

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossto.

VOL. III., No. 8.

VICTORIA, B. C., DECEMBER 2, 1893.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

## TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

IF anybody should set out to write on the subject "The Abolition of the Pulpit" the audacious writer would probably at first be considered a dangerous man, an assailant of the whole church institution or even of Christianity itself, so closely identified in the minds of many is the place where the minister stands with the subject matter of his discourse. But it might be interesting to find out how far the pulpit has actually been abolished in this country. In many of the churches there is not much left of it. The platform is left, to be sure, but it does not occupy the elevated position that was common to old-time sanctuaries. As for the desk, that has been greatly reduced in size. In some of the orthodox churches the minister has only a small stand on which to place his Bible, etc. When he comes to preach his sermon he advances to the front of this. It is a fact that there is not much of the pulpit left and pulpit orator will soon be a misnomer.

Not long ago an incident occurred in a Victoria church on a Sunday morning that tells the story of why it is that so many men grow up in the well-dress rowdyism which will allow him to cling to a street car seat and allow a delicate woman to stand and hold a bouncing baby of nearly her own weight. It was a fashionable, well-dressed church where pews cost up in the hundreds, and where capitalists and prominent citizens delight in basking in the warm spiritual sunshine of a religion that shows

them a way to heaven past all the dark obstacles of their life of wealth gathering. The church was crowded to the doors, and charity to the new-comers, and those within the fold as well, would have advised the planting of the "standing room only" sign at the portals. A well-dressed man and wife entered with a bright little boy.

"Here's a seat; come, John, quick," exclaimed the wife in an audible whisper, espying a small space of unoccupied cushion. "Hurry, John, or some one will get it."

The woman plunged into the seat in an ecstasy of delight at having secured something that others might want, sat down on a little lady and shoved vigorously until she had made room for her husband to get a hold to crowd a place for himself. The mother then motioned for the boy to come and wedge himself in between her and his paternal ancestor. The lad protested that there was not room, and his modesty would not allow him to make the attempt.

Chairs were being carried in and the father commanded him to "grab a chair and put it down and sit on it," and he felt compelled to do so, though the ushers protested against chairs being placed near the door. When service began seats had been found for most of the people. A few ladies yet stood by the door. The boy rose to tender his seat to one of them. His mother whispered vociferously over the space that separated them: "Sit down George, sit down," and his father motioned a similar command.

The poor boy in confusion sat down blushing from shame;

questioning whether to obey his parents or his conscience. Finally he got up and coming to his father, said:

"There are ladies there without any place to sit down and I can't sit there and let them stand up."

His parents still refused their consent, but the little boy could not stand it any longer and went back and insisted on one of the ladies taking the seat.

A mistaken opinion as to the object for which a newspaper is conducted appears to prevail in the minds of many people in this city. On this point I desire to emphasize the remark of an eastern writer, that the newspaper business is a purely commercial enterprise. I do not believe that newspapers are published for the good of the public—that is to say, I do not believe that philanthropy enters into the question in the slightest degree. The newspaper business is carried in much the same way as any other business—let us say, the shoe business, for instance, by way of example. The man who sells shoes is anxious to get all the trade he can. He tries to buy a better article than his competitor, and he tries to sell it cheaper. By so doing he gains trade and many dollars. The newspaper editor aims to be more enterprising than his rival. He tries to get more and better news and special articles in advance of his neighbor, and in that way gives his newspaper a standing for enterprise and ability.

The labor conference, from which so much was expected towards ameliorating the condition of the horny-handed sons of toil, unfortunately terminated somewhat abruptly. Quite