

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In this issue we publish a communication from the pen pen of our esteemed townsman Mr. E. Grigg who possesses many years of experience of conditions in this island and during his former residence here was the author of valuable contributions to these columns. In a communication which appeared in the Avis some days ago, Mr. Grigg directed attention to the exigent need of a public water supply a question which year after year has engaged the most serious consideration of those who suffer through the lack of means to overcome our primitive condition in this respect, but which was received no legislative attention to our knowledge. Today he is pointing out that a proper water-cart is necessary to combat the dust during the now more frequent dry seasons. These are really matters of high importance to this town, and should arouse more general interest than appears to have been given hitherto. We are glad to accept and publish correspondence which has for its object constructive criticism of local affairs and feel confident that the same could not but be approved by all concerned. While it is a fact that considerable money is budgeted every year, and improvements are not infrequently proposed on a larger or smaller scale, we fear that Christiansted and its needs are not fully considered. It is often declared that constructive criticism is to be encouraged, and even desired to aid our legislative in passing on various matters on which it is not always practicable to obtain trained advice; it is, therefore, to be hoped that the present will prove of value, and instrumental in effecting a remedy which should redound to popular advantage.

We conclude today the monstrous piece of fiction opened in last Saturday's number. Readers will note the compliment paid to the inhabitants of an island which it is proposed to sink under the ocean or destroy by a volcano in order to improve it; the alleged visit to the insane asylum, etc. Language is not strong enough to denounce this scribbling Kitchen who does not by his writings appear to be worthy of being received in our humblest kitchen if he should ever have the gumption to return to the Virgin Islands, whether "on purpose", or "by accident".

Lowande and Gardener, a circus company of repute, is expected to visit St Thomas in these days, and we take this opportunity of extending them a warm invitation to Christiansted where ample patronage is guaranteed. It is some years since a circus has been here and they are sure to get a full house every night.

The Order of the Day for a meeting of

the Colonial Council on Monday next, reached us too late for insertion in the present issue, but will be published tomorrow.

LOCAL.

Yesterday being Whit Monday and a legal local holiday, the Avis was not published. The day was marked with a variety of observances, among which may be mentioned a Sunday School picnic by the Moravians, the procession marching through the streets headed by the Native Brass Band. There was extensive masquerading in the afternoon, and a private dance in the St Croix Club rooms kept that quarter lively in the evening.

The Native Brass Band gave a popular concert in the bandstand on Sunday night, and played many really very attractive airs. A goodly gathering was present.

The Creole sailed for St. Thomas at midnight taking St. Thomas, Porto Rico, and the United States mails

The non receipt of United States mail by the Mystery on Saturday last is attributed to longshoremen strikes in New York through which steamers are tied up. Up to now no official advice is received of detention of the S. S. Guiana and she is being looked for in Frederiksted tomorrow, unless, as rumored, she called at Newport News for coal and is consequently delayed until Friday.

The last of the Lion Man was shown to a crowded house last night. The ending of this interesting serial fully repaid those who have patronized it all along.

Football.

The Dreadnought Football Club was defeated by the Christiansted Athletic Association Football Club on Sunday by one goal to none. Congratulations to you Athletic boys, but the Dreadnought will be back after you in the near future to overrule your Club so that it can still remain the strongest Football Club on the island. —Com.

Correspondence

Christiansted, May 15th, 21.

The Editor St. Croix Avis.

In the year 1493, the exact date has slipped my memory, Christopher Columbus sighted this island, and named it Santa Cruz, after the fiesta that was being observed aboard.

The ship being in need of water, a boat with empty casks was sent ashore to refill, from what appeared to be a river.

Threading its way through the reefs the boat was rowed up the river as far as it could float, but the water all around was found to be quite salt, and useless for drinking purposes. Just as the boat was about to return to the ship, some Indians were espied on the bank and the officer in charge of the boat made friendly signs to them and eventually opened up communion, pointing to the empty casks in the boat he conveyed the need to fill them up with good water, the Indians readily comprehended and good naturedly agreed to fill them.

The tribe turned out with their earthenware pots and marched over to the spring that was situated between the estates now known as Concordia and Glynn. That the efforts of the Indians with their small earthenware pots, to water the ships, would be lengthy, soon became evident to the officer in charge, so having filled a couple of casks, the other empty ones were placed ashore, the Indians being instructed to fill them. The boat then returned to the ship to report the situation to the Admiral. It was decided to send ashore a large empty cask now known as a puncheon, and the Indians under the excitement of a present of a few coloured beads, be encouraged to continue the task of watering throughout the night, by filling up the puncheon. This was satisfactorily accomplished, and the next day in part payment of the labours of the tribe, the puncheon was left behind as an honoured gift. This was subsequently put to very valuable use, a dry spell being experienced, with dense clouds of dust, speedily brought with it a mysterious sickness affecting the eyes and throat, especially attacking the younger members of the tribe.

At a solemn meeting of the medicine men of all the tribes, held at the full of the moon, at the spring now known as Lebanon Hill Garden, called for the purpose of stamping out the plague, it was wisely decided to mount the old sacred puncheon on runners, somewhat after the fashion of a sled, bore a hole in the puncheon, and attach a trough thereto, by splitting a piece of bamboo, and by boring holes in the trough, allowing the water to sprinkle over the dusty roads around the village, thus the dust nuisance would be abated, until the long expected rains fell. The water sprinkler as tis known here today, was thus evolved. This clumsy arrangement was carefully preserved and used at certain periods yearly, until the Danes settled on the island, some two hundred years ago, then more modern and scientific methods were introduced. The sacred old puncheon was mounted upon a sort of a carriage, with wheels substituted for the old runners, and an iron pipe used instead of the ancient piece of bamboo, and a pony to draw it, all was tastefully