

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1893.

## SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

A MERRY Christmas!—that is, to those subscribers who pay promptly.

BRANDY is now made of potatoes; potatoes are grown in Saanich; hence Saanich is a rum country.

THE rumor that Dave Hart would give up business and take orders in the Salvation Army has been officially denied.

LOTTIE COLLINS will drop in on us with the Howard Atheneum Company, and may kick a stanza or so out of Ta-ra-ra.

THE holiday gift this year ran to the useful instead of the ornamental. The financial depression has taught a lesson that will not soon be forgotten.

A MAN who thinks too much of himself is in danger of being forgotten by the balance of the world. We trust that the clerks in a certain Government street dry goods store will make a note of this fact.

WHEN adverse circumstances strike you be greater than the circumstances. Difficulties were made to be made to be overcome, sagely remarks Mr. Stroebel, the easy, extemporaneous perjurer, late of Sumas City.

IF the young man who devoted so much valueless time drafting a front page for a Christmas edition of THE HOME JOURNAL will call at this office he will receive a ticket entitling him to a free course at the Stronachville art school.

CHRISTMAS is the time when we should forgive the trespasses of our neighbors; but it is indeed difficult to forget the circumstance that the Vancouver City Council borrowed a couple hundred feet of hose from this city a few years ago and has not yet returned the same.

## PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Miss Floria White, daughter of Madame Laird, has just returned from a three weeks' visit to her sister, Mrs. P. D. Rice, Tacoma.

Sir Richard Musgrove is having the Links prepared and shortly intends instructing his friends into the mysteries of the Old Country game of golf.

Mr. E. E. Wooton, of the legal firm of

# CHRISTMAS GOODS

Do you want to make a nice Xmas present? Just look at our stock of Diamonds, Gold Jewelry, Watches, Sterling Silver Leather Goods and Novelties and you will be sure to find what you want. Special orders promptly attended to.

CHALLONER & MITCHELL,  
Jewellers. 47 Government St.

McPhillips, Wooton and Barnard, and Miss Frances A. Smith will be united in marriage at St. Barnabas church, at 4 p. m., this afternoon.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Literary Society will be held in the Cathedral schoolroom on Jan. 4. The feature of the evening will be the rendition of selections from "Midsummer Night's Dream," also a varied musical programme.

Mr. W. S. Hampson, proprietor of the Stanley House, leaves next week on a three months' purchasing trip to England and the continent. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Hampson and her sister, Miss Heywood, who will remain in England.

Miss Northcott, teacher of the Victoria West school, was the recipient of an address and a handsome piece of jewellery from her pupils at the closing exercises. Miss Northcott has severed her connection with the school to prepare for an interesting ceremony in the near future.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

### THE ARION CLUB CONCERT.

This club gave its second concert of the present season on Wednesday evening, assisted by Madame Laird. That lady contributed two numbers to a well selected programme, the first being "The Daily Question" and the second Millard's "The Zingarella," for both of which she was recalled. Madame Laird is possessed of a voice that is well adapted to giving expression to the feeling and sympathy so seldom met with outside of sweet sounding ballads, whose tunefulness appeals to all alike. So that in neither of her initial numbers was Madame Laird quite as acceptable as in those she sang for encores, which were really those that won for her the best and heartiest reward. Her first encore selection was by far the sweeter and better rendered of the two. Perhaps the reason for this was that to her second, for which she chose "Robin Adair," there were added certain embellishments and variations that distracted the attention from the piece itself, which is one of those that will well bear the application of the maxim "nature unadorned is adorned the most." It was evident from the faintly gotten up and well printed programme, that the executive of the club have no dread of the terrible 13, for that was the number of the selections on that admirable in-

tellectual menu. The rendering of practically all of these was creditable to a great degree. The second number "A Nursery Rhyme" (the music of which was evidently by some person who took more pleasure in giving sweet sounds to the world than publishing his or her name) was a very pleasing piece, and was as pleasing in its execution, except perhaps for the tenors who from previously being almost inaudible and weak have now adopted a plan to make themselves heard which cannot recommend itself to lovers of choral singing. There is too much individuality and not enough collectiveness; too much solo and not enough chorus. There is wanting some attempt at blending in place of the present openness, or singleness, of the tones of Wednesday evening, which produced an effect of harshness coming from that side of the platform. The second piece was a "Convivial Song," with solo bass by Mr. Booth. The work may be called a parody on those grand old Gregorian chants one hears sung so admirably in nearly every monastery chapel and sometimes by the choirs of large Roman Catholic churches. The effort by the club was disguised by a little more accelerated time, but on the whole it was pleasantly and acceptably given, Mr. Booth receiving a deservedly warm recall for his solo. Sullivan's "The Beleaguered" also received acceptable treatment, in time, balance and expression. Passing from Sullivan's captivating music to the heavier school in a piece called "Heinz von Stein" would have made an interesting contrast had both works been equally well handled. But there was a lack of familiarity evident with the latter number; the basses manifested a desire to tumble over each other in their growling for an attempt at effect. A little more rehearsing would probably have remedied this. As in several other pieces, it was only towards the end that, after considerable labor, the conductor got his voices under control and they sang in unison. This state of things was redeemed in Abt's "Vineta," a semi-religious work, in the execution of which the club acquitted themselves with credit. Selections from Robin Hood were very welcome. Mr. Herbert Kent sang as "Little John," and was heard to better advantage than he has been for some time. Beyond a slight misconception as to the expression in the commencing lines of the two verses, he sang admirably, not only with reference to an understanding of the spirit of the words and music (so often lost sight