

NOTES ON THINGS IN GENERAL.

ALLOW me to congratulate the Ator. ney General on his excellent speech in the debate on the Budget, as printed in Tuesday morning's *Colonist*. I think he showed up the leader of the Opposition in his true colors and scored a point at every sentence. The "Pooley Scandal," the "Baker Scandal," etc., he handled in a way that every charge made recoiled on Mr. Beaven's head with double force. He also defined the word "Liberal" in a way that should be in every text book in the public schools thus: Liberal, Radical, Socialist, Anarchist, and as we all know by axiom 1, "things that are equal to the same are equal to one another." It does seem strange to me that one set of men, because they disagree with another set, should resort to such means as to bring discredit on the Province and try to prove it is in a perfect state of bankruptcy, both to our friends at home and abroad; and that any man to gratify his own personal spite should slander the living and vilify the dead. There is no good Government of course without an opposition, but carried on on fair and party grounds each having the welfare of the country at heart, and not descend to personal abuse and insinuations calculated to bring the Province into contempt. The people of Victoria have already in a very signal manner showed Mr. Beaven what they think of him, and I am prepared to lay a small wager that if he stands for the city at the coming election, for the first time in his life giving a gratuity to anybody he will enrich the coffers of his adopted country to the tune of two hundred dollars. But enough of the nasty subject; we will leave his vindication to the *Times*, but if the editor had served his country half as well as he has done Beaven, he would not have been left to pay his own score after the last Dominion election.

The Chinese seems at present to be the only point in which all can agree in abusing. Well, I have heard a great deal on both sides, but the only remedy I have heard of yet is the advice I gave last week. How on earth are you to do away with the curse when nearly every merchant in the place employs them? I will tell you a little anecdote, and, unlike most anecdotes, it is perfectly true. A gentleman in one of our hotels, the other day, had just purchased a new pair of boots and showed them to a friend who enquired the price. "Six dollars and a half," replied the other. "Indeed; I can get a pair here not a block off, the very same for three and a half, and if you doubt it, I will bet you five dollars on it." The stakes were deposited, and the pair went about half a block where they entered a Chinaman's den. "John," said he, "how muchee you makee shoe allee samee?" "Three and a half," replied John; "lem me see, me savee him shoe, take him offee, you can see him markee, me makee allee shoe for that shop." "Oh, thunder!" cried the man who lost his bet, "I have been dealing at that store ever since I have been in Victoria, and simply because he said he employed only white labor, and now these shoes have cost me eleven and a half, now,

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Clothing, Men's Furnishings, Notions

from henceforward, every mortal thing I wear, whether boots or clothes, I'll go direct to the Chinaman for, instead of dealing with humbugs." What would you say if hides were imported into Victoria from Montreal, made here into shoes by Chinese labor, and sent back to Montreal again for sale as the result of white labor? But such is a fact—at least, I am told so on unquestionable authority.

I see John N. Muir has come out of his shell again, and this time in a new character—as a propounder of conundrums and a champion of morality. He asks, is Premier Davie an Anarchist? I will answer this by another question, is John N. Muir a lunatic? He blames Dr. Pope and J. W. Wilson of robbing him of his license to teach the rising generation; if half their evidence is to be relied on John got off cheap, and the rising generation is to be congratulated on his retirement. Give us a rest, John.

The *Times* occasionally has some very interesting reading. I was much impressed by a long rigmarole about "Domestic Servants in India," highly flavored with Hindostanese jargon. Now what on earth do we care about "domestic servants in India"? Why not give us an article on domestic servants in British Columbia? headed with a likeness of the heathen Chinese so "childlike and bland." There was one lady telling another who called on her, the other day, that at last she had got a treasure of a cook, and invited her just to come to the kitchen and catch him unawares. Well, they did: this treasure was washing his feet in a saucepan.

The triangular duel carried on by Messrs. Colman, Bragg and P. Hardie, in the columns of the *Times*, re the Chinese question, is becoming interesting and occupying a good deal of the space heretofore taken up in blackguarding Davie—one step at least in the right direction. Bragg I know as an anti and Colman as a pro Chinese champion, but who is P. Hardie that has been so suddenly sprung upon us as the champion of the workingman? I fancy I can see under his assumed "slang, blasphemy and malignity, as Colman styles it, one of the brilliant contributors to the *Toronto Empire*. If I am wrong I must apologize to "Mr. P. Hardie." Anyway, there is a great deal of sense in what he says. China for the Chinese; convert them there if you like, and, although it would cause us a wrench, I think we could almost bear to part with Mr. Colman, if he would devote the rest of his life to converting them in their own country.

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