

connection with the carpet, it serves no purpose but to fulfil its mission as dust collector and moth haven, and to baffle the eye which would fain see something of the passing world. Still, ladies like them, and will have them, just for the reason that their neighbors do, and because it is an inherited habit which time has been unable to wither. If the Y. M. C. A. Convention would take up this matter and succeed in abolishing the white lace curtain, they would confer a lasting benefit on long-suffering humanity.

*Apropos* of the convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, I desire to remark that good may result from assemblages of this kind in more ways than from a Christian standpoint. For instance, a most important work to be done for the furtherance of the reciprocity movement, is to give the Americans information as to what Canada really is. While a few intelligent people south of the boundary line are no doubt well-informed concerning Canada, it is to be feared that the great majority entertain very erroneous opinions of this country, and these chiefly of the unfavorable sort. If they knew what the trade of Canada really is, and into what it is capable of being developed, they would be more desirous of cultivating closer trade relations. It would, in my humble opinion, be well to hold other conventions—and particularly those of a trade character—between the two countries with the object of becoming better acquainted and considering what can be done to draw them more closely together in the future than they have been in the past.

The meeting called by Mayor Beaven, last Wednesday night, to give the citizens an opportunity of discussing the proposition made by the Esquimalt Water company resolved itself into an attacking column and stormed the Sidney Railway. Up to the time I attended

that meeting, in common with most people, I thought our Board of Aldermen were a queer mixture, yet after what passed before me there, I could not help exclaiming, "How on earth did such a people get so many good representatives?"

In due course, Mr. Lubbe stood up, stated his case, and showed what he wanted. Alas and alas, there was none to say what the city wanted!—that is, there was no business proposition on behalf of the city.

How quickly men change their opinions when self interest comes in the way. The city of Chicago drains into Lake Michigan. All the water its inhabitants drink is pumped from Lake Michigan; yet its death rate is about as low as is the city of Victoria's. Philadelphia draws her supply from the Schuylkil River—a navigable stream, on whose surface all kinds and conditions of vessels float, the filth from which certainly do not have a purifying influence, yet I incline to the belief that the death rate of Philadelphia will bear comparison with our own. To come nearer home, let us consider Toronto on the banks of Lake Ontario, and Hanlan's Island two miles from the city. The number of craft daily plying between the two points named would be hard to give, and the amount of filth daily dumped into the lake between the points named would surely prove a burden for old Atlas himself, could it be placed on his shoulders, yet the Queen City of the Dominion draws its water from this cesspool, and its death rate is not alarming. This is not written to prove that two wrongs make a right, but to show that certain persons may be hypocritical.

Suppose it is granted that a train provided with dry earth closets, in passing over a lake, has a tendency to produce a bad effect, let us see if good cannot be brought out of evil in such a case by having the railway con-

struct their dam in such a way that every drop of water intended for the city's use shall be filtered through that dam, and thus secure what, up to the present it has been impossible for the city to have. Let all these things be considered, before anything is condemned, particularly when we know that the point sought to be traversed is but a few yards from the very end of the lake at which our dam is located.

If Mr. Hunter had propounded a few questions to certain people, it is not improbable that the man who saw through him so clearly would have been rendered less opaque to the citizens generally. Mr. Richards is representing Mr. DeCosmos at present in a suit against the Telephone Co. Could it be possible that he represented the interests of the dear public and Mr. DeCosmos at the same time? Killed two birds with one stone, as it were. Then Mr. Wilson, is or was a partner of DeCosmos in a certain enterprise, and had a few questions been asked, the true cause of the intense interest taken by these gentlemen on behalf of the people might have enabled the people to vote more intelligently upon so important a question.

To put it more clearly—Mr. DeCosmos and certain adherents undertook to build a railway, secured franchises and privileges. The result of his venture, all of our people know. In due time another company undertook a similar enterprise, which is well nigh completed. Mr. DeCosmos claims a particular route—possibly a more desirable route than the one owned by the Sidney Company. But the Mt. Tolmie Tramway Co., have a franchise over the same ground possessed by Mr. DeCosmos, and the Sidney Co., may probably combine with the Mt. Tolmie Co., and thus avail themselves of what Mr. DeCosmos thinks is peculiarly his own. Should Sidney and Mt. Tolmie coalesce, it may render it necessary to cross our reservoir. Such is the condition of affairs, and I ask any candid man to say whether he thinks certain people were prompted by motives *pro bono publico*, or is there not a nigger in the fence?

PERE GRINATOR.