

THE RUSSIAN SEIZURES.

Intensive Examination in Victoria in Over the High-Seas and Offshore

Active Measures Being Taken to Fully Inform the Government of the Facts.

British Naval Officers as Peddlers of Can and Goods—Fear for Other Schooners.

The Victoria Colonist just to hand furnishes further particulars about the seizures of the British Sealers. The Colonist says:—There has been no occurrence in connection with the sealing industry for some time past which created anything like the same amount of interest and excitement as was engendered yesterday when the Russian and three Canadian schooners by the Russians were seized. Not only so, but this case among the schooner owners themselves, but almost every one was talking about the outrage.

At a meeting of the Sealers' Association held yesterday morning it was decided to have a complete statement of the case prepared in as brief form as possible and telegraphed to Premier Sir John A. Macdonald so that the Government can have the full facts at its disposal. This was done, and last night the message was sent, so that a reply will probably be received in course of a day or two. The sealers hope that the Dominion Government will take immediate action to promptly pay the full amount of the seizure. The Imperial Government, so that the rights of vessels flying the British flag on the high seas may be maintained.

The Provincial Government will also lend its weight to its influence in endeavoring to have the matter adjusted as promptly and fairly as possible. Yesterday morning Hon. Theodore Davis, Premier and Attorney-General, gave instructions to have a complete statement made of all the facts and circumstances of the case, these to be prepared in affidavit form and forwarded at once to Ottawa. This prompt action on the part of the Government will assist very materially in enabling the Ottawa Government to deal with the case.

The Premier, speaking as a Colonist reporter yesterday, said he thought all that would be necessary would be to lay the complete STATEMENT OF THE FACTS before the Ottawa authorities. This would show clearly how the matter stood, and he had every hope that the Dominion Government would act with promptitude and energy in having the Imperial Government fully advised.

The British Columbia Board of Trade has also taken the seizures into consideration, and a memorial has been prepared setting forth the facts. This is to be forwarded at once to Ottawa, with an urgent request that every step necessary be taken both to protect the sealers' property, and to secure compensation for the seizures already made. Besides this, the Vancouver Board of Trade will also be asked to co-operate.

Collector of Customs Milne has made a complete statement of the facts which have been reported to him. This statement also goes to Ottawa to back up if necessary what other statements have been made. The American Consul at the port has been waited upon by Capt. Furey of the San Francisco schooner, C. H. White, and the American Government will accordingly be fully advised.

ANXIETY FOR OTHER SCHOONERS.

The sealing schooners owners in this city and elsewhere in the Province have really grave cause for anxiety. There are nearly 40 of the schooners either now on the Russian coast, or en route there, and no one can tell how many of these are seized already. Judging by what has been done in the case of the Rosie Olsen, the Willie McGowan, the Ariel and the White, all are in danger. These vessels are seized and the officers and men are treated in the same way as the others were. No one can tell what the result of the injury and loss of property is. It is much valuable property, and the lives of the men who are on board are at risk. Even now there may be some of them turned ashore at Behring's sea, or along the inhospitable coast, to suffer privations, and there will be no means of escape, and there will be no means of escape, and the chances are strongly against any ship calling there which they might be brought home. In absence of further news, the excitement whetted on the grindstone of anxiety, there is no means of communicating with the sealers to warn them of their anticipated fate, and no way of finding out whether any other seizures have been made, except by sending a ship over. The Sealers' Association and the owners generally are of opinion that a warship should be dispatched, and they will ask Admiral Hotham to endeavor to spare one of the fleet to patrol the "dangerous waters," and, if necessary, to render assistance.

CAPTAIN COX INDIGNANT.

Captain J. D. Cox, president of the Sealers' Association, expresses in no uncertain language, the indignation he feels over the occurrence. He does not know of anything the sealers can do to supplement what has already been done by them, but, if he had his way, would see that a British warship was at once sent to patrol the waters of the Japan and Russian coasts to protect British vessels against such piracy as that of Russia.

"It used to be," he exclaimed in disgust, "that a vessel flying the British flag was safe anywhere on the high seas and it was respected everywhere. But it seems now that almost anyone can with impunity insult it, and the British flag on a Canadian vessel can be trampled on with little fear of punishment."

One thing of which Captain Cox most complains is that no warning was given at any time of the action which would be taken by the Russians, and there was no way in which the Victoria schooners could be instructed that they were in danger. The captain is very much afraid nothing will be done to maintain the rights of the schooner on the high seas, for his experience in the past has been that the sealers get scant justice.

ENTITLED TO NO GREAT CREDIT.

While the captains and men who were brought back to Victoria from the inhospitable "shelter" of Petropavlovsky were glad enough to get away under any conditions, and are accordingly grateful to Captain Lorenzen, of the Majestic, bringing them away, they claim that the captain is entitled to no great credit. He made a bad bargain first for his passage and on the way over did not show any special courtesy to any one, or any additional consideration for the captains of the schooners. There is another cause for complaint. There are several small boats from the seized schooners on board the Majestic. The sealing claim that these were given them by Capt. de Levron, of the Zabiaka, for use in case of shipwreck, but Capt. Lorenzen

OURIOUS WEDDING INCIDENTS.

A Scotch Minister Tells of Unusual Happenings in His Experience.

I have observed that marriage, especially among the working classes, is greatly affected by the state of trade. When trade is good, marriages increase, and are less frequent in times of commercial depression. This fact indicates that the romance of life among a class who are generally regarded as reckless in the matter of marriage is after all restrained by dictates of common prudence. During the Lancashire cotton famine, early in the sixties, I had a church in Dundee. The failure of cotton occasioned an abnormal boom in the jute trade, and Dundee was the principal emporium for the import and manufacture of the flexible fibre. It was then that that town laid the foundation of its wealth and greatness. In those prosperous times marriages were frequent, and in the course of a few years I united in the sacred bonds of matrimony a greater number of young couples than in any similar period during my ministerial career. A favorite fancy of the millworkers was to be married at the manse, and I was often amused at their lavish expenditure and love of display.

One evening I had arranged to marry a couple at the manse, and at the time an elderly friend, recently retired from a successful business, was staying with me, and wished to see the ceremony. Three cabs drove up to the entrance gate, and the bridegroom was immediately filled with half a dozen couples who constituted the bridal party. The men were in full dress, black suits, white kid gloves, but no flowers with ample display of linen and jewelry. The ladies were dressed in white muslin trimmed with lace, and decked with flowers and coronets of glittering beads. It was a gay and showy scene. My friend was seated in an armchair in a corner of the room, with his big fingers detailed into each other lying across his capacious waist-coat, and, transfixed with simple astonishment, gazed through his spectacles, that seemed to surround his eyes with phosphorescent circles. When the ceremony was over and the party had retired my guest pushed his hands on his knees forward, and slapping his hands on his knees exclaimed: "Well, that beats all! What are the working classes coming to? I had to be content with a humble wedding in my day, and I reckon I could now buy up the whole mill where these people work. Mark my words, these daft youngsters are beginning to find out of the tether, and they will find out of a sore war. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. It could only smile at this bit of philosophy, and say: "That is the order of the day in Bonnie Dundee."

On another occasion I was asked to marry a couple in a curious out-of-the-way place in the north of the country, about three miles distant from the town where I then resided. I found the house where I was to reside, and there were evident preparations for a night of festivity. The bride was a modest, shy-looking damsel, with dark drooping eyes and graceful pose of figure. I was utterly taken back by what followed. As soon as the marriage ceremony was completed, the bride asked me in a soft, timid voice: "Please, sir, will you baptize the baby?" and at the same moment one of the women lifted a child from the cradle. In my innocence I asked: "Whose baby is it?" and the bride, with a face scarlet with blushes, meekly answered: "It is mine, sir." "What could I do? Why should the innocent child be denied the Christian sacrament? The infant was placed in the arms of the bridegroom's father, and with an extra touch of pathos that I sincerely felt, I solemnly commended the baby to the care of Him who said: "Suffer little children to come unto Me."

A Strange Claim.

An American named Webster has made an enormous claim upon New Zealand through the United States Government, and communications on the subject have been opened with the Imperial Government. Webster's story is that when a young man came to New Zealand with 6000 dollars invested in goods to trade with the Maories. He purchased from them the right to set up a trading station at Coromandel, and was the first white man to settle there. He learned to speak the Maori language, and largely increased his capital by trading in pork, timber, and other productions. He bought land at or near the site on which the city of Auckland stands, and was the first white man to settle in that locality. As he prospered he increased his land purchases, established a shipbuilding yard, and became the pioneer of civilization in that part of the colony. He asserts that when the British Government took possession of New Zealand his lands and other property were worth £1,000,000 sterling, and that he was deprived of his property by the treaty which the Government of Great Britain concluded with the native chiefs at Waitangi. After losing his property through the British Government assuming sovereignty over New Zealand, Webster returned to the States to assert his rights. In his petition to the United States Senate he claimed an indemnity of 78,145 dollars for loss and damage up to January, 1840, and 6,573,000 dollars for loss and damage for land purchased from 1835 to 1840. The United States Senate passed a resolution to the effect that the claim for indemnity was founded on justice, and demanded the cognizance and support of the Government of the United States, and the President was requested to take such steps as he thought proper to secure William Webster a just settlement and final adjustment of his claim against Great Britain. The United States Government has proposed to submit the claim to arbitration, and negotiations are now proceeding between London and Wellington with a view of determining whether the arbitration proposal is to be accepted or not. The question will, of course, arise as to whether the Imperial or Colonial Government, or both, should pay any award which the arbitrators might make in Webster's favour.

FROM BRITISH INDIA.

Trade With Tibet—Superstition in the City of Kashmir.

According to the estimates furnished by the deputy commissioners of Calcutta, the total output of tea in Assam last year amounted to about 90,000,000 pounds, as compared with 89,860,000 reported by the trade returns. The figures in each case are higher than those of 1890, the difference varying between 2,000,000 pounds in the trade returns to 13,000,000 in the estimates of the Tea association. Both the trade and district returns show a large increase in the yield per acre, and the improvement was common to both valleys.

Tibet is taking British goods to even a larger amount than it did before the war with Sikkim. The total value of the trade from the latest reports, is 3,500,000 rupees and, as in former years the balance is in favor of Tibet, the exports from that country being valued at 2,600,000 rupees, as against 500,000 rupees of imports. From Bengal the principal imports are indigo, piece goods, woolen goods, tobacco, and metal wares.

A curious illustration of superstition which still prevails in Kashmir is the following: The municipal committee, with a view to purify the air, lighted a large quantity of sulphur fires in various parts of the city. Some of the Mussulims preached that any step to oppose the will of God will excite divine wrath, and that people dying in the mollahs where sulphur was burnt would die as Kufirs or infidels. The result was that within an hour people extinguished the fires with water, and thus care and money expended for the public good was wasted.

From the 1st of January next there will be a reduction of 50 cents per ton in the Suez canal tolls. The board has fixed the net dividend at 1057 50c. per share. As the net dividend last year was 997 75c., the increase amounts to 181 75c. In accordance with the London convention, the ship owners in the profits after the canal are to share in the profits after the payment of a dividend of 90¢ by a reduction in the toll.

The Aden camel battery, which came into existence some years ago, is doomed to extinction. It appears that the Arab tribes inhabiting the debatable land are now peacefully inclined toward the Aden garrison, though not to their immediate neighbors, so that the Camel battery work is confined to shows and rehearsals when the Bombay commander in chief or some other high official visits Aden; when, as a rule, the peacefully inclined does not shine. It has, therefore, been determined to store the useful little guns of the Camel battery in the Aden arsenal until such time as the playfulness of the Arab tribes outside of the Aden defenses may lead to their withdrawal.

A VICTIM OF THE GALE.

A Norwegian Barque Towed into North Sydney in a Battered State.

A North Sydney, N. S., despatch says:—The steamer Ravenscrag, Capt. Hudson, from Antwerp to Boston, arrived here this morning with the Norwegian barque Castelar, Samuelsen master, in tow. Capt. Hudson reports that on Monday, 22nd inst., in lat. 45° 43' N. W., long. 57° 37' W., he fell in with the barque totally disabled and leaking. He took her in tow at 5 p. m. on the 22nd, with a strong wind, the barque being heavily swelled, which broke the tow, and at 4 a. m. on the 23rd and again took the barque in tow, the wind and sea having moderated, and arrived here at 8 o'clock this morning. The barque is dead laden from Bathurst for Barrow-in-Furness. She lost spars, yards and rigging in the gale of the 22nd. She now has six and a half feet of water in the hold. Capt. Hudson reports a perfect hurricane from 4 to 6 on Monday morning. He never experienced anything so severe before.

RUINED BY A FORTUNE.

An Extraordinary Story.

Alexander Potruch should be a fine example to young men. He was once in pepping away in a hardware shop earning enough to help his father, a little old war-maker, to keep the family from starving. He had no hopes and no ambitions as yet, but he yearned, oh! so mightily, to save his father from housekeeping for himself. When he would marry his sweetheart, Sarah Granitzer, who made neckties, which is to say she was a slave. She is the daughter of a tailor. Such was Alexander Potruch when—unhappy day for him—some one made him believe that he had inherited 23,000,000 from his uncle, Dr. Joseph Potruch. The story was this:—The Potruchs lived at Vilna, Russia. The Potruch was adopted by a wealthy physician who sent him to college and made a physician out of him. That shows what can be done with raw material. After Joseph had graduated his benefactor died, leaving him an ample fortune. With this he went to San Francisco and built up a tremendous practice. He invested his money to such good purpose that it multiplied faster than did the sheep of Jacob of old when he played a little physiological trick on Laban. Dr. Potruch died and

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to his nephew Alexander, the son of his sister Rebecca, who had married her cousin, Marcus. And Alexander believed this story, on, as usual, searching for his fortune through a magnifying glass in the work of such watches as were trusted to him. But Alexander did believe it, and he had good reason to. The newspapers of the day printed all about him. The contrast between the humble tenement in which he lived and the princely wealth to which he had fallen heir was duly made and exploited. The sunshine which fell upon Alexander's house seemed to be more golden than that which fell on any house in the neighborhood. Everybody heard of Alexander's luck. Who didn't admire the young Monte Cristo of the east side? Alexander never had so many friends before. The tailors for the most fantastic suits of clothes out from the most famous makers in the world, for them when he would. Dealers in fancy neckties vied for his custom. Furniture men went down on their knees to him. Would he not honour them by choosing from their stock to fit out the palace he would erect. The most recherche collar buttons, or they say on the cards in the Bowery jewelers' windows, were not regarded as too good for him. Alexander's precious stones were delighted to see him prefer a 17-carat diamond to a 1-carat stone. He bought everything on credit, and his credit was simply unlimited. He would have cashed a cheque for a million anywhere on the Bowery had the prosperous traders of that thoroughfare been accustomed to keep such large amounts on hand. He became

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THE ANTIPODES.

Prosperous Condition of the Twin Islands of New Zealand.

New Zealand is congratulating herself on the exceeding prosperity of the colony. Time was when any colonist saw in the English papers or magazines a discourse on colonial indolence or extravagance, and knew that New Zealand was to be pointed at as the chief sinner. This colony was for many years the shocking example of prodigality and wastefulness, in whose path the colony of the future was to be proclaimed to come. Now all that is changed. New Zealand has turned the corner, and is now long on the down grade, but are now ascending. Other colonies are worse than we were, and are getting better and soiled, as we once did. We are actually pointed at by our neighbors as showing how a colony can recover itself, and after being almost overwhelmed again recover life and strength. And so when we see articles about Australasian financial proclivities, we believe that our neighbors will probably suffer more than ourselves.

We are not, however, disposed to do much in the way of hallooing. We do not feel that we are quite out of the woods. Our debt is as heavy as ever it was, and to meet it we have to levy taxation that is exceedingly burdensome and the full effects of which we have not yet ascertained. But at all events we are not adding to our indebtedness and every day we are increasing our means of paying. While New South Wales and Victoria are now writhing with deficits and striving to cut down their overgrown establishments, our colonial treasurer is in the position of having a credit surplus. All this has been brought about by several good, old-fashioned methods, which have been successful in cases of extravagance since the world began and which will be successful to the end of time. We have stopped incurring indebtedness. We have spent less, and we have earned more. We have imported less and in 1879 the imports of New Zealand amounted to £8,374,584, while the exports were £5,743,126. This sort of thing continued down to 1888, when the imports were £5,941,900 and the exports £7,707,325. So that between 1879 and 1888 our imports fell to the extent of £2,432,658, while our exports increased by £2,024,199. In 1889 our imports were \$6,303,863, being a slight increase over the previous year, while the exports made a bound up to £9,341,864. In 1890 the imports were much the same as the previous year (£6,260,525), while the exports were £9,811,729. In 1891 the imports were £6,503,849 and exports £9,811,720. The increase in the imports last year is owing to their progress toward something like their normal relative position. The slight falling off of the exports is attributed to the decrease in our exports of frozen mutton, there having been a great demand in the colony itself to stock land which was newly being brought into cultivation.

BURDENED WITH A SURPLUS.

And so it comes that our treasurer has a surplus, with which to meet the house of about £170,000 after paying off £100,000 of the floating debt. The customs revenue of £98,000 in excess of the duties being exactly the same. This shows that the people have been able to spend more freely and are less straitened than when the pinch first came after our days of extravagance. While we were borrowing money and spending it weely the work of settlement was almost at an end, and wages so high that men were actually drawn from producing occupations to the waste lands being heard all over the colony, and this heroic work will not cease till New Zealand is financially safe and sound.

It must be acknowledged that so far as governments have any credit in the recognition of our affairs it is due to the Atkinson finance and administration. The land law, too, is exactly the same as has been in operation for the last five years. Last session the property tax was repealed and it is estimated that these will produce not less than the amount now raised by the property tax. With settlement extending in all directions the steady increase of revenue from various sources is a matter of certainty.

The colony has no doubt many difficulties still to encounter. In the financial measures of last session, promoted by the Ballance ministry, are various provisions exceedingly objectionable to many colonists, and to persons in England having money invested in New Zealand. All these provisions have still to run the gauntlet of next session before they come into actual operation, and we confidently anticipate that many improvements will be made. As for the land nationalization theories of the premier, they are disturbing enough in their way. But most of the other members of the cabinet are strongly opposed to them, and will not agree to any advance in this direction. The feeling throughout the colony is strengthened against anything like headlong legislation, and that feeling, no doubt, will be given effect to.

The Czar is displeased at the recent conflict in the Pamir country between the Russians and Afghans, which resulted in the Amer appealing to the Indian Government for aid.

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THE ANTIPODES.

Prosperous Condition of the Twin Islands of New Zealand.

New Zealand is congratulating herself on the exceeding prosperity of the colony. Time was when any colonist saw in the English papers or magazines a discourse on colonial indolence or extravagance, and knew that New Zealand was to be pointed at as the chief sinner. This colony was for many years the shocking example of prodigality and wastefulness, in whose path the colony of the future was to be proclaimed to come. Now all that is changed. New Zealand has turned the corner, and is now long on the down grade, but are now ascending. Other colonies are worse than we were, and are getting better and soiled, as we once did. We are actually pointed at by our neighbors as showing how a colony can recover itself, and after being almost overwhelmed again recover life and strength. And so when we see articles about Australasian financial proclivities, we believe that our neighbors will probably suffer more than ourselves.

We are not, however, disposed to do much in the way of hallooing. We do not feel that we are quite out of the woods. Our debt is as heavy as ever it was, and to meet it we have to levy taxation that is exceedingly burdensome and the full effects of which we have not yet ascertained. But at all events we are not adding to our indebtedness and every day we are increasing our means of paying. While New South Wales and Victoria are now writhing with deficits and striving to cut down their overgrown establishments, our colonial treasurer is in the position of having a credit surplus. All this has been brought about by several good, old-fashioned methods, which have been successful in cases of extravagance since the world began and which will be successful to the end of time. We have stopped incurring indebtedness. We have spent less, and we have earned more. We have imported less and in 1879 the imports of New Zealand amounted to £8,374,584, while the exports were £5,743,126. This sort of thing continued down to 1888, when the imports were £5,941,900 and the exports £7,707,325. So that between 1879 and 1888 our imports fell to the extent of £2,432,658, while our exports increased by £2,024,199. In 1889 our imports were \$6,303,863, being a slight increase over the previous year, while the exports made a bound up to £9,341,864. In 1890 the imports were much the same as the previous year (£6,260,525), while the exports were £9,811,729. In 1891 the imports were £6,503,849 and exports £9,811,720. The increase in the imports last year is owing to their progress toward something like their normal relative position. The slight falling off of the exports is attributed to the decrease in our exports of frozen mutton, there having been a great demand in the colony itself to stock land which was newly being brought into cultivation.

BURDENED WITH A SURPLUS.

And so it comes that our treasurer has a surplus, with which to meet the house of about £170,000 after paying off £100,000 of the floating debt. The customs revenue of £98,000 in excess of the duties being exactly the same. This shows that the people have been able to spend more freely and are less straitened than when the pinch first came after our days of extravagance. While we were borrowing money and spending it weely the work of settlement was almost at an end, and wages so high that men were actually drawn from producing occupations to the waste lands being heard all over the colony, and this heroic work will not cease till New Zealand is financially safe and sound.

It must be acknowledged that so far as governments have any credit in the recognition of our affairs it is due to the Atkinson finance and administration. The land law, too, is exactly the same as has been in operation for the last five years. Last session the property tax was repealed and it is estimated that these will produce not less than the amount now raised by the property tax. With settlement extending in all directions the steady increase of revenue from various sources is a matter of certainty.

The colony has no doubt many difficulties still to encounter. In the financial measures of last session, promoted by the Ballance ministry, are various provisions exceedingly objectionable to many colonists, and to persons in England having money invested in New Zealand. All these provisions have still to run the gauntlet of next session before they come into actual operation, and we confidently anticipate that many improvements will be made. As for the land nationalization theories of the premier, they are disturbing enough in their way. But most of the other members of the cabinet are strongly opposed to them, and will not agree to any advance in this direction. The feeling throughout the colony is strengthened against anything like headlong legislation, and that feeling, no doubt, will be given effect to.

The Czar is displeased at the recent conflict in the Pamir country between the Russians and Afghans, which resulted in the Amer appealing to the Indian Government for aid.

RUINED BY A FORTUNE.

Alexander Potruch should be a fine example to young men. He was once in pepping away in a hardware shop earning enough to help his father, a little old war-maker, to keep the family from starving. He had no hopes and no ambitions as yet, but he yearned, oh! so mightily, to save his father from housekeeping for himself. When he would marry his sweetheart, Sarah Granitzer, who made neckties, which is to say she was a slave. She is the daughter of a tailor. Such was Alexander Potruch when—unhappy day for him—some one made him believe that he had inherited 23,000,000 from his uncle, Dr. Joseph Potruch. The story was this:—The Potruchs lived at Vilna, Russia. The Potruch was adopted by a wealthy physician who sent him to college and made a physician out of him. That shows what can be done with raw material. After Joseph had graduated his benefactor died, leaving him an ample fortune. With this he went to San Francisco and built up a tremendous practice. He invested his money to such good purpose that it multiplied faster than did the sheep of Jacob of old when he played a little physiological trick on Laban. Dr. Potruch died and

LEFT HIS FORTUNE.

to his nephew Alexander, the son of his sister Rebecca, who had married her cousin, Marcus. And Alexander believed this story, on, as usual, searching for his fortune through a magnifying glass in the work of such watches as were trusted to him. But Alexander did believe it, and he had good reason to. The newspapers of the day printed all about him. The contrast between the humble tenement in which he lived and the princely wealth to which he had fallen heir was duly made and exploited. The sunshine which fell upon Alexander's house seemed to be more golden than that which fell on any house in the neighborhood. Everybody heard of Alexander's luck. Who didn't admire the young Monte Cristo of the east side? Alexander never had so many friends before. The tailors for the most fantastic suits of clothes out from the most famous makers in the world, for them when he would. Dealers in fancy neckties vied for his custom. Furniture men went down on their knees to him. Would he not honour them by choosing from their stock to fit out the palace he would erect. The most recherche collar buttons, or they say on the cards in the Bowery jewelers' windows, were not regarded as too good for him. Alexander's precious stones were delighted to see him prefer a 17-carat diamond to a 1-carat stone. He bought everything on credit, and his credit was simply unlimited. He would have cashed a cheque for a million anywhere on the Bowery had the prosperous traders of that thoroughfare been accustomed to keep such large amounts on hand. He became

THE HOWLING SWELL.

of the Bowery—the Clinton street Beau Brummel. His diamonds were the envy of all the bartenders. His clothes illustrated the best aesthetic moods of the east side tailors. Society welcomed him. He was the guest of honour at every picnic, and his presence sufficed to make a target excursion a success. "Silver Dollar" Smith sought his interests on the side of reform, and John Brodsky was no less earnest when he cast his political fortunes with the grand old Republican party. Alexander had friends by the legion. He drank champagne so exclusively that he forgot the taste of water. Speculative mothers with marriageable daughters set their caps for him when he saw him; Miriam's rounded bosom palpitated when he approached her. But did Alexander forget his Sarah, the little girl stitching away at the neckties? Did he grow fickle, rich as he believed himself to be? Not much. He loved Sarah, and with the original Solomon he sang, "More precious than rubies is a virtuous woman; yea, than refined gold, Selah." So young Alexander took the blushing Sarah to the Court-house on September 14 last, and Judge Van Wyck made them one there's no doubt about that; there were plenty of witnesses. There were two of the bride's uncles, two of her cousins and her sister Jennie's beau, Harry Marcus. Then

THE HAPPY LITTLE COMPANY.

went to the Potruch home, where the wedding feast was spread. A night or two afterwards Clinton Street did honor to Alexander. He burst out into flags, bunting, and Chinese lanterns. There was a brass band, and flowers and carriages for every one. What the entertainment cost no one knew. What matter the cost? When not 23,000,000 waiting for young Potruch in San Francisco? He, indeed, thought that sum represented the cost on hand only, and that there were richer millions waiting for him in his uncle Joseph's bonds, mortgages, and promises to pay. The autumn waned, the snow flew. Then it became known that Alexander Potruch's rich uncle had never existed, and that the fortune was an unreal as the uncle. Alexander had fallen away from him; he ceased to be a millionaire. He descended at one jump from champagne to beer. The butchers, who had been sending him tid-bits, cut him; nine tailors shrieked in chorus for the money he owed them. The furniture men would not give him a bed-tick on credit, and the gems that had illumined his shirt front and gleamed on his fingers were lost in the cavernous recesses of pawnbroker's safes. The trades people tried to have the law on him for obtaining goods under

FALSE PRETENCES.

for taking the things that they themselves had almost forced on him. But Justice Kilbuck—oh, second Daniel!—decided that Potruch had up to that time done nothing that placed him in the law's grasp. But worse, and sad to tell, the love of Sarah, Alexander's