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SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 1894.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

*"I must have liberty,
Withal as large a charter as the wind—
To blow on whom I please."*

It is by no means a promising sign of the times to see so much competition among professors of the fine arts, and it is the more ominous when such competition takes the form of cutting rates far below the point where they cease to offer a fair remuneration to the teacher. Take it for instance in musical circles. At the present time there are in Victoria at least a dozen musicians who make their living by their art, and were their services sought only in the ratio of their proficiency, some six of the dozen would secure all the pupils. Musicians, be their age what it may, are after all only pupils, striving to learn more of their art by constant application to it, and ever seeking a deeper insight into the mysterious beauties of their science, by devoting all their time and attention to it. To such as keep this in view and to such only would any sensible man go for instruction, as they only can teach who are themselves willing to learn. Yet here in Victoria I know that those professors secure the greatest number of students, who spend their time in increasing their classes by offering inducements of lower rates, or on the strength of a reputation they do nothing to

maintain. The first course is unprofessional to a degree, and of the latter, the less said the better. The one's who suffer from their acts are those unfortunates who allow themselves to follow a course of tuition which, from the start, is a procession of the blind leading the blind, only to end against a wall of wasted time. It is fitting that the wheat be threshed from the chaff, and THE HOME JOURNAL will in the future give praise where praise is due, and spare not when the time for censure comes.

There is at present a very important measure before the Legislature. It provides for the administration of civic affairs by commissioners and supplies the machinery for bringing the change into operation. In a word, if fifty persons entitled to vote petition the Lieut.-Governor to that effect he may order an election to decide whether or not such city shall be governed by commissioners. A mere majority is to decide the destiny of the particular city for a period of three years. The commissioners, who shall be two and not more than four in number, one of whom shall be the Mayor, will receive salaries not exceeding \$4,000 annually. These commissioners are to be appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Some people may have a fancy for increasing the powers and patronage of the Provincial authority, but I am not of that manner of thinking, though certain that Victoria has been exceedingly unfortunate of late in its selections of members of the Council board—some of whom, it is only fair to admit, had the endorsement of this paper. Victoria and some of the other cities also badly require more efficient and more reliable municipal management. Cannot men of higher qualifications be induced to give their fellow citizens, during the ensuing year, the benefit of their brains and experience,

without the electors delegating their functions to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council?

It is apparent that, in the opinion of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, the British Columbia sealers have an equitable claim on the Government of Great Britain for losses sustained by them during the extensions of the *modus vivendi*. He further advised the interested parties to accept the \$125,000, offered by the United States Government in compensation for all illegal seizures down to August 1893, not including, of course, the seizure of the Coquitlam, which was taken possession of under the United States customs law. No doubt the Minister spoke from his knowledge of the entire circumstances and the sealers will do well to be governed by his suggestions. In connection with the further claim on the Mother Country they should not lose time in pressing it. There have been sufficient delays already, and as we all know delays are dangerous, and, at the least, tend to embarrassment and complications which might otherwise have been avoided.

The people of Canada have every reason to congratulate themselves on the fact that their public men have not belonged to the boodling class who entered and remained in political life because of what it was possible for them to make out of it. On both sides of political life in the Dominion the men who have been the most prominent in it have died without having amassed fortunes, having had, it may be said, a single eye to the service of their fellow countrymen. Sir John Thompson, the late Premier, was no exception to this rule, and has, unfortunately for them, left behind him a widow and family comparatively unprovided for. In view of this circumstance, it is observed that a memorial fund