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## TALES OF THE TOWN.

THERE is one lady in the city of Victoria who ought to be an actress, and she undoubtedly would be, and a successful one, too, were she not a loving and cherished wife, and did she not possess a beautiful home far more attractive to her than the allurements of stageland. But she cannot refrain from a little playful masquerading for the benefit of her immediate friends, and one of her histrionic feats was so clever that it can't be kept silent. She wanted to play a joke on her husband, and so told her maid to tell him when he came home late in the afternoon that she had to make some calls and would not be home until after 6. Then she combed back her hair, dressed herself like a Sister of Charity, with the white bandage about her face and black hood and vestments, and was ushered into the room where her husband was reading THE HOME JOURNAL, as a sister asking alms for the poor. Mr. —, well, his name is not necessary, received her politely, listened to her tale of woe, and entirely unsuspecting of the farce, was so touched that he gave her a dollar. With expressions of gratitude she turned to leave, but suddenly turned and said: "Pray pardon me for troubling you, my kind sir, but it is so dark, will you not kindly accompany me as far as my car?" He, of course, complied with the request, offered his arm, which was accepted, and after walking a block to the car line was about to place her aboard a car, when she looked up at him with a laugh, and he saw that he had been taken in, and that the solemn sister whom he had been treating with so much grave courtesy was none other than his own sweet little wife.

The new morning daily has been indulging in the luxury of a strike, or a walk-out, which, so far as the general knowledge of the public is concerned, amounts to about the same thing. In this respect, I believe, the News is more

enterprising than the Colonist, as I am told that under the present management of the latter paper, nothing approaching a strike has ever taken place. The general opinion is that the action of the News compositors was ill-advised, but some, who are thoroughly posted on composing-room ethics, admit that there was considerable method in their madness. I am not prepared to either uphold or condemn the strike; but my little experience has taught me that a manager of a newspaper is never a welcome visitor in the composing-room, and that much of the friction arising between the management and men would be avoided, if the employees of the "front" office would attend strictly to their own business. On the other hand, some of the printers concerned in this particular strike have forfeited the right to longer claim for their craft a monopoly of the intelligence of organized labor.

I heard a good story in the reading room of the Driard the other night of a Western clergyman, which I believe will stand repeating. It runs thus:—A clergyman, who in his younger days had on more than one occasion sat down to the green cloth, preached a sermon on card playing, and at its close he remarked:

"Will the brethren now in the house who know how to play poker please hold up their hands?"

He waited a minute and not a hand went up.

"I am very much obliged," he said then, "but I did not think so many of you knew how."

There was a sensation in the church, but the preacher concluded the services quietly, and afterwards a committee waited on him.

"We came to ask what you meant by saying that we all knew how to play poker, when in response to your inquiry not one of us responded," said the spokesman hotly.

The preacher laughed soothingly.

"Don't let your tempers get the better of you, brethren," he replied; "any

man who knows how to play poker isn't going to show his hand unless he is forced to, and you know it as well as I do."

The committee apologized and reported to the other members, and the preacher's salary was raised.

The British Columbia Board of Trade has appointed Mr. Robert Ward as its representative at the Trade Congress, to be held in London, England, in June next. The significance of this appointment will be apparent when it is stated that this Congress is looked forward to by the commercial world with an interest never before equalled.

In Mr. Ward, British Columbia will have a champion, thoroughly enthusiastic in his work, and posted on the vast and varied resources of the province. The benefits likely to result from this appointment must be apparent to all.

There are other questions which must come before this Congress—matters of interest to Canada as a whole—and Mr. Ward, with his illimitable fund of information on trade questions, will make his voice heard on all of them. It is impossible to ignore the very great increase in the amount of attention that is being devoted in all quarters to the question of the possibilities for Canada of increased trade with Great Britain. The press (both party and independent), newspapers, as well as trade and financial journals, are giving the subject great prominence in their columns, and the man who first succeeds in giving the scheme shape will find himself famous. There is a strong desire throughout all classes that trade with Great Britain should be cultivated in every way possible, and to the greatest possible extent, and the manner and the means of accomplishing this object could be dealt with more intelligently by the Trade Congress than in any other way.

The Toronto Mail has been particularly pronounced in its utterance on this subject recently, and its articles are