The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH, 1889.

## THE FREE LIBRARY.

We are glad that a free library has been opened in this city. It cannot fail to do good. Those who are fond of reading and those who would like to be fond of reading, will now have an opportunity of increasing their store of knowledge and of cultivating their taste. The free library will place within the reach of all our citizens, the old as well as the young, the women as well as the men, books that many of them have not hitherto had access to. It will be found a convenience and an inexhaustible source of innocent and elevating pleasure to very many. The taste for reading grows. We are not always fond of the same books, but when once the taste is formed we always derive enjoyment from some books. They, in fact, become one of the necessaries of life. Those who do not read and find pleasure in reading lose much enjoyment. The establishment of a free library, therefore, makes life better worth living in Victoria.

We trust that those who have seen big libraries in big places will not turn up their noses at this city's little library or speak of it in disparaging terms. It contains books enough to make an excellent beginning. There are standard works which almost everyone needs to refer to now and then, and there are also English classics, which all persons making any pretensions to be considered at all cultured or intelligent are supposed to have read. There are delights in that little library in store for hundreds who are not yet on familiar terms with the treasures of English literature. We envy them the pure and exquisite pleasure that is awaiting them. And there are very few so well read that they will not find in the Free Library books that they have not had the time or the opportunity to read. These veteran readers will not despise the day of small things, but will get from the library all the pleasure it is capable of yielding them. They will, no doubt, find in it many old friends whose acquaintance they will be glad to renew, and they will be introduced to new ones, intercourse with which cannot fail to be both pleasant and profitable. We trust that the lovers of literature of all degrees of knowledge will congregate in the Free Library rooms and make it one of the pleasantest places of resort in the city. We expect that the "old hands" will set the novices a good example, and show them that they prize very highly the privilege of having free access to good books.

The Library contains within a few of five thousand volumes. The books of the old Mechanics Institute library number 4,475 and Mr. Galpin's handsome gift consists of 392 volumes. Some of these latter are very handsome, indeed. The selection which was made by the Librarian, Dr. McGregor, is excellent. He was confined to the Cassels' publications, but they afforded a wider scope than persons not acquainted with that famous publishing house would suppose. The new books are on almost every subject, and they will be found particularly interesting to that class of young people, which we hope is large, who are tired of trashy fiction, and who are desirous of getting something solid to read which is not too heavy. There are many valuable works of reference among the new books, and also some volumes splendidly printed and beautifully illustrated. There is a good collection of standard novels in the Free Library, but it is not rich in the later works of fiction. This many will think is no great loss. But the free library should contain books to please all tastes which are not vicious. Strange as it may seem, there are people who pronounce Scott and Thackery dull and prosy, but who read Rider Haggard and Howells with avidity. Well, let them have Haggard and Howells. By and by they will look for something better, and if they do not, reading a poor novel is better a great deal than no reading at all. The absence of novels of this class will be deplored, and we hope that means will be soon found to make the Free Library attractive to even the devourers of sensational novels.

The city is very fortunate in its choice of a Librarian. Dr. McGregor is a man of learning and of cultivated taste. He delights in books, and the work of arranging and managing the people's library is to him a labor of love. He has, too, ample leisure to devote to his duties, and we are quite sure that the frequenters of the library will find him not only attentive and obliging, but helpful. He will, we are satisfied, do much to make the library popular, and will be unceasing in his efforts to enlarge it and make it worthy of the city. We hope that the day is not far distant when Victoria will have cause to be proud of its Free Library.

## NATIONAL DEBTS.

The Americans boast, and with good reason, of the way in which they are paying off their national debt. At the close of the Civil War the people of the United States were burdened with a debt of immense proportions. Many regarded it with apprehension and feared that the country would never be able to carry so great a burden. But the people were determined that the debt should be paid off, and the war had hardly concluded when they commenced the work of paying their national debt. To do this, though impoverished to a certain extent by the struggle to maintain the integrity of the union, they cheerfully submitted to an exceedingly heavy taxation. The nation's liabilities soon began to diminish. Debts were paid as soon as they became due, and after a while, the Republic was in a position to buy bonds which had still many years to run. The citizens of the United States did not believe that a great debt was a benefit to a nation, but they did what they could to leave to their children an unencumbered country. The American people are admired by thinking men of other countries for making haste to get rid of their heavy national burden. They look upon such a course as both prudent and patriotic.

It was the fashion some time ago for Englishmen to boast of their National Debt. Many of them had brought themselves to believe that the National Debt of Great Britain was a benefit to the country, and laughed at those who considered that it ought to be lessened. But that school of British financiers has of late years been becoming small by degrees and beautifully less. Prudent people in Great Britain began to believe that a great national debt was really a great national danger; that although it might be borne with comparative ease then, the time might come when the weight of its liabilities would be very hard for the nation to carry. English statesmen set about devising means for decreasing the national debt, and it is surprising how much has been quietly and unostentatiously done to effect that object. Not the least interesting part of Mr. Goschen's Budget Speech is the passage in which he explains how much he has been doing towards lessening the nation's liabilities. After showing that the surplus realized last year was £2,398,000, or nearly twelve millions of dollars, the largest since 1873–74, he goes on to say:

"I have been found fault with for reducing, two years ago, the sinking fund by the sum of £2,000,000. But the additional amount available out of the surpluses for the reduction of the debt has always been £2,500,000 on the average of two years, and the total sum produced out of taxation for the reduction of debt in the past two years has been in round numbers, £5,000,000 a year within the fixed charge. £10,000,000 and £2,500,000 on the average of two years out of surplus, £5,000,000—total, £15,000,000, or an average of £7,500,000 a year. (Cheers.) Whatever crime I have committed, it will thus be seen that the taxpayer has contributed £15,000,000 to the reduction of the national burden in two years. . . . The capital amount of debt of all kinds stood on the 31st March, 1888, at £705,575,000; on the 31st of March last at £698,425,000. We have thus turned the corner of another £100,000,000. (Cheers.) It is now eighty years since the debt stood below £700,000,000."

Here we have a British Chancellor of the Exchequer boasting that he has decreased the national debt by $75,000,000 in two years, or $87,000,000 a year in the last two years, and that by successive reductions the liabilities are lower to-day than they have been at any time within the last eighty years. We see, too, that his audience greeted his announcements with cheers. There presentatives of the people rejoiced to find that the result of the administration of their Finance Minister was to lessen the national debt. And they had good reason to be glad. The day in which a British Minister can gaily add to the people's burdens and boast of the performance is past. The corner of the £700,000,000 has been turned, and it will, no doubt, be the ambition of future Chancellors of the Exchequer to do their utmost towards turning the corner of £600,000,000.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The success of foreign missions has of late years been doubted, and this not by sceptics and infidels, but by able and well-informed ministers of religion. Canon Taylor has discussed the question with much cleverness and has adduced the facts which led him to conclude that missions to the heathen have hitherto been a failure. His articles have provoked much controversy. Among others Mr. H. H. Johnston, who was for many years consul in Africa and who, presumably, has seen much of missionary work, has taken part in the discussion. Mr. Johnston is evidently not a religious man in the ordinary acceptance of the term "religious." He looks at missions from an economic point of view chiefly. He enquires into the effect they have on the social condition of the people among whom they are established.

Many will be shocked to find that Mr. Johnston is of opinion that the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen races does not bring about any very great change in their morals. They sing hymns, they keep the Sabbath, and they are great sticklers for forms and doctrines. "But it too often happens," he says, "that while the negro rapidly masters the rules and regulations, so to speak, of the Christian religion he still continues to be gross, immoral, dishonest and deceitful." Again: "They (the missionaries) may have succeeded in turning their disciples into professing Catholics, Anglicans or Baptists, but the impartial observer is surprised to find that adultery, drunkenness and lying are more apparent among the converts than among their heathen brethren." He adds: "If the effect of Christian missions stopped here I should join unhesitatingly with those who condemn the expenditure of British money and the lives of British men and women in the evangelizing of savage races abroad when so much remains to be done to better the condition of our relapsed savages at home." But he finds the missionaries do good as civilizers. He does not believe that the missionary should, like the Jesuits, the Salvation Army soldiers and the Mahommedan missionaries adopt the modes of life of the heathen among whom they labor. He is of opinion that the missionary should live and dress like a civilized man, and if he can afford it, keep his pony carriage. His reason for this is that the savage is imitative; he will be apt to copy the ways of the civilized man and will become ambitious to possess the luxuries that the missionary enjoys. By forming new tastes and by entertaining new aspirations he gets his feet on the road to a higher life, and when he makes a start his progress is often rapid. "On the gold coast," he says, "the Bosel missionaries of Switzerland have taught the natives all manner of useful trades, so that now the skilled and unskilled labor of white men is no longer needed in West Africa, and its place is supplied by the clerks, coopers, carpenters, engineers and cooks of the Gold Coast. It is as pioneers of civilization that missionaries are in the estimation of Mr. Johnston most valuable. He has a theory that degraded races will debase the purest and most reasonable of religions—pervert it into a more superstition—and that it is only after they have become civilized that they are capable of comprehending and practising pure Christianity. He is, therefore, logical when he advises missionaries to confine their teachings to the morals of Christianity, to instruct the heathen first in their duty to their fellowmen, and to postpone the inculcation of doctrines until their minds are fitted to receive them. He would have the teachings of all Christian missionaries to be uniform. But he is far from pronouncing missions to be a failure. He believes that they have done, and are doing, much to civilize the barbarous races of the earth and to prepare the countries they live in for the occupation of white men. What he says on this head is worth quoting. This is it: "Accepting the premises that it is scarcely possible to withstand a natural law and prevent the expansion of the white race over such rich, undeveloped, sparsely populated parts of the globe as are inhabited by men of low organization, incapable of turning the resources of their country to proper account, then, I think, in this function alone of educating the savage and safeguarding his rights, missionaries perform an important service to humanity at large, and for this end alone they are deserving of support and sympathy."

The supporters of missions generally will not agree with Mr. Johnston. They believe that the missionary has something higher and better to do than to teach the heathen to read and write and to give them such instruction that they will be able to become fairly good clerks, cooks, coopers and engineers. It is their conviction that the truths which Mr. Johnston despises or makes light of, are the first that should be inculcated, and if this is done well and faithfully the other things which he prizes so highly will be added as a necessary consequence. The missionary propaganda should, in their opinion, be something better than a kind of "school board for savages." The question is a very interesting one, and it is well that it should be fully and fearlessly discussed.

## CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

Canada has according to its population a very large mileage of railway. There were in the Dominion on the 30th of last June 12,702 miles of finished railway and 540 more in progress of construction. The United States had at the close of last year 158,172 miles of completed railway. Allowing that the population of the Dominion is five millions and that of the United States sixty-five millions, the proportion of railway to inhabitants in the two countries is as nearly as may be equal. But when the extent of the territory of of the two countries is taken into the calculation the United States is very far ahead of Canada. The cost of the railways of the Dominion was $727,180,448. This gives about $145 to each inhabitant. The amount contributed by governments and municipalities towards these railways was $177,215,564. The people of Canada have therefore borne nearly one fourth of the expense of constructing the railways of their country.

The total railway receipts in the Dominion last year were $42,159,152 and the working expenses were $30,652,046. This leaves for profit and the payment of interest $11,507,106 or 1¼ per cent. on the total capital invested. If the railways of Canada had been built by private enterprise they would not have made their constructors rich. Taking away the sums paid by governments and municipalities the railroads of the Dominion would not have paid the private investors last year 2¼ per cent. But although the railroads have not paid in the sense of being investments, the benefits derived from them by the people of Canada can hardly be calculated in dollars and cents. They have opened up new country which would have remained in a wilderness state, and they have afforded the settled parts means of water communication which have been to them of incalculable value.

It will seem strange to many that more than twice the population of the country was carried on its railroads last year. The number of passengers was 11,416,791, and the number of tons of freight 17,172,759. When the work that the railways have done and the advantages derived from them by the population of the country are considered, it seems a pity that they have not paid better. But the time is coming, we have no doubt, when railways in Canada will be better property than they are to-day. The country is gradually improving. Every year there will be more and more for them to do and consequently their earnings will go on increasing. Of the eleven millions of passengers carried on the Dominion railways last year, twenty were killed. This is at the rate of one out of every 570,000 carried. It was Mark Twain, we think, who made a calculation that it was safer to ride in a railway carriage than to go to bed. And he produced statistics to prove his point. The number of casualties in which passengers lost their lives appears to be small, but what they were compared with those on railways generally, we have not the means of ascertaining at hand. The number of railway employes who lost their lives was 107, and there were 104 "others" killed.

## THE HEREDITARY PRINCIPLE IN POLITICS.

That the son of the late Minister of Railways should be chosen by the Conservatives of Compton to represent them in the House of Commons is only natural. The respect and esteem which men entertain for the father is, to a certain extent, inherited by the son. There is always a predilection in favor of a good man's son, and if he is at all worthy he has many advantages over men who have to make their way in the world unaided by ancestral prestige. And we do not feel inclined to say that this is not for the good of society generally. To make a good reputation, to leave a name which will be held in honor, is one of the great incentives to well-doing. When a man knows that his children will be benefitted by his doing his duty well and faithfully, and that they will be injured by any evil deeds that he may commit, he has a great motive to do right and to shun evil. The fact that an eminent man's son is looked upon with respect and confidence by his fellow citizens, and that they give him the preference to other men who in every other respect have as great claims on the favor of the public may, and very likely does, stimulate a public man to act in such a way as that his children may, for their father's sake, be held in as high esteem. It was regard for John Bright that caused his son to be elected for Birmingham, and that made opposition to him futile; and it is, no doubt, the grateful remembrance of the services of John Henry Pope, the father, that caused the Compton Conservatives to select Rufus Pope, the son, as their representative, though there may be Conservatives in the county who, if their own merits were alone considered, would have had the preference.

But though this imputed goodness is a fine thing to start with, it is soon forgotten if it turns out that the son has none of the estimable qualities of the father. If John Henry Pope's son does not prove a faithful and an efficient representative of the electors of Compton, he will not be able very long to make capital out of his father's reputation. Sooner or later he will be taken at his true value and treated accordingly. But reflecting people will not be at all disposed to quarrel with those who show a partiality for the son of a man who has served his country long and faithfully.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

A good many unpleasant things are being said by newspapers in Eastern Canada about an insult offered to the British flag in New York on the day of the Washington celebration. It seems that some militiamen, whether drunk or sober it is not said, ordered the owner of a building near the Bowery to haul down the British flag which he had hoisted in honor of the day. The man being a little too slow to please the defenders of the hearths and altars of the American people, one of them pulled the flag down. The story may be true, but it is quite as likely to be false. But even if it is true there is nothing in it to rouse the ire of an intelligent British subject. There are fools everywhere, and drunk or sober, they act after their kind. The whole American people are not to be condemned for the act of one man; and he is not a sensible Briton who gets angry at all Yankees because one of them treats the flag that has for a thousand years braved the battle and the breeze with contumely. And those Canadian journalists who regard this alleged insult to the British flag as a studied insult to the people of Canada are acting with stupid malignity. Americans and Canadians are friends, and want to remain friends. The acts of kindness and courtesy which Canadians receive at the hands of their American neighbors are innumerable. Every day, and every hour of every day, Americans are showing their Canadian cousins that they estertain towards them the most kindly feelings. And we are glad to know that the kindness and good feeling are not all on one side. And is all this pleasant and neighborly intercourse, this constant interchange of good offices, to be forgotten or lost sight of because some pot-valiant militia man, who may not have been an American citizen, tore down a Union Jack that was flying over a house in the Bowery? We are surprised that any Canadian editor would think the matter worth even a passing comment.

## NEWS AND NOTES.

### A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE.

The story of the lunatic in Russia who was desirous of cooking his doctor remindsme of an experience which happened a few weeks back to some American friends of my own, says a writer in the London Figaro. In the Russian account the patient complained of the poverty of the soup, and persuaded the doctor to come down with him to the kitchen and inspect the large cauldron in which it was made. As he lifted the lid, the man whispered: "Do you know, doctor, you are so nice and fat you would make good strong broth?" Nothing but the doctor's presence of mind saved him. He agreed with the excellence of the idea, but suggested his clothes would spoil the flavour, and was allowed to retire to take them off. The friends of whom I speak were three sisters travelling to Putney. At Waterloo they got into an express train. As it left the station a man jumped in, who quickly informed them that he had lost his head, and that as he believed it was in the carriage he must throw them out so as to have a good look. The girls, with great presence of mind, suggested that the more searchers the more chance of success, and although the carriage door was several times flung open in preparation, by one ruse and another the madman was kept pacified until the train arrived at Putney; but they say it was the most "mauvais quart d'heure" they ever experienced.

### THE TOSS SAVED HIS LIFE.

Mr. E. Dougherty, of 87 Wellington street north, who was supposed to have been among the killed at the recent railway accident near Hamilton, arrived in the city safe and sound. Mr. Dougherty travels for Messrs. McMillan, Kilbridge & Co., of Petrolea, and had a narrow escape from being on the ill-fated train. "I was in Listowel on Saturday," he said, "and I intended coming home on the limited express, but received word that a customer was at Wiarton. I was undecided whether to go to see him or return home, so I tossed up a quarter and abided by the toss and started for Wiarton. From there I took a tug and went to Cape Crocker. I did not know anything about the accident until Tuesday." Mr. Dougherty's friends are glad to welcome him home.

### AN IMPUDENT PRINCE.

An interesting "foreign note" in the New York Sun records that the famous Kohinoor is demanded of the Queen by Dhuleep Sing, the Indian prince once held as a hostage in England and lately escaped to India. His letter to Her Majesty is as follows: "It will be useless for me to demand the restoration of my kingdom, swindled from me by your Christian government, but which I hope shortly, by the aid of Providence, to retake from my robbers. But my diamond, the Kohinoor, I understand, is entirely at your disposal. Therefore, believing your Majesty to be 'the most religious lady' that your subjects pray for every Sunday, I do not hesitate to ask that this gem be restored to me, or else that a fair price be paid for it to me out of your privy purse."

### "BRITISH" NOT "ENGLISH."

The use of the words "England" and "English" for "Britain" and "British" is very common even in histories, which of all writings should be most accurate. In many of the books in use in the public schools of Scotland, it appears, the error is frequently found, and this fact has aroused the wrath of the Scottish Society of Literature and Art, which at a recent meeting passed a resolution declaring the misuse of the words in question a "serious fault calling for the attention of the Scottish people." The resolution continues as follows: "The meeting declares this not only an inaccurate use of the terms, but a direct violation of the first article of the Treaty of Union, and an offence calculated to irritate Scottish feeling, and to provoke alienation and disloyalty. The meeting would, therefore, respectfully urge on Scottish School Boards the importance of ascertaining if the error referred to is found in the histories used in their schools, and, if so, the desirability of communicating with the publishers and editors of such books, in order to prevent the recurrence or continuation of the error in new books or future editions."

From THE DAILY COLONIST, May 11.

## CITY POLICE COURT.

(Before Hon. A. N. Richards, P. M.)

S. McMullen, a young man of bibulous disposition, paid $5 for being found drunk on the street.

Cheen Cooley, another devotee of the wine god, was sent down for one month for a similar offence.

John McMahon, a sealer from San Francisco, had no money with which to liquidate his fine, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for drunkenness.

John Ross, alias Dirty Face Jack, pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness, and also took a month's jail.

### THE DELMONICO ASSAULT CASE.

R. J. Ethridge was, on remand, charged by E. Escalet, proprietor of the Delmonico restaurant, with assaulting him on the morning of the 4th instant. Mr. D. M. Eberts (Eberts & Taylor) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. V. Bodwell for the defence.

Ernest Escalet was the first witness called. Being sworn, he said that he was called from his bed on the morning of the 4th inst., and went down stairs into the restaurant, as he was informed that the defendant was having some disagreement with the waiter. Went at once to the defendant and asked him, "What's the matter, Jack?" Defendant in reply accused the waiter of being a thief, and called the waiter several very foul names. He said the waiter had robbed him, and pocketed the money he had obtained by overcharging. Defendant also called witness several very bad names and finally caught witness by the arm. His grip was so strong that the arm was badly bruised. (Witness rolled up his sleeve and exhibited the injured arm.) Told the defendant to let go or he would be placed where he couldn't do any harm. Witness said he would call a policeman. Defendant replied that he would spit on all the policemen in Victoria. Defendant again indulged in bad language, and a policeman was called—Officer Haughton. The defendant had misbehaved himself in the restaurant before.

Mr. Bodwell took exception to this class of evidence, and it was ruled inadmissible by his honor.

Cross-examined, the witness stated that Officer Haughton was present when defendant again called him a French ———. He (the witness) used no bad language to the defendant—simply asked him what was the matter. Did not feel frightened when defendant grabbed him and the waiter. Defendant said he was going to kill them both. He looked as if he meant it. When the defendant grabbed him, told him to let go, which he finally did.

Celestin Steufrey called, said he was a waiter in the Delmonico. Recognized defendant as the man who came into the restaurant on the morning of May 4th. Defendant commenced to abuse him as soon as he came in. He said that he had been robbed on the day before, and that the waiter (witness) had put the money in his pocket. Commenced to use bad language, and witness called Mr. Escalet, who came down stairs and requested defendant to act politely in the house. The witness proceeded to relate how the defendant grabbed Mr. Escalet and himself, and tore his (witness') coat. Defendant said he would break every bone in his body, and one of the defendant's companions said he would "smash his face."

To Mr. Bodwell—There was a dispute over the price of a meal. Defendant was drunk. Charged $2.50 the night before for dinner for three. Didn't hear Mr. Escalet use any bad language. There were two men with defendant, not the same two that were with him the night before.

Harry Howard, a compositor, said that he was in the Delmonico on the morning of the alleged assault. Saw defendant and two friends come in and sit down to breakfast. They appeared to be disputing the value of a meal. They claimed that they had been overcharged. There was a great deal of loud talking. The waiter did not say much, but called Mr. Escalet, who came in and began to remonstrate with defendant for abusing the waiter. Couldn't tell exactly what Mr. Escalet said. Understood——

Mr. Bodwell—What you understood is not evidence. Tell what you know.

Witness—Well, I want you to shut me off. I am just aching to have you. Mr. Escalet told the defendant he would have him put out if he raised a row. Defendant got up and grabbed Escalet and the waiter—one in each hand. There was no bad language used by the defendant at the time. Heard defendant before this use bad language to either Mr. Escalet or the waiter. Defendant soon let go of Mr. Escalet and the waiter, and a few minutes later a policeman came in. Witness then concluded that he had had enough breakfast and got out.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell. There was no blow struck, but loud talk was indulged in by both sides. Heard Escalet asked the defendant to let him go several times. Did not see or hear any more of the trouble then I could possibly help.

Mr. Eberts—Did you hear Mr. Escalet use any bad language?

Witness—See here! How long is this going to last? I have to be on duty at one o'clock.

Mr. Eberts—Oh, we'll let you go in plenty of time. You have had your lunch, haven't you?

Witness—I just got nicely started when Escalet shut me off. No, I did not hear him use any bad language.

This closed the evidence for the prosecution.

The defendant was next sworn and said: I went into the restaurant on the morning of the 4th, with two friends. Told the waiter that I wanted a good breakfast for three, but I wanted to know how much it would be. I told him he had overcharged us $1 the night before. The waiter denied overcharging, and I let it drop, and ordered soup. He brought the soup and while we were eating it, I saw him go the front door. A few minutes after, Mr. Escalet came in, and came over to me. He said: "You ————, whose running this house, and paying these waiters, you or me?" I told him I didn't want to run his house or his waiters. He kept on growling, and I caught him by the arm, and the waiter with the other hand, to get the waiter to explain about the overcharge the night before. I let them go when Mr. Escalet asked me to. I did not call the waiter a thief, or the waiter or Escalet the names they say I did. When the policeman came in, Escalet told him to arrest me. The officer asked what for, and told Escalet that he couldn't arrest me as he had not seen me do anything wrong. I told Escalet if I had done anything to go and get a summons.

W. Petty endorsed all the evidence given by the defendant. He was a native of Philadelphia, he informed the Court, and was at present engaged in selling a magic salve for the cure of cancer, piles, etc., upon the public highways. The salve was not a sure cure, but he believed that it never failed to give relief. The price, 50 cents a box, placed it within the reach of all, and suffering humanity might well be thankful that so grand a remedy for all the diseases to which flesh is heir had been placed within their reach.

Mr. Eberts enquired if the salve was a cure for everything, and was it a sure cure?

The witness said that he informed the public that it was such, and if he did not believe it to be so he certainly would not offer it.

Mr. Eberts—Of course not. Your business is a perfectly legitimate one.

The witness replied that his business was to alleviate the woes of mankind. The business of a lawyer was to make trouble.

John Herron, the partner of the last witness in the distribution of magic salve to the world, corroborated his remarks upon the case. He heard no one use any bad language but Mr. Escalet.

After the counsel for both sides had addressed the Court, His Honor decided to impose a fine of $10.

### AN INFRACTION OF THE BY-LAW.

The case of Mr. John J. Austin, charged with an infraction of the building by-law, was sat down for hearing on Tuesday next. Mr. Elerts appeared for the city, and Mr. Mason for the defendant.

### THE SHOOTING CASE.

John Croft was charged with a contravention of the streets by-law, Officer Levin laying the information that he believed the accused to have been guilty of discharging a revolver on Government street a few days ago. The case is still fresh in the minds of all.

The accused pleaded "Not guilty."

Officer Levin said that on the morning of May 2d he was on his beat on Government street, but did not hear any revolver fired. Night Watchman Hoosen reported to him that such had been the case.

Special Constable Hoosen, sworn, said that he remembered the morning of May 2d. Was on duty that morning. Knew defendant by sight. Heard a pistol shot at twenty minutes to three. Was at that time in front of Lenz & Leiser's store, on Government street. Was just looking into the store, with a dark lantern, to see that everything was all right, when the shot was heard. A carriage passed at the same time. Took the revolver shot to be a signal for some desperate characters to get out of some of the stores. Stood perfectly still in the doorway, and the carriage passed "perfectly unconcerned," in the direction of Yates street. It was driven by a hackman nicknamed "Red." Couldn't see who were in the hack. If he had been sure the shot came from the carriage, would have followed it, but thought it it was a signal.

John Waugh, licensed hack-driver, said that he recognized the defendant. He was in his carriage on the morning of May 2nd, with Mr. Skinner. Heard the report of the revolver, in the hack, on Government street, near Angus & Gordon's. Mr. Skinner and the defendant were in the carriage. Saw the pistol. Mr. Skinner showed it to him. Took up Mr. Croft and Mr. Skinner at the Driard. They telephoned for a carriage, and I went round. Drove them from the Driard to Mr. Croft's house. Coming back, while on Fort street, Mr. Skinner put his head out of the hack door, and asked me to drive slow while he unloaded a revolver he had in his hand. I drove slower, and Mr. Skinner was unloading the revolver out of the hack door, when it went off. Did not see any revolver when the defendant and Mr. Skinner got in at the Driard.

To the superintendent of police—Did not see Mr. DeMauritz at the Driard or hear of any quarrel.

Charles Murizka, bartender at the Driard, said that he saw the defendant at the bar on May 2nd. It was about three o'clock. Mr. DeMauritz was with him. Did not see any pistol then, or any quarrel. Telephoned for a hack at Mr. Croft's request. The hack came and Mr. Croft and Mr. Skinner went away. They came back after a while. Mr. Skinner's hand was hurt. He had a revolver, which he gave me. It is now behind the bar. Mr. Skinner told me he had shot himself accidentally.

Fergus G. Skinner (commonly called "Mick") was sworn, and said that he drove with the defendant from the Driard to Croft's house on the night of May 2nd. There had been a quarrel between Croft and DeMauritz on Fort street, but it didn't amount to anything. Both were tolerably sober, but had been taking a little. There was no talk of duelling. Of course they could talk of having a duel if they wanted to, as long as they didn't have one. Was not hurt in any duel. I was fighting one with myself (a smile). We went to Croft's house for the simple purpose of getting a little fresh morning air so that we wouldn't get "ginned up" too quick. Did not see the pistol before we went to Croft's house, but knew he had it. He told me so. He had been out practising and had not been home since, and that was how he came to have it. I took the pistol from him in the house. Persuaded him to let me have it. I have a terror of firearms. I think it is a very foolish thing for a man to carry them, especially loaded, and particularly if he's likely to get "ginned up." I got the pistol from Croft, and was unloading it, leaning out of the hack, when it went off. I swear positively that Croft did not interfere. It was a pure accident. I was unloading it, because I considered that, loaded, it would be just as dangerous in my pocket as in Croft's. I was just as liable to get "ginned up" and use it as he was. There was nothing more than an accident in the whole affair, and if one of the newspapers, and one or two private citizens who are in the court now, would attend more to their own business, and leave the young people alone, nothing would ever have been heard of it.

The case was dismised; Mr. Croft agreeing to plead guilty to a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, which will be preferred against him to-day.

The horse and buggy which Mr. Paul Henderson reported to the police as lost on Friday night, was found by Mr. McGirl, an employee of the Albion Iron Works Co., who took the rig to Courtney & Dalby's stables. The horse had evidently broken away, and was wandering aimlessly about the streets when it was caught by Mr. McGirl.

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