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THE BRITISH COLONIST

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AGENTS.

S. D. Levi, New York; J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.; J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.; J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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Great Britain and Her Colonies.

The Social Science Congress of the United Kingdom met recently in London, Sir Stafford Northcote in the chair.

Several interesting papers were read on "Great Britain and her Colonies," and the whole tone of the discussion that followed could not but prove gratifying and reassuring to loyal Colonists, especially to those in North America.

Sir Stafford, in his inaugural address, said that as for the small but noisy class who advocate the cutting of the colonies adrift, he trusted that under no circumstances would a body of Englishmen be found prepared to take the initiative in raising the question of the dissolution of the British Empire.

He also avowed the opinion that the advantages of the connection were not all on the side of Canada. The Duke of Manchester, who was unable to be present, sent a letter of apology, commencing with these words: "If we lose our colonies, our power is gone. On the other hand, if we amalgamate our colonies with us, if we take them into partnership with us in the government of the Empire, I am convinced we should greatly increase our power."

The scheme of a Confederation of the Empire, with representation of the various colonies in the Imperial Parliament, and local control of local affairs as at present, was discussed at considerable length, and with much acceptance. It will be remembered by our readers that a scheme identical with that propounded by the Duke of Manchester, and approved of by many prominent statesmen, was suggested in this journal more than two months ago, and in words almost the same as those employed in the Duke's letter. How gratifying to the loyalty of Colonists it may be to learn that the national pulse still beats true to them, yet it is difficult to reconcile the colonial policy of the present administration with national professions, especially if we view that policy in the light of the treatment meted out to New Zealand. There is no denying that the theory laid down has much plausibility and show of justice about it. It does not appear either unreasonable or inconsistent that when a colony demands and obtains full powers of self-government the Imperial authorities should not feel justified in interfering with its internal affairs. Theoretically the thing looks very well; but when the merits of the New Zealand difficulty are considered, the attitude assumed by Lord Granville towards the British subjects residing in that country is one that which it would be difficult to conceive of anything more literally heartless, cynical, and unjust. Through a policy sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government a serious difficulty arose between the natives and the European settlers. That difficulty has culminated in widespread revolt amongst the natives, and the colony is undergoing all the horrors of a civil war. At a time when one hundred thousand soldiers are engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle for their homes, their wives and children, against twice the number of blood-thirsty and warlike Maories, the colonial policy of the Empire is to be suddenly changed, and the Colonists taught to rely upon their own resources. The past policy, it is asserted, has proved inimical to the development of a feeling of manly self-

reliance. So long as Imperial soldiers were ever ready to do their fighting the Colonists were not careful to avoid giving provocation to the natives; nor were they disposed to organize and train for purposes of self-defence. The parent Government has, therefore, decided to at once throw upon these Colonists the whole responsibility of dealing with the terrible difficulty, and the Secretary of State does not hesitate to intimate a wish that the Maories may be successful in asserting their independence. The "Colonists," in their terrible emergency, earnestly appeal to the Home Government. They say, in effect,

"The Circulation of the Evening News." At the close of a more than usually busy article last evening, the News, referring to the illiberal letter of "Inquirer," says: "Had the case gone into court the fact that the Evening News has a larger daily circulation than the Colonist would have been established beyond a doubt, and for this reason we regret that Mr. DeCosmos has so far withdrawn what he said to take the case out of court."

"Very well," we propose now, to afford our opponents a double-barrelled opportunity. Let us prove that we are the largest circulation paper. To do good. With a reference, we will meet the proprietor of the News at a reference to be appointed by him upon our side.

above the number, that we shall prove by a similar, to be the equal paper, circulation of our daily issue, we shall donate \$5000 aggregate sum to be divided equally between the Sisters of St. Ann and the Royal Hospital; provided that in case the subscription to the Daily Colonist shall be proved to the satisfaction of the referees to exceed that of the News, the proprietor of that paper shall donate a like sum to the institutions named for every excess. Should our cotemporary be disposed to accept this proposition we may settle the title dispute to-day and announce in this evening's issue his triumph or failure.

"ANNUAL FESTIVAL." The annual congregational festival of the Wesleyan Methodist body was held in the St. Nicholas Hall last night. The spacious hall was arranged and decorated with great taste; three tables extending nearly the entire length of the hall provided beneath the load of delicacies prepared by the ladies of the congregation, while at the upper end of the room was erected a platform for the choir and the speakers. The choir, as it remarked, was composed of volunteers from the choir of Christ Church, St. Andrew's Church, St. John's Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Germania Verein, as well as the choir of the Wesleyan Church. It will, therefore, be readily believed that the music was by no means the least attractive and enjoyable feature of the occasion. The singers were ably assisted in number, and their performances elicited much applause. It was estimated that there were in the neighborhood of four hundred persons present, which may be considered a very good attendance in view of the inclement state of the weather. Chief Justice Neidham having been prevented by indisposition from attending, the chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Ross, who made the first speech and was followed by Mr. John Gibson and the Rev. Mr. Somerville. When our reporter left Mr. J. Davies was engaged in auctioneering the "fruits of the feast." The festival was all things considered, a most agreeable and successful affair.

"DON NANIHO." The steamer Sir James Douglas left at 8 o'clock yesterday morning with 30 passengers and a very large freight. Among the passengers were Chief Justice, Begbie, and a number of Welsh officers. A portion of the freight consisted of iron pipes, excavators for the Vancouver coal workings, and more local iron necessities in the form of iron from Oregon.

"THE GREAT GOVERNMENT SALE OF MESSAGERS." The attendance at Mr. Franklin's rooms was large and the interest manifested very great. The sale commenced with the yacht Atlanta, 3 tons burden, the auctioneer announced that for each vessel the Government (which was represented by the public commissioners) would bid \$5000. The first bid for the Atlanta was \$2000. The Government bid \$5000, and the vessel was knocked down to Mr. L. W. Brown for \$4000. It is understood that the main lot of the Government was the schooner, the little elephant, the delivery being \$2000. The Government bid \$4000, and the boat was finally knocked down to Mr. Edgar Martin for \$1320. We thought we detected a sign of relief from the crowd when the hammer fell, and it was known that the expensive toy had passed forever from the hands of the Colony into the possession of those who will, we trust, turn her to better account. The big elephant, the Dragger, and three points, were next offered. The auctioneer stated that the Government reserved the right to make one bid. Mr. Brodrick asked if the advertisement in the San Francisco Alta stated that there would be a reserve price. Mr. Franklin replied that it did not. Mr. Brodrick bid \$8000, the Government bid \$10,000, and there being no advance on that figure the big elephant was led back to its stable. The second trial realized \$7500.

"A BURGLES." About 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, special officer, white patroling, Wharf street, and keeping a sharp lookout for burglars, observed a dark form slinking rapidly along in the shadow of one of the warehouses. On hearing the figure it proved to be that of an Indian boy, known as Tommy, who bore on his back a gunny sack stuffed full of soft goods. The officer opened the sack and found within it a number of shirts and jumpers, answering the description of a person of the same stolen from 3 J Pitts' store on Sunday night last. Tommy was "jugged" and the Police searched the Indian's hat before daylight, and discovered two pairs of boots, proceeds of the same burglary, in the possession of the Indian, who were fully identified yesterday morning. It is supposed that Tommy, who is an accomplished burglar, robbed the store and hid the goods in the lumber yard to be carried off as opportunity offered, and that while taking home the last sack he was fortunately captured.

"TAX LONDON STAR, THE GREAT RADICAL PARTY PAPER, IS DEAD."

"The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia was held at the London Tavern (London) on the 19th ultimo, Mrs. T. W. L. Mackenzie, presiding. The following report was presented by the directors: 'The directors in presenting to the shareholders the half-yearly statement of accounts for the six months ended 30th June last, have to report that after paying all charges and deducting rebate of interest on bills not due, the balance at credit of profit and loss account at that date was £11,980, 1s. 2d. The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia was held at the London Tavern (London) on the 19th ultimo, Mrs. T. W. L. Mackenzie, presiding. 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