

THE DAILY EXCHANGE is published every morning (Sundays excepted) at No. 117 Broadway, New York...

BALTIMORE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1858.

Encouraged by the success which has attended their Daily issue, the Proprietors of the Exchange are now publishing a Tri-weekly or Country edition.

Our neighbor of the American, no doubt by way of showing that it is not one of those "public libelers" who "confine their independence to exposing the errors of conduct of their political opponents..."

With what the American is pleased to say of our existing Constitution, in the point of view referred to, we have certainly no ground of quarrel—having ourselves, said the same thing, over and over, before our neighbor awoke to the consciousness that the duties of journalism involved anything but receiving pay.

So much for the evils denominated. As to their origin, our contemporary and ourselves do not so exactly agree. We are quite willing to admit that the share of the Democratic party in the concoction of the present Constitution was large and culpable enough to be a sin not easily atoned for.

There have been planted within the city limits this present season, 550,000 grape cuttings, and about 600,000 within the county outside of the city, making a total of about one million and a half.

Mr. Fortuyn gives a list of the names of a Chinese garden in a recent letter, from which we make the following extracts: "The first and best specimen of southern Chinese things, all well known in England—such, for example, as yucca, echinops, olea fraxinea, and others."

We think our neighbor, therefore, for thus illustrating the results of its own political morality—the fruits of its preaching and its practice. We think it for so palpably demonstrating, against its will, a truth we would fain see the community to feel and act on—that office connected with the administration and execution of the laws, are not to be trusted to the place-hunting rowdies and demagogues of the primary meetings and the pot-house, or to the non-responsible men who represent them in the partisan conventions.

The doubts we ventured to express with respect to the extraordinary richness and extent of the Frazer river gold field, have been confirmed; while the difficulties which it was apprehended that the miners would have to encounter in penetrating so wild, and rugged, and inhospitable a region, have been fully realized by the thousands of adventures who have been flocking to the banks of the turbulent river, waiting for their works to subside sufficiently to admit of their venturing to the bars. The belief is very general that the precious metal will be found upon the bars in considerable abundance; but the numerous "prospecting" parties, who have explored, as far as it was possible to do so, the adjacent country, report that there are no dry diggings to be found that are worth working. Mining operations will, therefore, be restricted to the bed of Frazer river and its tributaries. Thus far, the Indians have proved to be actively hostile to the encampments, stealing whatever they can lay their hands upon, and occasionally show themselves insolent and menacing; but, as yet, there has been less blood shed, considering the antagonistic

position occupied by the two races, than even the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company dared to hope. Assuming that the Frazer river gold field is limited in extent, and that mining operations can only be carried on during a few months in the year, it is scarcely probable, after all, that the Colony of New California will offer sufficient attraction to permanent settlers to seriously affect the growth and prosperity of California, or of the United States.

The Victoria and Whistman, one or two of the most favorable points on Puget Sound, will become eventually cities of some note and consequence, we think is quite likely; but even in that case a large proportion of the supplies required by the settlers will, for a number of years yet to come, be drawn from San Francisco, and will thus compensate for the temporary loss sustained by the recent abandonment of the poorer California placers.

The organization of the Colony of New California, in connection with the discussions which extend from the Great Lakes to the foot of the Rocky Mountains; and that there is a remarkable depression in the mountain chain, through which a canal could be cut that would unite the head waters of the Saskatchewan river with those of the Columbia. If this statement should be verified by subsequent surveys, and if the practicability of constructing such a canal at a reasonable expense were once established beyond controversy, even as a summer route—for the North-Western rivers are ice-bound from seven months in the year—the fact of intercommunication between the waters of the two vast basins would be productive of vastly beneficial results, not merely to the colony of New California, but, in a far greater degree, to our own territories of Minnesota and Oregon.

It must be confessed, however, that all that has been said upon this subject, both in the British Parliament and elsewhere, is merely speculative. The region through which these rivers flow is almost a terra incognita. According to some accounts, it is a sort of Northern paradise, possessing a mild and salubrious climate, and a fertile soil. According to other accounts, the winters are rigorous in the extreme, and the land, for the most part, barren, rugged, and uninhabitable. We do not profess to be able to reconcile these contradictions, nor are we perfectly satisfied, notwithstanding the confident assertions that were made in the British House of Commons, that the North-Western system of rivers is by any means so complete in all its connections as the speakers had led to believe.

However, this may be, it is quite certain that the whole value of the project, and the future destiny of the colony of New California, principally depend upon the nature of the climate, and the character of the soil. If both of these are in favor of purposes of settlement, the gold fields will offer inducements to the adventurers to remain in so inhospitable a country beyond a limited period. Already the excitement appears to be dying out, and from the Pacific States the immigration to Puget Sound has received a serious check. The merchants, and property holders of California, are rapidly recovering from the panic into which they were temporarily thrown, and although no accurate total of the amount of the mines worked in the Western territory can be made until the waters subside, and the deposits on the bars are reached, the intelligence, derived from various sources, renders it very doubtful whether any of those who have staked out their claims on the banks of the river, will be adequately compensated for the dangers they have braved, the sufferings they have undergone, and the perils to which they are still exposed.

The duties and responsibilities of the press, have lately been made the subject of several disquisitions, whose conclusions would, according to our judgment, if generally adopted and practically enforced, forever destroy the influence and usefulness of a high and honorable calling. If the functions of the press are to be circumscribed within the narrow limits proposed, it may continue to exist and need encouragement as an "advertising medium" or chronicler of dry details of local and foreign news; but its loftier claims to support and sympathy are gone forever. If it is only to record an outrage, committed in defiance of law, and without motive, as a simple fact, and spare the feelings of the perpetrator by abstaining from all comment—if it is to publish a grievous wrong, whose burthen the mass of the citizens must bear, and to refrain from mentioning the doer—if it is to record the rise and progress of a popular frenzy and take no note of the victims lured and bleeding in its path—what avail is such a press as a public monitor or teacher? It is true that with the opinions of private men it has no concern, but the instant they thrust themselves into official station, or cross the bounds within which society, for its own safety, contemplates to dwell, then do they relinquish by their voluntary act, the sanctuary upon whose repose and privacy their neighbors could not rightly break. He who accepts office, must abide the consequences of his acts, and must submit to be judged by a free and outspoken public opinion. The insolent braggart, who talks abroad, and whose hand is against every man, ought not to find immunity from punishment in the silence of the press, or in the community. Nay, even the journalist himself, who arrogates his faculties to unworthy purposes, or shrinks from the performance of his duty, by palliating falsehood or pandering to error, justly merits the indignation and censure of all honorable and high-minded men. We recognize and regret the abuses which the "liberty of the press" has originated and shielded. We have seen the slanderer that until then was secret, wafted into circulation through its pages, and subsequently find its columns filled with the most atrocious and unprovoked calumnies. We have explored these things, not less for the sake of Right and Justice, than because of the stigma they have cast upon an enlightened, and what ought to be, a noble profession. Notwithstanding this, we do insist that the actions of public men are the property of the people, on whom they inflict injury, or reflect disgrace. We hold that the characters of those who trespass daily on the well defined rights of other men, and who take notice of them without remorse, and what society holds sacred, have little claim to be a safe and sure defence beneath the shelter of a plea such as their apologists have put forth. Why should the press bow down in mid subservience? Has Society no vital interests to be maintained, or are its claims but subordinate to those of the individuals who defy its laws? We do indeed dwell under a despotism more or less decided than that of an absolute monarchy if we may only utter vague, though moral precepts, and if we are not allowed to speak in our own name, or to hold our consciences in our hands as irresponsible as the deities we call upon, if we may not condemn them when they deserve it. The governed have but slight protection even here if the voices of honest men are to be stifled by the violence of the criminal.—Shall our brethren in other lands make manly protest against the tyranny of a King, and shall we have no appeal from the excesses of a Mob?

Mr. Doolittle, of Chicago, who hired two men to dig a well for him, and who was not satisfied with the work, had sent the boy home to wash his face, for he had sent \$500 and sent to the City Prison for six months, for the same reason. The boy had been sent to the City Prison for six months, for the same reason.

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