

The True Knight of British Columbia.

"The true Knight does no Man wrong."

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VANCOUVER, DECEMBER, 1898.

THE INFLUENCE OF PYTHIANISM.

No stream from its source
Flows, seaward, how lonely so ever its course,
But what some land is gladden'd. No star ever
rose
And set, without influence somewhere. Who
knows
What earth needs from earth's lowest creature?
No
Life can be pure in its purpose and strong in its
strife
And all life not be purer and stronger thereby.—
Lucile.

We have now considered what Pythianism does for the individual, we have also seen what it inspires a man to do for others, the others who are linked with him in the same glorious fellowship, and now we must consider what influence

such men—and their work have in the community. We all believe in influence. It is a fact—and a fact is a chiel that winna ding, and canna be disputed. Our common talk declares the fact. We say such and such a man has a great influence, and such another man has no influence in the town or city. What is true of a man is true of an order. Again, the man who has an influence has it because of some real or imagined worth, and the man who has it not, has it not because of some real or imagined worthlessness. There is always something in or about a man which constrains other men to pin their faith in him, and there is always something in or about a man which constrain other men to avoid and shun him. These are points which hardly require to be elaborated. They are patent to every one who has eyes to see, and who has ears to hear. Further, my readers must bear in mind that influence may be a good or a bad influence. The wisdom or judgments of the world declares it emphatically. We are told again and again that such men have a bad influence, and that some other men have a good influence. It is not enough then to have an influence, but we ought to aim to have at all times a good influence. All this then has its bearing upon us who are Pythians. Pythianism aims to make a man, and a man who will be a follower of Pythias. What that is is plain to him who has travelled the way familiar to us all. He has, however, to become a true faithful friend, in his thoughts and words, lovingly charitable, and in his actions grandly benevolent. In the very nature of things he must have an influence wherever he dwells, or wherever he lives, moves, and has his being. Let the poet help us to understand this wonderful thing which is associated with us all, and which is in a deep true sense our life:

I dropped a pebble in the stream:
It sunk forever from my sight:
A moment in the sun's warm beam
A diamond sparkled warm and bright
Reflecting far its radiant light.
A circle, small indeed at first,
Widened, e'en amidst the tempest's roar,
Until at last it faintly burst
And vanished on the farther shore.
A frown, a scowl, an angry glance,
A hasty or unguarded word,
A formal bow, a look askance—
These quicker than a swift winged bird,
Pierce to the heart like two edged sword:
Spending a baleful influence wide.
They cast a mirk some shade and gloom
Across life's rough and troubled tide
And reach unto the silent tomb.
A word, a look of sympathy,
A penny generously bestowed,
A simple act of courtesy