

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossip and Horticulture.

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## THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1894.

## ALL THE WORLD OVER.

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

There is an impression abroad that the authorities are displaying altogether too much vigilance in their prosecutions under the Vagrancy Act. In the east, during the unprecedented depression in the labor market, it has been deemed expedient to pursue a policy which practically amounts to the suspension of the Vagrancy Act; and in the United States why do they resort to prosecution in extreme cases. The reasonable ground is taken that every man who is out of work might be subjected to the indignity of arrest, fine or imprisonment, if the law was applied and literally interpreted. Enforced idleness is unfortunately too common nowadays, and, under such circumstances, it is a very easy matter to convict a man for "not having any visible means of maintaining himself," and yet "live without employment." THE HOME JOURNAL will always uphold the authorities in the administration of the law; but, at this time, when so many people throughout the country are striving to keep body and soul together, it feels that it is only performing its duty when it cautions the police to observe the greatest discretion possible in the discharge of their duty, especially in prosecutions for vagrancy.

The investigation into the affairs of the Provincial Penitentiary have revealed a most startling condition of things. The

men who have had charge of the prisoners should have changed places with those over whom they were placed. That thieving was carried on to an alarming extent there can be little doubt, and now when the perpetrators are discovered, it seems they are endeavoring to cover up their crimes by resorting to perjury. However, perhaps the Westminster penitentiary officials may console themselves with the doctrine of the Pharisee, that they are no worse than those of other public institutions.

An American paper remarks that Governor Flower, of the State of New York, "could not perform a more popular act than to pardon Erastus Wiman." Some remarkable stories as to the alleged cause which prompted the prosecution of Mr. Wiman are afloat, and if there is any basis of truth in them, the proper person should investigate them. They might not make Erastus Wiman less a criminal in the eyes of the law, but they might reveal a state of affairs calling for the condemnation of others beside himself, and making it proper for the Governor to exercise clemency later on. If it is true that Mr. Wiman's offenses were known to his partners for months and even years before they asked for his indictment, and that his punishment was only sought after when there was a probability that he would become chief of a rival firm, the great mass of the people, who love fair play and detest meanness, would like to know it.

It is quite probable that Victoria will be honored with a visit from Lord Randolph Churchill within the next month or so, as, according to late newspaper reports, he is preparing for another journey even more distant than his famous visit to South Africa. He has resolved to make a journey round the world, and will start this month. At moderately high speed, the tour, by way of the United States, Canada, Japan and India, going either east or west, can be accomplished in five months. Eight months is a much more convenient period, and in that time the journey can be comfortably accomplished. As Lord Randolph is a candidate for Bradford, this project seems to indicate faith in the postponement of the general election at least till the beginning of next year. The journey is undertaken under medical advice, Lord Randolph having

through the session found himself far removed from a state of robust health.

The slim audiences which greeted Mr. Griffith's presentation of "Faust" will not, I fear, encourage Manager Jamieson to engage many first-class companies the coming season. Mr. Griffith's Mephisto, of course, cannot be spoken of in the same breath with the one given by Mr. Irving, and I do not think that it is even as good as Mr. Morrison's; yet the Marguerite of Miss Olive Martin was really a sublime conception of Goethe's heroine. Taking the performance as a whole, it was entitled to greater appreciation than it received in Victoria. As a spectacular production alone, it should have been well patronized.

A leading wholesale merchant informs me that the prospects for a large autumn trade are good. Stocks in British Columbia have been permitted to run low, and the country merchants, in view of an increased demand, are preparing to purchase extensively. Great business depressions have always been succeeded by a wholesome activity greater than that existing prior to the depression. That the outlook is favorable for a repetition of those conditions is evident. The business horizon is clearing, and stumbling blocks to prosperity are being removed that will take many years to again accumulate, for all of which let us be thankful. As indicating that the money market is much easier, a gentleman told me the other day that he was offered \$40,000 on reasonable security at 7 per cent.

The meeting of the Government candidates in the theatre last evening leaves little room for doubt as to the result of the elections in the city to-day. The candidates made a clear statement of the position they will take on all questions affecting the interests of the Province in general and Victoria in particular. They thoroughly understand the requirements of Victoria, and, if elected, which they are sure to be, they have pledged their credit as honorable men to leave no stone unturned to increase the prosperity of the city. The ticket is composed of men who have contributed largely towards the advancement and welfare of Victoria in the past, and it is only reasonable to expect that encouraged by the confidence reposed in them by their fellow citizens, they will

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