

tention was directed to a crowd standing near the corner of those two streets. Upon investigation as to the cause of the unusual gathering at that point, I discovered a woman in a beastly state of intoxication lying flat on her back. The unfortunate creature, although middle-aged retained many evidences of former beauty. That she had worshipped assiduously at the shrine of Bacchus was only too manifest from the bloated cheeks and carmine hue of her nose; but still she was a woman, and should not have been subjected to the ribaldry of the motley crew who surrounded her. For nearly half an hour she was exposed to the view of the passing throng which crowd our principal thoroughfare every Saturday night, and then she was hustled off to the police station in a transfer wagon, there to be contaminated with association with old and hardened criminals.

I have nothing to say against the officer who took the woman to the lock-up, but I desire to give the views of an eminent legal gentleman as to the consequences which are involved in compelling offenders of the character referred to above to associate with those who have since their youth up escorted to crime in order to secure that which is necessary to existence.

At a recent meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Association in Toronto, Hon. Samuel H. Blake, the celebrated criminal lawyer, said that the reforms which he and his confreres wished to effect included a scheme for separating all prisoners awaiting trial for charges which have not been proved against them in the preliminary investigation from the hardened and well-known criminals. Many of these men may be innocent, but under the present system they forever carried the taint of their surroundings.

One of the greatest evils of modern times, Mr. Blake said, was the daily newspaper, with its vice details of every brutal crime as instruction for beginners. Journalists tell the public how to poison folk and how to cover up crime, they have taught young women how to commit infanticide, without discovery. The public trial, too, was as bad. Nothing was so disgusting to him as to have to sit in court waiting for another case while a criminal trial was in progress. The court room is crowded with boys and girls, and men and women; the nudging, the ripples of laughter, as the beastly and abominable details were elicited was horrible to contemplate. The incentive to crime supplied by the newspapers and the courts was inestimable. In the majority of cases the criminal was made before he was 20. Prevention was better than cure. Boys arrested for breaking glass, etc., should be dealt with in a fatherly way. They should not be thrown in with a lot of criminals to be forever contaminated. A reformatory for drunkards should be provided; the present fine system was a cruel farce. Poverty was not a crime, and not a single man should be in jail because he is insane or destitute.

In his report of the Insane Asylum, Dr. Bentley expresses regret that the Victoria

Times has discontinued sending to the asylum its weekly edition free. In this connection the doctor fails to state whether or not he has noticed any marked improvement in the patients since they have been denied a weekly perusal of the Victoria "Thunderer." In criminal circles, the *Colonist* is said to be more popular than its evening contemporary. In the meantime THE HOME JOURNAL pursues the even terror of its way and is admired by moralists and religious people generally for its repeated pilgrimages into the camps of wickedness and snatching the brands from the burning.

Ex-Mayor Grant appears to be in a hurry to have the Canadian Western Central Railway built, for he has given notice of a motion calling upon the Government to take such steps as will induce its early construction. What can he possibly want? Is it that the Government make further concessions to the parties who have already had their charter extended or does he wish to have such an expression of opinion on the part of the members of the Legislature as shall render it impossible for the persons concerned to any longer trifle with the engagements into which they entered with the Government of the Province? Or lastly, does John want to make himself popular on the eve of the forthcoming election?

Col. Baker, Provincial Secretary, Minister of Education, owner of eighteen thousand acres of land in the Kootenay country, etc., etc., has recently blossomed into a financial economist, and has treated those who care to read him with an essay on the money question. He has, moreover, promised further lucubrations on the subject. The Minister of Education manifested a certain amount of acquaintance with Adam Smith; and was apparently more familiar with a naked man on the planet Mars for whom he propounded a method of obtaining a pair of trousers when he reached Planet Earth. As the gentleman who is specially charged with the education and moral well being of the youth of British Columbia, did it never strike him that it would be highly improper, even for a stranger from Mars, to slip down to Mother Earth without having some sort of clothing upon him? Surely Mr. Baker's friend, if it is really his intention to come, should have about him at least the scriptural fig leaf, if it be not possible to envelop himself in a blanket before he began his journey.

In the usual course, I do not notice private entertainments, and did not intend to refer to the symposium held by the Arion Club a week ago; but, as an account of the affair has already appeared in the evening paper, I do not see why I should not give my readers an idea of how the club, which is rather a unique institution, entertains. Being the possessor of a fine basso cantante voice, I cherished at one time the belief that a committee of the club would wait upon me to entreat my co-operation, but the committee, strange to say, failed to appear. Then I supposed that such a prominent press man as I would

certainly be invited, but alas! no press invitations were issued. However, if I was not present in person, that is no reason why I should not know what was done, and this paper, with its usual enterprise, having secured a copy of the programme, I hasten to lay it before my readers. The form is novel, but the idea is easily followed. Here it is:

ITINERARY.

After a few words of welcome from the chairman (H. Kent) and the singing of the club motto, *Ecce Quam Bonum*, followed by The Rhyne, guests will be taken to the Happiest Land, where they will be greeted with a Song (Geo. Jay). Assured that the Devil's Awa with the Knight's Ghost, they will find that the Long Day Closes with a few stanzas from the Club Poet (W. Greig), who, contrary to report, is not Mynheer van Dunch. Succeeding a Trio (E. H. Russell, K. J. Middleton, H. Kent) of a nautical character, one (E. A. Wolff) of the Young Musicians will render a Violin Solo. There will then be a short

INTERVAL.

after which a Grand Overture, composed especially for this occasion by Herr Lika Joko, will be performed by the Arion band of twelve pieces, conducted by the eminent Signor Macaroni (Geo. Shedden). On recovering from this number, guests will be taken Way Down Upon de Suwanee River (W. C. Mitchell), where they will find other clubs (J. Boyd, club swimming) than the Arion, and where they will be invited to partake of the celebrated Brown October Ale (H. Kent) from a Pocusum. Then, on Going Back to Dixie (W. T. Williams), they will see the Tinkers Chorus treading the mazes of the Waltz (Band) and so

GOOD NIGHT!

Those who have attended the club's concerts will at once recognize the part songs whose names have been ingeniously woven into the narrative. I understand everything went off most successfully, and it is to be hoped the programme may be repeated to a wider circle of hearers.

Those members of the Union Club who delight to wear knee breeches and otherwise proclaim their exclusiveness, received a set-back last week when they attempted to exclude two respectable gentlemen from the privileges of the club. The better element turned out in full force and demonstrated their contempt for upstarts by depositing white balls sufficient to ensure the election of the applicants. One of the gentlemen who was up for election was at one time in his life a disciple of old Tubal Cain, or, in other words, an artificer in iron. And this, it is said, is the reason why the dudes objected to his presence. This same gentleman has, of late years, accumulated considerable wealth, and it is a worthy desire which prompts him to rub his shoulder against good people. However, if all reports be true, there is some danger that the honest blacksmith may become contaminated with vice, if he associates too intimately with certain members of the Union Club.

PERE GRINATOR.

Rev. Father Nicolaye is on a holiday trip to Nanaimo and Wellington. He will be absent about a week.

PERSONAL.

F. Feli and family to the south.

The week has been full of weddings.

J. H. Falconer and family on their wedding tour.

W. J. Gallagher and family are at the New England.

Mr. and Mrs. T. San Francisco by the

R. Marpole, dist. the C. P. R., and the city.

Mrs. J. Thain and family left for San Francisco Midwinter Fair.

Mrs. McCrum and family loops and is staying 105 Flanagan street.

Miss Annie B. Philip, a Vancouver married last week.

Duncan McArthur, defunct Commercial and Mrs. McArthur.

The ladies of the Presbyterian church will have tableaux at Philh day evening.

Mr. J. G. Brown Monday. Matter Presbyterian church cause of the visit.

The engagement light to a popular announced, the visit the Easter holidays.

The girls of St. ment and a sail Sunday school, was a most success.

On the 2th popular young daughter of Mr. will wed Mr. H.

The member Amateur Dram in Semple's Hall well attended, s

Miss Ella Lett and Mrs. Simon Mr. Mose H. March 14. The

It is announced man will, in himself a wife of a well known chant.

Dr. S. Tolm were united ing. The groc