

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

VOL. II., No. 12.

VICTORIA, B. C., DECEMBER 31, 1892.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

CHRISTMAS, with its roast turkey, its presents and general good cheer, has gone, and the hour of good resolutions is at hand. Statistics will remain silent on the subject of the number of good resolutions made during the year and the number broken during the same period, but it is safe to say that there is a small balance to the credit of the former. I would at least be pleased to hear that such was the case. Last New Year's I urged upon young men and young women the wisdom of turning over a new leaf, and I believe that in more than one instance my advice was acted upon.

The New Year is an opportune time for those who, by association or otherwise, have lapsed into bad habits to wipe out old scores and begin life anew. I take a better view of humanity than some spiritual advisers, who declare that the whole race is born into this world with strong inclinations in the direction of sin. Such I do not believe to be the case. Association and environment are more prolific causes of sin and crime than all other agencies combined. "Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners." So wrote the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians at the beginning of the Christian era, and time has not lessened the force of his remark. Young men should exercise great care in the choice of their companions, and society demands that the female sex should be doubly diligent in seeing that their associates possess characters above reproach. The young man who consorts with women of ill repute and frequents saloons will find out when it is too late that he has wasted his substance on trifles light as air. When the time comes for reformation, he will find the task of breaking away from his associates a very difficult one indeed. Friends, if I may so call them, of this class are not made of the right metal—they are counterfeits of the basest character. They will desert in the hour of adversity, and triumph over the weakness of their companions. Therefore, I say, young man, when you make your good resolutions to-morrow, put in the proviso that you will avoid evil companionship. By so doing you will find it a very easy matter to live right in the future.

And a parting word to the female sex. Those of you who are not married undoubtedly hope to form honorable alliances. This, I am told, is the chief end of woman. To you I say also beware of being seen in the company of men who are socially your

inferiors. If you attend balls and parties of any description, be careful that your escort is a gentleman of honor. There is a low type of humanity—a vulture, if I may use the word—who preys upon the reputations of honorable and defenceless women. Avoid the creature as you would a snake. Remember if you are seen in the company of men of this stamp your path in life is likely to have enough of thorns strewn along it to at least dispel the dull monotony of domestic tranquillity. Nothing so much lowers a woman in the estimation of a man as to see her in the company of a person of the stamp I have just described. I have, during my lifetime, seen more than one promising case of future happiness nipped in the bud for reasons similar to those cited above. Be not deceived, and remember the words of St. Paul, "Evil communications corrupt good manners."

I was listening to a crowd of young fellows, Christmas eve, comparing notes as to how their respective employers treated them at Christmas. The conversation was an interesting one, being as it was a sort of reflection of the characters and disposition of some of the leading employers in the city. Were I at liberty to mention names, I would do so, but two reasons prevent such a course. One is that the modesty of those gentlemen who treated their employes generously, and thus won their sympathy and interest in business, would be hurt to see their names in print; another reason is that sundry others would suffer terribly by the comparison. I know one Wharf street merchant (whose kindness to his employes has been the means of gathering round him a staff devoted, industrious and faithful,) who came down with princely generosity.

A gentleman remarked to me, the other day, that he strongly disapproved the existing practice of giving and taking valuable presents at Christmas time. In effect, he made use of the following words: "When I was a boy, we used to give presents because we wanted to express a certain feeling to our dearest friends, but now the whole thing is changed and we give costly presents when we don't mean to, just for the purpose of having the recipient of our gifts give us something a little more valuable. This matter of giving presents on the 25th of December is getting to be a horrid farce, and I do not approve of it. Formerly, you could send some trifle to a friend just to show that you remembered the season; but now you must blow in dollars where you formerly expended cents, and you do it in the expectation that you are going to receive much more in return. When I send a gold mounted paper cutter I always expect to get in return a diamond pin, and when I

get a diamond pin I know that I must send back a gold watch, and there you are. Now, why is it not possible for people to express their appreciation for each other by gifts of moderate expense at the joyous Christmastide? It is not necessary to bankrupt oneself to show that you care for a friend and want to remember him, and the present custom is simply ruinous."

I am pleased to observe that Dr. George Duncan, the health officer, has made a good resolution, and he appears to be determined to emphasize it with the most decided action, and that is to see that the sanitary conditions of Chinatown are improved upon. If all that the doctor says be true, and his character is sufficient evidence of the fact, Chinatown is not just as desirable a place of residence as some might require. In fact it is quite the reverse. A few weeks ago, a gentleman of this city, somewhat given to statistics, informed me that Chinatown was nothing but filth for a depth of six feet. I believed then that he was exaggerating the true condition of affairs, but others in a position to speak authoritatively have persuaded me that my friend's estimate was rather below the mark. Why the filth should have been permitted to accumulate is something I fail to understand. It seems to me that it would pay Victoria to expropriate that portion of the city and burn it up. Of course the efforts of Dr. Duncan will result in improving the sanitary state of Chinatown; but that is not enough. The Chinaman will persist in wallowing in the mire, and it will be only a short time until that locality is as bad as ever. Something will have to be done, and that soon, and I would be pleased to hear suggestions on the point.

If, as a correspondent alleges, a rough element has found its way to the meetings of a certain social and dancing club in this city, the circumstance is deeply to be regretted. While the correspondent gives his own name, he fails to give that of the club, and for this reason I am inclined to doubt the truth of his assertion. I have made inquiries concerning the different clubs of this city, and the result of my investigations leads me to the conclusion that they are conducted on lines consistent with almost Puritanical propriety; and while they continue in this way they will find a warm friend in THE HOME JOURNAL. However, if my correspondent feels inclined to go before a notary and make affidavit to his accusation, he will find me no laggard in keeping my credit with the public, more particularly that portion of it addicted to Terpsichorean exercises.

I was passing down Government street, the other night, when the music of a piano brought to my mind a song introduced

! in
ADE
UR-
at
ll at

S
USE,

Victoria

Map.

g the publica-
cial Map of
hes; colored;
sady for use.
on, carefully

LEE,

CTORIA.

be allowed to
inary Map,

NALD

AS ST.

INC

SSUE

7 00

Y-FIVE

DOLLARS
CHASSED

CH,

OLLECTOR

ollections made
ted.

building, Vic-

TSON

the Provident
ociety of New

profits:
04; 40, \$17.20
0.24; 60, \$41.50

ment Street