



THE

# News Letter,

FOR

## VANCOUVER ISLAND AND NEW CALEDONIA.



With the Latest News from the Gold Mining Regions on Fraser, Vancouver, and the Columbia.

NO. 1.

VICTORIA, B.C., SEPT. 25, 1858.

NO. 3.

OUR NEWS LETTER for Vancouver's Island and New Caledonia, like its counterpart in Australia and California, is intended as "a labor saving machine" for those who, in communicating with their friends at a distance, have not time to collect and impart those special items of useful information they deem necessary to convey to them. We shall endeavor at all times, to supply only accurate and reliable statements of news, for the man of business, so agreeably condensed, that the receipt of the LETTER from Vancouver's Island and New Caledonia, may everywhere be welcomed with pleasure, to whatever individual family it may be addressed, or country transmitted to,—that its recipients, (one and all, may exclaim, "God bless the man who first invented the epistolary plan."

Orders for the NEWS LETTER received throughout the Gold Mining regions of New Caledonia, by Mr. Ballou of the Express, who has the exclusive supply of THE LETTER at his agency offices on Fraser river. The money for all copies required, and also for advertisements to be inserted in the THE LETTER must be paid in advance to Mr. Ballou. Well authenticated facts of interest, with the name of the writer as a guarantee, will be thankfully received.

IN A PROCLAMATION issued by Governor James Douglas at Fort Yale, Fraser river, on the 15th instant, it is stated, "Whereas, it has been made to appear that certain persons in Victoria and elsewhere, have attempted to delude the public by pretended sales of certain lands on Fraser river: now, I do warn all persons whom it may concern, that no land at or near Langley, or elsewhere on Fraser river, have been in any manner encumbered or sold, and that the title to all

such lands is vested in the Crown, and that any person found occupying the same without due authority from me, will be summarily ejected: and all persons fraudulently selling the same, will be prosecuted and punished as the law directs."

[We noticed on the morning after the above Proclamation was posted on the gates at the Fort of Victoria, a party of well known gentlemen reading it. From certain muscular twitchings about the ankles and wrists, we judge they found it quite as indigestible as unpalatable; at the same time, a very chilling kind of Northerly wind seemed to be setting in, blighting, if not destroying the prospects of a select shoal of land sharks, who have been observed for the last few weeks locating around Fort or "Port" Langley. The river was conceived by the fish to be quite deep enough to venture up, although they had been swimming for years in the shallowest water, little dreaming that at no distant day they might unexpectedly be fished for in troubled waters. As yet a simple theodolite and chain have been the only instruments required in catching these rare visitants, yet still the long hook of the Sheridan ball and chain, without any bait at all (and this is a feat never performed by the renowned Isaac Walton himself,) is thought to be sufficiently destructive of the most voracious of the piscatorial monsters, deterring any others of the same species from seeking to haunt so noble a stream, set apart by nature for the exclusive multiplication of the Royal salmon.]

IN THE INSTRUCTIONS issued by the British Government in 1828, for the disposal by grant or sale of Colonial lands, the following sentence appears: "Settlers should not receive a greater extent of land than they are capable of improving; and that grants should not be made to persons who are desirous only of disposing of them." We quote this as a crumb of comfort to some land speculators who are writhing in all the tortures of Loocon.

SILVER AND COPPER IN VANCOUVER'S AND THE NEIGHBORING ISLANDS.—Since the return of Mr. Jno. McCulloch, Analytical Chemist, from San Francisco, he has been engaged in examining chemically several specimens of Silver and Copper ores, which have afforded very extraordinary results. One sample of Arsenical Silver ore yielded 47.4 per cent. of pure metal, while a second of a similar nature contained 45.5 per cent. These samples are in the hands of different parties, who are acquainted with the locality, and who state that the ores can be procured in unlimited quantities. Of the Copper specimens, one is absolutely pure metal in a beautiful well defined crystalline state.

THE PRESIDENT has appointed G. T. Ryckman, Esq., of California, Secretary to the U. S. Legation at Chili. Mr. Ryckman is now residing amongst us, and will probably leave Victoria by the next steamer. He has means, business talent, and personal worth, which are well known to us, and we sincerely hope his excellent qualities may secure him in Chili the good fortune he deserves.

NEWS HAS BEEN received here from "Canoe Diggings," which describes the country as low and marshy. As yet there has been no prospecting done. "Canoe Diggings" are located between the head waters of the Fraser and Fort Alexander. Coarse gold has been exhibited by the Indians in large quantities. Mr. Ogdén, of the H. B. Co., had arrived at Camp le Femme, 200 miles from Fort Hope.

GOV. WELLER, of California, has commissioned E. O. Crosby, Esq., of Victoria, V. I., Commissioner of Deeds for the State of California.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL of Canada has transmitted the following to Queen Victoria, through the Ocean Cable:

The Governor General for British North America presents his humble duty to the Queen, and respectfully congratulates her Majesty on the completion of telegraphic communication between Great Britain and these colonies.

THE COMPLETION of the Electric Cable was celebrated here by a discharge of 21 guns from the Fort of Victoria. The fact thus proclaimed carries with it the aspiration that ere long we shall partake of the blessings of the wire to Vancouver's Isle. We see in the perfection of the Telegraph to and from all parts of the known world, a subjugation of hostile feelings, and that by the pulsations of the wire the pros and cons of peace and of war can be discussed and dismissed in a second. All honor then to the wire, for with it will flow peace, good will, and dollars more or less to all.

A FEW DAYS AGO, while in the neighborhood of the "Wells" on the Government reserve, a little to the north of the town, our attention was drawn to an extensive and substantially erected building on a part of the property formerly belonging to Mr. Findlayson, of the H. B. Co. The building is intended for a Brewery on a substantial basis, and is ready for the inside fittings, which are on board the schooner "Page," which left San Francisco some fourteen days ago. The proprietors have been assured of the entire support of the H. B. Co., and have consequently neither spared trouble or expense in procuring the best and most approved materials, apparatus and utensils. This Brewery will open with a working capacity of at least 2000 gallons per day, which will be a first class article.

A HIGH AUTHORITY in Geological matters says, that if hills are composed of Granite or Slate they may contain Gold, Silver, Tin and Copper; if composed of Limestone, there may be Lead; and if of Sand or Gritstone, Coal may be at no great distance. On the contrary, if hills are made up of Yellow Limestone, Chalk, or Clay, it is quite certain that they will contain neither Coal nor Lead nor any valuable mineral whatsoever. Take your pocket book and make a note of it—the points are good.

TO A CLOSE observer there are things of daily occurrence in Victoria that must lead to some reflection by such as are capable, and feel interested enough in giving them any consideration. It is somewhat remarkable, now that speculative excitement has died out, to find some of our merchants who have hitherto been considered long sighted and cautious in the extreme, employing capital and energy in laying the foundation of extensive concerns in Victoria. This is especially exemplified in the case of Mr. Chas. McDonald, who left his extensive business, as an Ale and Spirit merchant, in San Francisco, and determined upon being his own witness to and judge of the probable future of Victoria. It is gratifying to find that Mr. McDonald has viewed matters in a favorable light, a proof of which is to be found in the establishment of a business which is a credit to the town of Victoria besides being an evidence of superior discrimination and foresight on the part of the projector. Mr. McDonald has in this instance given one more proof of the cool and well considered determination which characterizes the clan to which he belongs; in which he is most ably assisted by another excellent clansman, John G. McKay.

A Book has been written on the art of making people happy without money.

THE NORTHERNER brought to Victoria John Nugent, Esq., Special Agent and Acting Commissioner from the U. S. The President could not have selected a more useful man, or one who possesses a more powerful or brilliant pen to depict the political, geographical and other tendencies of this remote region. Mr. Nugent's long residence in San Francisco as the Editor and conductor of the "Herald," has secured for the vigorous emanations of his brilliant talent the marked acknowledgments and almost universal approval of his countrymen. His Excellency Gov. Douglas has not yet returned from his tour of inspection into British Columbia: when he does, Mr. Nugent will present his credentials, and the usual official salute or recognition of his appointment, by a discharge of 21 guns from the Fort, will be made.

THE OTHER DAY the "sick man" Turkey, caused the loss of 75,000 good soldiers to England, and 100 millions sterling of money, and repays this frightful expenditure by the following massacre at Jeddah: In Asiatic Turkey, where lived a few Christians, chiefly French and English, and there were French and English Consulates. The main population is Mahomedan. Suddenly, on the 15th of June, the inhabitants rose against the Christians, cruelly massacred the two Consuls, Mr. Pigo and Mr. Eveillard, and as many other Christians as they found unprepared. A very few escaped, including the French Consul's daughter, and found their way to Alexandria. France and England will unite to obtain the amplest reparation. Their respective flags have been insulted, their official representatives hacked to pieces, their subjects slaughtered. Fanaticism, which mainly induced the revolt in Hindostan, has done this dreadful deed. The Sultan professes his readiness to make all reparation in his power, by presenting the Consul's daughter with a pension of 400 pounds per annum. But what reparation can there be? The two nations have had their flags dishonored, their officers and subjects slaughtered. Is it too much to anticipate that, as the last straw broke the camel's back, this last wrong will make France and England abandon their support of Turkey, even as England, in the Cuba question, gives up supporting Spain?

IN SPITE OF the present depression it is more than probable that the two next arrivals from Fraser river will bring us down 200,000 dollars in dust, probably a sum sufficient to induce the 1600 passengers who arrived by the Sonora at San Francisco, to pay us a visit.

THREE THOUSAND POUNDS has been voted by the House of Assembly for public improvements in Victoria.

NOTWITHSTANDING the cessation of arrivals from San Francisco, prices are ruling very low admitting of no profit on S. F. prices; many articles are selling for less. Coffee, 14 1-2c; C. Rice, 6c; Pilot Bread, 9c; Ex. Mill Flour, 10d. per bbl., seller paying 8 per cent brokerage; Boston Syrup, 5-gall. kegs, 92 1-2c; Pork, 2 1-2 hf bbl ex. Clear; Chin. Sugar 10c; Rice, 5c; Bacon, 27c; Hams, 21c; Potatoes, 50c a 1d pr sak Onions, 50a 75c do do; three hooped Buckets 5 1-2a 4-1 per doz; Butter in 5-lb tins 40 1-2c per lb; firkins, 55a 50c. Several Whatcom merchants, which has ceased to be a place of business, are here prospecting this market, to see if there is room for their stocks, which they seem desirous of removing to Victoria without breaking bulk.

FAMILY HOUSEKEEPING Price Current, reported by Mr. HEYWOOD, of Leadenhall Market, corner of Government and Johnson streets, Victoria:

Beef, 48a 20c. per lb.; Mutton, Lamb, Pork and Veal, 25a 57c.; Venison and Elk, 10a 20c.; Black Bear, 25c.; Rabbits, 1d. per pair; Hares, 2d. do. do.; Grouse, 1 50 do. do.; Partridge and Pheasants, 1 50 do. do.; Squirrels, 1 50 per doz.; Fresh Hatibut and Rock Cod, 25c per lb.; Tom Cod, Cod Fish, Smelts, Herrings, Mackerel, Chouveys, Eels, Flounders, Sole, Salmon Trout and Salmon, 5a 10c.; Vegetables, average from 2a 1c.; Chickens 75c a 25 per pair; Ducks, 2d. per pair; Geese, 1d. Pigeons, 6d. per doz.; Eggs, 75a 1d. do c.; Fresh Butter, 57c. per pound.

TIFFANY AND CO., the celebrated Jewelry firm in New York, have bought Eighty Miles of the Atlantic cable, for the purpose of manufacturing it into "charms."

Yours truly,  
JOHN BULL, on the Pacific.

WANTED — A situation by a young man as COOK. Apply at the office of the "News Letter," on the corner of Wharf and View streets, between 10 A. M. and 3 P. M.

TO LET.—Three furnished or unfurnished ROOMS on View street, near the Invitation House. To be let by the month at a moderate rent. Apply to Mr. TAYLOR, at the Cottage.

BALLOU'S EXPRESS, by Canoe, Steamboat and Mail Routes, runs a Messenger Weekly to all parts of Fraser River from Victoria, receiving for and insuring Gold Dust, Coin and parcels. Office at FREEMAN'S EXPRESS.