

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossip.

VOL. II., No. 5.

VICTORIA, B. C., NOVEMBER 12, 1892.

[\$1.00 PER ANNUM

TALES OF THE TOWN.

I LIKE a good story, and the following suits me quite well enough. The narrator said: "I once came near losing my life by being too smart. I was at Rio Janeiro and desired to go to Havana. There was at that time no steamers plying between those points, and I had to take passage on a sailing vessel. The ship was to sail before daylight, and I went aboard early to get comfortably settled. That evening I sat on the deck till long past midnight, chatting with a party of Englishmen who were also passengers. Presently one of them got up, tossed his cigar overboard, and announced that he was going ashore. 'The deuce you are!' exclaimed one of his companions. 'You'll get left.' 'Exactly,' he replied, 'and if I go in this ship I'll get drowned. Look there; don't you see the rats are leaving it?' and he pointed to the gang plank. Sure enough, the rats were going ashore, a hundred or more of them at a time, headed by a grey, old rodent. Well, we all laughed at the young Englishman for putting faith in sailor superstitions, and I guess I was the greatest scoffer in the lot. He went, and we remained aboard the vessel. On the second day out, the ship sprang a leak, and before night was under forty fathoms of water. We took the lifeboats and drifted about for twenty-four hours before we were picked up by a Brazilian bark and taken back to Rio. One of the first men I met was the young Englishman I had ridiculed. He was the most generous man I ever met, and never once said 'Rats.'"

The associated charities of Hamilton have undertaken a work which may interest Victoria people who are anxious to encourage thrift among a class of persons who are not likely to think of opening an account in one of the ordinary savings banks. The scheme is the establishment of a savings bank for small sums of money, and already the experiment has been a success; a sum amounting to \$564.52 having been deposited in no less than one month's time. In all probability the depositors of the small sums making this aggregate would have expended the amount had it not been for the opportunity thus afforded them to make a beginning. The beginning is everything in such a case as this, and once a nest egg is set aside, a desire to add to it exists which leads to further accretion. In this way, sums may be saved up which will continue to grow until they reach useful proportions.

The age is one of extravagance, not only with those who can afford it, but with those who cannot do so. To check this tendency, especially on the part of those who cannot afford it, is a laudable object, and when its aims are directed to saving

the cents of the poor and needy from unnecessary expenditure is deserving of every encouragement. The plan adopted in Hamilton is a savings bank system by means of stamps, similar in appearance to postage stamps, which are placed on sale in different localities. On becoming a depositor, each person receives a card, which, when filled with stamps, no matter what their value, is returned to the secretary, who exchanges it for a new card and a pass-book in which is credited all deposits. The proceeds of the sale of stamps are collected once a week.

Marmaduke Wood is announced for Monday night at the Imperial in readings from Hamlet. A large number of tickets have been sold, and no doubt the people who are buying them will be sold, if they expect to see anything more than a great farce. In order that the tragedy of Hamlet will not result in a real tragedy, the management will furnish the Hon. Marmaduke with a bodyguard. However, it is proposed to make the burial scene as realistic as possible, and it will be the prerogative of every man present, if the performance does not meet with his approbation, to participate in the funeral services. A local dramatic critic has tendered the use of his head for one night only to be used in Hamlet's address to Yorick's skull. Altogether, the performance will be unique, if not artistic.

The two commissions which have been sitting in Victoria have about completed their labors. The one on epidemic diseases may or may not go to Nanaimo. It has taken a mass of testimony which shows that lack of knowledge and carelessness had much to do with the introduction as well as the spread of smallpox. There was something grossly wrong at Albert Head either in the system, the conduct of affairs, or the inspection of vessels, and the quarantining of suspects should have been much more effectively carried out; there was much contempt for authority on the part of C. P. steamship officials who, as it were, bullied the health officers out of discharging their duty, and both individuals and municipalities, together with the officers of the latter, were either grossly ignorant of what they ought to do, or were influenced in their action by fear, favor or other considerations that should have had no weight with them.

As for the Coquitlam enquiry, the evidence that has so far found its way into the papers does not appear to have in any way strengthened the American case, though it may be that the Washington authorities may affect to find in it excuse for what they did, if not, indeed, for the entire justification of their official action.

A LOCAL philosopher who airs his gigantic mentality every Jewish Sabbath, at five cents an air, was seen on Government street this afternoon hunting for something in the gutter. Somebody suggested it might have been a joke for next week's fulmination.—*Times*.

The above item plainly indicates that there is a reporter on the *Times* who can tell at a glance what is interesting news and what is not—more particularly the latter; and it appears to me that there is now no further excuse why he should not be reinstated in the position of city editor, which he recently resigned for reasons best known to himself. I would suggest, purely on account of the interest I take in this "journalistic" prodigy, that he might increase his revenue by making application to outside papers, already represented here, to act as their correspondent. If he would like to know the best form of letter to use in applying for the position I can oblige him with the perusal of an application recently made to the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, together with the editor's highly flattering opinion of the applicant endorsed upon it, and which is before me as I write. That aspiring "journalists" may learn how to get along in the world, provided they are not overburdened with scruples and are in total ignorance of what constitutes the ethics of journalism, I may publish the letter in a future issue. In the meantime, I would state that I have no desire to usurp the functions of the common hangman, but prefer to allow this high-minded journalist-reporter every opportunity of persisting in a line of policy which must inevitably result in self-strangulation.

Neither learning, nor philosophy, nor advantages of any kind, hold a monopoly of correct judgment as to the right and wrong of the everyday affairs of life. He who, with ordinary intelligence and a sincere desire to do right, trusts to his own instinctive ideas of what is right, is far more likely to decide wisely and to act justly than one who uses his brain to weave subtle arguments, to find specious excuses, evasions and contradictions, or to discover some supposed conflict of duties which shakes his previous firm convictions.

After what are described as having been a series of eminently successful experiments with local material, it is said to be the intention to establish in the vicinity of Victoria works for the production of Portland cement in considerable quantities. Should prices and quality be right there could not fail to be a good market in this province and all along the Pacific coast as well as, perhaps, in Australia. The B. C. article is said to be superior to the imported, and can be produced from \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel less.

One of society's most imperious demands

lap.

he publica-
dial Map of
as; colored;
ly for use;
y, carefully

LEE,
TORIA.

allowed to
nary Map,

ING,

ET

up.

up.

s on the
fect fit.

P. O. Box 389.

Wharf

Dunsmuir's

AL

IC USE.

hanson Street.

H,

LECTOR

ections made

l.

ilding, Vic-

FIELD

NOY.

Our agency
ading detec-
States and
P. O. Box 824.

CTORIA.