

# The True Knight of British Columbia.

"The true knight does no man wrong."

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## The True Knight.

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Address all communications to P. O. Box 313.  
J. E. EVANS,

Secretary,

Vancouver, B. C.

G. R. MAXWELL,  
Editor.

VANCOUVER, AUGUST, 1899.

### CHARITY.

The pictures we have of things are sometimes very suggestive. Charity has long been a favorite subject with poet, sculptor and painter, and the noblest contributions of each have given us new views, representations and figures of this exalted theme, as to endear it for all time. Among the choice treasures which have been treasured for us in Egypt is a hieroglyphical picture of charity. In that picture we see a child holding in its hand a heart, and giving honey to a wingless bee. The child looks cheerfully showing us that charity should not be selfishly given: is naked, to teach us that charity should not be ostentatiously displayed; holds a heart in its hand to remind us that the heart of a man should go with what his hand shows; and gives honey to a bee and not to a drone, impressing upon us that charity should be dispensed, not to the lazy but to those who

would, if they could, work. The bee is wingless — it teaches us that were it able it would gather honey for itself without wings to show that men without health and strength, are wingless, and need help and true sympathy. Charity thus does not misplace her charities. She has no sympathy with rogues and vagabonds. Lazy loafers get no honey from her; but disabled, helpless men ever finds in her a friend in need, which is a friend indeed. So much for that view. In the Chapel of the Virgin at Padua, there is to be seen a magnificent fresco of Charity by Giotto. The figure of the woman who represents this noble attitude of the soul, suggests strength, purity and intelligence. She holds in her right hand a large-sized bowl full of food and flowers; so large and so full as to give the impression that most of us, if we had to hold it long, would soon tire. The other hand is upstretched to receive a human heart, which one of the angels is handing down to her. She stands upon bags of gold, while other bags lie all round her feet. This is a wonderful conception of charity. What does it teach? Manifestly it teaches that we are not to despise gold. It is a good support to stand upon, but it is a heavy thing to carry. Without gold as the world goes, we cannot completely help as we would and as we should. With this gold Giotto's charity buys food and flowers, and holds them in her hand and these, rather than gold, she gives to the helpless and the weak. To which is added, that the human heart which comes from heaven, must ever seek to enshrine itself in deeds of charity. In both of these pictures you have beautiful glimpses of that of which you are to be honorable examples before the world. Among the first excellencies which the heathen saw in the early Christians, was their love to one another; that love is required as much to-day as ever. In many respects this is a hard age. The selfishness of the times is apparent. No man can live by himself. We mourn the fact of hard hearts, narrow sympathies, cold-blooded indifference, and the easy method, alas, too prevalent, by which man seeks to shun the responsibility of becoming a ministering angel to his brother man. The coldness of the times almost freezes one; makes him stand aghast and wonder as to what the race is coming to. The poor we have with us, yes; and we have the rich, the distressed, the mourners and the bereaved, and wherever Pythianism comes through her noble knights, and stands by the sick bed or the tomb, she stands forth to the world like another Giotto's charity and shows herself with her full hands of food and flowers that she is a believer in and a doer of charity. We ask you in the first place to be an example in charity, so far as your judgments of your fellow-men are concerned. We are aware that