Provincial Secretary

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN
Every Wednesday & Saturday,
—BY—
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BRITISH COLUMBIAN.

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The British Columbian.

Wednesday Morning, May 31, 1882.

The Big Bend Trade.

In the last issue of the Ottawa *Sentinel* we find an article upon the subject of the importance of the trade that will be created in the country commonly known as the Big Bend region, in the event of the Canadian Pacific Railway coming through the Kicking Horse Pass, and deploring the prospect of that trade being lost to British Columbia "through the default of our Ottawa representatives." The COLUMBIAN shares the *Sentinel's* surprise that a point of such manifest and profound importance to the Province should have apparently been overlooked when the bill authorizing the adoption of the Kicking Horse Pass was under discussion in Parliament; but we cannot quite follow our contemporary in assuming that all opportunity of making the adoption of that pass conditional upon the opening of the gate so that the trade of British Columbia may flow into the Big Bend region, has been lost. The bill to alter one of the objective points of the route of the railway does not confer upon the company the right to take the Kicking Horse Pass route. As a matter of fact, it confers no right whatever upon the company. What it does is to empower the Governor-in-Council to concede that right, in their discretion and upon satisfactory grounds shown. The explorations in which the company are still engaged are not yet sufficiently advanced to enable them to arrive at a definite conclusion as to what route shall be selected. It is still problematical whether they shall desire to come by the Kicking Horse Pass. It is in search of a solution to that problem that Major Rogers is at this moment exploring among the mountains of the Selkirk range. True, Major Rogers has expressed very great confidence and the company have gone very far towards believing that the railway can be carried that way with advantage. If these expectations should be realized, as it seems highly probable they will, the Government would then be asked, in the exercise of the powers conferred by the bill of last session, to authorize by Order-in-Council the adoption of the Kicking Horse, instead of Yellow Head Pass. As we understand the matter, it will not only be competent, but the duty of the Government to keep in view all the interests of the country in considering the application. In this connection, the commercial interests of the country would constitute just as proper and legitimate—certainly as practical—a consideration as the military interests. Thus it would be proper that the Government should consider the very question under discussion; and if it could be shown to their satisfaction that one effect of bringing the railway by Kicking Horse Pass would be to throw the vast trade referred to into foreign channels, depriving our own country of the advantages of expenditures which our contemporary estimates at twelve millions, unless a way were first opened for our trade to flow in, it would undoubtedly become their duty either to make it a condition that the gate would be opened by the company, or to open it themselves. When writing upon this subject some months ago, we expressed the opinion that, when the company were, for their own benefit, asking for the privilege of carrying the railway much farther south than was bargained for, it might not be too much to ask that they should so arrange the work of construction as to secure to the country the fullest possible advantages, and we ventured to point out the opening up of a path for our trade to reach the Big Bend region as one of the things they should be required to do. In writing upon the subject the other day, we endeavored to show that the opening of a way for our trade would really be the true policy, looking at the matter from the company's own standpoint. Our contemporary will therefore see that he has slightly misapprehended our position. The important and eminently practical point remains to be considered: How and by whom shall this question be brought before and so impressed upon the Dominion Government as to ensure its having due weight and consideration when the application of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to be permitted to adopt the Kicking Horse route comes before them? Notice already been admitted, this question ought to have been fully discussed when the bill was before Parliament, and we are surprised it was not. But that constitutes no reason why the opportunity still remaining should also be neglected. Indeed it should act as a factor to the more earnest and energetic action now.

Scientific Miscellany.

By causing finely divided alkaline earths to percolate through a gas-flame, Mr. W. L. Scott has succeeded in gaining a considerable increase of light.

Messrs. E. and H. Becquerel find that, contrary to the general belief, a thick covering of snow does not protect the soil as effectually as does turf from the severest cold and frost.

It has been observed that when liquid manures are too much diluted trees are injured thereby on account of being compelled, in seeking nourishment, to take up more water than is needed; but, on the other hand, too strong solutions cause a decay of the roots.

The general belief that the joints of animals have always a synovial fluid serving as a lubricant is, according to Dr. Lambert, an error. The elephant, with his relatively moderate motions and great weight, has admirable cartilages but absolutely no lubrication therefor.

A prejudice has existed for some time in European markets against American meats, due to a belief that such supplies are largely infected with trichinae. M. Colin recently assured the Paris Academy of Sciences that American salt meat, as now imported into France, may transmit trichinosis only in very rare cases of imperfect salting.

The London *Lancet* says, in commenting on an article on the medico-physiological features of Guiteau's personality: "It is remarkable for the singular circumstance that the author, Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton, seems to claim the fact that the head of the assassin 'reveals no special symmetry' as evidence of his sanity, whereas asymmetry is well known to be one of the commonest characteristics of heads of the best and most intellectual type. It would be difficult, probably, to find a head belonging to any man of mark or preëminence in science or literature which was not asymmetric." To be asymmetric is simply to lack symmetry.

In 1852 Dr. Macgillivray mentioned having seen skulls of children at Cape York altered into quite conical shape by a constantly applied manual compression of their mothers; but this was believed to be impossible by the celebrated anatomist K. E. VonBaer, who fancied that there must be some mistake in the information given by the Scotch naturalist. In 1880, however, Dr. Miklucho-Maclay had an opportunity of witnessing this strange operation, at Mabiak in the islands of Torres straits, where he saw it performed daily on many children, and fully convinced himself that the deformity seen in the adults is the result of this manual deformation only. The mothers are accustomed to spend many hours of each day, during the first weeks of each child's life, in compressing the heads of their infants to give them the conical shape. At Mabiak the deformation is designed, but Dr. Maclay observed on the east side of New Guinea numerous cases of non-intentional distortion of the skulls of adult females, arising from their practice of carrying heavy burdens suspended by bands resting across the head—causing a permanent depression, often quite marked. Dr. Maclay's testimony seems to prove conclusively that the human skull may be greatly altered in shape by artificial means.

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Our Story.

KITH AND KIN.

(Continued.)

Then, after dinner, he sat at the open window of the parlor for an hour or two smoking, and making believe to read a county newspaper, with which Mrs. Aveson had supplied him; but it was as if a spell drew him out of doors, and he again set out for what he intended to be a short walk, but on what developed into a long, aimless ramble over hill and dale; he got by mistake on to the road which leads to the great waterfall at Hardraw Scar, which was thundering in indiscribable splendor, hurling itself over the rocky ledge into its deep and dark and fearful basin below. Then he climbed a long road, over some great hills; discovered some vast and awful-looking "pots," crevasses of limestone, sinking for unknown depths into the ground—fearsome places indeed, bearing the unromantic title of "Butter-tubs;" and a little farther on, found himself just beneath bleak Shunuer Fell, gazing down into dark Swaledale, and in full view of such a "tumultuous waste of huge hill-tops" as he had never seen before. Then he thought it was time to return, and retraced his steps downward, and by the light of the moon homeward.

He crossed the farmyard and went into the garden, under the old archway, and then, just as he was about to enter, he heard a voice singing, and was arrested. The window of the large room on the right was open, and a glow of firelight warmed the background. From it came the sound of a piano being played, and of a woman's voice accompanying it. Aglionby trod softly up to the window and looked in. The fire burnt merrily. Judith Conisbrough sat at the piano, with her back to him, softly playing; her voice had ceased, and presently the music ceased also. Then she began again, and sang in a contralto voice, sweet, natural, and strong, if uncultivated, a song which Aglionby was surprised to hear. He would not have expected her to sing foreign songs—if this could be foreign. He folded his arms upon the window-ledge and gazed in and listened, and the music, after all the other strange and dreamful incidents of that day, sank into his inmost soul.

"Over de stillen Straten,
Geit klar de Glockenslag.
God' Nacht! Din Hart will slapen;
Un' Morgen is ook een Dag.

Din Kind liggt in de Wegen,
Un' ik bin ook bi' Di';
Din Sorgen un' Din Leven
Sind allens um uns bi'.

Noch eenmal lat us spraken;
Goden Abend, gode Nacht!
De Maand schient up de Daken!
Uns Herrgot halt de Wacht."*

Aglionby was not a sentimental man, but he was a man intensely sensitive to simple pathos of any kind. None could jeer more cruelly at every pretense of feeling, but none had a keener appreciation of the real thing when it came in his way. And this little German dialect song is brimming over in every line with 'the truest pathos. Sung in these surroundings by Judith Conisbrough's rich and pathetic voice, her own sadness heavy upon her and in her heart, it was simply perfect, and Bernard knew it. Like a flash of lightning, while the tears rushed to his eyes at this song, he remembered last Sunday evening, and Miss Vane warbling of how they had "sat *by* the river, *you* and *I*,' and he shuddered.

There was a long pause, as she laid her hands on her lap—a long pause and a deep sigh. Then she slowly rose. Aglionby's impulse was to steal away unobserved, even as he had stolen there, but he feared to lose sight of her; he longed to speak to her, to have her speak to him; to tell her, if she would listen to him, something of the pure delight he had this day experienced. So he said, still leaning into the room:

"May I thank you, Miss Conisbrough?"

He saw that she started, though scarcely perceptibly; then she closed the piano and turned toward him.

"Have you been listening to my singing? I hope it did not annoy you. It was for mamma. It soothes her."

"*Annoy* me!" he echoed in a tone of deep mortification. "You must take me for a barbarian. It did even more than you intended. It soothed me. Perhaps you grudge me that?"

"Oh, no!" said Judith calmly. "I am glad if it gave you any pleasure."

She stood not far from the window, but did not approach it. Inside, the firelight glowed, and threw out the lines of her noble figure and shabby dress, and flickered upon her calm, sad, yet beautiful face.

"Are you going up-stairs just because I have appeared upon the scene?" he asked, with a slight vibration in his voice. "You have ignored me all day, now you are about to fly my presence. You certainly snub me sufficiently, Miss Conisbrough."

Judith at last came nearer to the window, and held out her hand, which he took with a feeling of gratitude.

"I think you are very ready to invent motives for other people's conduct," she said, "and those motives most extraordinary ones. I was not even thinking of going upstairs. I was going into the other room to have my supper, at Mrs. Aveson's orders."

"Were you?" exclaimed he, with animation. "Then, if you will allow me, I will come and have mine at the same time, for I feel very hungry."

"As you like," replied Judith, and if there was no great cordiality in her tone, equally there was no displeasure—she spoke neutrally.

Bernard hastened to the front door, and met her crossing the passage.

"I think we had better fasten it," he remarked. "It is growing dark."

"We have no thieves in these parts," said Judith, a little sarcastically.

"But there is the cold," he replied, with a townsman's horror of open doors after dusk, and he shut it, and followed her into the houseplace where this evening the supper-table was laid.

Judith walked to the fireplace, and stood with her hand resting against the mantlepiece. She looked pale and tired.

"Have you been out to-day?" he asked.

"No. I have been with mamma. She was nervous and afraid to be left."

"I have been out of doors almost the whole day," he said.

"Have you? Exploring, I suppose?"

"Yes, I have been exploring. It is a beautiful place, to me especially, who have been all my life cooped up in streets and warehouses. I daresay you can scarcely believe it, but I have hardly seen any country. My mother was always too poor to take me away—allow me!"

Judith looked up quickly, as he uttered these words, and placed a chair for her at the table. She laid her hand on the chair-back, as she said:

"But you had friends who were wealthy, had you not—other relations?"

"My grandfather, Mr. Aglionby, was my only rich relation."

"But your mother—Mrs. Ralph Aglionby—had rich relations, I think."

"If she had, I never heard of them. Indeed, I know she had none. Her relations were very few, and such as they were, were all as poor as herself. Her sister, Mrs. Bryce, is the only one who is left. She is a good woman, but she is not rich—far from it."

"Then I was mistaken," said Judith, in so exceedingly quiet a tone, that he said abruptly, as he did most things:

"I really beg your pardon for boring you with such histories. Here is the supper. May I give you some of this cold beef?"

He helped her, and noticed again how pale her face was, how sad her expression. He poured her out some wine and insisted upon her drinking it. Every moment that he spent with her deepened the feeling with which she had from the first inspired him—one of admiration. In her presence he felt more genial, more human and hopeful. He scarce recognized himself.

As for Judith, the simple question she had put, respecting his rich relations, and the answer he had given her, had filled her mind with forebodings. A dim, dread suspicion was beginning to take shape and form in her brain, to grow into something more than a suspicion. As yet, though it was there, she dreaded to admit it, even to herself. She had a high courage, but not high enough yet to give definite shape to that which she knew, and which oppressed and tormented her. She must never speak of it. If she could prove herself to be wrong, what terrible repentance and humiliation she would have to go through; if right—but no! It could not be that she would be right.

At the present moment, she strove to put down these feelings, and exert herself to be at least civil to this young man who had so strangely stepped into her life, whom she had already begun to study with interest, and who, if her yet unformulated suspicions should prove to be true, was one whom she could never know on terms of cordiality or friendship, even though all he said and did went to prove that he was no bragging heir, no odious hectorer over that which had suddenly become his.

"Were you at church this morning?" she asked.

"I?" He looked up quickly. "No. Ought I to have been?"

"I really don't know. Perhaps you are not a churchman?"

"I am not. And I suppose that almost every one here is"

"Yes; I think that all the gentry go to church, and most of the working people too."

"Miserable black sheep that I am! I realize from your simple question that I ought to have presented myself in the deepest mourning——"

"Mr. Aglionby," she interrupted, almost hastily, pardon me, but you speak of your grandfather as if you felt some kind of contempt for him."

"Not contempt, but I should lie most horribly if I pretended to admire, or even to respect him. I do consider that he showed himself hard and pitiless in his deeds toward me during his lifetime, and that finally he behaved toward Mrs. Conisbrough with a cruelty that was malignant. And I can't respect a man who behaves so."

"But it was not so," said Judith, pushing her plate away from her, clasping her hands on the edge of the table, and looking intently at him.

"Not so?" He paused in the act of raising his glass to his lips, and looked at her intently in his turn, in some surprise. "I don't understand you."

"I cannot explain. It sounds odd to you no doubt. But I have reason to think that when you accuse my grand-uncle of vindictiveness and injustice, and then of malignant cruelty, you are wrong—you are, indeed. He was passionate. He did all kinds of things on impulse, and if he believed himself wronged, he grew wild under the wrong, and then he could do things that were harsh, and even brutal. But he was not one of those who cherish a grudge. He was generous. His anger was short-lived——"

"My dear Miss Conisbrough," said Bernard, with his most chilling smile upon his lips, his coldest gleam in his eyes, "it is most delightful to find what generosity of mind *you* are possessed of—and also, what simplicity. But don't you think you appeal more to my credulity than to my commonsense, when you affirm what you do—and expect me to believe it? Have I not the experience of my whole lifetime—have I not my poor mother's ruined life and premature death from grief and anxiety to judge from? And did I not only yesterday hear the will read, which brought on your mother's illness?"

He tried not to speak mockingly, but the conviction of Judith's intense simplicity was too strong for him. The mockery sounded in his voice, and gleamed in his eyes.

"If I were in my usual crabbed temper" he added more genially, "I should say that you were quixotic and foolish."

"No, I am neither generous, quixotic, nor foolish. I told you I could not explain. All I can say is, that when I hear you speak in that half-sneering, half-angry tone of him, I feel, I cannot tell you what I feel."

(To be Continued.)

* "Clear sounds adown the silent street
The bell that tells the hours,
Good-night! Thy very heart sleep deep!
To-morrow is also ours.

Thy child within its cradle sleeps,
And I am by thy side.
Thy life—its cares, and hopes, and loves
Around the all abide.

Again the words of peace we'll speak,
'Good-even, love, good-night.'
Each quiet roof the moonbeams streak,
Our Lord God holds the watch."

C. G.

MAJOR

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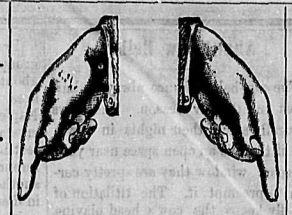

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Blacksmiths, 2nd class	2 50	"
Blacksmith Helpers	1 50 to 2 00	"
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A. ONDERDONK,
GENERAL MANAGER.

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jny14tc Chilliwhack.

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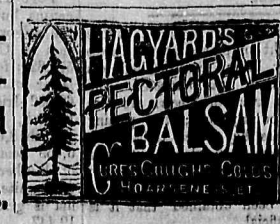
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Business heretofore carried on under the name of R. W. Deane & Co. on Columbia Street, New Westminster, will from this date be carried on under the name of TRAPP BROS., they having purchased the above-named Business, assuming all liabilities and collecting all accounts due the late firm.

TRAPP BROS.

ALL ACCOUNTS due the late firm of R. W. Deane & Co. must be paid to the undersigned within thirty days from the date of this notice.

TRAPP BROS.
March 22, 1882. mh25



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