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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1894.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

*"I must have liberty,
Withal as large a charter as the wind—
To blow on whom I please."*

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN and his most estimable wife, the Countess of Aberdeen, have come and gone. The visit of His Excellency and the Countess must be regarded as one of the most pleasing events in the history of British Columbia. They came not as the aristocratic representatives of a great house, but rather as plain people, and, as such, they have enshrined themselves in the hearts of those with whom they came in contact. If they showed any preference for one class of our citizens over another, it certainly was in the direction of mingling with that portion of the population upon whom the future prosperity of this city depends. An aristocracy founded on brazen effrontery and insolence does not appear to find much favor in the eyes of the thorough gentleman and amiable lady who occupy Rideau Hall. As a result of all this, it may reasonably be predicted that their popularity will be on a par with that of the Earl and Countess of Dufferin, which, as every Canadian knows, is saying a great deal.

The Earl of Aberdeen went the right way about making himself acquainted with our conditions and needs. He was determined not to rely upon the unsupported testimony of a few irresponsible tuft-hunters. He encouraged the confidence of the leading business men, and

from their lips gained information which could not be secured through any other source. The value of securing a champion of the standing of Earl Aberdeen for this Province cannot be over-estimated.

As to the visit of the Countess, words fail to express the pleasure with which she was greeted by the citizens of Victoria. Like her husband, she invited the confidence of our citizens. She no doubt found us a little homespun in places; but, at the same time, the welcome she received was such as could only emanate from the hearts of a generous and thorough-going people. The meek and the lowly were the special objects of her affection and attention. On every occasion, in which she was brought into contact with the people, she appeared to have but one desire, and that was to assure them that she was cast in the same mould as they were, and was ready to rejoice with them in their joys and weep with them in their sorrows.

The Earl of Aberdeen, either as the representative of Her Majesty or as a private citizen, and the Countess and their interesting family will always be sure of a warm welcome in Victoria. They have left us, and it is doubtful if there exists in Victoria to-day a man who would not regard an affront to the great house of Aberdeen as a personal matter demanding his special resentment. More cannot be said, except to wish our Governor-General, Lady Aberdeen and their family long life and happiness.

At the last session of the Victoria County Court, Mr. Justice Drake, the presiding judge, took occasion to express his disapproval at the way in which some of the local practitioners make use of the "judgment summons" process against unfortunate debtors. In a great many cases, judgment would be signed, and the very same day a judgment summons would be placed in the hands of the sheriff. If the debtor does not appear at the next County Court, an order is made against him to pay the debt within ten days or so, otherwise to go to jail for ten days or two weeks as the case may be. In one case before His Lordship at the last County Court, a judgment summons issued in this way was dismissed with costs as soon as the circumstances came to

His Lordship's attention, and it was then remarked by the court that the abuse of the process in this way would not be countenanced. With such an expression of opinion from the bench, it is probable that the oppression of the judgment summons system will now be modified; and time it is, too. No one will deny that there should be some means, strong and arbitrary as you please, to make unwilling debtors pay. When a man refuses to pay his debts, but can still afford to live in ease and luxury, conscious that he is sheriff proof, it is well to be able to get at him in another way; but on the other hand, where amidst all manner of disadvantages, and under circumstances that it is inhumane to expose to all the world unfortunate people go behind and are positively unable to pay, it is, to say the very least, cruel and heartless to drag them into court and pile up costs against them to be paid off at the rate of a dollar a week. There was one case at the last court, where the original debt was \$25. The debtor had paid \$42, and he still owed \$75. I have seen men go into the witness box at the County Court and with tears in their eyes recite the story of their scanty incomes and how every dollar of it was spent. True, in cases of this kind, no "order" against the debtor is made; but this does not prevent the \$7 to \$10 costs of each judgment summons being added, and while it is disgusting to hear the way in which some of the County Court practitioners pry into the very family cupboard in search of the stray quarter, the fact that every man in the room sympathizes with him, cannot go very far towards relieving the extreme humiliation and degradation which the debtor must feel. The law that allows judgment summons is in itself not a bad law. Its use is to prevent dishonest persons from "beating" their creditors; its abuse is to aid in "sweating" the poor unfortunates. Just where the line is to be drawn, it is hard to say; but no one will disagree with me when I say that it is better to let half-a-dozen dishonest men go free, than to make one innocent person suffer. It just occurs to me that some of my readers may not know what this expression "judgment summons" means. By way of explanation, it is a summons issued out of the County Court commanding the debtor to appear at the next Court, and