

My Boyhood Days in Victoria

BY EDGAR FAWCETT.

How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood. When fond recollection presents them to my view, the orchard, the meadow, the deep-tangled wildwood, and every loved spot which my boyhood has known.

Oh! give me back my boyhood days, the sportive days of childhood, the merry games with bat and ball, the rambles through the wildwood.

As I stated in my experiences in San Francisco in the early fifties and in consequence of the loss of my father's residence near Alberni, we came north to Victoria after gold was discovered in British Columbia. We took passage in the steamer Northern, which was filled with passengers and freight, and came via Portland, and we arrived in Esquimalt on the 11th February, 1853.

At the time that all the ocean steamers docked at Esquimalt then, and the passengers were freighted round in a smaller steamer to the Hudson's Bay wharf in the company's harbor. The first thing that attracted our attention on coming into the harbor was the high pallisades of the fort, which ran along Wharf street, from the company's wharf to Broughton street, and up there to Government street, along Government to Bastion street, and to the clear store with the brass plate on, now occupied by North & Richardson. Opposite Fort street there was an entrance, and another on Wharf street.

In the centre of the large gates there were smaller ones. These small gates were opened every morning at 7 o'clock, and the ringing of the fort bell, which was suspended from a kind of belfry, in the centre of the yard. To the north were the stores and warehouse, and to the south large barns; the residences were situated on the east side of the fort.

The stores were patronized by all the colonists, not then being confined to the company's servants, as in former times

a log built house, whitewashed. I think part of the bake house was to be seen in late years in the rear of a carpenter's shop on Broad-street, also I think the baker himself is still alive, and named James Stockham. He made excellent bread and charged 25c, a loaf, but such loaves, they being at least three times as large as modern loaves.

There was a good story told of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the price of flour and bread, during the gold excitement, which reflected great credit on the chief factor of the company. It was said that a scheme was concocted to corner all the flour in the country (in trust) by some enterprising citizens across the border; and the company was approached by these gentlemen, who proposed to them to buy their whole stock of flour for that purpose. To the credit of the company's officials they refused to do so, and sold at the usual price, against the combination, and so broke it up.

After we had got settled in our new home the question of sending me to school was discussed, and easily settled, for it was Hobson's choice. The Central school, as it was called, was on the site of the present Central school. It was the only one I can think of except Angela college, and maybe a private school. There was a fee of \$5 a year, charged, payable quarterly in advance.

After you left Blanchard street, the way to the school was by pathway through the woods. The country around View and Port streets, up to Cook, was very swampy, and covered mostly by willow and alder trees. In fact there were small swamps on them. View street, where there was good duck shooting in winter. When I went to the Colonial school in 1850, it was taught by a young man named Kennedy, whose father was Dr. Kennedy of the Hudson's Bay Company, and whose brother was in the same service. Some months later he resigned, and his successor was an Irishman named W. H. Barry, whose temper was quick, like my own, and allowed

with out jackknives we might have been seen sitting on the fence and school porch eating as only boys can eat. In the midst of our vegetarian feast the lookout announced the distant approach of the master, and then there was a scattering of the boys, as fast as they could get to the school, where there was good duck shooting in winter. When I went to the Colonial school in 1850, it was taught by a young man named Kennedy, whose father was Dr. Kennedy of the Hudson's Bay Company, and whose brother was in the same service. Some months later he resigned, and his successor was an Irishman named W. H. Barry, whose temper was quick, like my own, and allowed

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allow Mr. Master James; heed me or I must have a word with Mr. James about you." All this time James was standing up at his desk with his riding whip in his hand, and making signs for me to go, which I proceeded to do, the master protesting all the time. I got my reward next day, but not as bad as I would have had had not good Mrs. Burr come to my rescue. We drove to Upland Farm, then the home of City Clerk Leigh and his family at Cadboro Bay. Mrs. Leigh was always good to James and I, on these visits to the farm, getting us the best to eat and plenty of fresh milk to drink. By some understanding between Mr. James and Mr. Burr we continued these afternoon drives, and it may be imagined how we boys enjoyed them. We continued

After each had said his say, we put it to the vote, and it was carried three to one that the fire take place. We set fire to a lot of pieces of broken combs at two separate places outside a pile of boxes or trunks of boxes. Then we made all haste to get aboard our craft, up sail and away. We had hardly reached the top of Johnson street to the Indian reserve, when the fire could be seen plainly as having been a success, from our point of view. So much so that we made greater haste to get to the boat house. We lost no time in setting up for the boat hire, and making the best of our legs in getting home. The gathering was not so noisy, for the water was with fear and trembling too. There was good reason for fear, for the paper gave an account of the affair. The Indians made complaint to the police, and they were searching for the culprits. I was afraid to go out at all, much less to go to school, and every knock at the door made me start. I at last confessed to my parents my share in the business, and it was decided that I must "lay low" for a few days, and lucky it was for me I did not get what I deserved, a good whipping as my mother said. The quartette of boys kept their counsel, and we escaped a visit from the police.

Some time later we visited the island to see the result of the fire, and found that all traces of the burning ground had vanished, the surface of the island being swept clean, not a trace of boxes, bones or trees, and it has remained so till this day.

The Expeditions to Hillside Farm. In the absence of Chinese market gardens, and the kitchen garden now attached to most homesteads, we had to go a distance for our vegetables. It took the best part of a day to get to the side farm for a sack of assorted vegetables. Several boys would start together for this trip into the country. It is astonishing how the absence of streets or roads lengthens this distance, and so it was then. We started after breakfast and took our lunch, going across country by trail, each with a sack, which was filled with the heaviest vegetables got, and therefore the more stoppages we made to rest. At last Port and Blanchard streets were in sight, and we were again aching, tired out and hungry as hunters.

"The Hudson's Bay Fort Again." The last I remember of the fort was during the contest brought on by the burning question of the day, namely, Union and Tariff vs. Free Port. The Mainland represented Tariff, and the Island Free Port. Should we join with the Mainland with a tariff or remain Free Port. The hustings was erected in the fort, and the pros and cons were discussed by the rival candidates. I took part, although too young to vote, and worked day and night for my friend, Amor De Cosmos, who was in favor of union and tariff, and we won the day too.

So ends the reminiscences of a Victoria school boy in the pioneer days, and hoping it may bring pleasing recollections to the old school boys to-day who may care to read the memoirs of one of their number.

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Ragged clothes quickly—that's what common soaps with "premiums" cost; but

SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE

Ask for the Octagon Bar

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A FINE SHOWING FOR FIRST YEAR

ANNUAL MEETING OF WORTHY ASSOCIATION

A Slight Deficit Easily Counterbalanced by Effect of Necessary Expenditure—Officers Elected.

"When the first steps were taken towards the organization of a Young Men's Christian Association in this city, these in favor of the proposal were told by many that it was useless to attempt to establish such an institution with success. Victoria is a city of glorious possibilities. At least this is so in the opinion of a large number. In spite of these prejudices, the Y. M. C. A. had been organized and its first year's record is most gratifying. This statement was made by Rev. Elliott S. Rowe, D.D., pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist church, in an inspiring address at the first annual meeting of the Y. M. C. A. on Wednesday night. He also congratulated the directors on the success of their efforts on behalf of the institution.

There was a fairly good attendance and shortly after 8 o'clock the chair was taken by the president, R. W. Clark. In a few preliminary remarks he said that it was now just thirteen months since the inaugural meeting was held in Harmony hall. The object of that gathering was realized, a Y. M. C. A. house was organized, and in the course of a year put in a fairly flourishing condition, both in point of finances and membership. The change in the secretary's report was a gratifying one, and no doubt given the association a slight set-back. There was no doubt that the past month had been marked by greater progress than in any previous period. At the present rate he looked forward to seeing a balance on the right side in the near future.

Referring to the finances of the institution, Mr. Clark said that the treasurer's report would show that the institution was \$500 behind. Against this there was an asset on the books of about \$400 in unpaid dues of sustaining and ordinary members. For this expenditure the association had to show improvements in the room, the furnishing of a parlor, the reading and amusement rooms, and the gymnasium, which totalled a much larger sum than \$500. Looking at it in this light the association had not only paid running expenses but met a considerable amount of the capital investment.

The chairman then called for a statement from Secretary Fisher. Since the organization of the Y. M. C. A. the latter stated 436 members had registered. There were at present 200 ordinary members and 100 sustaining members, good standing. Over \$3,500 had been donated, which was most gratifying. The association was apparently growing in favor. Regular meetings were held on Sundays, at which addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Clarke, Rev. Mark Guy Pearce and other prominent ministers. The gratitude of the association was due the clergy, who had always been ready to extend a helping hand. In conclusion, he thanked the board of directors for their assistance, and expressed the hope that all would work together for the good of the association during the ensuing term. (Applause.)

W. Scovcroft, the treasurer, then read his report, which follows: Statement of Accounts, March 1st, 1903, to March 1st, 1904.

Receipts. Sustaining Fees \$1,075 33 Ordinary Members' Fees 781 93 Special Donations 778 85 Entertainments and Reception 588 83 Collections 112 33 Sundries 151 49 Debitures 110 00

Expenses. Cash on hand \$5,508 54 Deficit 456 63

Expenses. Furniture and Fixtures \$1,308 10 Lighting and Heating 602 23 Salaries 1,228 25 Printing, Literature and Sundries 417 38 Cash in hand, Treas. 831 47 Cash in hand, Secy. 45 95

Liabilities. Unpaid Salaries \$145 00 Unpaid Rent 39 00 Unpaid Accounts 424 07 Debitures 110 00

Rev. Dr. Rowe was then called upon. He said he was thoroughly in sympathy with the Y. M. C. A. work. The record of the past year was extremely satisfactory. When the first steps toward organizing the association were taken those who had the matter in hand met with every discouragement. Victoria, in the opinion of many, was a city of glorious possibilities. In spite of this the organization had been achieved with success.

A Young Men's Christian Association was an institution that should commend itself to everyone. It was not an organization for the advancement of any particular doctrine. Its tendency was towards the cultivation of health and intelligence among the young men. In such a case the work of the Y. M. C. A. was of national benefit.

Some had said that the money expended in the support of a Y. M. C. A. was wasted. What a small proportion of the amount expended in Victoria for amusements was that devoted to the support of the association. Surely the money spent in these amusements was not put to a good purpose as that used for the support of such a deserving institution. He looked forward to the time when Victoria would boast of a Y. M. C. A. building.

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ing. This was bound to come sooner or later. He congratulated the board of directors in the success regarding their faithful and zealous work in the interests of the association, and expressed the hope that those appointed would establish a similar record at the expiration of the ensuing term.

J. C. Croft, chairman of the physical committee, and W. E. Staneland, chairman of the recreation committee, also spoke. Five new members were then elected to the board of directors as follows: L. Goodacre, S. M. Okell, John Nelson, E. S. Day and W. E. Staneland. A local selection was given by A. Wheeler, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the retiring directors. Communications expressing regret at their inability to attend were read from Rev. W. Leslie Clay, Rev. J. H. Sweet and Rev. Canon Fadden.

STUDIED J. M. BARRIE.

Guild of First Presbyterian Church Spend Literary Evening on This Author's Works.

The Guild of the First Presbyterian church held its first literary evening for the season in the hall of the church last evening. There was a large attendance, not only of members of the Guild but also of the members of the congregation and their friends. It was presided over by A. W. Miller, who explained that the object of the meeting was not so much criticism as for mutual improvement.

Miss Macgregor read a paper on the Life and Works of J. M. Barrie. The essay was very much enjoyed, and Miss Macgregor was given great praise for it. A discussion of the paper followed, in which Rev. Dr. Campbell, Thornton Fell, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Walker and others took part.

Mr. Ewing followed with a reading from Barrie's works, "The Courtship of Tomahawk's Boy." Following this a selection from the dramatized version of "The Little Minister" was given by Miss Marshall, Miss Nellie Lovell and D. G. Frazer. The programme concluded with a reading, "The Old Dominion," by Miss E. J. Lawson.

The programme was very much enjoyed by those present, and considerable light was thrown upon the works and style of the celebrated Scottish writer.

TRYING EXPERIENCES. Two Victorian Commercial Men Travel Under Difficulties in Interior.

"Not for years has there been such a large snowfall," says the Ashcroft Journal of Saturday, "and this last week the extra snow, coupled with the wind, has filled every mile of road between Barkerville to Quesnel—more or less. Around lack of Clubs like the drift is awful, and is equalled by around the Kurtz and Lane Point. "Some idea of the extent of the storm may be drawn from the following incident which has happily ended without loss of life.

Harry Shannon was coming over to Barkerville in the stage on Friday, Stanley, and, as misfortunes seldom come single, there happened to be an extra in Stanley at the same time as the regular stage, so both pulled out together, at 10 o'clock. On the extra were Tom Allice, Turner, Beeton & Co., Victoria, and Mr. Vaughan, of Wilson Bros., Victoria.

"Considering the state of the road it may be said all went well till they arrived at the sawmill on the lake. This ordinarily takes something over two hours and a half, but on this occasion it took five hours. However, at the Kurtz and Lane the stage had to pull up, the horses were plunging and getting more and more every minute, and, to cut a long history short, it was decided to walk and return next morning for the sleighs.

"Harry Shannon begged to be left there, but it could not be thought of. The poor old chap was unable to walk, so was put on a horse and was nearly frozen riding the last three miles (without his overcoat). But what was the surprise of everyone to find Mr. Allice, who could not go on, Snow up to the waist, he wanted to be left to die, practically that is, for he said life wasn't worth living. Finally he was put on a horse and the two lads rode down to two B. C. X. horses that had never been ridden before. But everything must have an end, and the hospital was reached at about 10 p. m., when Mr. Allice dropped off his horse and got inside the hospital, where he spent the night. But Harry Shannon changed his mind and went up town to record a claim the next day.

"There are very few in Victoria or Cariboo either, who have the distinction now enjoyed by Mr. Allice. He has been an inmate of the Royal Cariboo hospital, and he paid his dollar like a little man who he has, and the earnest hope of every one of his many friends here is that he gets back to the Coast. G. K., having enjoyed his visit and is some of the worst the bad time he had last Friday night."

A RICH PROPERTY. Satisfactory progress is reported at the Richard Hill mine at Mount Sicker. E. Dickie, ex-M. P., who is himself interested in the property, is now in the city. He says that in connection with the 60,000 shares put on the market at par, no special effort is being made to sell them. Already 25,000 of them have been taken up by members of the company.

The presence of such a depth of snow on the mountain interfered with the transport of the ore from the mine to the Lenora railway, where it was shipped to the Crofton smelter. The Lenora Company was doing its best to keep the dump clear, but with so much snow it was difficult to have the ore landed every day. The expense, in consequence, only about fifteen tons a day was being shipped from the mine.

But the remarkable possibilities of the mine is shown by the fact that with only fifteen tons' shipment a day the expense may be paid and it would also be possible to pay a dividend on it. Instead of this, the company is devoting the proceeds towards more fully equipping the mine.

COLD SETTLES IN THE BACK. It hits people in a tender spot and makes it might hard to brace up. Nervine will take that kind out of your spine in a short order; it soothes, that's why relief comes so soon. Nervine penetrates, that's why it cures. Five times stronger than ordinary remedies, Nervine can't fail to cure lumbago, lumbago, sciatica and neuralgia. Nervine is king over all muscular pain, has no equal and costs 25c per bottle.

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