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## TALES OF THE TOWN.

*"I must have liberty  
Withal, as large a charter as the wind  
To blow on whom I please."*

THE coming World's Fair Exposition at Chicago, which is to be formally opened in May by President Cleveland, is at present being discussed all over America, a lively interest in the great fair being evinced by all residents of Victoria. Indeed, all the Province is interested in the show, especially so as a large proportion of the Canadian exhibit is made up of British Columbia products, some of the most important of which are from the capital city of the Province. Able descriptions of the fair and its wonders have already appeared in the various magazines, in books and in the daily press, but of necessity such 'advance notices' are brief, and in any case they can hardly do justice to so vast and varied a subject. To visit the fair in order to gain an adequate idea of its wonders will be the privilege of the few; *the many have neither the time nor the means to gratify the natural wish to 'take in the great show.'*

The above paragraph is taken from the *Victoria Colonist*, and suggests to my mind a scheme which I believe will recommend itself to every reader of THE HOME JOURNAL. It is quite certain that the 4,000 readers of this great moulder of public opinion cannot go to Chicago, so the next best thing is to send some person there to hear and see for all. Now, I propose to be this one and see with four thousand pairs of eyes and hear with four thousand pairs of ears. My proposition is this, I shall go to Chicago and make a close study of the departments of the exhibition and prepare a course of lectures upon it, which will be illustrated with plain and colored photographic views, enlarged to from one hundred to two hundred feet in diameter, and shown by means of powerful stereopticon—the collection of which shall be a leading aim of my visit.

In order to defray the expenses incident to the scheme, four thousand tickets to the four thousand subscribers of THE HOME JOURNAL will be issued at \$1 each, every ticket having fifty coupons, good for admission on as many consecutive nights. These four thousand one-dollar tickets will be non-transferable and will be on sale up to the first of May only. After that date tickets for the course will be issued at the rate of \$50 and singles at \$1 each. Not less than fifty lectures will be given, and, if more are arranged, the holders of those tickets will be enabled to buy others for the additional lectures at \$1 for one night or \$2 for two, which, after all, amounts to about the same thing.

It may be said that with a little economy this trip could be made on less than \$4,000; but this is a great mistake. If Chicago is the Chicago of old, \$4,000 will not buy a plain, unvarnished seat on the Board of Trade, not speaking of sundry visits to Al. Hankin's and Mike McDonald's. Again, it is not every one who can be trusted alone in Chicago. The citizens of the town by the lake devote much of their time incubating schemes by which to entrap the guileless stranger, and my object in acting as proxy for the four thousand readers of this great journal is prompted by a desire to deliver them from all evil.

The above scheme is not original with myself. I am indebted for its general outline and make-up to the young people up at Calvary Baptist Church. I say this so that if it occurs to any one that my "nerve" is abnormally developed and the "work coarse," the odium of it shall not fall altogether on my shoulders. Hurry up, gentlemen, and secure your coupons and avoid the great rush at the ticket wagon. In the meantime, my photographs will be on sale at all the book stores.

A correspondent draws attention to the fact that not a few young men from the eastern provinces are continually arriving here in search of employment, whose strongest claim is the fact that they belong to this or that athletic association. The rivalry between certain centres in lacrosse, base ball, cricket or football is so keen that even staid business men have made a point to find positions for young men occasionally to the disadvantage of some who had local training and experience, but who could not play ball. We are glad to see many sports encouraged to the utmost possible extent; but it is only fair to mention the matter referred to, albeit merchants know their own business best.

The vote for the new parliament buildings has been passed, and that by a thumping majority, as John Grant would say, despite the gunpowder speeches of Winchester Brown and other indignationists. All their indignation did them very little good, inspired as it plainly was mainly by a petty sectional jealousy, but it just showed how the wind blew, and what the people of the Island have to expect in the way of moral and other support, when any question affecting the material benefit or advancement of the Island is at stake. Although it is not well to stir up this spirit, it is just as well to remember, in a quiet way, all the nice little obligations we are under to the "indignationists" on the Mainland. Of course no one wishes to condemn the whole population of the Mainland portion of the Province for the narrowmindedness of the few bigots who oppose tooth and

nail everything that is not directly to their personal advantage. These men, however, were taught a severe lesson in Christian brotherliness and public spiritedness when the vote for the Fraser bridge came on for discussion. Mr. Brown was at the time up at Westminster, filibustering and "indignating," talking through his hat so to speak, about the favoritism to the Island, the deplorable extravagance and other terrible crimes of the Government, when he should have been at his post assisting that Government in their work of benefitting his particular part of the Province. Happily they did not need his help; the members both of the Opposition and Government, the much favored Island and the Mainland, were in unity in favor of the work; and Mr. Brown, or the indignationists, never apologised for or explained their unmanly and ungenerous conduct.

While my hand is in the pie of politics, I might as well say a word or two with regard to the treatment of the Dominion Government. I do not usually care to dabble in politics, except when the direct interests of the people are neglected, and the interests of Victoria have been sadly neglected by the men at Ottawa till quite recently. I am glad to see, however, that they are being roused to a sense of their conduct, and whether it is from the effect which an approaching election has upon the Government, or from a sense of the wrong they have done Victoria in the past, I do not care much, so long as we get what we are entitled to. Their coming forward now will have no effect on my vote personally, nor do I think it will on the vote of any honest intelligent citizen who has the welfare of the city and Province at heart. Anyhow, the appropriations that have been given out for Victoria this year are sadly needed; they come in a very good time for them, and I hope they will be turned to good account; that hoodlers will be kept far in the background, and that the working man, who goodness knows needs it, will get the benefit of the expenditures.

Anglomania, or anglo phobia, has broken out with increased vigor since I announced a few weeks since that the Prince of Wales would visit this country. The disease has assumed various shapes, but its severity is not such as to warrant the interference of the Government to quell it; I think the city will be fully able to cope with it. Indeed, I think the visitation will be a benefit than otherwise, especially in Victoria, where there are so many maniacs now that it has been found necessary to establish an Anglo-maniac Club in the Adelphi Block. One gentleman, a wise man from the east, and well up in legal circles, has been struck