

water from their household cesspool into which all manner of polluted water from the dwelling is collected for the purpose. Indeed, in one case, in San Francisco, it was found that, in order to obtain a sufficient supply of the liquid, a firm of Chinese had tapped a public sewer that ran in the neighborhood of their garden and pumped the filthy water over their vegetables. The effect, of course, is that the plants grow large, and, when sent to market or peddled from house to house, look well and are regarded as decided "bargains" by the thrifty housewives to whom they are offered. But, as a matter of fact, they are more or less saturated with fecal matter, and they are served at our tables as appetizing delicacies, having first undergone simply the hasty and not over-careful washing in cold water which the cook considers all that is necessary. Of course the filthy matter remains, for it has not been subjected, like manure, to the wondrous chemistry of the soil, which changes the most putrid matter into nutriment. It is poured over the leaves, and literally saturates and remains in them. This is the "dainty dish" which house-keepers buy at their back doors from Mongolians and serve at table to their husbands and children! And such are the unclean cultivators whom some of our municipal officials would protect and encourage!

The debate on the Home Rule Bill in the House of Lords showed very plainly what was to be the fate of the measure. Even the peers who spoke in support of it did so in that half-hearted fashion which characterizes men who know they are fighting in a losing cause. One remarkable fact is that the Duke of Norfolk, who, with the Marquis of Bute, is the staunchest supporter of the Catholic faith among the aristocracy of England, spoke strongly against the Bill. The Duke of Devonshire who was, at one time, Mr. Gladstone's right-hand man, and his *locum tenens*, as leader of the Liberal party during the period when the present premier retired in dudgeon, to sulk, like Achilles, in his tent, took the lead in opposing the bill and he, as well as all the other speakers on the same side, held the position, which is, unquestionably, an impregnable one that the measure was in direct contravention of the Constitution and virtually amounted to treason. The result of the division, when it came, was that the bill was rejected by the crushing vote of 119 to 41, on the second reading, and Mr. Gladstone will have no alternative but to dissolve parliament and appeal to the people. It needs no prophet, or son of a prophet, to foretell that the verdict will be against Mr. Gladstone on every count.

The sealers of Seattle, and presumably those of other ports of the United States, have found a loophole in the decision of the Behring Sea arbitrators through which they can evade its prohibitory clauses and prosecute their industry as of old. They will simply hail from another port and fly another flag. "What is the matter with Honolulu?" says one Seattle sealer. "I think it is a pretty good place." It is further reported that the Victoria sealers will adopt the same plan, and there is no reason why it should not succeed, for pelagic sealing is forbidden only to British and American sealers. But, if the United States were to annex Hawaii the little game would be again blocked. Indeed, if only a protectorate were established over those islands, it is extremely doubtful if Honolulu could be made available. They would then, probably, have to select Vladivostock and fly the flag of the Czar.

We have received a letter from Mrs. Annie E. Webster, honorary secretary and treasurer of the Alexandra Hospital, deprecating our remarks anent the alleged stipulation of the individual in charge of that institution that \$5 a week should

be paid by the city for the care of the colored woman, Ida Phillips, who was found dying of consumption in Dupont street. Mrs. Webster is entirely mistaken, if she imagines that THE HORNET meant to injure the institution. On the contrary, we would do everything in our power to help it, and we appreciate the high motives that actuate the ladies who are working for its support. But it is only fair to expect of such an institution that no case of sickness, in woman or child, shall be refused treatment, pay or no pay. "Freely ye have received, freely give" is one of those rules that work both ways, and, if the lady managers of the Alexandra Hospital would think for a minute, they would realize that the exercise of kindly charity, such as that poor woman gave a chance for, would appeal more forcibly to the public heart than a baker's dozen of the prettiest ladies in the city holding out a hat for something to drop in. We wish all success to the Alexandra Hospital and the excellent lady patronesses, but we would plead for more latitude in the admission of patients, and an abrogation of the "stand-and-deliver" pass-word at the door. When suffering man, and, above all, suffering woman, asks for aid, let there be no stipulation for toll. As soon would we expect to hear of St. Peter collecting fare at the gate of Paradise and putting it down in a "sack" labelled "Peter's Pence."

Mrs. Webster is indignant that we spoke of the Mayor's "manly course." We did so characterize his action before the Council, and we take nothing back of what we said. We think—nay, we are sure—that the Mayor behaved like a man in acknowledging that he was wrong in not insisting on the case of the woman Phillips being attended to. Mrs. Webster is evidently "mad" with the Mayor because he stated that \$5 a week was asked for receiving and treating Ida Phillips. Our expression of appreciation of his "manly course," we beg to assure Mrs. Webster had no reference to his action in that regard, but to his admission of having been remiss in seeing the woman cared for. Our remarks had this reference and no other. We had no wish to impair the usefulness of the Alexandra Hospital and shall be delighted to see it prosper.

There is an old tradition that his Satanic Majesty once so far forgot himself as to reprove sin. There is also another story to the effect that when he was sick he wanted to turn monk. It is only fair, however, to add that on his recovery he did not turn monk. If a modern instance were wanted to parallel those freaks of Satan, it could surely be found in the avowed intention of the present Government of British Columbia to put a stop to land-grabbing by taxing the grabbers into extinction. Will the members of the Government, like charity, begin at home? Or, will they take any action in the matter at all? We think not. It would not suit the book of some of them to take any such step. Besides it would be only locking the stable after the steed had been stolen. It has been notorious for years that no settler can get a foothold in British Columbia because the Government agents either cannot, or will not, tell them where land is available. But the henchmen of the Government can get all the land they want, and, apparently, for the asking. What absurd nonsense, then, for Colonel Baker to talk of the intention of his Government to put a summary stop to land grabbing! This is one of the pie-crust promises which the Government has got into the habit of first making and then breaking. Well might the Kamloops *Sentinel*, in this connection, hint at "the devil preaching a sermon."

Mr. Adams, a man who aspires to represent Cariboo in the local House, is, at least, a candid candidate. He avowed himself ready to oppose a measure which every one knows