

A CITY OF DARKNESS.

AND it came to pass that in the year 1883, while Be-van was yet ruler in the land, there came unto the chief city of Vancouver Island wise men from the east to trade with the merchants of the city. And when they had landed from the ship which brought them, they journeyed on in search of a house in which to turn.

And lo the city was in darkness, and being unable to find the Driard, they returned unto the ship and remained until the sun rose on the morrow.

And while in the city they would fain have gone abroad at night, but feared lest they should be lost in the darkness.

And behold after many days while yet in the city they noticed that the moon and stars shone forth with great brightness as if it were day.

And they said one to another "Let us go forth and having come out of the city we shall behold many lights set upon the street corners, and they were amazed."

Then came they unto one of the chief merchants of the city and said unto him: "How cometh it that when there is no moon or stars in the heavens, neither are the corners lighted at the street corners, but when the moon and stars give forth their light upon the earth, behold also the corners are lighted, and they laughed at themselves."

The merchant answered and said, friends have observed this thing of which ye speak but I am only a taxpayer and have no view in the matter. Ask this question of the wise fathers of the city.

And they came unto one of the chief fathers of the city and asked him the same question, and he answered them "I know not; I am but alderman and do as the mayor commands and peradventure he can tell you."

And they arose and sought out the chief ruler and they put unto him the same question, but he saith I cannot tell you; I have not observed this thing of which ye speak. I am satisfied to carry a lantern as my forefathers did, but go ye to the lamplighter—he may explain to you the reason.

Then went they unto the lamplighter and asked him as they had the others, and the lamplighter straightway said unto them, Oh, wise men, I am but the humble servant of my master, the mayor, and do but obey his command and have lighted the lights for many years. He hath given unto me an almanac and commands me to observe well the dates on which it saith "The moon shall appear," and on those days to light no lights.

And the wise men said "Thou hast done well, most mighty lamplighter, but show us, we pray thee, the almanac by which thou goest."

And he went into an inner chamber and brought forth an almanac for 1883 and saith unto the wise men this writing have I followed faithfully for ten years.

Then arose the wise men and said, Let us hasten from the city lest moss grow on us also. And coming near unto the market place they beheld much people, and a man speaking unto them, whom they were told was a candidate for mayor.

Then rose up the chief speaker of the

wise men and in a loud voice spake unto the people:

Oh, men of Victoria, rouse yourselves from your slumbers, rescue your city from the hands of men who prefer the darkness rather than the light, cleanse your city from its foul weeds, seek from among yourselves a ruler who is a man of to-day, and be not governed by "an out of date almanac."

J. B. G.

FASHION'S FANCIES.

Steel trimming is taking the place of jet in millinery.

Eccentricity is the rule rather than the exception in the newest hats.

Jewelled aigrettes in evening shades are one of the expensive novelties.

The coming popularity for black and white combinations in the spring grows more and more apparent.

Colored felt hats are much to the fore. They may be had in almost every shade to match dresses.

Bonnets are small and very fanciful, and strings may be used or omitted as deemed most becoming.

Dotted and plain peau de soie and moire are announced for wedding gowns, as well as rich, creamy satin.

Bands of sealskin with arabesque patterns done in Persian lamb are among the extravagant fancies of the season.

Louis is a peculiar shade between red and pink. Brick red is called carnation and is liked by both milliner and modiste.

Fur is seen on very many of the winter hats and, strange as it may seem, it is used in conjunction with flowers and lace.

Elbow-length suede gloves in white with white or colored stitching and in colors to match the gowns with which they are to be worn are popular.

A favorite fad of the great Paris dress-makers just now is to make a corsage of velvet in color to accompany a black skirt. Amethyst and old rose velvets are used for this purpose.

Corduroy is again a favorite—for riding habits—and recommends itself as a rich looking and durable material. Silk, beaver and derby hats are worn with or without small black net veils.

Trimness and simplicity are the most conspicuous elements of the current modes. Small sleeves are reported as being made in Paris, but it will be some time before the fancy sleeves are out of fashion, as they are not generally becoming to all figures.

THE SUN CAUSES LIGHTNING.

Prof. Elihu Thompson, the expert electrician, in the course of a recent lecture on the nature and characteristics of lightning and electric currents of high potentiality, said that in his opinion lightning is caused by the action of the sun on the clouds through the ether, arguing that if the sun can produce the aurora borealis in the light, thin air, which he reproduced by electrical apparatus, there is reason to think that in the dense air nearer the earth it can produce a current of high pressure that will strike through with brilliant discharges. He showed a completely safe protection from thunderbolts in the shape of a cake of brass wires and

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We insist upon a greater quantity of Water being added than you have been in the habit of doing with soft ground flour, making the sponge to the consistency of a THIN batter.

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declared that an umbrella held open over the head with brass chains hanging from the ends of the ribs makes a complete protection.