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SECOND EDITION.

THE  
"OCCASIONAL PAPER."

ONE LETTER.

FROM

The Honorable Lady Lavinia Skewton,

LONDON,

TO

~~THE~~ LORD BISHOP OF COLOMBIA.

Printed at the British Colonist Office,  
VICTORIA, V. I.

.....  
1860.



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## THE "OCCASIONAL PAPER."

Belgravia, London, Wednesday.

MY DEAR LORD,

What a happy evening we passed last Tuesday, when your dear darling pamphlet, "Occasional Paper," was read aloud by brother Fred. to a circle of friends. What sufferings! and how vividly they are related! Your rescue from that horrid popish plot—the sinking of the "Northerner"—was miraculous. I say "popish," for surely it could be nothing else. They certainly must have known of your leaving by a steamer which would have to connect with the "Northerner," and the dark hirelings, no doubt, scuttled the ship, mistaking somebody else for the Bishop. As to the Jesuit who caused your milk to be stopped, that is just like them; but better it happened so, perhaps, for who knows but your milk might have been poisoned! Another interposition of Divine Providence!

The Hon. Virginia Blanche was one of our party; she, you know, is an honorary member of the "Anti-Sansculotte African Society." She is embroidering a cushion for you to present to the blackest member of your church, to show those horrid Americans what we think of colored people here. We see dear Lady Virginia very often now, as she has left St. George's and shares our pew. Would you believe it, the horrid, vulgar Alderman Moone and family—a mere picture vender—has rented the pew next to hers, formerly occupied by Lord Fitzboodle. Of course, she could not think of sitting next to those vulgar plebians.

I see you think of starting a High School for the sons of merchants, professional, and other respectable gentlemen. Just so! How would it do to establish another for the "humbler classes"—mechanics and such like? A suitable site might be had cheap on the outskirts of the town; or might not a part of the "Church Reserve" be appropriated?

I send you a woolen comforter and one of "Pulfermacher's Anti-Rheumatic Galvanic Chains," for we see with horror that you have got no hall to your house, and that you have to open the door yourself.

What a lucky thing that you passed unbruised through that heathen California! Fred. says they must be awful bruisers. A mere California boy beat, the other day, one of our strongest men half to death. You say something about San Juan, but you must excuse me, as I am entirely unacquainted with politics. I asked Fred. about it, and he said, in his rough, open way, "Bother the Islands, so long as



they don't get the Belt." I suppose he refers to some passage of geographical importance.

Miss Britannia Bulwark (the Daughter of the late Admiral; she with the green spectacles), was also present. She was rather indignant at your not having assumed the full title of "George *British* Colombia," saying surely his Lordship doesn't intend to strike "the flag that's braved a thousand years;" "besides," said she, "people might think he had some connection with the River referred to in his 'Occasional Paper' peopled by those nasty heathens." To be candid, I somewhat shared Miss Britannia's feelings, but as I feared lest the true church should suffer pecuniarily, I took, of course, your part, and explained as well as I could, the awkward position you found yourself in on landing in the colony,—there being then two parties—one the Government party (of course the right one), and the others, a lot of traitors, who would have annexed the colony to the States had they gained at the election then about taking place. Your title would, I suppose, then have been 'George America Colombia.' But thanks be to Providence and those dear colored Africans—such a calamity did not come to pass, and we now hope as the contest has been victoriously got over, that you will assume your title to the full extent. You are aware that Miss Bulwark has considerable means and no relations. Better address her a few lines so as to fully pacify her.

Dear Mrs. Burcomb writes me from Dublin that she

and her friends are knitting woolen nightcaps for your little heathen children—which she will see forwarded by the first opportunity. Matters in Ireland are only so so. What they want there is more stringent and severe laws against paupers. Lord Muff who just returned from an American buffalo hunting trip, tells us that when the poor Irish arrive in America they are transported thousands of miles off to a place called “Far West”—I suppose a penitentiary. If our government would only follow the example and send all the Irish beggars a few thousand miles west of Dublin, the streets would then be fit to shop in—which is hardly the case now.

We should have liked to have heard more about that tribe of heathens living on the banks of the Columbia River. Professor Surface (who knows everything) tells us that these wretches mostly live on apples, which they dry on strings for winter fodder. Is that so?

There is nothing new here. Poor, dear Fred. had to sell out in the guards; for, between us, he was rather unlucky at the last “Derby.” Would there be no chance for Fred. to get an office under Government in your Colony? Of course, the Governor being such a nice gentleman, would be sure to give the preference to persons of blood; and as for the blood of the Skewtons, it is well known that it flowed at Hastings.

I trust your arduous labors may be abundantly blessed in establishing the true “Apostolic Church” in the new-born

Colony, and that you may be enabled, by Divine help and "affectionate toleration," to crush out those fruits of ignorance and vulgarity—**PAPISTS, INFIDELS AND DISSENTERS.**

I remain, my dear Lord,

Yours, very respectfully,

**LAVINIA SKEWTON.**

P. S.—We earnestly hope that, before this, you have changed lodgings, and will be enabled to sustain the dignity of a "Successor of the Apostles."

P. S.—Surely your pamphlet—"Occasional Paper"—ought to be received and read with respectful avidity. Of course, as you do not mingle in the crowd at large, you will not be able to learn how it is received. But might you not, through your chaplain, or your steward, or your boots, find out and let us know?

L. S.