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TALES OF THE TOWN.

BEFORE proceeding with the usual exercises of the day, I wish to refer to the evident desire of the daily newspapers of this city to weaken the influence of THE HOME JOURNAL. In the last issue of this paper I charged, on what seemed to me reliable testimony, the authorities of this city with refusing to pay the men who had been performing quarantine duty until the other accounts of the city were paid. My authority was some of the men themselves. Even if the statement was incorrect, it did not justify the daily newspapers of this city in using highly improper language to make the correction. I can only conclude that in doing so they were actuated with jealousy because of the prosperity of THE HOME JOURNAL and the powerful influence it wields throughout this Province, and the Dominion of Canada for that matter.

Of course it is not to be wondered at the Colonist should have called me an "unmitigated liar." It is a way that paper has of writing of influential men. The only surprise is that it did not call me a "skilled falsifier" and a "perjurer." Why did not that paper come out openly and say that *my* logic was on "a par with *my* testimony—altogether worthless." However, I may live to see the day when the Colonist will take back its cruel, hard words, and tell the public that Pere Grinator is not such a bad sort of person after all. Verily such is the price and reward of greatness.

As for the Times, nobody expects much from a paper whose present object seems to be to galvanize into life the anhydrous flesh and bones of a mummified political party. Apparently the contradiction afforded the Times an opportunity of scooping its contemporaries, and such a thing not being usual with that paper, I sincerely trust the sudden change will not result in a severe attack of cold. I would suggest that my unworthy contemporary should

confine itself to the work it has now on hand, viz., attempting to demonstrate that what would be gross negligence on the part of members of the Government is a highly commendable quality in members of the Opposition.

But last of all, and two or three days behind the procession as usual, comes that inorganic mass of anti-mony, lead and boiler-plate (the Daily News), reiterating the statement that THE HOME JOURNAL is unjust. The Daily News is not a paper which commands much respect in this community. I am told that it is only by skilful manoeuvring on the part of the newsboys that the management succeeds in getting the paper on the front door-steps of the houses belonging to the people whom they allege to be subscribers. This of course speaks well for the courage and daring of the half-dozen or so newsboys who peddle that paper. The real aim of the News in this world is shrouded in impenetrable darkness and mystery. Its name is certainly a misnomer, and I defy any man, woman or child in this city to prove that that paper since its establishment has ever contained an item that had not already become a matter of ancient history. There it stands a monument of uselessness and an affliction to an already sorely-trying community.

I will now take leave of my abandoned traducers and proceed to the next order of business; but, before doing so, I would impress upon them the fact that John Bartholomew Adams amassed the considerable sum of \$14,000,000 in ten years by attending strictly to his own business.

The miniature warfare now being waged against Victoria by the half-dozen or so hot-heads over the Gulf has developed one or two things worthy of more than passing notice. For instance, there is a certain newspaper man in Vancouver who, it is said, should not indulge in such unchristian-

like conduct as has been practiced against this city. He was first known in Victoria as an agent for Bibles, and truly he was remarkably conversant with the wonderful truths contained in Holy Writ. Book Agent McLagan, good Christian man that he was, would sit for hours and hours, relating the beautiful stories of love and duty, of rewards and punishments for those who would follow or disobey the Divine commands. Children ran to meet the holy man, that he might place his hands on their heads and give them his blessing. In truth it was a beautiful sight. Fathers and mothers pointed out the saintly Bible peddler as a shining example of grace and purity, with slight emphasis on the purity. It was even suggested that he could perform miracles, and accomplish wonderful cures by the "laying on of hands." However, these rumors could never be traced to a reliable source.

The Good Book tells us that we are to render unto Cæsar the things which be Cæsar's; or, in other words, we are to obey the laws of the land. Has this command been overlooked by the Rev. J. C. McLagan? It certainly looks that way, or he would never have incited the populace to open rebellion. It would indeed be difficult now to recognize the mild mannered, divinely inspired Bible-seller of ten years ago in the mob leader of to-day.

As it is no longer *sub judice*, it is, I suppose, allowable on the injunction case of Messrs. Cope, Hammersley and Huntley to say that people in Victoria would have been better pleased, I think, with a little more of the *fortiter* along with the *suaviter*. After the strictly measured manner in which the learned Judge handled the case, it was surely an excess of courtesy which caused him to state that the personal presence of the prisoners (shall we call them) before him had improved their position; meaning clearly had bettered themselves, (or was it a quiet sarcasm concealed, that the air of Vic-

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