

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossip and Horticulture.

VOL. III., No. 31.

VICTORIA, B. C., MAY 12, 1894.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Is published every Saturday morning at 77 Johnson street, Victoria. Subscription, \$1.00, invariably in advance.

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Advertising Rates on Application.

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THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL,
Office: 77 Johnson street,
Victoria, B. C.

CIRCULATION THIS WEEK - - 3,432.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1894.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

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

PEOPLE who live on Upper Pandora street are complaining against the city authorities for the manner in which the requirements of that part of the city have been neglected. It is said that some time ago there were disputes as to the street level, one property owner having threatened the city with a suit in the event of certain contingencies. This, some of the aldermen say, prevented them doing anything in the way of what was admittedly a needed improvement. Subsequent to that, it is said, employees of the Corporation, under the direction of Alderman Styles, took away a number of loads of gravel and other materials which constituted the top of the roadway, leaving it a mass of holes and irregularities that are disgraceful to be seen, and which in wet weather form pools some inches deep in front of the residences. Moreover, what ought to be the sidewalk is positively dangerous, in front of several houses there being a regular shelving leading to a deep descent to one of the numerous holes. Several persons have had pretty bad falls, attended fortunately with no serious results. It is impossible to drive up the street with any degree of comfort, and people with heavy loads every time they go that way are loud in their profane denunciations of the city authorities. What, it is asked, are the

ward representatives doing? The tax collector makes his regular calls on those who are forced to contribute to the civic revenues while the aldermen draw their wages with the utmost promptitude and exactness.

It is very satisfactory to notice that some energy is being displayed in regard to preparations for the approaching Queen's Birthday celebrations. It is to be hoped, however, that the rivalries of the different classes of sportsmen will not be the means of prejudicing the general object aimed at. It is observable that each club is making its requisitions for grants towards the expenses expected to be incurred. To my mind, there is too much dependence upon the general celebration committee. Each club or organization has its own particular friends who would not fail if called upon to put their hands in their pockets and help to achieve the objects desired. Why do not the different clubs then do a little canvassing on their own part, and having ascertained what their own admirers are disposed to do, draft a programme for submission to the celebration committee, setting forth not only their intentions but their financial requirements? Having this before them, the committee would be in a better position to take action. A much better balanced programme could in this way be drafted, and the Finance Committee, in making their appropriations, would not only see at a glance where and what grants were required, the subscriptions raised by the clubs indicating which of all the rest were the most popular sports. There would thus be avoided an excessive exhibition of certain amusements whose local popularity might, to a certain extent, be gauged by the subscriptions contributed in their behalf.

Premier Davie has, by the *Times* and some members of the Opposition, been spoken of as "the Czar," and I must confess that at first sight there is much that would give one to believe that such was his character. Still he has his specially good qualities, one of them his fondness for children not only as demonstrated in the tender care and attentions which he bestows on the members of his own family; but in his habitual kindness to little ones and to women folk at times when little thoughtful attentions are most timely. He is

then at his best and the stern politician becomes transformed into a living exposition of tender consideration. Travelling upon railway or steamboat, let a little one's voice be heard either in plaint or in merriment and his features relax, the Attorney-General then demonstrating of how large a quantity of the milk of human kindness he is possessed. Children have no hesitation about making friends with him and should their mothers or sisters require assistance in getting on board or off, there is no one so ready to help them. It is no unfrequent thing to see him coming off the boat or cars, with little ones who had only recently formed his acquaintance tugging at his coat tails, or, perhaps, with them or their belongings in his arms or on his shoulders. And this is not on election times development; but it is the same day in and day out. And, no matter what is enemies may say, I cannot think that a man who is good to little people can be a very bad one under any conditions.

I was pleased to note that the question of roads was the leading subject of discussion at the political meeting held in the South Victoria school house, last Wednesday evening. There is no gainsaying the fact that the roads throughout the Province of British Columbia are marvels of badness, and in no place worse than the approaches to the city of Victoria. Our public highways have not improved as rapidly as other institutions, because they have not remained the public necessity that they were. The railroad has superseded them. It is idle to point to the roads of England and France as examples of what ought to have been done, because those roads were made in coaching days through thickly settled countries. Our roads are bad, disgracefully bad. The man who keeps his carriage or his business wagon has a right to demand proper ways for its use. The community breaks faith with him and with all who pay a road tax when it wastes it in the mudholes that are so commonly met in the immediate vicinity of this city. The storekeepers who are obliged to deliver their goods through the village and its outskirts, the draymen, the hackmen, the doctors, and those who ride for pleasure, are the immediate sufferers from bad roads, and they often pay a heavy tax