

THE TEMPTER.

There went a boy from the parent fold
To learn the manner of earning gold.
He held his tears, and the rising sigh
When his mother's lips caught his warm "Goodbye."
The world he met with ingenuous eyes
As soft and clear as cerulean skies.
His ruby lips and his cheeks—why these
Were like the blossom of apple trees.
His breath was sweet as the smell of morn,
When zephyrs rustle the changing corn.
With earnest heart and untainted soul
The lists he entered for mammon's gaol.
And at the "Mart" for many days
He trod the city's devious ways.
And tempters many, with smiles demure,
Sought to disflower a bud so pure.
They strove in vain, for the parent stem.
Had grafted virtue too firm for them.
But another tempter came, alas!
And touched his lips with the ruby glass.
Then shone his eyes with a wilder ray,
And morning brought but the dread of day.
This first wrong-doing he strove to check,
But drank again at the tempter's beck.
And time rolled on, but it found him still
A captive bound at the tempter's will.
And his ruddy lips soon lost their hue,
And his fair young face all haggard grew.
Yet close to the whisky fiend he kept,
And his father prayed, his mother wept.
And, when this Spirit from nether hell
Had served his horrible purpose well,
He held the glass at his parting breath,
Then gave him up to his cronny, death.

CLIMATE AND ITS INFLUENCES.

Nothing can be a more valuable boon to any country under the skies than the possession of an equable and genial climate which will ensure that the products of the earth by which men live will be brought to maturity and harvested in due season. In various parts of the earth during the past few years very unfortunate climatic conditions have been prevalent to the great detriment of the farming interests. A great part of the most fertile regions of the continent of Europe has suffered from floods. This year there is little prospect that the harvest in England and Ireland will pay expenses owing to persistent rains. In Australia and Cape Colony prolonged droughts have prevented vegetation and caused a failure in the crops of wheat and other cereals. At the present time of writing it is reported that the weather on the eastern shore of the continent of America and in England is excessively severe, as much so as to render the operations of the agriculturist impossible. Farming cannot be carried on and consequently the result will be that there will be little or no crop to reap. A very gratifying and satisfactory contrast is presented by the cli-

mate of this province. To-day the air is as balmy and mild as is usual in May. The ground is fit for cultivation and there neither has been excessive frost nor an overabundance of rain. This is by no means unusual in this province, the climate being uniformly genial and there being no such thing known as a failure of crops from inclement weather if ordinary care is used. But the present agreeable weather is worthy of remark in view of the very different condition of affairs prevalent elsewhere. Here genial spring is in full perfection, there it is still the depth of winter with all its accompanying disadvantages.—*Standard*, 16th ult., Victoria, B. C.

THE MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

London is at present made up of an aggregation of cities having at least a score of governing bodies. The reform legislation which parliament is to enact will do away with all this and make one grand municipality, which will include the old city of London with a present population of 500,000, together with 23 civil parishes, 15 board of works districts, and a large number of other queer little districts which at present have separate existence. The new London will have a population of 4,764,312, equal to the combined population of the cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Providence, Brooklyn, Chicago, New Orleans, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Baltimore, or, to put it by states, a population as great as the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Minnesota. The annual revenue of the new city will be almost equal to that of Belgium and twice as much as that of the Dominion of Canada a few years ago. It will start out with a debt only five times greater than that of the city of Boston, and but \$20,000,000 in excess of that of New York city. The debt per capita, of the new London will be about \$28, while it is nearly \$75 in Boston and not far from \$100 in New York. The new city of London will be, from every point of view, the chief municipality of the world, and it will be very many years before it will have a successful rival in the matter of population, wealth or influence.

Bank of British Columbia.

The general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at the City Terminus Hotel, London, on the 6th March. The report shows that the net profits for the half year were \$25,000 in excess of the profits of the preceding half year. The paid up capital is \$1,730,000; reserve fund, \$220,000. A dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum with one per cent. bonus added, clear of income tax, was declared. The report has created a most favorable impression; 20 shares fully paid up are quoted at £22 10s. to £23—a premium of about 11½ per cent.; £20 shares, £10 paid up, rule at from £11 to £12.