

but a countryman. However, Vancouver, after having made herself the laughing-stock of the whole countryside, that municipal authority must bow submissively to the higher power of the Dominion. In the meantime, Victoria will take the word for the deed, and remember that if several of her citizens were not thoroughly drenched, that it was not the fault of the Vancouver haymakers.

I have often wondered how certain people that I know—nice people, of cultivated tastes—who have long been compelled, by reverses of fortune or mistakes of their parents, and who will probably be compelled as long as they live to accept the privations and drudgeries of a life of 'genteel poverty,' go on living from day to day instead of suddenly giving up the ghost in despair. Of course, we all admit that what one never has had one does not miss. The poor who have always been poor—that is, who have been born poor and of parents who have only known poverty—certainly do not pine for luxuries that their senses have never encountered. But the man or woman who at least inherits memories of refined and graceful surroundings, of leisure for self improvement and of the nice customs and gentilities that are obliterated by a life of toil, must find such a life at times a burden almost too heavy for his or her shoulders.

The other day, I asked a friend who has been so situated for several years how she bore it, and she told me a small secret in reply. Imagination was the life-preserver that buoyed her up when otherwise she might have sunk in the heavy sea of adversity. The power to imagine keenly, coherently and dramatically. She is a woman of thirty-five or six, and was not educated for any self-supporting career. She has artistic talents, does fine embroidery and even makes a dress now and then for a friend. She earns about ten dollars a week, and has tastes that would require fifty, were they indulged. Not wholly selfish tastes, but charitable inclinations, interspersed with longings for a pretty costume and fresh gloves (that are not cheap) more frequently. She is an honest soul, and yet she sometimes longs ardently for millions. Especially when the July days come and the great furnace of the city is fired

and the wretched victims known as "the poor" begin to gasp and struggle.

"Do you know what I do then?" she asked, coloring faintly. "Well, I give free rein to my imagination, and for an hour or two I am a millionaire. I get aboard an open street car somewhere, and I ride as far as they will take me and back again. After my fare is paid I lose my identity as a poor working woman. I am Mrs. Somebody, with millions. I own a large steamer, with open decks—a floating carriage for thousands. It lies at one of the wharves. Flags float gaily from it, and the name, Summer Dream, is painted on the side. I send word to the newspapers, and they advertise to all the poor and unhappy that the Summer Dream is waiting for them. And they come by hundreds and thousands, till there is no more room. Then my steamer sails out into the sea, and by-and-by lands somewhere at a lovely spot on the coast, where I have built a pier and cottages and tents, and there are other things to make them happy." She stopped suddenly with an embarrassed laugh. "Oh, yes; after one is thirty one needs to imagine. Up to that time one can live on hope mainly."

I related what she had said to a young girl I know, who is heir to large possessions and rebels because she is kept on short allowance for the present. "My dear," I said, "you have only to follow this example and imagine yourself controlling your money."

"Yes," said the frivolous young creature, "but it wouldn't be philanthropy I would imagine." And she began to enumerate blazer costumes, India silks, seashore campaigns and rich fiances until I thought wise to make my escape.

PERE GRINATOR.

FANCIES IN WEDDING GIFTS.

There appears to be a run on ornamental tablespoons as wedding presents this season, judging by the number many a bride and bridegroom receive. Scent bottles with plain gold tops follow, but instead of being the large size they were they are becoming small enough to carry easily in the hand for church. Many have the tops about the size of a quarter of a dollar, and sometimes a jewelled letter or one

stone surrounded by a ring of smaller ones covers them. A set of guarded pins, one in diamonds and the other two in emeralds and rubies, is another fashionable offering, and so is a miniature carriage clock. A set of bridesmaids received recently a gold-guarded pin, each with a pearl drooping from it, suspended by a little chain. A zigzag of diamonds is a new design for a bangle. Gun-metal watches with a large diamond letter on them are novel.

BELLE BILTON.

The story of how Belle Bilton became Lady Clancarty is well known, but very few people know that two of her former admirers are now ruined men—one, Wertheimer, financially, and the other, Wilson, the young American, both morally and financially. Wilson is serving out a long sentence for forgery. He says he was the victim of a trumped-up charge to get him out of the way. At his trial Wilson swore that he would kill his detractors when he came out of prison, and those who know him intimately say that he will keep his word. In the meantime Lady Clancarty has disappeared as though she had sunk into a South American crevice. Perhaps she fears that some one has sinister designs on the twins, which have put the whole Clancarty family to the right about. Some powerful incentive must have been brought to bear on Belle Bilton, as she loves the glamor of the music hall stage as she loves her life.—N. Y. Sunday Mercury.

A girl usually looks so pretty when she puckers up her lips to try to whistle that it is dangerous for her to do it in the vicinity of a young man in the moonlight, for fear she may be misunderstood.

The largest masonry dam in the world has lately been completed in India, in connection with the new waterworks for the city of Bombay. It is about two miles in length, 118 feet high, and 100 feet thick at its greatest depth. The lake covers an area of eight square miles, and will furnish a supply of 100,000,000 gallons per day. The dam has been five and one-half years in process of construction, and from 9,000 to 12,000 men and 800 carts and animals have been employed upon it.