

It would seem as if British Columbia were some plague stricken spot from the manner in which it is treated by Dominion ministers and officials. They come along once in a while, but are always in a terrific hurry. Business at Ottawa requires their attention, or they have to catch a steamer for some place, so that they have not more than twenty minutes to stay. The consequence is that they come in here, say to Victoria, on the evening boat and generally go away on the following morning, just as though they feared to face daylight here, and go back to Ottawa where they puff themselves out talking utter nonsense about British Columbia, its people and affairs. The people feel this treatment keenly, for as a rule these men who are in such a rush, invariably go back and idle away weeks in Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto, or salmon fishing down in Quebec. This course of conduct is by no means fair to British Columbia, and it is to be hoped that ministers Foster and Angers will see their way to coming down from their exalted position and chat comfortably and freely with the people who have assisted in giving them that position by electing supporters of their government. It was a noticeable fact that Hon. Mr. Daly rushed through here just as fast as he decently could, but had time to stop at Brandon and promise all sorts of things in the way of Government favors.

In this connection it might be remarked that there is no reason why this province should not be represented in the cabinet. Quebec or Ontario could spare one of its ministers for the Pacific province; Pacific both by name and nature, for if any other portion of the Dominion had been so persistently neglected and overlooked, there would have been a prodigious kick entered. It is not fair the way British Columbia has been shunted and side tracked for

years, till last session its members woke up mildly and a few of the crumbs were thrown our way. A man is not sent to parliament to support any government; this country is not run by political bosses. A man is sent there to represent the people who elect him, and if he finds that the government he supports neglects the interests of his constituents he should come flat-footed out about it and let himself be heard where his voice has the loudest sound and the greatest effect, and that is in the division. Threats of resignation and remonstrance are no use; action is the only thing, and until this is realized by her members, British Columbia will be overlooked. Resignation is defaulting from the trust imposed by the people, and is mistaken honor; the member's duty is to vote in his constituents' interests, whether for or against the government

How the world moves these times, or is it that we are becoming more liberal minded. I remember the time, not many years ago, either, when the prince of musical instruments, the organ, was a thing unthought of in a church other than the Episcopalian or Roman Catholic. A dance was an abomination in the sight of these good people, and going to the theatre was an immorality not to be condoned. What is the case now, though? We were accustomed to glorify the Creator in the Roman Catholic church amid the melodies of Mendelssohn, the divine music of Haydn or the glories of Mozart, and we thanked Him that there men who could make sound so beautiful. The Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and even the Episcopalians looked upon all this as "operatic" and ungodly; they held up their spotless hands in holy horror at such rank blasphemy. But what is the case now with their great choirs and anthems sung to the

music of the leading masters? Indeed, I often go to any one of these churches simply for the pleasure of listening to the anthem by the choir, or some offertory solo. And why should this not be so?—for what is there that will more strongly awake the dormant devotional spirit than grand music grandly rendered.

But there has been a much greater advance than the introduction of classical music in church services of late, and two of them are the church concert and the "social," at the former of which all kinds of secular music are indulged in, and is often a first class and well gotten up affair. The social, however, is more free and easy. Songs and other items are given for the entertainment of those present, and "refreshments" are handed round; in fact it is a sort of indoor picnic. The social has undergone considerable evolution; there is the raspberry, the strawberry, the ice cream and so on; there is even the water melon social. Now comes the wax "figger" show, a sort of mild imitation of that popular and estimable lady Mrs. Jarley, which came off the other evening at one of the city churches. At the same time, in another religious circle, the members were indulging in a "regular plantation" social. It would not be at all surprising to next hear the announcement from the pulpit of the first social dance to be given in the school room by the Ladies' Aid (R. S. V. P. evening dress), dance music by the choir; all are welcome; proceeds in aid of the church debt. There is nothing improper in these socials, on the contrary, they bring both young and old together, enlarge the sympathies, liberalize the mind and generally improve the character. A young man or young woman could not spend an evening more profitably or properly.

It has been suggested, in view of the success of the eastern tour