

Coast may also be seen in this neighbourhood. There are dozens of Chinamen in loose, neutral-hued garments, little children in brilliant - coloured padded silk coats and quaint round caps, and women of the lower classes grouped in twos and threes about the doors of their shacks.

But though, of course, the local low-caste Chinese women

go about as freely as do their white sisters, there is in Victoria a girl-wife, who, being of higher caste and having feet only two inches long, can scarcely walk at all; she therefore goes out to take the air in a carriage.

There is something indescribably pathetic about the life of such a woman, apart from the squalid existence of the ordinary Mongolians who infest our British Columbian coast towns. For to see her totter across the room, catching at the furniture in order to steady herself *en route*; to try to put your thumb into her tiny shoe, and find you cannot succeed, so narrow is the little article of silk and kid she has embroidered to form a covering for her poor mutilated feet; to note the immobility of her colourless face upon which resignation is so indelibly stamped, is to realize the helpless, hopeless tenor of her life.

Thanks be to Heaven, the children of this woman run about as nature intended they should; thus in one family, at least, the barbarous practice



BLACKIE, PHOTOGRAPHER.

INTERIOR OF LEGISLATIVE HALL.

of binding up the nether limbs of babies until the toes drop off, and the foot is all pushed up into a distorted mass about the ankle, has died out.

In the Queen City, as in Vancouver, the Chinese domestic servant is ubiquitous, whilst his brother Mongolians wash, or rather ruthlessly tear up, the Victorians' clothes, or sell them vegetables and fish with cheerful impartiality.

Though in this sketch I have only been able to touch briefly upon a few headings connected with the commerce, shipping, public industries and institutions, the sporting and tourist attractions of Victoria, and also to refer incidentally to its eminent desirability as a residential locality, yet with all the inherent pride of the province, that is ever the sign-manual of the true westerner, I trust that fresh interest in our beautiful British Columbia may hereby be aroused in the minds of those before whom there still lies the glorious prospect of "a trip out west."

*Julian Durham.*