

The True Knight of British Columbia.

"The true Knight does no Man wrong."

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Address all communications to P. O. Box 313.
J. E. EVANS,
Secretary,
Vancouver, B. C.
G. R. MAXWELL,
Editor.

VANCOUVER, MAY, 1899.

LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD.

Life, whatever else it may be, is a battle which must be fought by the most of us in the most determined manner, and in the bravest spirit possible. Nowhere is this conflict more real and more earnest than in material things, and no one has to fight a harder battle than the one who is born without the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. In other words, to the working classes, those who have to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow, to make provision for the home and the family, and who have, if they be wise men, to lay in store, not only for the present, but the future necessities of life, the fight which they have to fight demands the full energies of the brain, the hand and the heart. When we further remember the uncertainties which must be reckoned as certainties—lack of employment, sickness and death—we realize that, if there should be

a wise man on earth, that one should be the working man, and that his wisdom should ever be conspicuously displayed in seizing hold of the many helps which the forethought of others has brought within his reach, in order to protect himself from poverty, and dependence upon the charity of others. For, tell me, what can be more humiliating to the man of independent spirit than to be in want and to be without help; to be sick, and without proper nourishment and aid, and to die without the means necessary to provide a decent burial? Can you imagine a more miserable and a more helpless lot, than that which falls to the one who is in deep distress, and who has no friends ready and willing to help him? We can imagine no vicissitude, no condition of life, more galling and more rasping to the feelings, than to be at the mercy of those who are not bound to us by ties that are tender and true. God pity the man who is in no brotherhood, and who has no brethren, loyal, staunch and self-sacrificing! Again, in this battle for the necessities to cope with all the exigencies of a changeful existence, what is the unit against all the forces arrayed against him; what is his strength, his forethought, his wisdom, his dourness, against the enemies of his plenty and comfort? Well does he know, that he may sow and save, and yet some unforeseen accident may come along and sweep away all the fruits of his industry and thrift and leave him penniless. Oft does he experience the truth of that well-known saying, which Burns has immortalised: "The best laid plans of mice and men, gang aft agley," and that, out of such possibilities, dawns a stubborn fact which cannot be disputed—no man can stand alone and be secure and safe. Not more true is it that no man liveth unto himself, than is the other fact, that no man can exclusively support and defend himself. Thankful are we therefore for those experiences in life which have taught us, that a man can only fight a manly and successful battle when the one helps the many and the many help the one, and that victory can only come through unity of action. Without this the one is crushed, and all suffer with the unit. Brotherhoods, then, are the salvation of the working classes. Comradeship in distress, misfortune, and sickness is the force which can alone breast the blows of circumstances and combinations on the part of the units are the redeemers which can redeem them from the most galling of slaveries. This is both our privilege and our duty. John Stuart Mill has said, and said truly, that "almost all the advantages which man possesses over the inferior animals arise from his power of acting in combination with his fellows, and of accomplishing, by the united efforts of numbers, what could not be accomplished by the