Daily Alta California

FREDK MacCRELLISH & CO.

DAILY ALTA CALIFORNIA.....is published EVERY MORNING and delivered to subscribers in the city at Fifty Cents per week, payable to the Carriers; single copies, Ten Cents. Mail Subscribers, Eighteen Dollars per annum, in advance; for six months, Nine Dollars; three months, Five Dollars.

EVENING ALTA CALIFORNIA.....is published EVERY EVENING (Sundays excepted), for circulation in the Interior, and contains the latest news up to the hour of going to press.

WEEKLY ALTA CALIFORNIA.....is published on THURSDAY MORNING, and furnished by mail to subscribers at Five Dollars per annum, in advance; also, mailed to the address of persons in any part of the world. For six months, Three Dollars; single copies, Twelve and a half Cents.

STEAMER ALTA CALIFORNIA.....is published on the departure of every Mail Steamer, prepared expressly for circulation in the Atlantic States and Europe. Price, Five Dollars yearly; six months, Three Dollars; single copies, Twenty-five Cents.

PUBLICATION OFFICE,
29 California street.....Alta California Building.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

ONE SQUARE.	First Page.	Second Page.	Third Page.	Fourth Page.
One Time	$1 50	$1 00	$1 00	$1 00
One Week	4 00	3 50	3 00	3 00
Two Weeks	6 00	5 00	4 50	4 50
One Month	10 00	8 00	6 00	6 00

Twenty-six insertions constitute a month.
Advertisements continued new every day, $1 00 per square, each insertion.

Mr. John J. Murphy, No. 42 John street, is the only authorized agent to receive advertisements or subscriptions for the ALTA CALIFORNIA in New York.

SAN FRANCISCO, TUESDAY, NOV. 19.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The Proposed Public Park—It Adjoins the Masonic and Calvary Cemeteries, and Extends to the Pacific Ocean; thence, Southerly and Eastwardly, Including the Hills, Etc., Back of the Mission, and Contains 1,590 Acres.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment last evening. Mayor in the Chair. Present, a full Board.

PETITIONS.

The following were appropriately referred:

Of B. Simon, for payment for services at recent election; of Corwin & Backus to erect a bulletin board on Montgomery street; to order sidewalks on Sutter street, between Larkin street and Van Ness avenue; of property owners to build a sidewalk in Block No. 60, on Bush and Battery streets, three feet above Market in lieu allowed; of C. B. Williams, to withdraw bid for building sewer in Perry street; also, various petitions for grants of outside lands were duly referred to the Outside Land Committee.

PROTESTS.

Of property owners on Bartol street, against the building of a brick sewer on that street; against sewer in Jones street, between Post and Geary; of property holders for laying down wall track for grading purposes through Seventh street; against regrading Leavenworth street, between Clay and Sacramento; against a redwood sewer in Minna street, between Seventh and Eighth; against grading Ellis street, between Gough and Franklin; against granting to John Apel permission to use a portion of sidewalk on which to build a stairway.

WIDENING OF KEARNY STREET.

The following was adopted at the special meeting of the Board, held on Thursday evening last:

Resolved, That the Tax Collector be and hereby is authorized and requested to receive payments of assessments upon the matter of widening Kearny street, Third street, and to remit the additional five per cent. to such as may prefer to pay before of sale of property on account of such assessments.

AFTER THE SPOILS.

John S. Smith petitioned the Board to be appointed Deputy License Collector, vice Kerrison, whom he understands is *to be* removed.

PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK.

Mr. Stanyan, from the Committee on Outside Lands, submitted a diagram of grounds, which, by a majority of the Committee as suitable for a Public Park. He favored the adoption of a resolution reserving such grounds for the public purposes of a Park.

Mr. McCoppin said that the report did not represent fully the views of any member of the Committee. New York has a Park of only 1,000 acres, whereas San Francisco should have a reservation for the purposes of a Park of 1,600 acres. In his opinion the tract consisting of 1,100 acres would be useless. This would comprise nearly one-half of the outside lands. The city, in reality, has the right absolutely to reserve these lands for a public Park.

Mr. Ashbury expressed similar views. He said these reserved lands were amongst the very choicest of those outside lands. They were worth $200 per acre, and he did not believe the public were prepared for lands at $300,000 per acre.

The following is the order reserving certain lands for a public Park:

Section 1. The lands hereinafter described are set apart for public use as a public Park, said reservations being subject to the provisions of Order No. 755, and subject to the right of the Board to lay out and use such portions thereof for streets as may be deemed necessary for that purpose:

TRACT 1—On the northerly line of Fulton street 603 feet 6 inches westerly of the westerly line of Devisadero street; thence N. 9° 15′ W. 56 feet 9 inches; thence S. 89° 45′ W. 3,686 feet 9 inches; thence N. 82° 30′ W. 144 feet, more or less, to a point on easterly line of First avenue, which would be intersected by the production of the northerly line of C street, continued easterly; thence S. 86° 45′ W. 1,590 feet, more or less, to the line of high water mark of the Pacific Ocean; thence S. 9° 50′ E. 3,460 feet, more or less, to the southerly line of H street, continued westerly; thence N. 89° 45′ E. 16,220 feet; thence N. 85° 30′ E. 1,320 feet to station 10, 75 40′ southerly of the centre line of Halight street and 4,000 feet westerly of the centre line of Devisadero street; thence 89° 15′ E. 13 feet 7½ inches to a point 2,500 feet westerly of the centre line of Devisadero street, 1,556 feet southerly of the southern line of Haight street; thence to the southerly line of Haight street; thence to the north line of Fulton street, the place of beginning.

TRACT 2—Beginning at a point bearing from the northwesterly corner of Hyde and Deviseadero streets, distant 2,339 feet 9 inches; thence N. 9° 15′ 1,306 feet 3 inches to Point Lobos road; thence S. 89° 45′ W. 1,950 feet 3 inches; thence S. 9° 15′ E. 1,431 feet 3 inches; thence 89° 45′ E. 1,959 feet 3 inches; thence N. 9° 15′ W. 125 feet to the place of beginning containing 64 38-100 acres.

Total quantity in the two tracts, 1,590 77-100 acres.

In brief, the boundaries are as follows: Commencing at a point at the intersection of Fulton street with an extension of the line of Calvary Cemetery; thence running westerly along the south line of the Masonic Cemetery to First avenue; thence westerly to the Pacific Ocean; thence south five blocks; thence east parallel with the north line to First avenue; thence southerly on the hill in the high hills in the rear of the Orphan Asylum; thence northerly to the place of beginning.

Mr. McCoppin favored the amendment striking out the words, "said reservations being subject to the provisions of Order 755." He did not believe the people could stand the restrictions therein expressed.

A motion of Mr. McCoppin, to reconsider the motion by which the Board ordered the resolution to print, prevailed; ayes, 7; noes, 5. His motion to amend by striking out the words above quoted Pending its passage to print, Mr. McCoppin stated that he should, before its final adoption, offer sundry amendments to the Order.

The passage to print was carried as follows:

AYES—Phelps, Ashbury, Torrey, Tittel, Shrader, McCoppin, Clayton—7.

NOES—Daley, Clement, Flanagan, Reynolds, Stanyan—5.

RESOLUTIONS.

Granting permission to Thos. Byrne to erect a woodshed on Sherwood place. Passed to print.

For sewer pipes on Connecticut, from Davis to East. Adopted. Also, on Welch, Clinton and Gilbert streets. Also, for water mains on Zoe street. Adopted.

That the Auditor issue a license to J. J. Cann to keep an intelligence office. Adopted.

That the Clerk advertise for proposals for burying the indigent dead. Adopted.

That gas lamps be erected on Broadway, from Larkin to Leavenworth street; also, on Hyde street, between Union and Pacific. Adopted.

Granting permission to John Abel to use nine inches of the sidewalk on Geary street for a stairway, and for construction of a bay window. Laid over.

Order declaring Nevada street an open public street. Laid over.

Granting to Shaeffer & Co. permission to erect a bulletin board in front of their premises. Adopted.

Granting permission to Heald & Co. to erect a flight of stairs at the corner of Mission and Beale streets. Passed.

Granting to DeYoung & Co. permission to erect a bulletin board in front of their premises. Adopted.

Declaring Capp and Shotwell streets open public streets. Passed to print.

Order awarding certain land grants to John Johnston *et als*. Adopted.

YERBA BUENA CEMETERY DEAD.

A petition was presented from numerous citizens praying the removal of the dead interred in Yerba Buena Cemetery.

NOTE.—It is understood that the remains of persons buried in these grounds are not to be removed until the city shall have selected a site for a public Cemetery.—REF.

RESOLUTIONS ORDERING STREET WORK.

The Board resolved to order the following street work: That the intersection of Market and Sixth Turk streets be paved; that the crossing of Sutter and Leavenworth streets be paved; that the line of Jones street be paved as required, that the crosswalks thereon be relaid, that new crosswalks be laid where necessary; that the crossings of Powerta, curbs and sidewalks be constructed at the angular corners; that Jones street, from Geary to O'Farrell, be graded, and sidewalks constructed where necessary; that the crossing of Jones and Ellis streets be planked; that Moss street, from Howard to Folsom, be replanked, that the walks be constructed where not already constructed, and reconstructed where necessary; that Market street, from Sixth to Seventh, be paved and curbed, and sidewalks reconstructed where necessary; that sidewalks be constructed on Sutter street, from Larkin street to Van Ness avenue, where not already constructed and reconstructed where necessary; that a main sewer be constructed in Adelaide place, for 137½ feet westerly from Taylor street, and connected with the sewer in Taylor street; that Adelaide place, for 137½ feet westerly from Taylor street, be planked, that sidewalks be constructed where not already constructed, and reconstructed where necessary; that cesspools, culverts, curbs and sidewalks be constructed at the northeasterly and southwesterly angular corners of the crossing of Commercial and Sansome streets.

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION.

The Board declared their intention to pave California street, from Montgomery to Kearny, where not already paved, and repaired where necessary, and curbed where not already curbed; that sidewalks be reconstructed where necessary; that Mission street be sidewalked from Fifteenth to Sixteenth, where necessary; that Austin street, from Gough to Octavia, be graded; that Shotwell street, from Nineteenth to Twentieth, be graded, macadamized and curbed; that Seventh street, from Howard to Market, be graded; that the crossing of Twenty and Tenth streets be graded, macadamized and angular corners curbed with redwood curbs; that sidewalks be built and reconstructed on Broadway, from Larkin to Polk streets, where necessary.

STREETS, WHARVES, GRADES AND SQUARES.

The Committee report in favor of sewering Dora street, and of grading Shotwell street, between Nineteenth and Twentieth; and in favor of protests against grading Vallejo street, between Montgomery and Sansome; also, adversely to protest against grading Buchanan street, between Bush and California; against protest for paving Sutter street, between Jones and Leavenworth; and adversely to protest against sidewalking Larkin street, between Vallejo and Broadway; and adversely to protest against paving Market street, between Sixth and Seventh.

EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS.

Extension of time was granted to property-holders on contract to grade Green street, from Mason to Taylor; also, to F. Lounds to sewer Battery street, from Green to Union; also, to P. Moates to macadamize Howard street, from Eleventh to Twelfth; also, to Wm. O'Shea & Co. to plank Turk street, from Jones to Leavenworth; also, to D. C. McGlynn on planking the crossing of Sansome and Harrison streets.

HOW THE CASH GOES.

Bills and accounts to the amount of $8,336 were ordered paid, the following being the chief items: Repairing roads in Second Road District, $270 50; repairs to Fire Department apparatus for the last quarter, $1,245 20; assessment for grading Gough street, between Taylor and Market, $1,000; for County Hospital supplies, $457 92; whiskey for Hospital, $180; repairs to fire alarm telegraph, $748 45; printing and advertising (October, $1,071 60); Agency Mission Woollen Mills for blankets for Almshouse, $769; Goodwin & Co., bedsteads and chairs for do., $690.

APPEAL CASES.

A. Himmelman appealed from assessment for macadamizing Post street, from Stockton to Powerlero. Assessment set aside and new assessment ordered.

Appeal of W. H. Culver from assessment of cost of constructing sidewalk at the corner of John and Mason streets. Appeal dismissed.

Appeal of W. H. Sharp et als. from assessment for the cost of planking Post street, between Mason and Taylor.

After an hour had been consumed in examination of witnesses and discussion between counsel this appeal case was laid over for one week, to allow the Street Committee to inspect the work.

At twenty minutes to eleven o'clock the Board adjourned.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

Yerba Buena Square Wanted by the Academy—Characteristics of the Mineralogy of the Coast—Altitude of Death Valley—Varieties of Fir Trees.

The California Academy of Natural Sciences met last evening. Dr. A. B. Stout, on behalf of a Committee appointed to consider the possibility of getting ground and a building for the Academy, made a report, recommending that the Society petition the Legislature for a grant of Yerba Buena Square, formerly Yerba Buena Cemetery. This square contains sixteen acres. The report contained a petition to the Legislature praying for the grant, and proposing to convert the ground into a botanical garden, with a building in which the geological, paleontological, botanical, and zoological collections of the Academy and of the State Geological survey, could be preserved.

Dr. Cooper suggested that it might be well to consider how to get money to erect a building, and also to consult with the Supervisors and get their coöperation, before finally deciding to send the petition. The matter was referred back to the Committee.

Prof. Whitney read a paper on the distribution of the chemical elements in California. Of the 61 elements, only 35 have been found here. Fluorine, bismuth, tungsten, iodine, bromine, zirconium, cadmium and palladium are among them. Fluorine, bismuth and tungsten are found in Nevada. The following general characteristics mark the Pacific Slope from Chile to British Columbia:

1. The paucity of species, considering the extent of this region, as compared with other parts of the world, and especially with other mineral regions.
2. The remarkable absence of most of the prominent silicates, and especially of the zeolites.
3. The absence of a large number of the elementary substances, and the paucity of several others of very common occurrence in other mineral regions.
4. The very wide-spread and abundant occurrence of the precious metals—gold and silver, and the not uncommon occurrence of platina.
5. The great abundance of ores of copper, and the comparative absence of zinc and lead.
6. The similarity in the mineralized condition of the silver—sulphur, antimony and chlorine being the principal mineralizer of this metal, while in Chile the rarer combination with chloride, iodine and selinium occur, the latter being as yet unknown north of Mexico.
7. The absence or paucity, as veinstone or gangue, of one of the most prominent minerals occurring as such in the mineral region—namely fluorine—to which it may be added, that both calcite and barytes are extremely rare as veinstone in California, and to judge from all the Mexican and Chilian collections that I have seen, well crystalized specimens are very rare in those countries.
8. There is no elementary substance peculiar to the Pacific Coast, and but few mineral species.

The similarity of the Pacific slope of South to that of North America, in the distribution of minerals, is ascertained chiefly from papers published by Prof. Domeyko, of Chile.

Prof. Whitney remarked that some Nevada papers had lately published a statement that Death Valley, according to barometrical measures made by Mr. Gabb, is several thousand feet above the sea. Mr. Gabb, however, was misled in regard to the place; the valley which he visited is the upper part of the Amargosa River, in the State of Nevada, whereas the true Death Valley is the lower sink in California, 70 miles to the south, and 200 by the river from the other.

Prof. Whitney submitted a paper by Col. Williamson, on the altitude of the Valley, and according to his observations it is 173 feet below the sea level. He thinks there is a possibility of 75 feet of error, and that it cannot be less than 100 nor more than 250 feet below the sea. The paper was referred to the Publication Committee.

Mr. Bolander made some remarks upon the species of fir in California. There are four species, and four only, and these are marked, although many attempts have been made to convince people that there are more, the purpose being to get a market for seeds; the best species always being in demand, at good prices. The species called the *Picea mensiesa* by Murray, is really the *Picea amabilis*.

The Academy adjourned.

POLICE COURT.

Yesterday nineteen arrests for simple and compound offences, in addition to twenty-one for intoxication, comprised the police business since the Court adjourned on Saturday.

THE NEW CASES

Of the higher grade were all continued or transferred.

The most material fact transpiring in the Court was the examination of the case of that horse-stripper, Henry Osborn, who was convicted of stealing the saddle from a horse standing in front of the Merchants' Exchange. Ordered for sentence.

Hugh Rice was ordered to pay $5 for a light misdemeanor.

John Donnelly, Mike Breslan and Henry Osborn (hit him again) were severally declared guilty of gross misdemeanor; and for a medium degree of grand larceny, Ellen Quinlan and Mary Ann Brooks were ordered to pay $10 or appear for orders.

Wm. Ward, Jr., charged with uttering threats, and Bridget Gleason, John O'Brien and Henry Davis, accused of grand larceny, were remitted to Justice Barstow for trial.

The case of the St. Mary's boys, for an assault with a deadly weapon, on Charles Cunningham, was continued for one week.

The continued list was much reduced by discharge and conviction. C. Lovich and Levi Falkin abused each other by using improper language, and got even on each other by both being convicted before Mr. Barstow.

Henry and Mrs. Smith and Minna Ehrkay also complained of each other for using vulgar language, and for not doing each other's work.

Jane Malley and Kate Ryan did each a similar favor, which cost them $5 a piece.

A painful scandalous affair was had concerning the merits of a dispute between thirteen young and old women, who occupy rival houses of pleasure on Sacramento street. It appears to be the custom with certain young gentlemen, who use their privilege to the disadvantage of the unhappy creatures under consideration, to go to either house on a moonlight night and invite a young woman to a moonlight ride. If at night he will go to the opposite house and invite an inmate of that establishment. The result of such conduct is easily predicted. The following morning, when the demoselles appear at the door or window for airing, taunts and bickerings ensue. Mutual friends, who have nothing else to do, join in the incipient discord: the matron of each bagnio supports her own *filles de joie*, and the whole concludes with a general row. French, Dutch, English and Chilean witnesses testified yesterday, and testimony of the utterance of more obscene and vulgar language than it has not been our fortune to listen to. At 12 o'clock, to-day, the affair will be again taken up, unless by mutual consent the case against Miss Leniency has been proved of no account in silencing these utterers of obscene and vulgar language, and therefore it would not be amiss to adopt a more stringent mode in punishing infractions of the ordinance against this misdemeanor.

ASSAULTS.

Ah Chin, a vagrant, was sentenced to the County Jail for ninety days, and Jacob Fisher, who followed the same careless occupation, was committed for a similar term.

THE "GREAT REPUBLIC."

According to former sailing directions to the Chiloraio after her first trip, the Great Republic should have arrived here on the 14th of this month, providing the Captain had been directed in his departure and arrival, but as Allan McLane, Vice President of the Company, went out in her, there were no directions given, other than those he may dictate on the voyage. As Mr. McLane intended to make a business visit to Yokohama and Hongkong, it is natural to suppose he may have detained the Great Republic two or three days on the outward passage at Yokohama, and somewhat prolong the time of her departure from Hongkong, providing she went to the latter port. The Republic left here on the 3d of September, and if she made as good time as the Chiloraio, would have arrived at Yokohama on the 28th of September. We probably remained there until the 27th, and would have arrived at Hongkong on the 3d of October. According to calculation, she would leave Hongkong on the 12th of October, in order to remain two days at Yokohama and get here on the 14th of this month.

It is possible that the Republic did not go to Hongkong, as it was the intention of the Company to stop the steamers from this port at Yokohama, and forward the freight and passengers for Hongkong by the Company's steamer New York, and to change both by the steamer Costa Rica. If this latter was the arrangement, the Republic would wait a sufficient time at Yokohama to receive advices, as the Company would not be willing to have the steamers run in close proximity to each other. The Republic is a fine vessel, and if she had been ordered to Hongkong, she would be in ballast, and would make a good deal of time. We understand that the Republic is now loading for Hongkong, and will sail on the 20th of this month. We understand that the Republic is now loading for Hongkong, and will sail on the 20th of this month. We understand that the Republic is now loading for Hongkong, and will sail on the 20th of this month.

Reported Destruction of St. Domingo by an Earthquake.....The Hayiten Rebellion.....No Positive Intelligence of the Destruction of Tortola.....Reports Exaggerated.....Fire and Water Combine to Destroy

EUROPEAN NEWS.

France Makes a Virtue of Necessity.....Napoleon Does Not Object to German Consolidation.....The Banished American Missionaries Permitted to Return to Egypt.

Miscellaneous.

HALIFAX, November 18th.—The *Cuba* arrived and sailed for Boston to-day. Charles Dickens was a passenger.

BOSTON, November 18th.—The statue of Edward Everett was unveiled to-day. Gov. Andrew was to have delivered the oration, but his death induced the Committee to dispense with all public services.

PHILADELPHIA, November 18th.—There have been two heavy failures of dry goods commission houses. The liabilities of one were $80,000, and of the other $60,000. The assets are very small.

CHICAGO, November 18th.—The *Post's* special says a caucus of leading Democrats from all parts of the country was held at Washington on Sunday, to take into consideration the question as to who is the most available Presidential candidate. After discussing Pendleton, Seymour, Sherman and others, it was decided necessary of uniting on a military man, and the choice finally fell on General Steedman. The statement was made to the effect that Grant had been sounded, and that he wouldn't accept the Democratic nomination under any circumstances.

AMUSEMENTS, ETC.

MAGUIRE'S OPERA HOUSE—The benefit to Miss Helen Tracy, last night, was a very encouraging compliment—the house being filled in every part. The performance seemed unnecessarily long, but it was arranged for the convenience of Mr. Edwards, who volunteered as Iago, but had first to play a character in the comedy at the Metropolitan, consequently a force was given before the tragedy. "Othello" was superbly cast, and was well played—the fair beneficiary surprising even her friends by the power she exhibited; as the Desdemona, she was perfect, and looked very good. Mr. McCullough, as Othello, plays some passages better than any living tragedian, but also shows some faults not noticeable in any other of his Shakespearian efforts; these, however, are confined to the first scene of the third act, and in the very same scene he excels all competitors in the reading of the soliloquy. "I do not think that Othello ever intended to murder Desdemona," said a gentleman, the other morning. Mr. Edwards appeared for the first time as Iago, and showed that he thoroughly understands the character makes Iago a little too frank; in working up the Moor to his great jealousy, it would seem to more advantage if more stress on the motive Iago against Cassio; but it was an intellectual conception, and that excuses any fault of rendition. Mr. Sinclair, as Cassio, gave us one of his Beatty as Brabantio; Mr. Jackson's praise must be awarded for his character in the first act, which he can command with him any. Mrs. Stewart finds scope for her power in the last scene as Emilia, and her heavy approach to the bed, where Iago has played alone, with such a cast, it would have created a sensation, but the lateness of the hour made the audience weary of the play, and it was dismissed.

To-night, by request, "Richelieu" will be repeated, with Mr. McCullough as the Cardinal (one of his greatest characters), and Miss Helen Tracy as Julie de Mortimar; by the withdrawal of Mr. Edwards the part of Adrien de Mauprat falls to Mr. Sinclair; the other characters remain the same as before.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.—The benefit to Mr. F. Howson was not such a testimonial as he deserved for his unwearying efforts for several months as Manager of the theatre. The plays—"The Dove" and "Fra Diavolo"—passed off satisfactorily, and thus closed the career of the Howson management. Until Saturday night the house will be closed, when, enter Messrs. Edwards, Vinson and Dates as a new partnership, and with a newly painted house, a new star, and a new play—"Under the Gaslight," by Augustin Daly, the author who has been all the rage with the Dramatic Critics for the last two years. Mr. Charles Wheatleigh brought out the play, and he will be the first star engaged by the new management. Other novelties will follow in rapid succession, and other stars, as we are informed; but it is considered that in the possession of the talented Mr. Wheatleigh will last for a considerable time.

MRS. JUDAH'S BENEFIT.—To-morrow night Mrs. Judah takes her benefit, and the offers of volunteers are still pouring in; in such high estimation is this lady held by the profession that they ask as a favor to be allowed to play, to show their sympathy—connected with rival theatres is suffered to interfere with the kind feeling to Mrs. Judah, who is a counsellor to most of them, whether attached to the company in which she plays or to some other establishment. The cast in "The Love Chase" embraces the names of two of the managers of the Metropolitan (Edwards and Vinson) and the wife of the third (Mrs. F. M. Bates) also volunteers, and is assigned the part of Miss Prudence, a very lively character. The cast stands: Widow Green, Mrs. Judah; Constance, Mrs. Jackson; Lydia, Mrs. F. M. Bates; Hawtrey, Mr. John McCullough; Spinks, Waller, Mr. Henry Edwards; Sir William Pondlove, Mr. J. H. Vinson. Such a comedy, with such a cast, should alone attract a large audience, without considering the popularity of the beneficiary, but in addition, the favorite Irish comedian, Mr. Dan Bryant, will give his great specialty, "Handy Andy."

TEMPLE OF MUSIC.—Patrons of Leslie, Raynor & Smith are anxiously looking for the new illusion, "The Ghost," but in the meantime they are enjoying the songs, sentiments, and jimmy acts that form the staple attraction.

COURSING MATCH.—The excursion boat for the Coursing Matches, at Suisun, will leave at ten o'clock this morning; the coursing commences to-morrow.

CONCERT AT PLATT'S HALL.—The complimentary concert to Miss H. Dingson, comes off Platt's Hall to-morrow night.

PROMENADE CONCERT.—The Promenade Concert by Willis' Band will come off at Platt's Hall on Thursday night, without regard to weather.

NEREUS BOAT CLUB SOCIALS.—The Nereus Boat Club will give a series of five socials at Union Hall this winter, commencing on Friday evening, 22d, and every two weeks thereafter.

ACQUISITION OF ALASKA.

[FROM THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE ALTA.]

THE FORMAL TRANSFER OF RUSSIAN AMERICA TO THE UNITED STATES.

Description of the Gulf of Georgia and Fort Rupert—Queen Charlotte's Island—Glimpse of the Promised Land from Sitka Sound—Sitka, or "New Archangel," and the Vessels in Port—Its Population and General Characteristics—Religious Services in the Greek Church.

[NUMBER ONE.]

SITKA HARBOR, October 17th, 1867.

EDITORS ALTA: Leaving Nanaimo on the morning of Saturday, October 5th, we took a northwest course up the main body of the Gulf of Georgia. Islands grow numerous, and each side had its frequent stretch of water reaching inland. Sometimes the channel ran only a mile or two wide. Sometimes the limit, but oftener it was a strait opening into a land-locked bay, of whose waters we caught only a partial glimpse. The Gulf itself soon began to divide into channels, and by noon we were travelling a narrow passage, at some points not over five hundred yards wide. The current was rapid against us—at times five knots per hour. The clouds which had covered the mountains cleared up, and during the afternoon we had a view of the wonderful scenery of this region. The snow-capped summits of the Cascade range displayed their sharp, rugged outlines in the distance eastward, while near by, on the Vancouver side, almost perpendicular from the water's edge, the hills shot up to a height of ten to twenty hundred feet. They were covered, even where most precipitous, with low, dark pines and firs. Now and then in a ravine near the summit, the snow gleamed out with unwonted whiteness from its shady retreat. The water in these channels is very deep, with a rocky bottom. The lead often goes down one hundred and fifty fathoms. At sunset we came to a safe anchorage under Blinkinsop's Peak. The clouds had begun to gather, and Capt. Dall judged it better to drop anchor for the night.

Early the next morning we started, with a cloudless sky and a bracing atmosphere. During the night the higher peaks had received a fresh sprinkling of snow—the first of the season. The cool air grew genial as the sun rose above the hills. By nine o'clock, even the most invalid passenger was on the upper deck. The morning drill and inspection of the soldiers are always more carefully attended to on Sunday. To-day the exercise was performed with rare precision and alacrity. I have no partiality for the soldier's life. Of all vocations it is the most dreary and forbidding; but at this hour, under the inspiring influence of the cheering sunlight and the sparkling waters, there was some semblance to romance in the dull routine of the soldier's experience.

At eleven we entered Rupert Bay, and Divine service was held on the upper deck by Rev. J. O. Rainer, the Army Chaplain who accompanies the expedition to Sitka. The discourse was practical, earnest and brief. Seldom does a sermon reach the small-pox has reduced them to about three hundred. The post has only a dozen white persons, under the charge of Captain Mowatt, the commander of the steamer *Labouchere*. In her unlucky trip last year, when leaving San Francisco, she was wrecked upon a reef near Point Reyes. Amongst the employés of the Hudson Bay Company, located him here, thinking probably that his talents would be more profitably employed at this solitary post. Toward sunset, the Gulf of Georgia widened into the ocean, and we were once more upon the Pacific. The rolling of the ship sent a large percentage of us to our rooms before dark.

Queen Charlotte's Island.

The next day, Monday, opened with showers and a dense fog. At eight we came in sight of Queen Charlotte's Island—named after the good, old, snuff-taking consort of George the Third. The island is 140 miles long, with a broken surface near the coast, not unlike that of Mendocino County. Its resources are said to be good grazing lands, and about twelve hundred evil-disposed Indians. For several years past efforts have been made by parties from Victoria to discover the gold mines among the hills. Traces of copper and gold have been found, and still more positive evidence of beds of anthracite coal. A rumor had reached Nanaimo that a well-defined vein of anthracite had been reached, and that it was finally proved to be what always need confirmation. Should a genuine deposit be discovered it will be of great value, for no part of the Pacific coasts is more yearning for fuel of anthracite coal.

The wind and rain continued through the day, and night set in with a dense southeaster. Before dawn the weather became more quiet, and at nine o'clock we could dimly see, ten miles to the northward, the rocks of Cape Orminy, the southern extremity of the island of Baranof. It was our first view of the extensive possessions of the Russian Government. We sailed along its western coast during the day, and laid by at dark, awaiting the tide to carry us through the narrow channel leading from Kodiac to this port.

Appearance of the town.

Reaching the wharf and passing a battery of old-style guns, the visitor first comes to the far warehouses of the Russian American Company, consisting of one story, with a wooden porch in front, and painted a white shade of yellow, with sheet-iron roofs painted red. In these are deposited the fur skins, many of which are brought here in their crude state. They are forwarded from this place to the trading posts of Russian America. New Archangel (Sitka) is the general depot, and furs are brought here from the interior, and the needed preparation for foreign shipment. Those now in store are said to be worth $1,000,000. Passing up the wharf, or main street, and leaving the Governor's house on a rock bluff to the right, we came to the Custom House, a small building, and the Office of the Company's supplies. Close at hand, and in the middle of a small plaza, stands the Greek Church, the only building in the town having any claim to architectural beauty. It is a spacious wooden structure, having a spire on the centre of the front, and a large dome on the centre of the edifice. The spire has a chime of bells, and is ornamented with an ancient clock face. The body of the church is of a blue, slate color, the roof and dome of a deep green, and the window-frames and doors white. The effect is striking, and would do credit to a New England town. Near by is the Lutheran Church, built and occupied by Finlanders, who in Russia form an important element of commerce.

Beyond the churches come the "Club House," occupied by the subordinate officers of the Company; the school-house, the hospital and various workshops, including a small foundry. Situated near the wharf are the quarters for the Greek Priests, all of which are owned by the Company. They are built on alleys, with planked sidewalks. A stream of water runs through the centre of the town, in which is a saw-mill. Yet there is a less use of boards here than any other civilized town I have visited. Every edifice, large and small, is built of hewn logs, hewn, in the better class of houses, so as to leave no crevices, with the external and internal walls so well dressed as to be suitable for painting or papering.

Really, there is only one street in the town—the one of which we have spoken—and this turning toward the beach terminates in the only road leading from the town. It runs along the shore for a mile, and turning north, is stopped at the base of a jagged mountain. It affords the only pleasant walk on the island, and on a fair day has been for many years the fashionable promenade of both the aristocracy and the plebeians of New Archangel.

First Day on Shore.

Our first day at Sitka was clear. The mercury stood at 54° above zero in the shade, and the sun gave a cordial warmth to the atmosphere. Every body was exultant over a climate so mild, and yet in so high latitude as to be almost under the North Star. We all resolved to vindicate a land whose reputation for fair days had been so badly traduced abroad. The military, with the exception of General Davis and suite, did not go on shore; but the "civilians" made good use of the day in visiting every point of interest. Some of us clambered with some difficulty far enough up the mountain side to overlook the town and harbor, and get a nearer view of the venerable snow drifts still far above us.

We returned on shipboard at the dinner hour—five. The sun went down in a zetherial haze, and an hour later the sky was thickly overcast. After dark, many from the other ships came on board to inquire for news from the "outer world." Before ten a heavy mist began to fall, a few lights gleamed from the shipping, and everything was quiet save the barking of the dogs on shore. Truth compels us to say that this was the only entire sunny day we have yet witnessed in Sitka.

Sunday in Alaska.

Friday, the second day after our arrival, was cloudy, with frequent showers. A few of us visited the island opposite, called by the Russians Yapouski, or Japan Island. It contains nearly a thousand acres, and is covered with a thick growth of alder, with a few scattering patches of pine among the hills. Traces of copper and gold have been found, and still more positive evidence of beds of anthracite coal. A rumor had reached Nanaimo that a well-defined vein of anthracite had been reached, and that it was finally proved to be what always need confirmation. Should a genuine deposit be discovered it will be of great value, for no part of the Pacific coasts is more yearning for fuel of anthracite coal.

The wind and rain continued through the day, and night set in with a dense southeaster. Before dawn the weather became more quiet, and at nine o'clock we could dimly see, ten miles to the northward, the rocks of Cape Orminy, the southern extremity of the island of Baranof. It was our first view of the extensive possessions of the Russian Government. We sailed along its western coast during the day, and laid by at dark, awaiting the tide to carry us through the narrow channel leading from Kodiac to this port.

Appearance of the town.

Reaching the wharf and passing a battery of old-style guns, the visitor first comes to the far warehouses of the Russian American Company, consisting of one story, with a wooden porch in front, and painted a white shade of yellow, with sheet-iron roofs painted red. In these are deposited the fur skins, many of which are brought here in their crude state. They are forwarded from this place to the trading posts of Russian America. New Archangel (Sitka) is the general depot, and furs are brought here from the interior, and the needed preparation for foreign shipment. Those now in store are said to be worth $1,000,000. Passing up the wharf, or main street, and leaving the Governor's house on a rock bluff to the right, we came to the Custom House, a small building, and the Office of the Company's supplies. Close at hand, and in the middle of a small plaza, stands the Greek Church, the only building in the town having any claim to architectural beauty. It is a spacious wooden structure, having a spire on the centre of the front, and a large dome on the centre of the edifice. The spire has a chime of bells, and is ornamented with an ancient clock face. The body of the church is of a blue, slate color, the roof and dome of a deep green, and the window-frames and doors white. The effect is striking, and would do credit to a New England town. Near by is the Lutheran Church, built and occupied by Finlanders, who in Russia form an important element of commerce.

Beyond the churches come the "Club House," occupied by the subordinate officers of the Company; the school-house, the hospital and various workshops, including a small foundry. Situated near the wharf are the quarters for the Greek Priests, all of which are owned by the Company. They are built on alleys, with planked sidewalks. A stream of water runs through the centre of the town, in which is a saw-mill. Yet there is a less use of boards here than any other civilized town I have visited. Every edifice, large and small, is built of hewn logs, hewn, in the better class of houses, so as to leave no crevices, with the external and internal walls so well dressed as to be suitable for painting or papering.

Really, there is only one street in the town—the one of which we have spoken—and this turning toward the beach terminates in the only road leading from the town. It runs along the shore for a mile, and turning north, is stopped at the base of a jagged mountain. It affords the only pleasant walk on the island, and on a fair day has been for many years the fashionable promenade of both the aristocracy and the plebeians of New Archangel.

First Day on Shore.

Our first day at Sitka was clear. The mercury stood at 54° above zero in the shade, and the sun gave a cordial warmth to the atmosphere. Every body was exultant over a climate so mild, and yet in so high a latitude as to be almost under the North Star. We all resolved to vindicate a land whose reputation for fair days had been so badly traduced abroad. The military, with the exception of General Davis and suite, did not go on shore; but the "civilians" made good use of the day in visiting every point of interest. Some of us clambered with some difficulty far enough up the mountain side to overlook the town and harbor, and get a nearer view of the venerable snow drifts still far above us.

We returned on shipboard at the dinner hour—five. The sun went down in a zetherial haze, and an hour later the sky was thickly overcast. After dark, many from the other ships came on board to inquire for news from the "outer world." Before ten a heavy mist began to fall, a few lights gleamed from the shipping, and everything was quiet save the barking of the dogs on shore. Truth compels us to say that this was the only entire sunny day we have yet witnessed in Sitka.

Sunday in Alaska.

Friday, the second day after our arrival, was cloudy, with frequent showers. A few of us visited the island opposite, called by the Russians Yapouski, or Japan Island. It contains nearly a thousand acres, and is covered with a thick growth of alder, with a few scattering patches of pine among the hills. Traces of copper and gold have been found, and still more positive evidence of beds of anthracite coal. A rumor had reached Nanaimo that a well-defined vein of anthracite had been reached, and that it was finally proved to be what always need confirmation. Should a genuine deposit be discovered it will be of great value, for no part of the Pacific coasts is more yearning for fuel of anthracite coal.

The wind and rain continued through the day, and night set in with a dense southeaster. Before dawn the weather became more quiet, and at nine o'clock we could dimly see, ten miles to the northward, the rocks of Cape Orminy, the southern extremity of the island of Baranof. It was our first view of the extensive possessions of the Russian Government. We sailed along its western coast during the day, and laid by at dark, awaiting the tide to carry us through the narrow channel leading from Kodiac to this port.

Appearance of the town.

Reaching the wharf and passing a battery of old-style guns, the visitor first comes to the far warehouses of the Russian American Company, consisting of one story, with a wooden porch in front, and painted a white shade of yellow, with sheet-iron roofs painted red. In these are deposited the fur skins, many of which are brought here in their crude state. They are forwarded from this place to the trading posts of Russian America. New Archangel (Sitka) is the general depot, and furs are brought here from the interior, and the needed preparation for foreign shipment. Those now in store are said to be worth $1,000,000. Passing up the wharf, or main street, and leaving the Governor's house on a rock bluff to the right, we came to the Custom House, a small building, and the Office of the Company's supplies. Close at hand, and in the middle of a small plaza, stands the Greek Church, the only building in the town having any claim