whom we sprang are preparing to cast off. The Colony demands enlightened and liberal legislation on this point? Shall the demand be made in vain?

Bankruptcy Court.

Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham. WEDNESDAY, March 18, 1868. Re C. B. Brown—The bankrupt came up for his first examination. No creditors were present or represented. First examination passed pro forma.

An Unrejected Poem.

The following poem was picked up in the vicinity of the News Office. Its author evidently possesses the electric spark of genius. Although we do not understand many of the telegraphic expressions we have no doubt that their full meaning will flash upon the minds of the readers. Unfortunately we could not decipher the signature: TO THE LOAD-STONES OF MY LIFE. My dearest love, when last you paid Your telegraphic bill, The touch of thy soft hand, gave me A strong electric thrill. A spark flashed from thy beaming eye, Thy voice with music vocal; I thought how great a bliss, if I Could have thee for my local. And when through hours of toil I've bent, How sweet a boon 't would be, To have both of my instrument, And of thy heart, the key. Should Cupid's current e'er grow weak, [I say it without flattery,] 'Td turn me to the rosy cheek, And just renew my battery. 'Till tell thee how we'd work it— With hand in hand and lip to lip, We would complete Love's circuit. Then murmuring soft nonsense o'er, And quaffing glorious kisses sweet, Quick versed in telegraphic lore, You'd whisper, "Love, repeat!" At last when asked by surprised priest To honor, love, obey, 'Td be content to hear the lip Those magic words, O. K. Then all the joys of married life Would cluster round us thick; With credit at the grocery shops, We'd always "go on tick." Thy temper mild, and never naughty, Bright as the sky, though blue it be, We'd ne'er be troubled [like De Sauty] With broken continuity. And when kind fate should grant at last A tiny, helpless, tender son, No more of earthly bliss would ask Thy loving \*\*\*\*\*

Supreme Court.

Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham. WEDNESDAY, March 18, 1868. Trowie vs Strachan—Mr Wood, on behalf of the plaintiff, moved for a rule nisi to set aside the award made by the umpire appointed by the arbitrators, on the following grounds: 1. That the award was written by the clerk of the attorney for the defendant. 2. That the umpire had exceeded the authority vested in him by the submission, and various other minor objections. Rule nisi granted, to be argued by counsel on Friday.

DRAMATIO.

We understand that the last steamer brought from San Francisco some new plays for the Dramatic Association, among which was Tom Taylor's edition of Miss Braddon's sensation novel "Henry Dunbar." This piece was produced at the Olympia in London in the winter of 1865, and had a great run. The Amateur Committee have lent this drama to Mr. M. W. Anderson, who, we hear, takes a benefit at the Theatre next week, when he will be assisted, by amateurs of this town, and also by other novel talent, of which rumor speaks in high terms. We expect to be able to give more particulars in a day or two.

TEXT.

Richard Williams (a sailor) was brought before the Police Court yesterday on a charge of stealing \$4 37 from William Conner, a sailor belonging to H. M. S. Zealous. The charge was supported by the accused's confession to the officer at the time of his arrest. The accused denied all knowledge of the act of being drunk as well as the sailor who lost his money. The prisoner was remanded for one day.

ARRIVAL OF THE BARK ZEPHYR.

The American bark Zephyr, Capt. Snow, 10 days from San Francisco, consigned to Millard & Beedy, arrived yesterday morning. The Captain reports heavy weather during the trip. The bark has on board about 550 tons of general merchandise, and will discharge this morning on the Hudson Bay Company's wharf.

Some French chemists have discovered a way of increasing the lighting power of gas sixfold—viz: by putting in the flame a small cylinder of magnesia. The value of the discovery, in regard to economy, will be understood when it is stated that it effects a saving of five-sixths of the present cost.

Cross Actions.

Before the Police Court yesterday, two native Belgierents appeared mutually accusing each other of assault, and battery; the charges were equally sustained but the battery of "Billy" appearing to be more effective than that of Jack, the former was fined \$10 and the latter \$5.

It is confidently asserted at New Westminster that the Governor's speech will settle the Capital question in favor of Victoria. A tardy act of justice.

CAPT. FLEMING informs us that he has men stationed at different points of the ice blockade on the Fraser river, and will receive telegraphic news at the earliest moment of a break up, when the steamer Lillock will leave Victoria for Yale direct.

It may not be generally known that reports to Government House have been going on for several days, and that it will be furnished for the reception of the Governor and Mrs. Seymour immediately after the adjournment of the Legislative Council.

THE American Government are about to establish military stations at different points along the coast of Alaska. Tongas is to have a garrison to which Dr. Chismore, formerly of the telegraph service in this Colony, will be attached.

REFORM IN CANADA.—An order in Council has been passed abolishing the half-holiday on Saturdays in the public departments, and establishing office hours from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.—Montreal Gazette.

Tax Collector sailed for Sitka via Nainina yesterday at 7 o'clock. Mr. Hensley, formerly in the Hudson Bay Company's service, is mate and Pilot of the California.

Tax Enterprise will sail for New Westminster at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. She will carry up the Island members of the Legislative Council.

Tax Fraser River steamer Onward will start for Yale on Saturday. She will carry blasting powder with her to blow up the ice.

Tax American bark Zephyr has been chartered to proceed to Moody's Mills, Barrard Inlet, and take in a cargo of lumber for San Francisco.

DRUNK.—Jimmy and "Kitty," a male and female of the "Sogish" tribe of aborigines were each fined one dollar for excessive indulgence in ardent spirits.

A PATIENT name Edward Gleimington, died at the Hospital yesterday. His age was 40, and he was sent to the Hospital from Olympia, W. T.

THERE was a rumor afloat yesterday that the duties on certain articles are to be raised. Considerable tobacco went out of bond in consequence.

Beacon Hill.

You kind and gentle Muse, pardon my intrusion; It may be vile intrusion, or else disordered brain, But this glorious situation, combined with insubordination, to combine with me. Reason me inspiration, her praises to explain.

In summer when the flowers bedeck these arboring bowers, And sweet refreshing showers regulate the verdant plains; When Lambskins they are sporting and small birds they are courting, and Nymphs the fields resorting, where walks the love sick swain.

Near to these nice plantations I roved for retirement, O'er the grassy hill, till I found a spot, where all things in creation seem obedient to some will.

All in their order denote some station for to fill. I view these lovely borders with their mansions bright in order, And harbors might adorn ancient elms of renown; Bridges in rotation, erected in their station, To forward communication to Victoria's fair town.

I cast my glance upon the ocean, with her rugged crest in motion, Yielding with devotion to nature's stern will; Where I view the pebbles dancing, by the foaming billows prancing, And the sea birds keen advancing to exercise their skill.

Reposing at my ease I sketch Fowl and Boss Bays, They withstood the shocks of earthquake and thunders, Nor the lightning's sparkling glance on their dignity advanced.

None but the power that rends the rock asunder, Nor need I ask the Arm, from whom she stole the charm, That takes the tribes in swarms on our Governor's natal day.

Nor the fierce and angry Gorge from the day of our great King George; The sea and the land, You can scarcely equal by the raging of the sea.

On my right I can descry, 'neath a blue and purple sky, Cadboro, the queen of recreation; When prosperity shall reign on this Island once again.

She'll be worthy of a higher appellation, 'Tis down the glades among I scan the Harris Pond, Where the swains invite their lovers out to skating, With their ruddy cheeks so nice as they glide along the ice, And fondly clasp each other in their meeting.

On my left by an angled nook lies the golden vale of Sooke;

Her ranks they appear in hoary grandeur, Extending by nature's laws to advance some glorious cause, Leaves the stranger in ecstasy to wonder. There's an object tests my sight like a rainbow in the night, And downwards winds its flight amidst the mountains; Where I once had quenched, when the sun did on me burst, 'Tis no other than the Goldstream crystal fountains.

I should have returned grateful thanks to her coy and pleasant banks, For when that I drank I fell to slumber; I was aroused by a knock from some distant bell or clock, But what the hour was, my memory slips the number.

In spite a No-East breeze, I view peering midst the trees, Both Homes of our Legislature, Which are sure to catch the eye of every passer by, As the pump and the pride of the nation.

O, dear Muse! for thy sweet sake, let us flee to Langford Park; But it gladdens the amorous maid when her heart is sore, Where we'll view the prattling rill and the primrose on the hill, And waters that are still as babies sleeping.

By a lengthened observation I beheld the hill of Cedar, Twin sister to Mount Tolmie, you may view from Beach road, Where a hobbleman may ride with his lady, side by side, And the hackney boys are shouting, "Come on, ladies, all aboard!"

When I dwell upon Mount Cedar, I challenge other nations, Has been frequently in our pages, their customs and their claims; But for Victoria and Mount Cedar you cannot find an equal.

From Africa to Egypt, and from that to the Apennines, See her monument of light to guide the mariner at night, And attentive to the light, though at intervals seems to glow; But it gladdens the amorous maid when her heart is sore, As she watches the light, being waves when her love is homeward bound.

The close to James' Bay, the Douglas mansion is raised, As worthy of praise though it were standing for ages; For in truth it may be said, he exceeded the present Fred, Kennedy, or Birch, the hawk of the sages.

'Twas in the Douglas reign, Victoria related to fame, Flattered by a stream of tide of emigration; But now she's abating low, and I dread will long be so; 'Twill prove her overthrow if we don't get Confederation.

Her maids her walks adorning are with modest blushes found; Maidens of rare prudence, and noble, honored students, 'Tis a magnifying the judgments of her colleges around.

Her benevolent institutions are exempt from all pollution, There's no grade of their execution but we dare to expose; The blind and the lame, the crazy and the lame, All in a train, taste the sweets of her repose.

Needless on her knees says their want would be ply; That had they not been here, to all it must appear, 'As Indian and a spear were the emblems of our city, So new my theme 'till in the Muse's gentle string;

To tune or to sing to be heavy's destiny, That when we meet again I hope to catch a flame, From a stream of her magic note; FEB. 22nd, 1868. THOMAS CONLON.

The Volunteer Rifle Corps.

EDITOR COLONIST.—In answer to your correspondent of yesterday, I beg to inform "Curiosity" that the Volunteers are at their post at the sound of the bugle, that during the Fenian excitement different members of the Corps have done their duty as special constables at night, when your correspondent was enjoying his warm bed. Rain or blow we have had of us had our (two) night watches and some of us have been out three and four times.

The Volunteers.

EDITOR COLONIST.—Please allow me to answer "Curiosity's" question, which appeared in your yesterday's issue. I would wish to remind him that it is generally the case that "the more smoke there is the less fire," and that the silent forces are the most powerful and never-failing. However, I consider that as the Corps has frequently and never in vain appealed to the citizens of Victoria for assistance, it is a perfectly fair question, and as such ought to be as fairly answered without the Corps coming under the imputation of blowing its own trumpet, although that seems partly what "Curiosity" wishes it to do. I think that Mr Pemberton and Sergeant Bowden will corroborate the statement that the special constables have, for the most part, been furnished from the ranks of the Volunteer Corps; most of the members having been already on duty twice, and some of them as often as four times. As we were not wanted in the field with all the pomp and noise of military display, we have been anxious to prove ourselves of as much use as possible, and therefore have been quietly content to do our duty in a humble and less ostentatious form.

A FULL PRIVATE.

When, Oh When?

EDITOR COLONIST.—Curiosity has put his nose out of doors after dark. The Fenians must have scented him badly, or he would have seen the Victoria Rifle Volunteers, on duty like men the last two weeks, nightly with many others.

CURIO.

Canadian News Items.

A very painful case of seduction and abortion has been brought to light in Montreal. An officer of the 60th Rifles became acquainted with a handsome young lady, daughter of a prominent citizen of London, and, as he had exchanged from his regiment and was going to volunteer in the Abyssinian expedition, the girl accompanied him to Montreal. They have been stopping at a boarding house in the city, where he passed her off as his cousin. Medicine to procure an abortion was administered to the poor girl, and her life is despaired of. The affair causes much sensation. The Telegraph says the case is only one of a number of victims.

Michael Bailey died in Buffalo recently. He was Irish by birth, and fought in the American war. His name was more familiar to Canadians as a colonel under O'Neill in the Fenian invasion of 1866 at Fort Erie, where he was seriously wounded across the breast by a rifle ball, fired by one of the Welland Field Battery from the Post office.

Hon. Mr. Day, ex-judge of the Superior Court of Lower Canada, has been appointed arbitrator by the Government of Quebec to settle disputes between that Province and Ontario about the division of the debt. It is said that the Dominion Government will appoint an American as the third arbitrator.

Mr. Oliver, M. P. P. for South Oxford, in the Ontario legislature, has introduced a very useful bill on the subject of the manufacture of cheese, and to prevent the selling of bad milk or cream to companies engaged in this business. It was said during the incidental debate that the manufacture of cheese in Ontario is only second in importance to the great lumber trade now carried on.

In response to a statement in the Detroit Post, that one thousand young men in that city are without employment, Mr. John Northwood, of Chatham, writes to the Post that they can all be provided with work by crossing over into the Dominion, cutting cordwood at five shillings gold per cord. He will take one hundred workmen, as they come, and others in his vicinity will engage a like number.

From the New York papers we learn that an army of tailors, hatters, and clerks, is out of employment in the great metropolis of America. From the shipyards nearly all the men have been discharged. There is little doing at the machine and boiler shops. Barges and towboats are clustered in occupied slips, having nothing to do. It is not much better in other large cities. Young Canadians are too prone to rush "off to the States," thinking it a very El Dorado. We advise them to stay at home. Only a fortnight since we received a letter from a young man in California, a former resident of London township, in which he bitterly regrets exchanging comfort for hard work and poor pay. The farmer boys of Canada, he remarks, should think twice before venturing upon wild-goose expeditions over the world.—London (Ont.) Advertiser.

It is given out that Gov. Belleau, of Quebec, and Gov. Doyle, of Nova Scotia, have been confirmed as permanent governors—to hold office, of course, for the regular term of five years. It was understood from the first that Sir Narcisse Belleau was appointed with the intention that he should hold office for a full term, but Gen. Doyle was, we think, appointed only as a provisional governor. His confirmation for a full term is, perhaps, due to the peculiar state of affairs in Nova Scotia. It would be impossible to select a prominent public man from any of the Provinces whose appointment would be satisfactorily received in Nova Scotia. It would not do to give the position to an anti-Unionist, or one whose sympathies too much with the Nova Scotia anti-Unionists, and no Unionist politician in the Dominion would be well received by the anti-Union party in that Province. If such a man were not positively ill treated, he would be regarded with so much distrust that all chance of his being useful in the position would be destroyed. Gen. Doyle is unconnected with our internal politics, and has so far succeeded in keeping free from party entanglements. He is probably more acceptable to the Nova Scotians than any other man whom the Government of the Dominion could appoint without playing false to the Union. We are inclined to think, therefore, that Gen. Doyle's appointment, though a deviation from a rule which will undoubtedly prevail respecting the governorships is a judicious one. Colonial aspirants can wait.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Surpassing Excellence.—This medicine is composed from the finest balsams obtainable from the vegetable kingdom Unlike mineral or mercurial preparations, Holloway's Pills are perfectly innocent, and may be safely taken by children and the most delicate females. The nervous, and all who have lost hope and energy through long-continued affliction should have their attention drawn to the many cures of such cases which have been gradually accomplished by these Pills, and gratefully acknowledged by most flattering testimonials. They secure a long, a healthy, and a happy life. In all derangements of the digestion arising from the stomach, liver, or bowels, the salutary power of these purifying Pills is especially observable; they stimulate sluggish and regulate disordered functions.



The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Tuesday, March 24, 1868.

At the meeting of the British Association in 1868 Sir W. Armstrong rather startled the savans there assembled, by stating that according to the present increasing rate of consumption the north country coal fields would be exhausted in about two centuries, and if no more economy were exercised than at present 100 years would be sufficient to bring about this result.

This declaration caused a great sensation at the time, which two years subsequently was deepened by the publication of Mr Jevon's book on the "Coal Question," in which it was proved that there was a fair prospect of the British coal fields being exhausted in about 80 years hence. These estimates, however, did not take into account the productive resources of the Colonies, as hitherto the amount exported, as well as steamers taking out an sufficient amount to carry them home, often to the exclusion of more remunerative freight, has formed no inconsiderable item in the drain on the mother country.

This has to great extent tended to raise the price of coal at home, to the great detriment of our manufacturing interests, preventing them from competing fairly with their neighbors, the French now being able to build iron ships at a cheaper rate than we can. We fear that at home the resources of the Colonies, more especially of this most distant Colony, as regards the supply of coal are very little known, as on glancing over a map of the "coal fields of the world," recently published, Vancouver Island has a small black dot given it, just enough to swear by. Now, our coal field, though very little wrought at present, is a very extensive one; the coal measures extending all round the sea margin of the Island, forming a belt of about 10 miles in breadth, reposing against the central metamorphic rocks. Nanaimo is the only place where the coal field has been at all extensively wrought; the amount exported in 1867 being 31,174 tons against 25,212 tons for 1866, but there mining operations have been carried on extensively, and the seam is by no means equal to many of the others cropping out all round the Island, such as at Cowichan, Comox, Fort Rupert, on the East Coast, and the extensive coal field situated in Koskeemo Sound on the West Coast, an immense coal basin placed in proximity to a splendid sheet of water sufficiently capacious to anchor all the fleets of the world in safety; while in Queen Charlotte Island, at Skidegate Bay, several seams of anthracite have been partially opened up, but owing to extensive metamorphic action mining there has not hitherto been very successful. Great injustice, we believe, has been done to the coal fields of this Island by Dr Hector, who in his report states that he considers the Nanaimo coal to belong to the cretaceous age, whereas there is good reason for believing, from careful examination of the fossils, that if not strictly belonging to the carboniferous series, it is at least of Thiasio age—a most important distinction, as at home it is generally believed that coal belonging to so recent a period as the cretaceous will not prove remunerative in a mining sense. As regards the resources of other countries on the Pacific coast in succession to the South, a coal mine has been worked at Bellingham Bay, in Washington Territory, capable of turning out about 3000 tons a month, the coal of which is of so recent an age as more correctly to be considered a lignite. In California the Mount Diabolo mines, belonging to the tertiary series, and of very impure quality, turn out about 120,000 tons annually, which sell at San Francisco at about eight dollars per ton. No other coal is mined on the Pacific Coast until we come to Lota and Coronel, in the South of Chili, where a coal field of a recent age exists which extends as far south as the Straits of Magellan, cropping out about eight miles to the north of the Chilean settlement at Sandy Point. The outcrop is said to be on the side of a ravine, which being slightly covered by an arenaceous formation, blocks

are frequently carried down by the river to the beach, which has given rise to the report that coal is thus easily procurable everywhere on the beach. Coal from Lota and Coronel is sold in the city of Santiago at four and a half dollars per ton, and the town is lit up by gas at the cost of three and half dollars per thousand cubic feet, the company realizing a profit of 17 per cent. In this taking stock of this most important of our mineral resources, so largely distributed over this Island, we are reminded of what has so much contributed to the foundation of England's manufactures and commerce, where the coal measures bear a proportion of about one-tenth to the square mile of surface, thus taking the lead of the rest of the world, both in actual amount and the extent of the coal area as compared with the whole surface. Whatever the future of the Island may be, it is to be hoped the experience of the past will be no criterion of the future, but by a more careful and vigorous cultivation of our resources we may show to our more impatient neighbors, as well as friends at home, that our companies are not mere gambling speculations got up to extort money from the unwary without the slightest idea of working, but that we are really bent on developing in a genuine manner the great mineral resources so lavishly bestowed upon us. As to what steps the Government ought to take it is difficult to offer an opinion; but we are inclined to believe that by allowing companies to take out coal at a minimum Royalty, reserving the purchase of the land until a certain bona fide capital has been subscribed, would tend to prevent intemperate and unprincipled speculation. We believe that our resources are more extensive than the most sanguine of us can contemplate, and can only be realized by a careful geological survey, enabling us accurately to estimate their extent.

The Charge of Incendiarism.

The examination of Daniel Cleal was resumed at the Police Court, Monday, March 16th, 1868.

J. H. Turner sworn—Remember the night of the fire; I first saw the fire through a window from my bedroom; I heard a crackling noise and jumped out of bed; and saw the flames coming up the opposite wall; the window through which I saw the flames seemed to be on the flat roof of the kitchen. Cross examined by Mr. Copland—There was very little smoke but a very high flame; I do not know where the coal oil stood in Cleal's restaurant; the fire seemed to be to the right of the chimney of the kitchen.

Thomas Hunter sworn—I was waiter at Cleal's last fall; Mr Crooks kept the books; they were kept at the bar; the coal oil was kept up stairs; I left there in October and have not been there since; the coal oil was brought down through a pipe to a can below; (some articles of glass ware and some pictures were produced). Witness identified a lamp and two pictures and an oval dish as being the same that were in the dining room up stairs, also some glass jars which were sometimes up stairs and sometimes below.

James Mars sworn—I live with Mr Cleal; the gate was locked at 10 o'clock the night before the fire; I left 10 minutes before 10; the gate was locked; I was cook there 15 months, there was not an unusual quantity of lard in the house at the time of the fire. To Mr Copland—The supplies in the kitchen were about as usual; there was a plentiful supply; there were some articles short; I have often complained of things being short; I spoke to Byrom of things being short; the iron plate was cracked, I never saw a new one; there were two fires when I left; the one under the coffee was burning when I left; I do not remember of making any remark when the lard came in.

To Mr Wood—I was cook and the lard was got at my request, and so were all the articles needed generally; I know the gate was locked at 10 o'clock; I do not see the gate locked; I saw that it was locked when I passed it; do not recognise any of those articles; I had no business in the restaurant.

Libburn Waterford sworn—I lived with Mr Cleal as second cook; I was there the night of the fire; I slept at Murray's Bakery; have slept there since Christmas; I left Cleal's about 9 o'clock; Cleal locked the gate; we each had a key; I gave the Chinaman the chain to take to Cleal; I have seen Cleal lock the gate; he generally locked it when he was well; when he was not Mrs. Cleal locked it.

To the Court—I have not seen any of those articles for some months.

To Mr Copland—Mr Vinter called me at the time of the fire. I ran over and unlocked the gate to let the firemen in. The stock in the kitchen was not particularly short.

To Mr Drake—Am not aware of any furniture being carried from one part of the house to another, or being removed from the premises.

Caroline Agnes Cleal—7 years old. I was in bed the night of the fire. Mr Cleal was in bed. I never told any different story.

To Mr Wood—I went to bed at 9 o'clock; I woke before the fire and went to sleep again; I think Mr Cleal was in bed when I woke before the fire.

Mr Wigham examined the articles, and recognized the pictures as being similar to those insured in October, and were in the room upstairs; they may be copies. Articles of the same description as those were included in the list of goods insured, but witnesses could not identify them as being the same.

To Mr Copland—I examined the premises after the fire and made out a list of the articles destroyed. To Mr Wood—Messrs Sprot & Co have a mortgage upon the buildings and all the personal property of Cleal that was covered by the insurance. I think if I were about to insure the property now exhibited in Court I would value it at \$30 to \$35.

Thomas Storey sworn—Some time ago Cleal told me that he would sell out in the spring if times were no better, and go to Cariboo. I have seen some of these articles but don't know at what part of the house.

J. G. Vinter sworn—The gate was locked on the night of the fire; on account of the gate being locked I called Cleal's second cook; it was about 4 o'clock in the morning.

To Mr Wood—I have noticed that for the last three or four weeks the gate has been kept locked; the reason assigned was to keep out Indians; at 1 o'clock I was at the corner of Government and Yates streets; after that time and up to 2 o'clock, I passed by the gate and would have noticed if it had been open.

J. Byrom—I recognize the articles in Court as those that were up stairs in the old restaurant, but since that room has been closed I have not seen them.

To Mr Wood—From November up to Christmas I saw the articles frequently in the old dining room up stairs; since that time I have not seen them; the picture or pictures like them were in the bar; I think one of the lamps is very much like one that stood in the kitchen the night before the fire.

The Court here adjourned to take the evidence of Henry Waller, who was sick and unable to attend the Court.

Henry Waller sworn—Was asked by Mr Pemberton if he had at any time said Cleal told him that he wished the whole bloody place would burn up, then he would leave the country. Witness said, I do not remember.

The Court adjourned, to meet at 11 this morning.

Tuesday, March 17th, 1868.

Examination of Cleal continued.

Policeman Horton sworn—About a month since I had a conversation with Byrom; he told me that he thought Cleal would either skedaddle or burn the place; I asked him his reasons; he said Cleal was hoarding up the money and had ordered him (Byrom) to take the books home, and Cleal had also sent Libburn the cook out to sleep; I think he also told me that a chain and padlock were put upon the gate, which was unusual; I did not attach much importance to the statement at the time; the things produced in Court were taken under a search warrant from Cleal's house; I have seen pictures like those either in the bar or in the dining room up stairs; I also think I saw that oval mirror silver tray and jug; I also saw up stairs some crucifix stands; Cleal told me that the pictures were copies when I called his attention to them.

To Mr Wood—I cannot identify any of the articles; it is too long since I saw them; I went to search Cleal's house of my own accord; I took Byrom with me to point out the articles said to have been removed from the restaurant to the dwelling house.

Richard Lewis sworn—It is my duty to take charge of property at fires and to make enquiry; on the morning of the fire I had a conversation with Byrom; I asked him if he knew anything about the fire; he said no; he was sick from having had to do his own work, and Cleal's also; that he told Cleal a few days previously that he would have to give up; and that Cleal supplicated him not to leave until he had time to get another man in his place; Byrom also said to me, I saw Cleal on Sunday morning and he asked me how I was; I was glad to see the old man so much better; and that he was able to get about again; I then asked Byrom what time the place was closed and if he had seen Cleal about the establishment after 12 o'clock; Byrom remarked that the place was closed about 10 or half past 10 o'clock, and that Cleal was about the establishment from 8 until the hour of closing; he told me that on the night of the fire there was no one in the place at the time of closing but Cleal, Patterson and himself; that Cleal remarked that there was no business doing on that day, and they might as well close up; he (Byrom) said he left Cleal and Patterson the cash; I asked Byrom if he had any suspicion as to how the fire originated; he said he had not; he had been so unwell that as soon as he left the place he went home and knew nothing until he was awakened by the night watchman. I told Byrom that my reasons for asking those questions was that, as a fire-warden, it was my duty to make inquiries in order to elicit facts as to the origin of the fire. Mr Byrom replied that it was perfectly proper for me to do so, and he also expressed sympathy for Cleal and his loss. I am perfectly certain of the conversation being just as I have stated it. I had no other object in making the inquiries than to find out the origin of the fire; Byrom being the first person I recognised as belonging to the establishment, I made of him the inquiries. There was no other person present during the conversation. I called three

times on the morning after the fire to see Cleal, but was told he was too sick to be seen. Once a colored woman came to the door and told me that Cleal was dangerously ill. Another time I met Dr. Ash coming out of the house, and he told me that Cleal was very ill and it would be at the risk of his life to see anyone then. My object was to ascertain who were the insurers of the property, that I might get them to take charge and relieve the policemen, who were tired out.

Byrom was recalled, and cautioned by the Judge that whatever he might now say would be used against him, and that he need not reply to anything that would criminate himself. The evidence of Lewis was read, and witness was asked if he wished to make any observations upon it. Witness replied that in justice to himself he thought he ought to make some observations, and said: "Mr. Lewis never addressed me in his official capacity. If he says so it is false." Mr. Copland, as the legal adviser of Byrom, advised him to say nothing. The witness adopted the suggestion and left the box.

Emily Stuart (a colored woman), sworn—I was home in my bed on the night of the fire; the fire bells woke me; I got up and ran to see where the fire was; I was told by some one that it was near Cleal's, and as I had nursed Mrs. Cleal's baby, I put on my clothes and went down to see them; I know most of those articles; have seen them in Cleal's house; I know that silver tray well; I was in their house a year ago last Christmas, when Mr. Cleal brought it in and gave it to Mrs. Cleal as a Christmas gift; I have been there a good deal since that time and have always seen it in the house; I never saw it anywhere else; I have seen the small tray in the house for the last six months; Mrs. Cleal has had that lustre ever since Governor Kennedy went away; the decanters were in the house and also the glass pitcher; that silver jug I know; I have cleaned it with my own hands, and I know that oval mirror; there were two of them; I know the pictures; they hung up over the mantelpiece in the house; I know that tall lamp; I do not know the pickle jar nor the celery dishes; I never went into the restaurant; I sometimes went into the kitchen; I know Mr. Lewis; I did not see him on the morning of the fire; there were so many men came to the house after the fire that I cannot tell who came; they came in crowds to enquire of Mr. Cleal, but he was sick, and I told them the doctor would not allow any one to see him.

At this stage of the proceedings the magistrate said he did not need any further evidence to decide not to send the accused up for trial, but he would adjourn the case one week for further investigation.

Mr Wood submitted that he thought that the nature of the evidence was of such a character that the Court would probably see what course should be adopted in regard to the witness Byrom, and suggested that he exchange places with the accused.

The Magistrate said that a charge of perjury would be entertained when submitted in a proper manner. In the mean time the Court would adjourn for one week, all parties, including the witnesses, to enter into recognizances to appear.

The TELEGRAPH SHIP.—The fine American clipper ship, Nightingale, Captain Marsden will sail hence for New York city to-morrow. She has on board 105 miles of cable and 2400 miles of telegraph wire. The cargo is valued at \$94,000. The Nightingale will be remembered as the flagship of the telegraph expedition to Alaska and Amoor river in 1866. She was originally a slaver, and was built with a view to speed, and, if we mistake not, was captured by a man-of-war off the coast of Africa several years ago with benighted Africans packed in her hold like sardines in a can. She is still accounted one of the fastest sailing ships afloat, and under the command of so able and experienced an officer as Captain Marsden will report herself at an early date at the port of destination. The ship Egmont, which is to follow the Nightingale in about one week from date, will be commanded by Captain Digges of Port Townsend. She has 400 miles of telegraph cable aboard, valued at \$400,000. The material being shipped on these vessels was intended to be used in the establishing of telegraphic communication with Europe in the event of the failure of the Atlantic Cable.

CONCERT.—Mr Marsh's concert last night drew a respectable but not a full house. The only new addition to the performers were Mr Bagnall, of the Musical Depot on Fort street, and Mr E. Ward, the flower of the Alhambra troupe. The singers sustained their reputation, though the music seemed somewhat too low for the range of Mr Bagnall's voice. The performances of Gunther and Roberts' lute notes of their charm by repetition and were as brilliant as ever.

The steamship California will sail this morning, at 9 o'clock, for Sitka. She has several passengers and a large freight aboard and will call at Nanaimo on her way up as well as upon her return, when she will load with coal for San Francisco. She will sail from this port for San Francisco about the 28th or 30th inst.

WRECK.—Janion, Rhodes & Co. have received a letter from their correspondent at Honolulu, S.I., which states that a British ship of 800 to 900 tons, bound for Australia with lumber, has been totally lost on Starbuck Island. The name of the ship was not remembered by the party who brought the intelligence to Honolulu; but it was a long, peculiar one. The ship loaded at Puget Sound or at some other port in that vicinity in October last.

A DEPARTURE from Portland on Saturday last stated that the steamer Fideliter, for Victoria, was lying in Baker's Bay on Friday unable to cross the bar owing to the high wind that prevailed. She is expected to-day.

THE CITY FATHERS are up and doing at last. Yesterday the chain-gang were employed in removing the dirt from Government Street, which will soon be macadamized. Yates, Johnson and other thoroughfares will receive similar attention in due course.

THE BRIG Robert Cowan, with lumber for Honolulu, S.I., sailed to her berth at Janion, Rhodes & Co.'s wharf, yesterday morning, where she will complete her cargo, and sail in a few days for the Islands.

THE next mail steamer for this port will leave San Francisco about the 10th of April. Nica, isn't it?

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—This is the anniversary of the birthday of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland.

BALL.—Don't forget the ball at the Royal Hotel this evening under the auspices of Miss Hill. A merry time is anticipated.

THE ship Australind, from Burrard Inlet with lumber, has reached Sydney, Australia.

THE PRIZE ESSAY.

EDITOR COLONIST.—Allow me through the medium of your columns to ask why the Prize Essay on the Scenery of Beacon Hill has not been published? The morning after the evening on which the prizes were awarded the Prize Poem appeared in print, and was spoken of as the gem of the evening, thus leading the public to infer that the Essay was a production of inferior merit, not worthy of a place in your columns, such, I think, could not have been the opinion of the judges, as in their award read by Mr Ball they speak very lightly of both Essay and Poem, but as they mention the Essay first it seems to me that in their estimation it was of at least equal if not of superior merit to the Poem.

Again, I must say that I do not think the gentleman who was kind enough to read the essay did justice to it, for many of the finest passages in it were, through hesitation and bad delivery—which were doubtless owing to the difficulty of reading strange manuscript at sight—made to appear positively ridiculous, and the whole Essay seemed, from the same cause, to be a confused jumble of disconnected ideas. I therefore hope, and I have heard the same wish expressed by many, that in justice to the author, to the judges and to the public, the Essay will be published.

In justice to the author—that the public by reading the Essay for themselves may be able to appreciate it as it deserves. In justice to the judges—that the public may be satisfied that the judges arrived at a just conclusion with regard to the comparative merits of the Essays, for the Essay with the motto "Nil Desperandum" being well delivered and read without that hesitation so damaging to that of Mr Coleman, was apparently the superior composition of the two; and many persons left the theatre under the impression that the prize ought to have been awarded to the author of "Nil Desperandum" instead of to the author of "Excelsior." In justice to the public—because in all public competitions of a literary character the composition of the successful competitor becomes the property of the public, who ought to have the privilege of being able to read it at their leisure, in order to arrive at a just estimation of its merits, and from which privilege they are debarred by its remaining unpublished in the hands of its author.

THE ESSAY.

[The Essay, owing to its great length could not be published contemporaneously with the poem. That it was not printed yesterday is due to the fact that, although applied for, the MSS has not, as yet, been placed in our hands. We do not agree with our correspondent as to the manner in which the Prize Essay was read. The fault lay in the first half of the Essay, which is absolutely feeble. The latter portion was grand and the reading successful; but in point of literary merit the Essay does not compare with the Poem, which would be gladly admitted to the columns of the day.—Ed. Colonist.]

Where? oh! Where?

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—May I ask you what the Victoria Rifle Volunteers are doing in these days of Fenian excitement? In older days we heard of them every week, nay almost every day; but now, with exception of a blast from some unfortunate bandman over James Bay, we hear nothing at all about them. Certainly they must be self-supporting.

CURIOSITY.

Surpassing Excellence—used from the finest, but the vegetable kingdom curial preparations, Holy Innocent, and may be used, and the most delicate, and all who have lost long-continued affliction drawn to the many who have been gradually filled, and gratefully, asserting testimonial. They try, and a happy life. In digestion arising from the cold, the curative power, especially observable; they regulate disordered functions.



The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, March 24 1868.

The session of the Legislative Council which opens to-morrow will probably be brief, yet it may nevertheless have an important bearing on the future of this struggling Colony. Upon the nature of the measures passed at this session may hang the welfare of the country for years to come. If the legislation be of a wise and patriotic character, good results cannot fail to flow immediately therefrom; but should it be ill-considered, selfish or sectional, the result must of necessity prove disastrous and exert a baneful influence upon the country at large. The majority of the popular members of the Council are warmly in favor of retrenchment and economy in every department of the public service. But should the views of the majority have undergone no change in the past fifteen months, the voice and vote of the people's representatives will be powerless in a House composed of two-thirds official members, who have a cogent reason—that of personal interest—in prompting them to continue the present system of Government and expenditure. We are advised, however, of a change having taken place in the feelings and opinions of the majority. We remember well that at the last session the members for the City of Victoria stood up in their places and denounced the reckless manner in which the public monies were being voted by the official majority in the Council, and that every motion pointing towards economy was either voted down in the Council or afterwards very quietly burked by the Executive. In turning over our files to again peruse the speeches of the popular members last session, we are struck with the almost prophetic character of their remarks—the warning, again and again repeated, that Government was appropriating monies which there was not the slightest prospect of its ever being able to collect—and the prediction that before the year had closed the Colony would find itself sunk still deeper in debt and difficulty. We all know how little these warning words were listened to by the majority—how that, influenced by the advice of an over-sanguine and inexperienced young man of mediocre ability, from the Colonial Office, the older and wiser heads among the officials were carried away by the force of his enthusiastic temperament and suffered their better judgment to be overruled by his sophistries and ill-digested ideas of political economy. Fifteen months have passed and even the officials are now constrained to admit there was truth and wisdom in the warnings of the unofficial members, and that their advice, if followed, would have resulted beneficially for the country. We believe hard-earned experience has taught the official members that as legislators they have a higher and nobler mission than the mere voting of their own salaries and the unqualified support of a system of Government that retains them in their seats. "Experience is a hard taskmaster." The past year has been one of bitter reverse for the Government of this Colony; but if the evil results of their legislation have aroused the "official element" to a sense of their duty, we do not despair still of seeing the Colony snatched from political ruin "like a brand from the burning." And let us here disclaim on our part, and on the part of the people of this Island, any intention in the past or future to offer a factious opposition to the Government. Opposition has been always offered from a sincere desire to introduce reforms which the good sense of the people told them were needed, but which the inexperience and want of ability of the former Colonial Secretary prevented his appreciating and adopting. Under the changed and improved composition of the Executive Council, the people are looking forward with eager anticipation for wise and wholesome legislation during the coming session. We do not say that these anticipations will be realized; but, accepting the equitable sentiment

of the "Capital" question as an earnest of what is to come, they are willing to "bury the hatchet," and bury it so deeply that it will never be resurrected during the continuance in office of the present regime; if they can but see their representatives accorded a respectful hearing, and their views, so far as compatible with the proper performance of the public service, adopted. With a great and radical change in the Government of the country imminent, there is a sincere desire on the part of the tax-payers to let "bygones be bygones" if the Government will but evince a disposition to meet them half way in the work of conciliation, and will pay more attention in the future to measures aiming at the advancement of the material interests of the Colony than to schemes having for their sole aim the selfish aggrandizement of the promoters.

Friday, March 20. County Court.

Before His Worship the Honorable Magistrate, Mr. Pemberton.

March 19, 1868.

There were 36 cases upon the docket, 2 of which were struck out for non-appearance, 14 confessed judgment, 13 were adjourned, 11 settled by private arrangement and 6 came to trial. The cases tried by this Court were:

Jesse Cooper vs Wm Smith—For balance of account of \$9.50. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

Ah Chow vs E C Holden—For labor as cook. Judgment for plaintiff, \$52 with costs.

Jas Deans vs Wm H Parsons—Action for labor said to have been performed in 1864; amount claimed \$16. Judgment for defendant, without costs.

McTeirnan vs Remie—Account for \$7 75. Judgment by default, with costs.

A. Astico vs Jas Detrait—Account \$9 Judgment by default, with costs.

Frank Malahie vs Joseph Dedrick—Account. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

The Court adjourned for one week.

The shipbuilders of Maine have memorialized Congress for the adoption of measures favorable to their business. Their aim is to secure a reduction of import duties, and also of internal revenue taxes, on all materials that enter into the construction of ships. That some action is needed to revive the business of ship-building is quite apparent. The cost of construction of a ship is nearly double as much in New York as it is in the British Provinces, and until something is done to remove this great disparity the business will remain stagnant.

PAPER HUNT.—To-morrow the weather being favorable, there will be a "meet" at the Halfway House, Esquimalt road, at half-past one, p. m., at which time the races will start. The land-owners through whose property the hunt passes have kindly given permission to ride over their ground. It is to be hoped the field will follow the paper, as it will be much easier to replace the fences if this is strictly adhered to, there being a man employed for the express purpose of building them up again.

MUNICIPAL.—Attention is called to the Municipal Notice published this morning. The time for payment of the rates levied will expire on the 30th inst., and all persons refusing or neglecting to pay will subject themselves to the payment of a heavy penalty. The Corporation is really rendering valuable service to the city in effecting much-needed improvements, and it will be a pity if their exertions are hampered by the delinquency of rate-payers.

SAILED.—The telegraph ship Nightingale, Capt. Marton, left Esquimalt at noon yesterday, bound for New York. Mr. Margetsoo, who came in the ship Egmont from England in charge of the cable, sailed in the Nightingale. The ship was towed out by the Emily Harris, and in passing the ships of war her colors were dipped. The compliment was promptly acknowledged by the Fleet.

A LETTER received by Mr W. Clunes from his partner on Eureka Creek announces a rich strike in the company's tunnel, which has been driven upwards of 200 feet. The Billy Barker tunnel is in 175 feet and is approaching the same lead, which is supposed to be of great richness and extent. Eureka Creek empties into the Meadows at the foot of William Creek.

IMPORTANT REDUCTION.—The Upper Fraser steamerboat Enterprise will resume her trips as soon as the state of the river admits. An important reduction in the rate of freight is announced this morning. Heretofore the rate charged has been one and a half cents per pound. In future the price will be one and a quarter cent.

IN THE PRESS.—Mr Harcourt's lectures are now in the Press and being rapidly prepared for the public. The one on mining has been carefully enlarged and strengthened with figures. The two will make a pamphlet of some 40 pages, and so far as we have read they are the ablest vindication of the country we have yet met with.

The performance for the benefit of Mr. M. W. Anderson will come off on Friday evening, the 27th inst., at the Theatre. Mrs Jeany Arnot Fowles, Miss Lizzie Yeoman and several amateurs of Victoria, the "Reindeer Amateurs" and the Marsh Family have kindly volunteered to appear. "Henry Dunbar" and "Poor Pilloody" will be presented.

The next steamer to arrive here will be the John L. Stephens. She will leave San Francisco on the 10th proximo. She is upwards of 300 feet long and of great draught of water; but Capt. Winsor thinks he will be enabled to bring her into this harbor without difficulty.

WE HEAR that the Managers of the Female Infirmary have tendered the institution to the Royal Hospital Committee. Not a bad move. The location of the Infirmary is much superior to that occupied by the Hospital, and we think the offer ought to be accepted.

ASSAULT.—Charley, a Hydah, for assaulting and cutting with a knife another Hydah, having a similar cognomen, was yesterday convicted and sentenced to two months hard labor in the chain-gang.

SENTENCE.—Richard Williams, who was convicted on Wednesday for stealing \$4 37 1/2 from a sailor, was yesterday sentenced to two months' hard labor.

It is reported that the seat of the popular member of the Council for Nanaimo will be declared vacant, and that Mr Ring will come forward as a candidate for the position.

The U. S. S. Lincoln will sail to-day for San Francisco. She will carry a mail and an express.

The Enterprise, with members of the Council, will sail this morning at 9 o'clock for New Westminster.

A LARGE ship rounded Race Rocks yesterday afternoon and stood in towards Trial Island. She is probably bound for Nanaimo.

H. M. S. SPARROWHAWK will proceed to New Westminster to-day to be present at the opening of the Legislative Council.

The brig Robert Cowan sailed hence for Honolulu, S. I., yesterday morning, with lumber and general merchandise.

The ship Trebolgan will sail for Shanghai, China, to-day.

The Prize Essay.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:

There can be no possible objection to the Prize Essay appearing in your columns, if you can find room for it. But if the public are to be satisfied that the judges arrived at a just conclusion with regard to the comparative merits of the Essays, "Nil Desperandum" ought also to be inserted. I doubt, however, if the result of their insertion would be as "Essay" seems to anticipate; for I cannot but think that the majority of the public would reverse the award of merit by placing "Nil Desperandum" ahead of "Excelsior." That the Prize Essay lost anything by bad, or that the second gained anything by good reading, I beg most emphatically to deny. Mr Clarke read Mr Coleman's Essay really well, and the slight hesitation which occurred once or twice did not at all interfere with the rendering of any of the "finest passages." "Essay's" ears cannot be good if he received from Mr Clarke's reading an impression of "bad delivery." Others think that his delivery was something approaching perfection. In the Prize Essay there were some fine flights of imaginative fancy (?), unfortunately they were not necessarily concocted with the scenery in question, but were just as applicable to any other landscape as to that viewed from Beacon Hill. As you say in your note appended to "Essay's" letter, whenever Mr Coleman condescended to take into consideration the subject about which he pretended to write he became tame and feeble; in fact, the descriptive part of the Essay was trashy in the extreme. The writer of "Nil Desperandum" never attained the height of eloquence, neither did he ever get down to the slip-sloppy trudge of "Excelsior." Nothing would please me better than to see the two Essays published side by side in your paper in order that justice may be done as well to the author of "Nil Desperandum" as to "Excelsior."

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH ARMIES AND NAVIES.—At the reopening of the sittings for Cour des Comptes, Count Basabianca read a report in which he compared the public expenditure of Great Britain in 1865 with that of France. Taking the army alone, England paid for her army of 146,000 men and 14,000 horses, exclusive of pensions, 335,050,000fr. France paid for an army of 400,000 men and 85,000 horses a sum of 370,587,000fr. Henceforth the English army were as numerous as the French one, it would cost about one thousand million of francs! The British navy cost in 1863, deducting pensions, 234,050,000fr.; the French navy 123,589,000. The pay of the British sailor varies between 403fr. and 700fr., and that of a French sailor between 202fr. and 438fr. The equipment of an English sailor cost 103fr. and that of a French one 79fr. 50c. The ration of an English sailor costs 452fr. per annum, and that of a French sailor only 354fr.

The Gale—Wreck of Two Ships on Discovery Island.

About 11 1/2 o'clock on Thursday night a severe sou'easter suddenly sprang up and continued until daylight with scarcely any intermission. On land, so far as we are aware, beyond the prostration of much valuable timber, no damage was effected; but the morning brought news of the wreck of two sail vessels on Discovery Island, distant some seven miles from Victoria in an easterly direction, and nearly opposite the disputed Island of San Juan. The lost vessels are the British ship Fanny, 896 tons, commanded by Captain Arthur, and owned by Rosenfeld & Birrnenham of San Francisco, laden with 1,330 tons of coal from Nanaimo, and on her way to San Francisco; and the Hawaiian bark Rosalia, with a cargo of 150,000 feet of lumber, laden at Stapp's Mills, Burrard Inlet, and bound for Honolulu. The Rosalia, towed by the steamer Isabel, Capt. Pamphlet, sailed from Burrard Inlet on Wednesday, and on the same afternoon the Fanny, bound down, was spoken and taken in tow by the steamer—the Fanny attached by a hawser to the stern of the Isabel, and the Rosalia attached by another hawser to the stern of the Fanny. Shortly after the gale commenced the Rosalia's hawser parted and she drifted astern, and after beating about until 5 o'clock yesterday morning struck on Discovery Island. The Fanny continued a short distance with the Isabel, when her hawser also parted, and before sail could be set she, too, was driven on Discovery Island. Both vessels beat heavily all night long. The Rosalia, lying on the southerly side of the island, was exposed to the full sweep of the wind, and before day dawned her bottom was knocked completely out. The position of the Fanny is on the easterly side of the island and less exposed, but owing to her heavy cargo she soon settled down on the rocks and was full of water before the captain and crew left her. All hands landed in the ships' boats. The Fanny had four passengers for San Francisco. Both vessels are pronounced complete wrecks. The passengers' baggage, furniture, sails and a portion of the rigging of the Fanny were brought ashore yesterday. Much of the coal will probably be recovered at low water; and part of the Rosalia's cargo has already come ashore. We believe neither of the vessels was insured. The Fanny was formerly known at this port as the Voltigeur. She was worth with cargo about \$27,000. The Rosalia and cargo were valued at about \$14,000. Owing to a continuance of the gale yesterday afternoon little or no assistance could be rendered from the city.

LATER.—The Sir James Douglas report both ships abandoned, the crews having taken up their quarters on the island. One side of the Rosalia has been carried away by the force of the breakers. The Fanny's position is not considered so precarious as that of the Rosalia, and hopes are expressed of eventually saving her.

Supreme Court.

(Before His Lordship Chief Justice Needham.)

Friday, March 20th, 1868.

Trounce v Strachan & Ogilvy.—The rule nisi, in the case to set aside award came up for argument yesterday.

Mr Ring, instructed by Mr Peakes, showed cause. Two cases were cited for defendants, in which the English Courts refused to set aside an award because it was prepared by the solicitor for the opposite party, although it was held an improper course and an American case.

Affidavits were filed, showing that the umpire had made his award before the formal award was drafted by defendant's solicitor.

The other points for argument were not discussed, the Chief Justice stating there was no occasion to go into them.

Mr Wood, instructed by Mr Bishop, in support of rule, not called on.

Rule made absolute with costs on the ground that defendant's attorney prepared the award.

R Finlayson and Dr Tolmie vs Fox.—Mr Ring made application for injunction against defendant cutting timber.

Application ordered to be amended.

UPON THE LONDON IRISH ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.—Mr Digby Seymour writes to the Times:—"The address has been already sufficiently signed amply to justify the course I took in preparing and circulating it, but during the few days it will now lie for signature I trust it will receive numerous additions. I am strongly urged from many parts of Ireland to carry over this or a similar address for a national subscription. Meanwhile I am happy to say that I have received applications from different parts of England for forms of the address from bodies of Irishmen anxious to make a public avowal of their loyalty." Accompanying this letter is an appeal from the learned gentleman, in which he urges his countrymen to sign the address. "Listen not, I implore you," he says, "to the suggestion that men of unquestioned loyalty ought not to be asked to sign. Great is the moral power of example. The autograph of the Peer may excite the emulation of the peasant. The merchant and the mechanic may mutually encourage each other. Remember! Every Irishman who declines to sign swells the number to those who, in Ireland and America, will be caused and claimed as disaffected or disloyal."

New Gold Saving Process.

A correspondent sends us the following:—Mr. H. Kelly, 84 Pine street, New York, for three years manager of the Virginia Gold Belt Mine, situated on the Potomac twelve miles above Frederickburg, and who is now the agent of the company in New York, gives a most favourable account of the amalgamating process invented by Van Buren Ryerson, its actual value having already been proved by four weeks' constant use. The yield of this mine has rarely exceeded eight dollars per ton, but under the new system the average has been thirty dollars, which is but three per cent less than the assay.

Twenty tons of ore from a Carolina mine were shipped last week to the new mill at the Gold Belt works, and the yield which in Carolina had not exceeded four dollars, by the new process was increased to twelve dollars. The difficulty in treating the Virginia ore was the excess of sulphur which has generally been the enemy of progress in mining regions, and is the source of both trouble and loss in our Madoc gold fields. Ryerson's patent is for the use of superheated steam, which is steam heated up to a temperature of twelve hundred degrees, and to which the crushed ore is exposed for 15 minutes before the quicksilver is used. Mr Ryerson claimed that his process would overcome all previous difficulties, and enable the amalgamator to extract the entire assay, and the result seems to have justified his expectations. He uses a shaking bath 30 feet in length, and with a very peculiar movement, but the one distinctive feature of this process is the superheated steam. The crusher used at the Gold Belt mill is Brown's Boston Machine, which crushes 15 tons a day; it does not work with stamps, but by a centrifugal movement makes rock crush rock. The cost of crusher was about \$1,000, the price of Ryerson's machine was \$1,500 with a royalty of \$5,000. We understood Mr Kelly to say distinctly that a five horse engine was all the power required, but possibly this was an error. This invention or discovery will, we imagine, prove of great importance to our Madoc gold companies, especially as the charge of \$5,000 royalty will hardly be demanded in Canada.—Toronto Globe.

IN THE BOSOM OF HIS FAMILY.—The following mournful satire, accompanied by a cartoon representing Napoleon sadly contemplating the poor little Prince Imperial, is in a late number of the Owl:

Yes, the great end is attained. A crown rests upon his brow—his hand clasps a sceptre—by his side he wears the sword of a conqueror. He has shaped his course through a world of difficulties. He has believed in his destiny, and now has reached the summit of his ambition—a throne.

A dizzy resting place, and yet while new to it he is scarcely able to look about him. He has climbed so high that he can see naught but the sun of glory. He must be something more than imperial—he must be Great—great as a warrior, great as a statesman, great as a Bonaparte. The purple robes must be exchanged for the breast plate, the crown for the warrior's helmet. The world must be taught that Napoleon's nephew is no mean successor to his uncle's fortunes.

Deigning to use a dead man's coffin as a ladder to power, still he scorns to go to his grave without renown. Moreover, he has traitors to punish—foes to conquer. Were not the Russians and the Austrians the sworn enemies to the first great bearer of his name? Has he forgotten Moscow or Waterloo? Does he not know that by making the foes of Bonaparte the enemies of France, he secures for his family thousands of brothers—millions of adherents? It is a desperate game, perhaps, but it must be played. If he wins, he claims a palace, the devotion of a prince; if he loses, he falls to rise no more or yields up that which is dearer to him than life—celebrity. And he plays, and for a while the cards seem to favor him and he prospers. But at last the luck turns against him. He finds his plans unsuccessful and his people dissatisfied. And then he throws down his cards, and looks for comfort to those nearest and dearest to him.

He who has so often duped others now actually and willingly deceives himself. He tries to believe that he belongs to a family of kings, that his power comes to him from a long descent. That the bee has ever been the crest of France; that the fleur-de-lys has never waved from the turrets of the Louvre. And he brings together, to comfort him, the family he wishes to love him. He feels so solitary among princes—so lonely in the halls that have belonged to those who scorn him as an usurper. And he gathers his family around him, the family he can love, the family he can trust, and when he tries to count their numbers, finds confronting him naught but the tombs of two dead men and the face of a child that is dying.

There is but one

American perfume that has stood the test of time, and that is MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER, which, for over thirty years, has been in constant use, and which is to day admitted to be the only fragrant water adapted to the various uses of the bath, the handkerchief and the toilet.

As there are counterfeiters, buyers should always ask for the Florida Water prepared by Lanman & Kemp, New York.

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The anomalous position of this Colony will prove a subject for discussion at the present session of the Council. Since Union we have had to judicial establishments, each of the other, and neither having jurisdiction beyond the limits which it was confined prior to the Union. Mr Begbie, holding a commission as Judge of the Supreme Court of the Province of Columbia, exercises unrestricted control on the mainland. Needham, holding the commission as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Province of Vancouver Island, presides over the former known as the "Vancouver Island." Neither man appears to be subordinate to the other, nor have they co-ordinate powers, since the Judge of British Columbia cannot sit as Judge of the Island any more than the Chief Justice of Vancouver Island can sit as Judge of British Columbia, except by special commission. The Grouse Creek war rages. Chief Justice Needham presides over the Cariboo and sits as Judge of Columbia; but a commission was previously issued by the Governor, into whose hands, return to New Westminster. Justice resigned it. This state of things arises from oversight on the part of the framers of the Union Bill. They intended the Colony of Vancouver Island to be defined by the Court of either section, but failed to define the measure which consolidated other branch of the Colony. ment left the Courts as distinct and to-day we are called on for the maintenance of two courts where one would suffice, a manifest injustice to the gentlemen interested would naturally imagine under Union Mr Needham Chief Justice's commission rank as Mr Begbie's superior. Mr Begbie being simply a Justice is not the fact. His position is as unchanged as Ham's. To all intents and purposes there has been no Union. Colonies so far as the jurisdiction of one or the other. Cases have arisen where the jurisdiction of one or the other of an Act defining the privileges of each Court and affairs is imperatively demanded as an act of justice to the themselves and a matter of to the public.

Mutual Aid or Benefit Societies.

Among the remarkable features of the present age Benefit Building Societies are a leading position. They have such number, and worked such the amelioration of the condition of the lower classes during the last few years, not only in Great Britain, but in the States, and what more nearly San Francisco, that it has become interesting to all to understand their object and the principles upon which they are based. Most successful have been the number of our citizens are anxious of these useful associations statistics, and it is not unlikely that were established amongst us, a of the sum now annually squandered in lolly would be turned in building up the town first. Building Society, when properly is a species of joint stock company, members of which subscribe and in proportion to the sum which they hold, different common fund, which thus being lent out at interest to subscribers who desire advances, and soon as it is received, making is lent out again and again, so as to be steadily reproductive. Large raised in this manner, for to take, if one thousand shares were for at two dollars and a half per month, in one year the amount would be \$30,000, which, month by month might be advanced to any amount might wish to become borrowers. The interest on these loans is so calculated that the principal of the loan is repaid by equal monthly payments, with the period, the principal of the loan and whatever interest may be throughout the duration of the loan. The other members who have not yet who are generally called Investors at the end of a given number of years which is equivalent to their subscriptions with comp



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The anomalous position of the Judiciary of this Colony will doubtless prove a subject for discussion during the present session of the Council. Since Union we have had two distinct judicial establishments, each independent of the other, and neither possessing jurisdiction beyond the limits to which it was confined prior to Union. Mr Begbie, holding a commission as Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, exercises unrestricted judicial control on the mainland; and Mr Needham, holding the commission of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Vancouver Island, presides over the section formerly known as the "Colony of Vancouver Island." Neither gentleman appears to be subordinate to the other, nor have they co-ordinate powers, since the Judge of British Columbia cannot sit as Judge of Vancouver Island any more than the Chief Justice of Vancouver Island can do the same as Judge of British Columbia, except by special commission. When the Grouse Creek war raged fiercest, Chief Justice Needham proceeded to Cariboo and sat as Judge of British Columbia; but a commission as such was previously issued by the Governor, into whose hands, upon his return to New Westminster, the Chief Justice resigned it. This anomalous state of things arises from a strange oversight on the part of the framers of the Union Bill. They effaced the Colony of Vancouver Island from the map, but failed to define the status of the Court of either section. The measure which consolidated every other branch of the Colonial Government left the Courts as distinct as ever, and to-day we are called on to provide for the maintenance of two establishments where one would suffice. Besides, a manifest injustice is done to the gentlemen interested. One would naturally imagine that under Union Mr Needham, holding a Chief Justice's commission, would rank as Mr Begbie's superior officer—Mr Begbie being simply a Judge. But such is not the fact. Mr Begbie's position is as unchanged as Mr Needham's. To all intents and purposes there has been no Union of the Colonies so far as the judiciary is affected. Cases have arisen wherein the jurisdiction of one or the other judge has been challenged, and the passage of an Act defining the duties and privileges of each Court and abolishing this strange and anomalous state of affairs is imperatively demanded, both as an act of justice to the gentlemen themselves and a matter of protection to the public.

Saturday, March 21.

Mutual Aid or Benefit Building Societies.

Among the remarkable features of the present age Benefit Building Societies occupy a leading position. They have increased in such number, and worked such wonders in the amelioration of the condition of the industrious classes during the last thirty years not only in Great Britain, but in the Eastern States, and what more nearly affects us, in San Francisco, that it has become a matter interesting to all to understand, correctly, their object and the principles on which the most successful have been founded. This information is the more desirable as a large number of our citizens are anxious to see one of these useful associations started in Victoria, and it is not unlikely that if a society were established amongst us, a large portion of the sum now annually squandered in frivolity and folly would be turned to account in building up the town first. A Benefit Building Society, when properly constituted, is a species of joint stock association, the members of which subscribe periodically, and in proportion to the number of shares which they hold, different sums into one common fund, which thus becomes large enough to be advantageously employed by being lent out at interest to such of the members who desire advances, and the interest as soon as it is received, making fresh capital is lent out again and again, so as to be constantly reproductive. Large sums may be raised in this manner, for to take an example, if one thousand shares were subscribed for at two dollars and a half per share per month, in one year the amount would be \$30,000, which, month by month, as received might be advanced to any members who might wish to become borrowers. The payments of Borrowers are so calculated as to enable them to repay, by equal monthly or more frequent instalments, within a specified period, the principal of the sum borrowed, and whatever interest may be due upon it throughout the duration of the loan. The other members who have not borrowed, and who are generally called Investors, receive at the end of a given number of years a large sum which is equivalent to any amount of their subscriptions with compound interest,

accumulated upon them. The idea of a society upon this principle correctly formed and afterwards properly managed, is of the most admirable description, for on the one hand, it holds out inducements to industrious individuals to put by periodically from their income small or large sums which are invested for them by the society on the security of the real estate and buildings of the borrowing members, mortgaged to the society, and at the end of a certain time, are repaid to them in the shape of a large accumulation without their having themselves the trouble of seeking for suitable investments, or lost any interest because the sums they possessed were too insignificant to be made a profitable use of; while on the other hand, the money subscribed, however small the individual contributions may be, when amassed together, is large enough to be advanced to borrowing members thereby enabling them to purchase or erect houses, or similar property, and to repay the loans by small periodical instalments, extended over several years. Second, As regards the purchasing of house property, building societies on a principle of mutual co-operation must be deemed peculiarly beneficial both to the subscribing members and to the general community among which they are established. We have to consider how large a portion of every man's income in this city is absorbed by the payment of rent, especially those who are married and have families around them. The drain upon the family purse under this single head of the monthly outlay is greater for the amount of their incomes than usual, and the disproportion between the monthly rent and the selling value of the dwelling is greater than in most of the countries into which these societies have been introduced. It has been said by an English writer on the subject that, "Every one knows something of the ultimate cost of hiring furniture for their houses or lodgings, they know that it is much more advantageous to the hirer of furniture to buy the articles outright than to pay continually for their use; and therefore, most prudent people in the middle classes, and even the poorest as far as they are able, make it a rule to purchase their own furniture, and other articles of domestic comfort and convenience. They know that the price for long hiring is at least equal to the original price of the article hired, and yet how many thousands of persons in every city of England and America, who would deem it an unwise extravagance not to purchase their articles of household furniture, are yet quite content to hire their houses. What numbers occupy hired houses or apartments to deposit their own furniture in." Third, It is much more easy by means of these societies for persons who are not possessed of capital, and who merely receive their wages weekly or monthly, to become possessors of homesteads; and this they are enabled to do by the practical fact, that the monthly payments, required by a society upon a loan, do not much exceed the rent of a house which could be purchased or built with the sum borrowed; so that a man living four or five years in a house instead of paying his rent to his landlord and thus losing so much money for ever, pays it with a little addition to a building society for a limited number of years, and in consideration of his consent to this arrangement, the society advances him at once the money requisite for the purchase of the property which then in the stipulated time, when the loan has been repaid with interest, becomes entirely his own; the money advanced being in the meantime secured by a suitable mortgage. Fourth, Such is the simple outline of the plan pursued in the practice of Benefit Building Societies; and if efficient means are provided for securing correctness in its principles of calculation, and a fair and honorable way of carrying out its object, such an institution established in this town, where we have high rents, and high rates of interest, and where there is no saving bank, or means of investing, or even obtaining safe custody for small sums, must be considered not only as an excellent application of the principle of cooperation, but as a means of strengthening and consolidating the material interests of the place, while socially improving the condition of the most industrious of its inhabitants. A private individual, whether a mechanic or a clerk, usually finds it impossible to obtain an advantageous accumulation of interest for the small sums he can spare from his weekly earnings. And even should he have formed those determined habits of economy which would admit of his boarding up a sum large enough to place out at interest, he cannot obtain that information nor always bring that judgment to the scrutiny of the adequacy of the security contemplated for his investment, nor is he always without neglecting his occupation, in the way of hearing of these remunerative opportunities which present themselves from time to time. An association, however, of provident persons can command all that is wanting by the single member, and although the trifling contribution of each by itself would be too small to be capable of reproductive investment, yet, when united with others, in a large sum it becomes a proportionate participant, and has its representative in the aggregate profits of the general body. Moreover, where there exists a variety of material of talent and capital, their union for the purposes of carrying out the same design facilitates and renders possible its accomplishment. The efforts of a body of men in pursuit of a good object are generally successful whether they endeavor to attain for themselves definite and tangible results by the operation of great commercial enterprises, or whether they combine with the provident desire to avert as far as possible the pecuniary loss, which by death or incapacity to labor, may overtake any individual and expose himself or the members of his family to poverty. As application of these principles of mutual co-operation to the associations known as Life Assurances and Benefit Building Societies, have proved remarkable illustrations of the great advantages conferred by their working when honestly and wisely conducted; though, of course, on their first introduction, especially in building societies, their success was too often obscured by defects and errors in the arrangement of the details. Fifth, It is a coincidence worth recording in bringing building societies before the notice of the people of this Island, that the first society of this kind of which any record is known, was established at Kirkcubright, in Scotland, in 1815, under the auspices of that Earl of Selkirk, who played so important a part in the history of the Hudson Bay Company, and whose see is one

cent net after paying the expenses of the society he will have liquidated his debt. TERMINATING SOCIETIES. 11. Building Societies, though all founded for the same object, are divided into two classes; one kind are called terminating, the other permanent societies. Terminating Societies having latterly fallen into disfavor, the superior advantages of the permanent societies have become better appreciated. A Terminating Society is one which closes at a fixed period; while in the permanent society it is merely the membership of a shareholder which terminates at the end of a fixed period. One of the great evils of the terminating principle is that in consequence of its being intended to close the society in a given number of years, or as soon after as practicable, the opportunity and desire for investment soon ceases; as the members are unwilling to borrow in the latter years of its existence, when the period over which a loan can extend has become small, and the corresponding rates of repayment must be increased. It has been found by experience, and indeed it is a fact which common sense would suggest, that it is almost impossible to find members who will care to borrow when half the term of any society's expected duration has elapsed. The monthly payments on a loan for a short period become too large to suit the limited means of the subscribers. 12. There are also objections which apply to both classes of societies, terminating and permanent, but which are seriously aggravated when the association is of a transitory nature. The interest is often calculated to be realized at quicker intervals than is practically the case. It is not possible but that from the very beginning of any society's existence some portion of its funds will at various times remain unemployed for longer or shorter periods. Sometimes this takes place because the balance in hand is not large enough to meet the purpose of any borrower, particularly in the first commencement of a society, when the subscribers are too few in numbers to raise an adequate sum at every meeting. Sometimes, again, there remains on hand a sum beyond the amount required by borrowers who have registered their names as applicants for loans. If the calculations are made for receiving interest monthly from the borrowers, and for crediting it monthly to the investors, it is evident that the loss of a single day's interest falsifies the calculations. The neglect of allowing for this consideration has been the cause of some serious discrepancies between the theories and the actual experiences of some societies. 13. It should always be made a rule to receive the subscriptions and repayments at shorter intervals than the calculations of the accounts as compound interest are based upon. For instance, if the compound interest is reckoned upon reinvestment every month, the subscriptions and repayments should be received weekly. If they are received monthly, the interest should be calculated as produced quarterly. In other words the safety of a society depends upon the managers always having sufficient time before the arrival of the calculated periods of reinvestment upon which the tables are based, to complete the necessary details for preventing loss of interest by investing all monies which are not required for the immediate purposes of management. Any difference between the actual epochs of monetary receipts and the assumed periods should be in favor of the society, and any profit thus accruing will be found most useful for contingencies. 14. Another fault has been not allowing a sufficient margin for preliminary and managerial expenses, and for losses through bad investments, not provided for in the theoretical calculations. When the actual payments have been fixed at rates based on the extreme theoretical calculation of what money continually reinvested would produce, it is impossible that the society should terminate profitably at the period originally fixed, unless during the whole previous duration of the association there had been no loss sustained either through dishonesty of officials, bad investment, or unlooked for expenses, beyond what would be covered by the receipts from fees, fines, &c, and unless no month has ever been passed during which any part of the subscriptions had not unproductive. So that in other words no loss of interest has occurred. PERMANENT SOCIETIES. 15. Having reviewed some of the leading objections to the plan of terminating societies, we will now proceed to examine in detail the various superior features of the permanent system. To enable an institution of this kind to conduct its operations successfully as regards the profit which is expected by the investing members, at the same time the borrowers are freed from unjust responsibilities, it is proper not only that the rates of subscription and repayment depend upon a sound basis of mathematical reasoning, but also that the general system of the society's practical operations should be as much as possible clear from these defects, which either prevent the realization of the expected interest within the calculated time, or produce injury and personal inconvenience to the members. It is essential that due provision should be made for the current expenses and liabilities, and that they should never be left dependent upon the uncertain receipts from fees &c. The relative position of the two classes of members should be also equitably considered; so that the profits of the one may not be increased by taking an unfair advantage of the other, and the period of duration of a mortgage should be rendered definite, in order that the claim of the society upon a borrower may at all times be so exact to equitable adjustment in case of his being subsequently desirous of redeeming his property; since it is evident, that any uncertainty respecting the duration and amount of a debt tends materially to reduce the saleable value of the security held for it. As, moreover, it is not easy to form an exact opinion of the value of money when it is involved in transactions extending over a period of years, nor of the future value of property in a newly settled country, attention must be given to a suitable reserve being made upon the society's profits to form a protective fund against future contingencies. Experience has shown that Building Societies in other countries, from the peculiar nature of their transactions, are liable to losses which cannot always be averted by the most careful and intelligent

management. By subjecting however, the choice of these mishaps to the Laws of 'Averages,' and by providing a resource whence any deficiency may be at once made good, such an institution may be rendered on the whole as secure and profitable a medium as any commercial joint stock institution in the colony. The permanent plan which we recommend appears to meet these requirements, as it is entirely free from most of the objections peculiar to Terminating Societies and is based upon the system which has received the sanction of the best English authorities. 1. The difficulty of finding borrowers at any time in the course of the existence of a society is removed. 2. New members may enter in any month without paying up any arrears of entrance fee. Hence the scope of the society's action is extended, and the power of doing good, resulting from mutual association, is greatly augmented as the number of shareholders increases year by year, and even month by month, instead of diminishing. 3. The initial and annual expenses can be more equitably divided, and spread over a larger number of members. 4. A member may under reasonable restrictions withdraw his subscriptions, or effect the redemption of a mortgage, without the delay or expense that he would experience in a terminating society. (To be continued) DEATH OF A TELEGRAPH OPERATOR.—A telegram received yesterday at the Victoria office states that the telegraph operator at Swinimish, W. T., died yesterday morning after a very brief illness, having been seized with a fit the evening previous. The deceased man was named Jasper, and was only appointed a few days ago to the station. Swinimish is the repeating office between Victoria and New Westminster, and we fear that in consequence of this sad occurrence no Council telegrams will be received from the latter place until the vacancy shall have been supplied. FROM PORTLAND.—The Fideliter arrived from Portland yesterday morning at half-past nine with a full freight and a number of passengers. The Fideliter left Portland on the 11th inst, but was several days detained within the bar, owing to unfavorable weather. The steamer 'Sir James Douglas' arrived last evening from Comox and Nanaimo at half-past six o'clock. She was freighted with cattle and produce from the settlements. She also brought about twenty passengers, among whom were Provincial Grand Master Powell and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge who went up to Nanaimo last Tuesday on an official visit. Capt Clark reports that on his way down he stopped off the scene of the wrecks and boarded them to render any assistance that might be required. BUILDING SOCIETIES.—We commence today the republication of a series of able letters, advocating the formation of Building Societies, which originally appeared in the Times, a paper printed here in 1865. The letters were written by a gentleman then resident in this city, and the arguments advanced at that time apply with equal force to the present. We commend the series to public perusal. CHANCE FOR INVESTMENT.—Mr J Lamley, of Astoria, Oregon, has sent us a number of specimens of cement taken from a bed recently discovered near Astoria. The specimens sent are not inferior to the celebrated Maine cement, so extensively used for building purposes in the United States. A small capital only is required to work the bed and introduce the cement to the notice of San Francisco builders. LOST THEIR PASSAGE.—The California on Wednesday left behind at this place two passengers, who had intended proceeding to Sitka with her. The unfortunate fellows procured a plunger and started for Nanaimo, where it was known the steamship would stop to coal. They reached Nanaimo on Thursday evening, but too late to catch the steamer, she having sailed some hours prior to their arrival. FOR THE RIVER.—The Str. Enterprise left yesterday morning for New Westminster with a small amount of freight and a number of passengers, among whom were the Hons. Messrs DeCosmos, Barnard and Smith, who go to attend the opening of the Legislative Council to-day. The Hons. Dr Helmcken and Mr Pemberton did not go up. The former was obliged to remain in consequence of the severe illness of a child of Dr Tolmie's. NEW CHURCH SITE.—The society of the St. Andrew's Church have purchased a lot on the corner of Courtenay and Gordon streets, and contemplate building shortly a stone church thereon. THE SPARROWHAWK sailed for New Westminster yesterday morning at 6 o'clock. A salute will be fired upon the opening of the Legislative Council at noon to-day. THE AMERICAN brig Orient, laden with lumber for San Francisco, arrived from Barford Inlet yesterday morning and cast anchor in Esquimalt harbor. THE U S S Lincoln, Captain J E White, detained by the blow yesterday, will sail with the express and mails at an early hour this morning. TEXAS were no cases heard in the Police Court yesterday.



The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE

Tuesday, March 24, 1868

Private advices from New Westminster state that a strong under-current of excitement prevails there in consequence of it having leaked out from a high official source that the views of the Governor with regard to the proper place for the location of the Seat of Government have not been sustained by the Colonial Office.

On motion of Councillor Lewis the Clerk was instructed to notify Messrs. Drake & Jackson that upon the proper information the Council will take legal action against any parties who may infringe upon the by-laws relating to streets and sidewalks.

Communication from J. P. Davies & Co. calling attention to the fact of their opening a cattle sale-yard, and requesting the Council to fix a scale of charges.

Communication from W. Hebbard, claiming five dollars for loss of time in attending Court. On motion laid upon the table.

On motion of Councillor Allart the contract for carting the dirt from the streets was awarded to Arthur Strogg, and the Street Committee were authorized to execute the contract for such time as may be required.

Municipal Council.

Wednesday, March 18. Council met at 7 p.m. His Worship the Mayor in the Chair. Present, Councillors Lewis, Allart, McKay, Crump, Jeffrey and Gibbs.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Communication from Messrs. Drake & Jackson, requesting the City Council to notify Mr. Bunster, and a Chinaman keeping a wood yard at the corner of Douglas and Johnson streets, against driving their carts across the sidewalk, and that for any damage they may do to the sidewalk after said notice they be held responsible.

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Councillor Gibbs gave notice of motion for tenders for improvements on Beacon Hill Park.

Council adjourned until Tuesday the 21st.

VICTORIA RIFLE VOLUNTEER CORPS.—Eisen where in our columns appears an appeal from the officers of the Rifle Corps to the public. The Government, it appears, has granted liberal aid to the corps, and the officers now feel themselves in a position to invite to the roll of membership all who may have heretofore refrained from joining for fear of incurring pecuniary liabilities which they could not well discharge.

COUNCILLORS.—The following notice appears in the last number of the Government Gazette:—The Governor has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned gentlemen to be Provisional Members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia.

THE MID-AIR SUMMERSAULT is performed at the Alhambra, London, by Farini and son, as follows: Farini senior, suspended horizontally by the feet and arms, is really the floor upon which the boy stands.

MASONIC.—Among the passengers by the Douglas yesterday for Nanaimo were Dr J. W. Powell, Provincial Grand Master, and several officers and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge F. & A. M., of this city, who have gone up for the purpose of consecrating and installing the officers of "Caledonia," recently organized at Nanaimo.

FROM FRASER RIVER.—The steamer Enterprise returned at 5 o'clock last evening from the river. Hon. H. M. Ball has been called to the Executive Council. Brighton road, according to the Examiner, is impassable. A steamer should be maintained between the Inlet and New Westminster. The distance is only fifty miles.

In the suit of Fellows vs. The British bank Aid, in the U.S. Admiralty Court of Washington Territory, Judge Darwin rendered a decision in favor of plaintiff for \$5000; and in the suit of Grennan & Crane vs. the same vessel, damages for non-fulfillment of contract, judgment for \$1000 was given.

AMONG the passengers by the Anderson yesterday morning was an old townsman, Capt. George Walker, who we are sorry to learn is suffering severe illness in consequence of an injury done to his thumb some time since, which necessitated its amputation, the operation not proving as successful as desired.

The steamer Colfax burst her boiler at Teekaleet, W. T., on Monday of last week. The Colfax was formerly the Caledonia, and was the first steamer built in Victoria harbor. She was blown up in 1859 in the Gulf of Georgia and lost five men. On this last occasion no one was hurt.

In the Koskul-Schmeidburg case, at San Francisco, which has attracted so much attention lately, judgment was rendered in favor of the plaintiff, the Russian American Fur Company. The charges of perjury have been dismissed.

SOMETHING LIKE A GOVERNOR.—A Canadian paper says: Lord Monck presided at a missionary meeting in the Parish of St Albans, near Ottawa, on Monday evening, and delivered a short address.

ARRIVAL.—The ship Rookwood, Captain Little, arrived from San Francisco yesterday morning. She comes consigned to Captain Stamp, at whose mills she will load for Sydney, Australia.

EXTRA MAIL.—An American and European mail will be despatched by the U.S. steamer Lincoln, which will leave this port on Friday evening next for San Francisco. Here is a chance to send letters.

AT TEKALEET.—The ship Atalanta, for San Francisco; Cobang, for Callao; and the David Hoadley and Mary, for Shanghai—are all taking lumber on board at Teekaleet. Seattle Intelligence.

WORK SOURCE.—A dry goods house in New York advertised, lately, for an entry clerk, and at six o'clock on Tuesday night more than six hundred applications had been received.

Tax revenue cutter Lincoln has been ordered from Puget Sound to San Francisco, and the Wayanda is under orders to proceed to Alaska.

A notice posted in the Halifax Baska states that from the 20th Feb. until further notice the rate of interest charged on bills discounted will be seven per cent.

The mail steamer Henry Chaucey sailed from New York for Aspinwall, March 11, with 1100 passengers and 1091 tons of freight.

The ship Shooting Star, from Nanaimo with coal, reached San Francisco on the 12th inst.

Tax members of the Victoria Rifle Volunteer Corps, think it right to inform the public that owing to the liberal aid recently afforded by the Government, they are in a position to call upon the citizens of Victoria to assist them in increasing the efficiency of the Corps by joining its ranks.

The finances of the Corps are now in so satisfactory a condition that the only liability which new members will incur will be the expense of uniform, and the small monthly subscription of half a dollar, which will be devoted to the maintenance of the butts, targets, &c. The Band is also in an efficient state, and consists of about 14 instruments.

As it is the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the cause of law and order, the members of the Corps confidently appeal to the patriotism and energy of their fellow townsmen to further this object by placing the Corps on a more solid and satisfactory footing, and they make this appeal with the less hesitation inasmuch as they have for some years past devoted much of their own time and money for the public good.

The ordinary drills are: 1st Monday in the month, Commanding Officers' Parade; (compulsory). 3rd Monday in the month, Adjutant's drill, both at 8 p.m., at the Drill Hall, James Bay.

In view of the before mentioned object, an officer will be in attendance at the Drill Hall on Monday evening next, at 8 p.m., to enrol the names of recruits, and a similar enrolment will be made on the other drill nights. Intending recruits should join at once in order that they may participate in the class firing and target practice next summer.

By order, J. H. TURNER, Lieut. and Treasurer V.V.R. Corps, James Bay, Victoria, B.C., 17th March, 1868.

Our Coal Fields.

EDITOR COLONIST.—Your editorial remarks of yesterday, regarding the age of the coal fields of Vancouver Island, deserve some attention; and notwithstanding the opinions of Drs. Hector and Forbes, viz: that the coal formation here is of the Cretaceous era, I beg to state that paleontology bears me out in refuting that. I have found true fossils of the carboniferous series at Nahaimo, Harwood, Koskeemo and Comox, such as the calamites, the sphenopteris, neuropteris and other ferns, and at Comox a tree fossil heavily approaching in appearance to the sigillaria of the Scotch and English coalfields, clearly proving that our coalfields are older than those gentlemen have stated.

If our coals belonged to the Cretaceous period they could only be lignite, and would sell as low as Bellingham Bay or Mount Diablo, and it is well known that Nanaimo coal (the only one yet proved) is better in quality than any now working from Cape Horn to Sitka.

There are better coals on the Island equally accessible, capital only being wanted to develop them.

I am now in correspondence with the Geological Society of Edinburgh, and it is my intention to have this point decided by the opinion of Mr. Page, the eminent geologist, now president of that Society, through a U.S. agent.

It may be some years before our coal harvest comes, but come it will; and it is to be regretted that scientific men should venture to decide on a question such as this when they have only seen small portions of the Island, and that in the short time they could be absent from Naval duties. My opinion here stated is the result of six years experience on this coast, devoted entirely to the coal interest; and I therefore have little diffidence in stating it.

JOHN J. LANDALE, Mining Engineer, Corresponding Member Geological Society of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh in Australia.

Correspondence Panama "Star and Herald." Sydney, Jan'y 1st, 1868.

The Prince's visit continues to place all other matters in the shade. He is still among our Victoria neighbors, seeing and being seen, and will not leave Tasmania before Saturday next. His stay there will occupy two weeks, and he will arrive here at noon on the 21st inst. The Victorians are lavish in their expenditure to do honor to the son of our Queen, whose visits are so appreciated by all classes of our colonists that any special representative she might send here would meet a loyal reception. There is, however, no disguising the fact that the Prince has disappointed all who expected to find an old head on young shoulders. The royal skipper does not belong to any such class. He is a young man in every sense of the word, inclined to be a little fast, to see the most of the world, its bright side and its shady side, and in doing so some rumors says that his travelling companions are not disposed to be a whit behind the Duke.

In the beginning of the month His Excellency Sir J. Manners Sutton gave a grand ball in honor of the Prince, at which 3000 guests were present. A few days after the Prince started on his country tour, going first to Geelong, where he witnessed the regatta, received addresses, attended a public ball, &c. From thence the party passed to Barwon Park, where are some splendid preserves, containing great quantities of pheasants, hares, rabbits, and other animals to be found in an English sportsman's grounds. Here a grand batue a la Napoleon III was indulged in. The Prince, after visiting the Hon. N. Black's station, remained for a few days at Chatsworth House, in the western portion of the colony, and had fine sport kangarooing. On the 10th he arrived at Ballarat, the centre of the principal mining district. Here was a repetition of the addresses, balls and illuminations programme.

During his stay the Prince descended into the Works of the Sand Hope Company, the largest alluvial gold mine in the colony, witnessed the various operations, and on emerging from the shaft dripping wet was photographed in a miner's dress. On returning to Melbourne the Prince enjoyed a rest of three days, and then proceeded northward by rail. Reached Castlemaine on the 17th ult., and next morning went on to Sandhurst. Here the rejoicings were very little inferior to those at Melbourne, but were unfortunately marred by two serious accidents. The ball in which a grand ball was to be given caught fire just as the guests were assembling and in an hour was a heap of ashes. A still more catastrophe occurred through the criminal folly of some ruffian who threw some fire crackers on board a large model of the Galatea which was manned by boys belonging to the families of tradesmen of the town. The model ship was partially filled with fireworks which were being discharged at intervals along the line of procession, but when the fire crackers fell on board the whole affair burst into a blaze. A heavy explosion followed, and four boys who were unable to extricate themselves as their more fortunate companions had done were fearfully injured. Three of them died next day, and the fourth only survived a few days longer. From Sandhurst the Prince went by express train to Ballarat, a distance of 200 miles, in about four hours, and witnessed the races, but unfortunately the best sport was marred by the death of the crack horse of the meeting, who dropped dead after winning the largest prize. The circumstances were so suspicious that the services of an analytical chemist were obtained, the horse's stomach examined, and abundant proofs obtained that the horse had been poisoned by arsenic.

During the last few days the party have been enjoying themselves and last night His Royal Highness attended a ball given in aid of the funds of the Sailors Home. The Galatea leaves Melbourne on Saturday morning for Hobart Town.

Queensland.

Sir George Bowen, the present Governor, left for New Zealand December 27th, to become Governor of that colony. Pending his successor's arrival, the President of the Upper House and the senior military officer will administer the government.

The inquiry into the murder of the Clermont gold escort has resulted in the commitment of Gold Commissioner Griffin, the police magistrate who was in charge of the party at the time. Some of the stolen notes were traced, and a strong prima facie case has been established.

Several cargoes of South Sea Islanders have recently arrived to work on the cotton plantations.

A disease resembling odium has recently appeared in the vineyards about Brisbane.

South Australia.

The wheat crop is a total failure, owing to the late season.

Parliament was prorogued on the 19th inst. prior to the general elections which take place in March.

Gold has been found near Gawler in sufficient quantities to render prospectors sanguine of success.

Tasmania.

An extraordinary phenomenon occurred at Hobartown about a fortnight since, in the shape of a snow storm in the middle of a tropical summer.

Great preparations are being made to receive Prince Alfred.

The whaling fleet, which now numbers about 20 vessels, has had a most successful season, and will probably be largely augmented, owing to the high price of oil and bone in the home markets.

New Zealand.

The gold fields in Auckland are progressing very favorably. The yields do not appear to be in any case very large, but the field is extensive, and what is known as a "good poor man's" work. Lately gold has been found within twelve miles of the city of Wellington, among the hills by South Makara, but as yet beyond the fact that gold is there, we know little. Whether it is rich or poor, extensive or the reverse, we know not as yet. The country is being prospected, and by next mail I shall be able to give you full particulars.

Canada.

M. Crapeau's appointment to the Senate has been gazetted.

Mr. Johnson, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, has prepared a comparative statement between the Nova Scotia tariff of 1866 and the Dominion tariff, showing that the increase in revenue by the latter will be about \$59,000. In a report accompanying the statement Mr. Johnson shows that Nova Scotia would have had to provide \$200,000 additional for interest on its railway debt.

Collections were made in the Ottawa Churches for the Nova Scotia relief fund. The City Council has postponed the consideration of an appropriation towards the same object.

There is no foundation here for the rumor in Montreal of dissensions in the Cabinet.

The treasury board have decided that no tenders for Dominion stock will be accepted below par. The amount tendered for is not yet known.

The treasurer of the fishermen's relief fund has deposited \$1,000 to the credit of the Mayor of Halifax, who was authorized by telegram to check against it at the Halifax agency of the Montreal Bank.

Downie, convicted of manslaughter at Aylmer, has been sentenced to penitentiary for life.

The Legislature of Ontario has appropriated \$5,000 for the relief of the destitute fishermen of Nova Scotia, and meetings are to be held in several cities of the Upper Provinces to raise subscriptions for the same purpose.

All the Ministers, except Mr. Howland, who is still ill, were expected to be in Ottawa on the 23rd Feb. On getting to work the Government will probably appoint Governors, Railway Commissioners and Chief Engineer, deal with the route of the Intercolonial Railway, appoint an Umpire between Quebec and Ontario, Commissioners for the consolidation of the Laws and other matters of importance.

Kingston, Feb. 3.—Mr. George Carr, a carpenter residing in Williamsville, committed suicide in this city by cutting his throat early this morning.

A no-confidence motion was moved in the Ontario Legislature on the 14th Jan., and lost, the majority in favor of the Government being large. The motion had reference to the proposition of the Government to invest the surplus Provincial funds in Dominion stock. The Opposition were opposed to the consideration of the question at the time proposed by the Premier, nor until the estimates were brought down. The Government have already a good working majority, and with prudent management will not fail to retain it.

New Brunswick.

A fire at Fredericton destroyed the York Hotel and the residence of Mr. McPherson. Dr Dow, M.P.E. for York County, will be supported by the Government as Speaker of the House of Assembly.

The Finances of the Province are said to be in a flourishing condition. There is a surplus in the Treasury of \$200,000.

It is reported that the Hon. Judge Wilmut will be appointed Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

The Rev. Canon Graig, Rector of Trinity Church, St. John, died at Halifax on Saturday.

The weather is extremely cold and stormy. Last night was the coldest of the season.

Nova Scotia.

The Halifax papers understand that a man belonging to that city had disposed of a large coal claim in Pictou County, to a Canadian Company, for \$70,000.

Despite the care and watchfulness of Rev. Ambrose, a young fisherman died from starvation at West Dover, Nova Scotia, a few days ago. It appears that the family kept their condition a secret, both from the Rev. gentleman and their neighbors.

The Nova Scotia Legislature was opened yesterday afternoon. The Lieut-Governor, referred to the unsatisfactory state of the provincial finances, stating that the government had not sufficient funds with which to meet the requirements of the country. A Board of Commissioners are engaged in examining and preparing a report upon the financial affairs of the province. The address in reply to the Governor's speech, hints that constitutional measures will be employed to secure a repeal of the union. The Attorney General will introduce a series of resolutions upon Confederation, taking the ground that the delegates of England had no power to unite the provinces, and declaring the right of Nova Scotia to free itself from the Confederation. It is also proposed to address the Queen upon the subject, praying for a withdrawal of the union proclamation.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH

Eastern States.

CONCORD, N. H., March 13.—branch of the legislature stands in favor of 161 Democrats. Governor's majority is about 2,700.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—At 10 o'clock, the President's counsel in the impeachment case, Mr. Stanbury, has sent in his resignation, which was accepted. He does not intend to appear in the trial.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—In to-day, by eleven o'clock, the la was packed with as brilliant an upon a full dress opera night. was conducted in perfect order. lain invoked a blessing upon the tating on this important duty.

At one o'clock, the morning expired, the Chief Justice in the Sergeant-at-Arms made a pro the usual form. The Sergeant-at fied, the House that the Senate ized as a Court of Impeachment to proceed to the trial of Andre. Immediately thereafter the me members of the House took provided for them. The ret. Sergeant-at-arms from the ser. ammons upon the President w. the counsel of the President w. Stanbury, Curtis and Nelson took table opposite the managers, assisted at the left of the Chief Ju. Stanbury rose, addressing the tice, and read the answer of the entering his appearance and na. counsellors Stanbury, Curtis, Ne. aid Everts, and asking, as a ree. for the preparation of his defence, of forty days, and citing various which a period was long in pro. case. Bingham asserted only motive of the managers was the Senate rules and prevent a dil. defence. He then cited the rule w. for an appearance of the Preside. required to file his answer in the answer was not filed. The trial. ceed as on a plea of not guilty. therefore, that the trial should p. with. Stanbury expressed surpr. claim was put forth by the ma. said there seemed to be a disposit. through this momentous trial like. police court.

Edmonds offered an order that. be the day appointed, failing the. answer, that within three days t. managers shall file a replication. trial proceed on April 6th.

On motion of Morton, at two. Senate retired for consultation a. to the chamber at 4 o'clock, and. ues the court reassembled. Justice announced that the motio. overruled and an order enter. President, be required to file hi. Monday, March 23.

Bingham offered an order, replication by the Managers, be. pressed forthwith. Rejected, 25. Nelson, of counsel, argued th. of cautious deliberation. He s. two charges had opened Pan. which would necessitate a full. of all points.

Conklin offered an amendmen. cause for delay be shown, the tria. peed forthwith, after filing the r. Bingham expressed the satisf. managers with the agreement, adopted, and the Court adjour. March.

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By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Eastern States.

CONCORD, N. H., March 13.—The lower branch of the legislature stands 191 Republicans to 161 Democrats. Governor Harriman's majority is about 2,700.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Attorney General Stanbury has sent in his resignation, which was accepted. He does this to act as President's counsel in the impeachment trial.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—In the Senate to-day, by eleven o'clock, the ladies' gallery was packed with as brilliant an audience as upon a full dress opera night. Everything was conducted in perfect order.

At one o'clock, the morning hour having expired, the Chief Justice in the chair, the Sergeant-at-Arms made a proclamation in the usual form. The Sergeant-at-Arms notified the House that the Senate was organized as a Court of Impeachment and ready to proceed to the trial of Andrew Johnson.

Immediately thereafter the managers and members of the House took the seats provided for them. The return of the Sergeant-at-Arms from the service of the summons upon the President was read, when the counsel of the President were notified.

Stanbury, Curtis and Nelson took seats at the table opposite the managers, who were seated at the left of the Chief Justice.

Stanbury rose, addressing the Chief Justice, and read the answer of the President, entering his appearance and naming as his counsellors Stanbury, Curtis, Nelson, Black and Everts, and asking, as a reasonable time for the preparation of his defence, the period of forty days, and citing various cases in which a period was long in proportion to the case.

Bingham asserted that the only motive of the managers was to enforce the Senate rules and prevent a dilatory line of defence. He then cited the rule which provides for an appearance of the President. He was required to file his answer in the case. The answer was not filed. The trial should proceed as on a plea of not guilty. He claimed, therefore, that the trial should proceed forthwith. Stanbury expressed surprise that this claim was put forth by the managers. He said there seemed to be a disposition to hurry through this momentous trial like a case in a police court.

Edmonds offered an order that April 1st be the day appointed, failing the President's answer, that within three days thereafter the managers shall file a replication and the trial proceed on April 6th.

On motion of Morton, at two o'clock the Senate retired for consultation and returned to the chamber at 4 o'clock, and in ten minutes the court reassembled. The Chief Justice announced that the motion had been overruled and an order entered that the President be required to file his answer on Monday, March 23.

Bingham offered an order, on filing of replication by the managers, that the trial proceed forthwith. Rejected, 25 to 26.

Nelson, of counsel, argued the necessity of cautious deliberation. He said the last two charges had opened Pandora's box, which would necessitate a full investigation of all points.

Conklin offered an amendment that unless cause for delay be shown, the trial shall proceed forthwith, after filing the replication. Bingham expressed the satisfaction of the managers with the agreement, which was adopted, and the Court adjourned till 23d March.

CONCORD, N.H. March 15.—Corrected returns give Harriman the majority of 2,530. The House of Representatives stands 193 Republicans and 138 Democrats.

SCHENECTADY, New York, March 16.—The water on Mohawk Point is 13 feet above low water mark and rising rapidly. The southwest portion of the city is partially inundated and serious damage is apprehended from the flood.

CHICAGO, March 16.—Washington specials report that Hancock has been ordered by the President to return immediately to Washington and take command of the Atlantic division.

NEW YORK, March 16.—The Herald's special says it is understood that the expectation of an attack from the Virginia shore has within the past few days taken a more substantial form than was first anticipated. It is known that an order has just been issued from the War Department directing forty army wagons, with teams and teamsters, to be kept in readiness to move at a moment's notice for the transportation of supplies.

Orders have also been issued to commanders of garrisons about the city to keep their commands, officers and men in quarters since the excitement of Friday last.

Thad. Stevens is lying very ill in this city. Fears are entertained that he will not recover.

CHICAGO, Mar 17.—Reports arrive from all directions of damage by the storm last night. It seems to have been general. In the country houses were blown down and railroad tracks badly damaged. From fifty to fifty-five buildings were blown down in this city. Several lives are reported lost.

CHICAGO, Mar 17.—Washington specials say the impeachment Managers had a session to-day, completing arrangements for the coming trial. No more witnesses will be examined. The committee feel confident that it will not be necessary to withdraw any of the articles. The House Foreign Affairs Committee had a long session over the Alaska Appropriation Bill, but reached no conclusion. Considerable diversity of opinion exists among the members.

California. SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.—Legal Tenders 7 1/4 @ 72. Arrived—Ship Mary Glover, Port Discovery; bark Florence, Seabeck. Cleared—Ship Dublin, Port Townsend; British ship Rhoda, Port Gamble. Sailed, March 13—British bark Keddar, Port Townsend.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 16.—A company is organizing for the purpose of connecting Marin County with this city by a magnificent suspension bridge across the entrance to our harbor, from Lime Point to a place just this side of Fort Point. The distance across is one mile. It is calculated to build an immense oval water pier in the centre, which would be 200 feet across at the widest point, raised 175 feet above the surface of water.

The span on either side reaching to the shore abutments would be 2000 feet long and 175 feet above the highest water line, affording space below for the largest ships to pass. The body of the bridge to be of iron, sustained on the suspension principle with wire cables. The base of the bridge to be 100 feet wide on each of the shore abutments.

Legal Tenders 7 1/4 to 72. Flour—Oregon, \$7 to 7 75 per bbl. Wheat—Demand confined yesterday to local trade; nominal quotations \$2 60 to \$2 75 for fair to choice. Barley—450 sacks at \$2 07 1/2. Oats—Market has wide range; \$2 10 to \$2 40.

MARCH 14.—Sailed, steamer Ajax, Astoria. 15th—Ship Helois, Port Townsend. Mexico. HAVANA, Mar 17.—In Mexico the general situation of affairs is unsatisfactory. Fears and troubles are universal. Incendiary fires, robberies and murders are frequent in the capital, and the streets of the city are unsafe at night.

NEW YORK, Mar 17.—City of Mexico specials to the 13th state a report prevalent that Marquess is about instituting an expedition against the Republic. Several foreigners were arrested and an American had been ordered to leave the country. A battle took place on the 19th Feb'y between Ruby and Martinez, near Mazatlan. Ruby was routed.

The War in Abyssinia. Dispatches received last night from Abyssinia say that Gen. Napier was about to send out a reconnoitering party to Assego in Tigre district. The Pasha of Egypt shows no disposition to withdraw from Abyssinia as requested by the British Government. On the contrary the Egyptians are camp at Massowa, and had received considerable reinforcements from the North.

West Indies. HAVANA, March 13.—Yucatan dates to the 16th say, all political prisoners have been liberated, and safe conduct promised to those who hid away from their homes.

Dickens at the White House. WASHINGTON, February 7.—At eleven o'clock to-day Charles Dickens called at the Executive Mansion to pay his respects to President Johnson. The President received Mr. Dickens with great cordiality. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Dickens for his courtesy in inviting the President and family to his readings, and regretted that he had not been able to attend himself. Mr. Dickens replied that he would have felt highly honored to have the Chief Magistrate of the Nation present, and regretted that the public business was so pressing as to prevent his attendance. After a very pleasant conversation, in which the President paid Mr. Dickens a graceful compliment, the latter withdrew, highly gratified with his call in the President's ante-room Mr. Dickens and Major General Frank Blair were introduced. At first neither recognised the other, but after the introduction General Blair reminded Mr. Dickens of the fact that twenty-six years ago they met in St. Louis and were in company on a hunting expedition on the prairies. Their meeting was exceedingly pleasant.

but are still carried on in Ireland, England and Scotland, and a man named Mahon, said to be a Fenian military organizer, has been arrested in the city, charged with having endeavored to swear in soldiers, stationed here, as Fenians. It is rumored Mahon's efforts were not unattended with success, and evidence will be produced at trial to show that disaffection prevails to an alarming degree in the Irish regiments.

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It is a safe and speedy relief with the very worst of Fashion; it has for 25 years maintained its ascendancy over all other perfumes, throughout the West Indies, Cuba, Mexico and Central and South America, and we confidently recommend it as an article which, for its delicacy of flavor, richness of bouquet, and permanency, has no equal. It will also remove from the skin all Roughness, Blisters, Sun Burn, Freckles, And Eruptions.

It is as delicious as the Orto or Rogm and lends freshness and beautiful transparency to the complexion. Mixed with water it makes the best dressing, imparting a healthy brilliancy to the hair; it also removes all itching or painful eruptions.

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KEEP IN ANY CLIMATE. These Pills are prepared expressly to operate in harmony with that greatest of blood purifiers, BRISTOL'S SASSAPARILLA, in all cases arising from depraved humors or impure blood. The most hopeless sufferers need not despair. Under the influence of these two GREAT REMEDIES, maladies, that have heretofore been considered utterly incurable, disappear quickly and permanently. In the following diseases these Pills are the safest, the quickest, and the best remedy ever prepared, and should be at once resorted to.

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THE SUBURBAN RESORT. The above Hotel is now open for the accommodation of travellers. The best of the country is retained at this establishment, and the Bar is supplied with a choice assortment of Wines and Liquors.

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BRISTOL'S Sarsaparilla

IN LARGE BOTTLES.

When the blood is thick, the circulation clogged and the humors of the body rendered unhealthy by the gross and greasy excretions of the winter months. This powerful, detergent cleanser every portion of the system, and should be used daily as

A DIET DRINK by all who are sick, or who wish to prevent sickness. It is the only genuine and original preparation for THE PERMANENT CURE

MOST DANGEROUS AND CONFIRMED CASES OF Scrofula or King's Evil, Old Sores, Boils, Tumors, Abscesses, Ulcers, And every kind of Scrofulous and Scabious eruptions. It is also a sure and reliable remedy for Salt Rheum, Ring Worm, Tetter, Scald Head, Scoury, White Swellings and Neuralgic Affections, Nervous and General Debility of the System, Loss of Appetite, Languor, Distress, and all Affections of the Liver, Fever and Ague, Bilious Fevers, Chills and Fever, Dumb Ague and Jaundice. It is guaranteed to be the Purest and Most Powerful Preparation

GENUINE HONDURAS SASSAPARILLA. It is the only one of its kind. It is the only one of its kind. It is the only one of its kind.

It is the very best medicine for all diseases arising from a vitiated or impure state of the blood. The afflicted may rest assured that there is no other GREAT PARTIAL OF MINERAL, MERCURIAL, or any other poisonous substance in this medicine. It is perfectly harmless and may be administered to persons in the very weakest stages of sickness, or to the most helpless infants, without doing the least injury.

Full directions how to take this most valuable medicine will be found around each bottle, and to guard against counterfeits, see that the written signature of LANMAN & KEY is upon the blue label.

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