

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossip.

VOL. I, No. 4.

VICTORIA, B. C., NOVEMBER 7, 1891.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

## TRUTH AND FICTION.

THE OTHER EVENING I dropped into The Victoria to hear Mr. Grismer and Miss Davies in their romantic picturesque drama, "Beacon Lights." The play, from an American standpoint, is certainly a good one; but really I could not help thinking that it bore a remarkable resemblance to that beautiful English drama, "Rosedale," made famous by the late Lester Wallack. The situations are certainly reproduced from "Rosedale." In the fourth act, where Allen dares the ruffians to do their worst, and calls upon the soldiers for protection, the situation is much the same, though not quite so effective, as Elliott Grey's "Up guards and at them!" However, the play is a great deal better than many now on the road, and loses none of its good points in the hands of Mr. Grismer and his talented wife.

Speaking of Mr. Grismer and Miss Davies, there is said to be something more real than acting in their love-making scenes. Be that as it may, in private life they are a charming couple, and said to be royal entertainers. Mr. Grismer has been on the stage since 1871, and from the beginning of his career has associated only with such artists as Lawrence Barrett, John McCullough, E. L. Davenport, Edwin Adams, Laura Keane, Janushek, Adelaide Neilson and Charlotte Cushman, playing leading parts. He has been on the coast for about ten years, but is now booked for an extended eastern engagement. Mr. Grismer ranks with the best as an actor and as a gentleman of scholarly

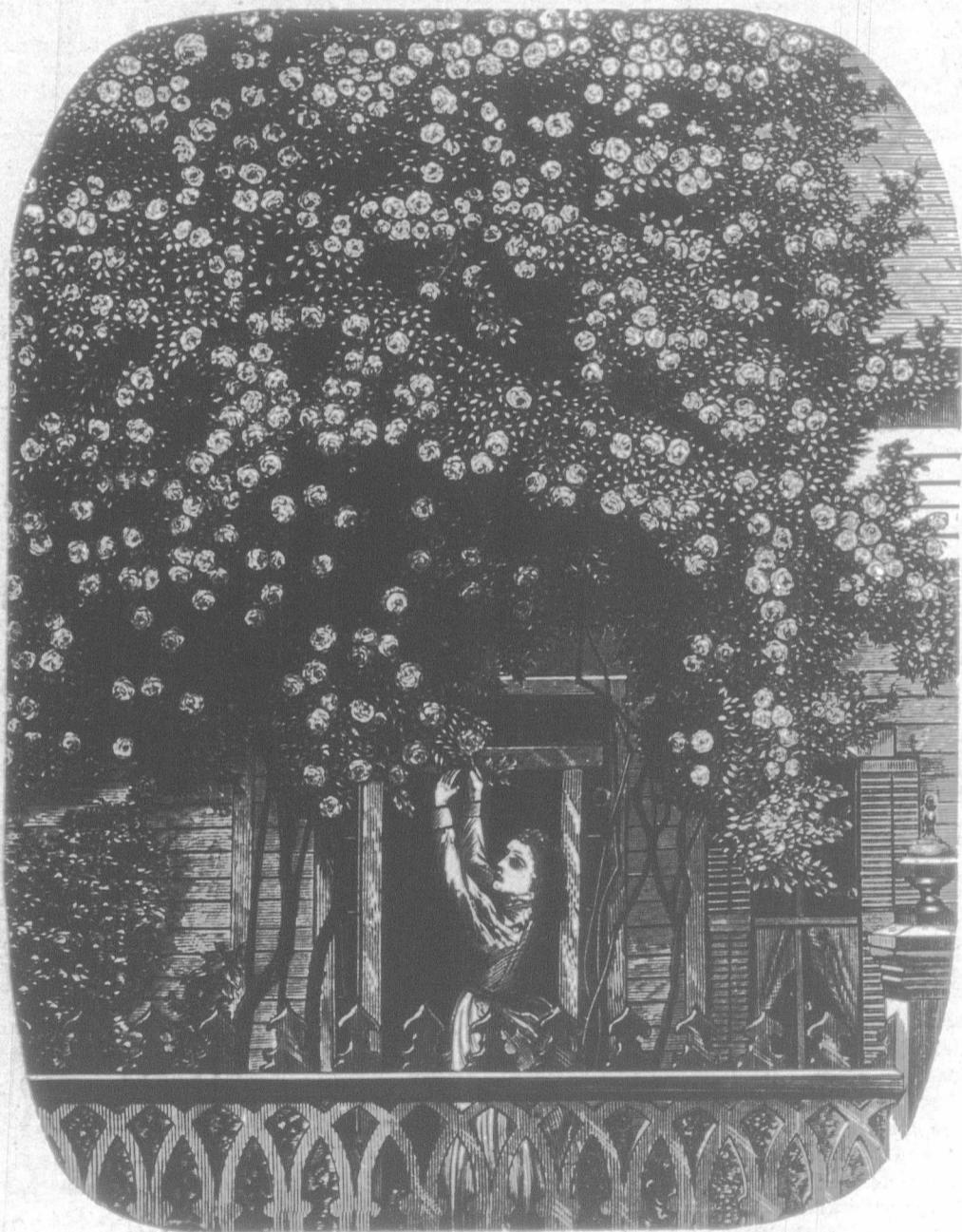
attainments. He directs all of his own pieces. From the *Dramatic Star*, I learn that Miss Davies commenced her stage career at the Baldwin Theatre, San Francisco, in 1882, and is one of the greatest favorites which that critical city has ever honored. In the summer of that year, she was married to Mr. Joseph R. Grismer. After this she appeared at all the leading theatres of the city mentioned, and in 1884

ity to no stars in the country, and they deserve it all.

I SEE that Emma Thursby is getting considerable notoriety on account of the trunk incident. The *Minneapolis Journal* thus apologizes for that lady: If it should be noted that Miss Thursby appears at her concerts in Minneapolis and St. Paul in the same dress, no one should

criticise her lack of variety, for her fine wardrobe—a \$10,000 trunk full of it—is now in China. When Miss Thursby was at Victoria, recently, her trunks were on the wharf waiting transference to her hotel. The man in charge was given explicit directions as to one particular trunk, which contained Miss Thursby's finest dresses. The man, it was supposed, knew his business, and the trunk was left in his charge. It seems that the man forgot his duties, however, and went away from the wharf, leaving the trunk where it was seen by a collector of baggage for the Hong Kong steamer. It was supposed that the trunk was to go Chinward and so the collector tucked it aboard a tug, and out to the steamer it went. It was first supposed that it had been sent to Japan but a cable traced it at last to Hong Kong, whence the missing *Saratoga* will be forwarded.

By the way, it is likely that Miss Thursby will be given a grand reception in Minneapolis at the hands of the Scandinavians. A few years ago she made a tour of Norway and Sweden and her reception amounted to an ovation. In Stockholm the students released the horse from her carriage, and pulled the vehicle through the streets, as an evidence of their enthusiastic admiration. Wherever she goes in



SUMMER SCENE IN VICTORIA.

accompanied him on his tours. Her popularity is very great, and it is thoroughly merited, as it is said to be the result of genius and industry. Miss Davies is to the female stage what her husband is to the male, a careful, studious and painstaking, while not presuming actress. She is personally a charming and attractive young woman, as well as a gifted actress. They may be said to be second in popular-

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