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SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

SHOULD Queen Victoria live another year, she will have reigned longer than any English monarch, except George III. Fifty-six years was the length of Henry III.'s rule, and the Queen was crowned fifty-five years ago. Long may she reign.

THE lacrosse matches at the Caledonian Park to-day will undoubtedly be well attended. The lacrosse season is drawing to a close, and there may not be another opportunity this year to witness a first-class exhibition of the Canadian national game.

WHEN J. W. McConnel returned from Ireland, he warmed Frank Campbell's heart by bringing him out a pound or so of genuine Irish turf. Frank is offering this sample for sale and if the demand is sufficient he will go in for the turf wholesale.

THE first act in the great Canada Western Railway drama has been played. The climax scene was good, the scenic effects excellent, and the support all that could be desired. We await the next act with bated breath, and in the meantime will withhold our criticism.

PROF. PICKERING reports that "several of the canals became visible, and the snow became as colorless as that upon our surrounding mountains. At this apposition," he says. "these canals will be too far north to be seen well"—a remark which confirms recent utterances of the *Colonist* on this subject.

It was a base idea to suggest a ball game between our Council and that of Vancouver. What does Victoria Council know about baseball, anyway? Our Mayor will play at no game that is not governed by the procedure laid down in May, and there is just some fear that Ald. Munn would want to play on both sides.

COUNTERFEIT coins are in circulation in Victoria. A Government street merchant nailed up a "queer" dollar, on his showcase the other day and one of his visitors immortalized the event in song thus:

A man lay in a store and yelled,
And at his fingers bit,
He rolled beneath the counter
And had an awful fit.
The doctors gave him brandy,
The crowd smiled at his wit,
For they had seen the game before—
It was a "counter" fit.

THE REV. SAMUEL BONES.

The Rev. Samuel Bones was a good missionary sent to reform the benighted Fejee, to teach and to preach and to show by example how saintly a savage Fejee might be; He said it was sinful to serve an acquaintance as a stew or ragout at an afternoon tea; He taught them that even a pleasant expression was not enough dress for a modest Fejee.

But, alack and alas! these degenerate heathen somehow didn't reform or convert worth a cent,

And they vulgarly vowed in their coarse Fejee language

That they'd eat Rev. Bones even if it was Lent.

But, when they had cooked him one morning for breakfast

Then they mourned him and called him the tenderest of men,

And they wept bitter tears after he had been eaten,

And wished him alive to eat him over again.

And the tum tum quarter, with intuitive feeling

And a fine sense of what would have pleased the remains,

Sang a requiem which he in person had taught them

To expressively sing with considerable pains. They chanted with joy and that sense of elation

Which comes from done duty and freedom from sin,

The words of that touching, appropriate anthem:

"O, he was a stranger, and we took him in!"

—Harvard Lampoon

QUEER USE FOR A COFFIN.

At a collier's cottage in Staffordshire a coffin is used as a cupboard in which bread and cheese and other necessaries of life are kept.

The coffin, it seems, was ordered eighteen years ago by the master of the cottage, and has been in use ever since. He and his wife used to have a good many words, and one day she exclaimed to her husband, "I'll never be content till I see thee in thy coffin."

"Well, lass," returned the other, "if that'll content thee, it'll soon be done."

Next day he gave directions for his coffin to be made, and in a few days, when it came home, he got into it and said, "Now lass, art thou content?"

She began to cry at this, and wanted the horrid thing taken away, but this her husband would not allow.

In the end she became accustomed to its presence, and, so that it might be turned into some account, shelves were put into it, the cover hinged on, and was thus turned into a useful and original sort of a cupboard.

And it is satisfactory to know that the collier and his wife have never quarrelled since this memento mori has been in their cottage home.

WHAT A CARAT IS.

The carat being the universal standard of weight and size for the diamond, a few remarks on this unit of the measure may here be found useful. The original meaning of this term has afforded subject for controversy. Mawe asserts that the carat is an Indian denomination of weight, 150½ carats being equal to an ounce troy. But the carat, which is a Greek word (from *xeraton*, the fruit of the locust tree, and

of a species of veten, the seeds of which, running very uniform, furnished natural weights for estimating the value of small and precious articles to the Orientals, just as barley grains afforded the units of weight and of measure to the Europeans), could not have been originally used as a denomination of weight in India, where the rati seems to have been the most general, though not uniform standard. It fluctuated in different times and places between 1.86 and 2.25 grains, whereas the carat has the advantage of being very nearly a constant factor everywhere. It is equivalent to four grains avoirdupois, five of which are equal to four grains troy, so that one carat is equal to 3.174 grains troy, and 151½ carats to one English ounce.

Mrs. G. L. Howe, of Seattle, is visiting her brother, Mr. Stephen Jones, jr., at the Dominion Hotel.

Mr. Alex. McQueen, representative of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., has removed from Vancouver and taken up his quarters in The Wilson, Victoria.

There will be a concert and dance at Metchosin on the evening of the 1st Sept., gotten up in aid of the Anglican Church. Busses will start from Campbell's corner.

Mr. Charles Jenkinson, of the Gorge Road, entertained a number of campers and friends, Thursday evening. There were present Miss C. Hayward, Chas. jr., and Ernest Hayward, Miss Hutcheson, Mr. and Mrs. James Gray, Miss Graham, Mrs. and the Misses Fawcett, Clayton and Oswald Fawcett, Mr. Fulliger and a contingent of the snuggeries' campers composed of Messrs. Fred Roberts, Keith Middleton, W. T. Williams, Douglas Muir and Douglas McConnon, who are camped on the Arm opposite Curtice's Point. A most enjoyable musical evening was spent by the party.

The reporter who accompanied Sir Charles Euan-Smith to Fez was an American who received his journalistic education on his native heath. He has it appears, left the picturesque mark of his fingers upon the whole business. A blue book giving the true version of the meeting between Sir Charles and the Sultan has now been issued that the British public is convinced by it that the reporter was romancing. Sir Charles used no bombastic phrases, tore up no treaties, nor did his wife do sentry duty with a loaded rifle. It was all romance. The reporter from being a hero himself has fallen to the level of the common noun that rhymes with Mariar.

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