

are. Here they call on me, drink the wine and cake purchased with my hard-earned dollars, hob nob with me and all the rest, while on the street I am jostled about by them, abused and at times assaulted, and their children stone me." I don't go much on their sentiments of friendship; it is all what I call snobbery, and I supplement John's estimate with the statement that there is quite a lot of snobbery in Victoria.

Following fast upon the failure of the Baring Bros., comes the announcement that the great financial firm of which Marmaduke Wood was a member, with branch offices opposite the Bank of England, has gone under. This institution was established two months ago in Portland and had already gained a credit with a furniture house in that city which enabled it to purchase office supplies. It was hoped that in time the firm would still further extend its credit, but the sheriff, who appears to have been opposed to its establishment from the first, swooped down upon them and wound up its affairs. No cause is assigned for the failure, but on 'change yesterday it was rumored that the junior member of the firm had been dealing rather heavily of late in American wines.

I observe that Major General Herbert has been making some uncomplimentary remarks concerning the Canadian militia. Too long, he believes, the volunteer force has been managed by good natured people whose fashion it is to tell each corps they review that it is the "finest body of troops it has been their fortune to inspect." I agree with Major-General Herbert that if it is worth while to have a militia, it is worth while having a good one, and the General seems to be going the right way about improving the citizen soldiery. But I believe he is too sweeping altogether in his denunciation of our volunteers. Surely he has not heard of the military exploiture of a certain Victoria major during a review on Beacon Hill last summer, or he would have qualified his statements. The officer referred to accomplished some evolutions not to be found in any work on military regulations. The manoeuvre at the time was regarded with much favor by military experts, who believed that the Canadian war department should adopt it at once.

The Minnesota State Legislature is considering a bill to abolish the noxious cigarette. This leads me to remark that the cigarette habit is growing alarmingly in Victoria. Like a pale spectre, wrapped in a rice paper shroud, it stalks abroad and saps the strength of our boys and grown up men, too. The mastication of tobacco is a noble art, and strengthens the race, particularly as to the breath, and besides it decorates the lips, beard and shirt bosom with a dark, rich amber hue which can not be secured in any other way. A pipe, too, is a good thing, if it has been smoked long enough to give it virility and character and is one of the most pleasing and beneficial adjuncts of civilization. But, perish the cigarette!

It is stated that arrangements have been already made with the leading Vic-

toria hotels to accommodate a tourist travel this season, approximating 75,000 people. My figures may not be correct, but they are close enough to rouse the Council and citizens to the urgent necessity of making arrangements at once for the entertainment and pleasure of the visitors. It is safe to say that while the tourist hears of anything worth seeing in the city he will remain, and it is a self evident fact that the longer he stops with us the better it will be for Victoria. Each tourist will spend say \$10, which for 75,000 will amount to \$750,000, a large sum indeed, and we need it all.

In consequence of the Chicago Exhibition, the coming summer will doubtless witness the greatest rush of European travel to and through the American continent that recent years have seen, as well as an immense travel from the eastern portions of the United States and Canada coastward. The class of persons who will be attracted to the Exhibition, and especially those coming from a considerable distance, will be largely composed of men of means and enterprise, who, as President Van Horne very aptly put it, "know a good thing when they see it," and have the means to secure what they think desirable.

There can be no doubt that ^{Victoria} will be called upon to entertain more travellers this year than ever before, therefore, to encourage and induce this travel the citizens must put themselves out a little. There are other considerations besides those of a temporary monetary character. It is desirable that the attention of men of capital and enterprise should be directed to the undeveloped resources of the city and province generally. To accomplish this result, it is desirable, in fact necessary, that the city council should immediately appoint a committee to take into consideration the best means of entertaining the tourists who visit ~~Victoria this summer~~ ^{Victoria}. I do not mean a lavish expenditure of money; but rather committees of gentlemen who would see to it that the traveller would become thoroughly acquainted with the progress the city was making. There is no doubt in my mind that if we cast our bread upon the waters it will return to us before many days.

There is another matter which should be attended to as early as possible, I refer to the cleaning up of our streets. The highways and the byways alike should be subjected to a rigid scrutiny, and every thing that would offend the eye of a visitor should be removed. This is desirable from a sanitary standpoint as well. The cholera scare last summer was fortunately only a scare so far as Canada was concerned. The lateness of the season at which its western march in Europe was developed was interrupted by the advent of cold weather, but the indications are that with the spring and summer renewed outbreaks in overcrowded, unhealthy and filthy localities may be looked for, the result of which may be that the refugees from the affected places may carry the germs of the dire disease to the countries to which they may flee for escape. That Canada may be visited by the disease is not beyond the

limits of possibility, and with such an undesirable contingency in view, but without desiring to assume the character of an alarmist, I deem it desirable to utter a warning note. I have no doubt whatever but that the Government will take every possible precaution to guard against its admission to this country. In the cities to the south of us, already measures calculated to protect them from such a visitation are being discussed; but notwithstanding all these precautions, notwithstanding the most restrictive quarantine laws and their most effectual and rigid enforcement, the people of a country may leave too much to the government and neglect the precautions which they ought to take.

Should cholera gain admission to this country the result would be a baneful one. Trade would be seriously and injuriously affected, and, as the Montreal *Shareholder* says, the financial interests of the country would be more or less influenced by it. It is, therefore, desirable that the importance of preparing for such a visitation should not be lost sight of. It is the duty of communities and individuals, as well as that of the Government, to keep this contingency in view. During the long winter months filth has accumulated, and filth is the nursery, the hot bed of disease. Care should be taken to prevent as much as possible the accumulation of everything partaking of its nature, wherever that can be done, in order that when the winter passes away there may remain nothing that could have been previously removed. In this respect, every individual has a duty to perform to himself and to the city, and he should see to it that he performs his duty. When a scare arises there is a great commotion, a hurrying and scurrying, a cleaning up and a cleansing down, but when the scare has passed away the lesson it taught is forgotten and the neglect of the past is again repeated. This should be avoided, and if cholera should unfortunately visit us, the city Government should be found prepared to fight it and determined to give it no encouragement. Now is the time to prepare, and that preparation should be of the most thorough kind. Should it not come the preparation for it will have done no harm but will have accomplished much good. Cleanliness is at all times next to godliness, but at no time is it more so than when the visit of an epidemic is visible on the distant horizon.

It is wonderful how many people are ready to identify themselves with the divorce case referred to in the last issue. At least half-a-dozen different persons have called upon me wanting to know why I dragged their domestic troubles into print. Wonderful to relate not one of the persons who felt aggrieved at the publication of the item last week was the right one. The parties to the divorce have since left town. From all this I draw the conclusion that more than one couple must be contemplating an early dissolution of the bond which made them man and wife.

PERE GRINATOR.