

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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## TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

IT is customary when I have anything particular to say to readers of these columns, to say it before proceeding to the regular orders of the day, and, before making my hebdomadal bow this morning, I have a statement to make with reference to the object of this paper as understood by the undersigned. The following remarks will apply to a number of anonymous contributors, who entirely mistake the principles of THE HOME JOURNAL, and wonder why their effusions do not find a place in its columns. This paper is devoted to public interests (after those of the proprietors) and to the ventilation of abuses—public abuses on general principles, and private wrongs where some good can be attained. It is bound by neither party nor politics, nor is it an upholder of any particular religious sect. In no case can its columns be used for the purpose of slander or scandal that will injure the private character of any individual. Two reasons can be assigned for this: One is that such conduct is not honest; and the other is because libel suits are expensive luxuries these hard times. So that, to use a vulgarism, when any one has any mud to sling, this paper is not the proper channel to seek. Several effusions have been sent into this office of late, abusing, for it cannot be called criticizing, different people and institutions, and it is the receipt of these communications that has led to these remarks. Intelligent, honest and well written criticism, couched in grammatical and courteous language, and

vouched for by the full name of the contributor, is always received and given full and fair consideration, but vituperation and abuse against individuals, churches or other bodies will not be given a moment's thought. Several persons who do not see their particular axes ground this week, will kindly take the hint.

The broom may not still occupy its exalted position on Government street, after the result of the lacrosse match between the Capitals of Ottawa and the Victorias, but there is no excuse to offer for it. Our boys would have won if they had not been beaten. They did the next best thing, though. They gave these champions a stiff trial to keep their title, notwithstanding the fact that they have been at high pressure ever since they left home. There is only one regrettable matter in connection with the tour, and I am extremely sorry that a brother newspaper man should have been the cause of that. I refer to the sneering remarks of the Ottawa *Free Press* about the team. The boys had met with general courtesy and praise from the papers elsewhere, and the *Free Press* should have remembered, as the other journals did, that the visitors were for the time being the guests of the city, and were entitled to at least honorable treatment. The whole thing came in very bad taste, but there is the consolation that it came from a paper which seldom if ever displays any good taste or honorable traits. Victorians will be glad to welcome the boys back. They have given Victoria an advertisement in the east that no amount of literature could effect. It is to be hoped the city will appreciate it in a proper spirit.

Cases of "accidental shooting," "didn't know it was loaded," and so forth will be common now. Probably a more appropriate way would be to class all these affairs together as criminal negligence. It is not my intention to point a moral from the misfortune which befel a family in the accident to their child the other day, but I often tremble when young children pass me on the road, one or two of them with a gun which they are scarcely strong enough to carry, not to speak of firing off. A whole crowd of admirers press around the proud possessor of some discarded old muzzle-loader, following him through all kinds of places. He displays his skill in a confident, reckless manner, and the consequence is an "accident." Now, are not parents morally, if not legally, responsible for all this? When some of our apprentice legislators are making the annual bungle of the Game Act next session, it would be just as well to insert a clause limiting the age at which a youngster may carry a gun in public, and make the penalty for infraction apply to parents or guardians.

Despite the constant complaint of hard times, tightness of money and scarcity of means to make a living, somehow the young fellows are plunging into matrimony at a rate unparalleled. No doubt they follow out the principle that it is cheaper to keep two than one, but whether such be a fact or not, the spirit is a good one. There is nothing which will tend more to steady a young man down to work than to get married to the right party; it is like ballast to a boat. It also has a good effect on general business, for it shows that those young men intend to stay by the

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MANTLES,  
MILLINERY,  
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