

UNITED AND HARMONIOUS.

"Disunion in the ranks of Liberalism in Victoria!" Only through glasses of extraordinary magnifying power could the keen eyes of a scrutineer have detected any evidence of it at the big meeting held Thursday for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. There was keen competition for the honor of serving the party officially; but that we take to be evidence of virile, abundant life, and of confidence in the future of the government which has served Canada so faithfully for the past eight years, which has restored the good name of this country and drawn the attention of the world to her as one of the rising young nations and of undiminished faith in an administration whose policy is rapidly filling up her waste places with people drawn from all parts of the earth and has announced its determination to relieve the overburdened taxpayers of Great Britain from the heavy responsibilities of her defence. There was not a discordant note struck during the progress of Thursday's meeting. The officers-elect expressed their gratification at the confidence expressed in them by the magnificent assembly of representative Liberals; the candidates who were not successful graciously accepted the decision of the gathering and there was no visible evidence of ill-feeling or dissension on the part of anyone with the result. Liberalism in Victoria is strong, united and aggressive. It returns thanks to its representatives and officers who have faithfully served it in the past, and expects its newly elected delegates to continue the good work in the interests of Victoria and the district whose political and material welfare have been so enthusiastically committed to their charge.

INSURANCE.

No subject can be of deeper interest or of greater importance to a people in the present day and generation than that of life insurance. The agent spreads himself abroad over the land and exercises his wiles upon all men, while it may be said almost without qualification that his workings affect the fortunes of the majority of families upon what in our civil-sufficiency we choose to call the civilized portion of this planet. Life insurance has become a popular form of money-saving because while the process of accumulation is, or ought to be, going on (provided the companies in which we trust faithfully fulfill their obligations) families are protected in a degree against the consequences of the sudden termination of the life of the bread-winner. Hence anything that has a tendency to shake the confidence of the community in the stability of any insurance concern is not to be lightly regarded. The government of Canada exercises the wisest possible precautions against the possibility of fraud being perpetrated upon those who seek this particular form of protection and investment. What is regarded as ample security in the form of deposits is exacted from domestic and foreign companies alike, and therefore as far as human foresight can guard against fraud or indiscretion on the part of managers or directors of insurance companies the public of Canada has no reason to be perturbed by recent developments in the affairs of any particular corporation. Statistics of the business done in the Dominion are collected and carefully compiled under the supervision of a Superintendent of Insurance, for the information of those who care to attempt to assimilate the same. According to the abstract of the department the premiums received by Canadian companies for life insurance constituted \$2,39 per cent of the year's aggregate receipts, and exceeded those of the British and American companies combined by \$9,948,876. The net premiums of the Canadian companies exceeded the net amount of losses by \$1,074,498, while the British companies paid out \$862,958 more than they received, and the American companies \$237,177. There were \$1,053 new policies taken out in Canadian companies, 1,635 in British and 95,356 in American. The last named show a gain of 967 new policies, as compared with only 71 British and 128 Canadian. Of the net amount in force there was \$587,873,767 in force to date, an amount exceeding that of 1903 by \$39,430,767. Canadian companies had \$364,640,106, a gain of \$29,001,226; British, \$42,901,715, a gain of \$474,555; and American, \$180,651,886, a gain of \$9,965,086. The claims paid, including matured endowments, aggregated \$8,518,839, made up as follows: Canadian, \$4,145,089; American, \$3,232,715; British, \$1,141,044. American companies show the largest increase in payments in the sum of \$609,556. Canadian companies were next, with \$305,335, and British third, with \$10,589.

British companies continue to hold the field in fire insurance, Canadian companies having second place and the American companies third. The aggregate receipts in net cash for fire insurance premiums for the year ended 31st December last were \$13,174,819, of which \$8,341,175 went to British companies, \$2,688,703 to Canadian companies and \$2,144,941 to American. The total for the previous year was \$11,384,762, divided as follows: British companies, \$7,344,432; Canadian companies, \$2,282,498; American companies, \$1,757,832. The gain in net cash received for premiums was: British companies, \$1,066,749; Canadian, \$406,206; American, \$377,103. The net amount of risk at date

of the report was \$1,218,853,251, or \$78,389,538 more than at the same period a year ago. Canadian companies exhibit the largest gain in the net amount at risk, the figures standing: Canadian, \$300,865,590; increase, \$40,228,348; American, \$172,905,394; increase, \$20,532,168; British, \$745,922,261; increase, \$17,639,402. Of the \$14,111,200 paid in losses, which was \$8,230,484 more than in 1904, the heaviest burden fell upon the British companies. They paid \$9,164,853, or \$5,361,091 more than in the preceding year, largely due to the Toronto conflagration.

In life assurance the Canadian companies continue to lead. Out of the year's total premiums, \$19,969,324, which was an increase of \$1,729,050 over 1903, the Canadian companies received \$11,959,100, an increase of \$1,070,450; the British \$1,473,514, a gain of \$38,197, and the American \$6,536,710, an increase of \$614,413.

TOGO V. ROJESTVENSKY.

The world has ceased to talk about and think of peace between Russia and Japan. It is waiting to see what Rojestyevsky will do, and what reply Togo will make to his naval demonstrations. It is not for the amateur and tyro in naval warfare to suggest or criticize, or he might be inclined to dogmatize and point out that delay cannot improve the chances or opportunities of the Russian admiral, who, after the manner of his countrymen, has boasted of his willingness to attempt (Skrydloff and Kourapatkin and others proclaimed what they would do) or to die. Rojestyevsky has no facilities for cleaning or repairing his ships. The longer they remain in the warm southern waters, which must be prolific of the particular forms of life of various kinds that make ships foul, slow and cumbersome in manoeuvring, the more ineffective the fleet must become as a fighting force. Then the problem of procuring supplies must every day become more difficult the heavier the fleet approaches the locality in which Rojestyevsky hopes to strike; the blow that will violently dislocate the present status and retrieve the fortunes of the stricken Russian nation. But while enumerating the disadvantages as they appear to the paper strategist, the fact must not be overlooked that the work of naval concentration appears to be proceeding satisfactorily. When Rojestyevsky and Nebagotoff and the unmentionables of the other squadrons make their final dash for Vladivostok, and if Togo the wily and tenacious and courageous blocks the way, the world will hold its breath and listen for the crash. The Jap has not said much, nor has he hastened to disclose his hiding place, but it is safe to presume his eyes, numerous as those of a spider, are watching the movements of his hoped-for prey, and that he will spring when he considers the time opportune and the place convenient.

A NOTE OF DESPAIR.

Has Conservatism in British Columbia, in the blackness of its despair, settled down into a state of childish, querulous and fatuous carping at conditions as they are or are likely to be? The present Dominion government has been especially generous in the encouragement it has given to railway construction in British Columbia. It has assumed heavy liabilities in order to procure the extension of the Grand Trunk to the Pacific Coast—a work which in its finality will mean the creation of practically a new province in the north, and cannot but stimulate business in every section of the Great West. For this it has been severely criticized in the East. It has been charged that the government was practically building the line and presenting it as a free gift to the company. But when the favored company placed its bonds upon the market and invited the British investor to come in and participate in the feast of good things provided by Grit munificence, there was no stampede for the places at the richly-laden board. The public does not look upon the bargain as a specially good one for the company, apparently. The contract, we may therefore assume, is a fairly good one from the point of view of the citizen of the Dominion.

But that fact does not preclude the possibility of fault-finding. Even if the bargain be a fair one as between the company and the taxpayer, it is reprehensible because it contemplates the draining of this province of wealth and the pouring of our natural riches into the lap of the avaricious Easterner. We do not know what to do about this latest phase of the situation. If there were any means of eliminating the hateful, grasping, unscrupulous East by erecting a wall at the limits of the province, over which it would be a criminal offence to attempt to transport the wealth of our mountains and valleys and waters, there still remains the Pacific, with ships sailing upon its rolling waters and waiting for cargoes. The Far East, too, is hungry, and it would be just like the Grits to propose the dumping of our opulence into the wide lap of the Orient.

We fear there is no course open for us but to accept the Easterner, to whom our fortunes are bound in partnership, and make the most of him. We cannot isolate ourselves completely from the continent to which we belong. Our dealings with our neighbors may not be as profitable as they ought to be. They may be

sucking the lifeblood of our commerce, but if they are it is strange that we are still the most opulent people in the Dominion of Canada, that the standard of living is higher here than that of any other portion of the continent, and that there are no outward indications of the impoverishment which harrows the souls whose principal grievance after all is perhaps that they are out of office.

Might we venture to suggest that it is scarcely the part of patriotism to endeavor to incite the belief that British Columbia is not being fairly treated by the East, that the policy of the East is to grind her face and drain her dry, and that her lot would be more tolerable in isolation, or possibly in union with the American republic?

CROAKINGS OF A PESSIMIST.

We hope none of the readers of the Colonist may be reduced to despair of the future of this province by the sepulchral wailings of that organ of despondency. If the Dominion assists in the construction of railways for the development of British Columbia it merely delivers us into the hands of Eastern despoilers, whose sole ambition is to drain us of our resources. If the government refuses to grant subsidies it is still to be defended, because it is yielding to the demands of the greedy Easterners, whose desires for railways have already been satisfied, and in their selfishness they insist that the West must not be given a preferred position. It is all very depressing to be sure. Still we must make allowances for the state of mind of our dismal, aged contemporary as she rocks herself too and fro in her woe and refuses to be comforted. The triumph of the "solid seven" in a province she predicted would not return a single Liberal member and the sad blow to Toryism administered by the McBride government were sufficient to drive her to the borders of the land of despondency. Let her look on whatever side she will, and no glimmer of the sunshine of hope is to be seen. The Grits are at it Ottawa for five years, McBride has blighted the prospects of Conservatism as a local political force for an indefinite period. Woe, woe and lamentation! There would be really nothing worth living for if there were not the dismal satisfaction of issuing doleful forecasts of the hopelessness of the future of British Columbia.

A NEW LIGHT IN THE FIRMAMENT.

Again the truth forces itself upon us that "of the making of books there is no end." Works are issued from the press daily the end and object of whose creation is not to be discovered by any finite-minded creature. But there are others. One of the others we have before us. It is composed of verses, of which we take the following to be a fair sample:

Have the best and don't abuse it,
And you won't get left behind;
Don't imagine that poor food
It will purify your blood;
If it had been thus intended
Like the cow you would chew
The cud of that's before in.
In those old teachers I don't make,
No choice of creed does their portraits show
starvation?
Did they choose the poorer feed?
Don't be misguided; you may read if you will.

They were like the stall-fed bullock—
Sleek and fat and fit to kill.
They lived on the very best beef and wine,
Which made them bold; they but preached
this
Pure dem nonsense for to keep their flocks
in fold.
And of a few epigrams stuffed to the
muzzle with "abstract philosophy" well
up to the following standard: "I would
sooner listen to 'God Save the King' being
played on a Chinese fiddle than to see
one of my countrymen make his dinner
on vegetables straight." But what
superficial critics might call the raison
d'être of the work under consideration
is to be found in the announcement that
some one (perhaps the author) has in-
vented the "greatest stove that ever hit
the earth; burns less fuel in a storm than
in fine weather. . . . Browns
the roast without burning the fat in the
pan." At last a poet has been who can
appreciate the "eternal verities" and
the glories which shall not pass, and at
the same time who soars not so high
that he cannot contemplate the gross
things of life without which even a poet
cannot exist and dream. British Columbia
is rapidly attaining fame as the home
of literateurs. Her charms of
mountain, valley, wood and water are
evidently productive of "high thinking."

The voice of beautiful nature calls not
in vain to the individual whose imagination
is not dead and whose soul lies not
dormant in unappreciative breast. The
"high clear note" strikes a corresponding
chord wherever there is a chord to cor-
respond. The "rugged verse" of the
latest "aspirant for literary honors," we
fear, will not be treated seriously by the
successors of the "Scottish reviewers." But
let our readers remember that
Byron lives. As for his critics, their
names have perished from the literary
way.

There is one thing to be said for our
freak government and legislature. They
have set all the world in a state of
laughter at the expense of this glorious
but politically unhappy province, but
they have drawn attention to us in their
own particularly glowing way and given
us an advertisement of a kind. Collier's
Weekly of New York says: "The

comedian statesmen of British Columbia
are divided over the ponderous question
as to whether the judges of that province
will be wiser in equity and fairer in law
if their statutory brain-cells be clothed
with wigs of red hair. Court splendor is
harmless, even if it is a trifle costly, and
there is economy in maintaining a legis-
lature that can consume public time and
money in silly debate. Did not such
frivolous issues engage their minds, they
might turn, as have the august bodies of
neighbor states, into a comedy of errors,
and disport themselves in promulgating
ways and means to plunder the unsus-
pecting people. British Columbia is to
be congratulated that she has simplified
the complexities of life so far that her
greatest question of state now is 'Red
Wigs or No.'"

The farewell speech of Lord Milner in
South Africa, was optimistic. He said
that self-government would not of itself
bring every blessing. Personally, he be-
lieved that popular elections and the
party system would not improve the ad-
ministration or finances any more than,
if as much as, the influences already at
work. He appealed to the colony to ac-
cept the new constitution heartily and to
work it with a good will. Such a course
was dictated by higher motives than
policy. The generosity and confidence
shown by the home government in the
Transvaal deserved recognition. The
true best way to do this was by making
a success of the constitution which the
Imperial government framed with a sole
view to the safety of the colony itself.
He did not believe, he said, that the
Boers as a body would put themselves,
in the wrong by refusing to co-operate
with their British fellow subjects. If
they did, though he should regret it, he
would not feel that the progress of the
country would be thereby greatly re-
tarded. If one section of the community
refused to play the game, let them sit
out. His policy was to treat the Dutch
and the British on an absolute equality
and to await with patience that gradual
approximation which equality of treat-
ment was certain to bring about sooner
or later.

There is no regularly organized life-
saving service on this coast. The section
of Vancouver Island at which Capt.
Belcom's new whale-fishing establish-
ment will be established is in the neigh-
borhood which is most dangerous for
sea-going craft. Within a certain radius
from that point most of the marine dis-
asters have occurred. The lesson is
obvious that something more effective
and reliable than the small boats of light-
house keepers, or the canoes of Indians
manned by people not particularly zealous
to seek out and save the endangered
mariner, should be provided. We do not
know how the suggestion made at the
meeting of the Lifeboat Association, held
on Thursday, will be received by the
responsible parties who advise the Dom-
inion government in such matters. But
the proposal seems worthy of serious con-
sideration. Nations whose sons go ex-
tensively to sea in ships are constantly
striving to improve the means of saving
life menaced by storms.

Some striking official figures, showing
that the population of England and
Wales continues to decline at an alarm-
ing rate, have been published. In the
full report for 1903, summarised in the
London Daily Chronicle, it was shown
that the marriage rate was 15.6, against
a mean rate of 15.7 for the previous ten
years, while the birth rate had exhibited
a steady decline since 1876. The death
rate, on the other hand, had improved
from 1854, when it stood at 23.5, to 15.4
in 1903. Last year not only was there
a further reduction in the number of
marriages and births as compared with
the preceding twelve months, but what
is more disquieting, the deaths were more
numerous.

The wild beasts of Colorado will now
indulge in a season of solemn thanksgiv-
ing. Grave affairs of state have called
President Roosevelt and his retinue
home a week before the end of the time
they proposed to devote to the devastat-
ion of the face of nature.

INSURANCE.

To the Editor:—In your editorial yes-
terday regarding insurance a statement
is made—no doubt quite inadvertently—
but which is the very opposite of the
facts. You state that the American
companies "show a gain of 967 new
policies as compared with only 71 British
and 128 Canadian."

Now the actual facts are (as may be
seen on page 33 of the government blue
book just issued) that the American com-
panies, instead of showing a gain, had a
loss or decrease of 967 policies, the British
a loss of 71, while the Canadian companies
had a gain of 128. Even with this
correction the above figures do not
admit of a fair comparison, for the
reason that industrial business is includ-
ed in the calculation, and over three-
fourths of the total number of American
policies written in Canada last year
are in one single company on the indus-
trial plan, which, of course, does not
belong to regular insurance business
proper, and is always classified by itself.
There is also some industrial business
done by Canadian companies, but leaving
out this class of business altogether
the number of new policies issued as well
as the gain over the previous year by
Canadian companies are more than
double those of American companies.

GOVERNMENT BLUE BOOK.

SEPTIC TANK TO BE DISCONTINUED

OPPOSITION TO WORK LEADS TO THIS STEP

The Council Will Make Application for More Wharfage Sites—Friday Night's Meeting.

At Friday's meeting of the streets, bridges and sewers committee of the city council, only one matter of importance came up for consideration. This was the advisability of discontinuing work on the construction of a septic tank sewerage system in Spring Ridge in view of the opposition of those through whose property the outlet must run to reach Rock Bay. The question was discussed at length, the general opinion being that the work should be stopped immediately, as it was no use expending city funds on an undertaking the completion of which was doubtful, especially when it was remembered that the sewer mentioned would cost in the neighborhood of \$35,000. Finally a motion was put to the effect that the 50 men now employed be laid off on Monday, and that the city solicitor draw up an agreement allowing the corporation right-of-way through the holdings of 13 private property-holders. The latter could then be requested to sign it and the council would know just who are opposed to granting the necessary permission. Then the Mayor and aldermen will be in a better position to overcome the difficulty.

His Worship Mayor Barnard occupied the chair, and those present were Ald. Oddy, Fullerton, Douglas, Goodacre, Hanna, Stuart, Hall, Fell and Elford. Building Inspector Northcott's report condemning a number of old houses was first considered. Most of its recommendations were approved, the only one being taken to two, namely, some sheds at the back of the Driad hotel and an old wharf on the James Bay harbor. C. A. Harrison, proprietor of the Driad hotel, was present and explained that the small buildings at the back of his house were used as a bakery, a store room and a stable. They were all kept in a perfectly sanitary condition. Since coming to Victoria he had expended a considerable sum in making improvements. He invited the Mayor and aldermen to visit the place, and offered them a free dinner if they could find anything objectionable. Mr. Harrison was assured that his explanation would be considered, upon which he withdrew. On motion it was decided that the sanitary inspector be instructed to again inspect the sheds in question. Regarding the wharf, it was agreed, after the representations of D. A. Rogers, on behalf of the property owners, to defer the condemning of it for a short time.

It was decided to make application to the Dominion government for the shore and wharfage rights on that section of the coast opposite the end of Oswego street. A request from Moore & Whittington for foreshore privileges on Rock Bay for the erection of a new mill was granted, 45 feet being allowed. A complaint was received from J. Jones, a resident of Chambers street, in respect to the disturbance caused by the howling of dogs kept in the pound. In this connection one of the aldermen asked for an explanation of the sudden substitution of J. Desbrisay by Mr. Green as poundkeeper. He said that the latter apparently made no distinction between licensed and unlicensed dogs. Ald. Goodacre explained that while he was acting in the capacity of mayor Mr. Desbrisay had resigned on two days' notice, and as Mr. Green was an applicant, he had been appointed temporarily. It was decided to call for applications. Mr. Jones to be informed that his communication under consideration.

After dealing with matters of minor importance, the difficulty in the way of continuing the installation of a septic tank system in Spring Ridge was brought up. It was explained that Geo. Jeeves and others objected to the outlet being laid through their property to Rock Bay.

"Well, doesn't that mean we can't sewer Spring Ridge?" remarked Ald. Fullerton. "Not without forming an entirely new plan," someone replied, and then the city engineer explained that the outlet could not be run into Rock Bay in any way other than that now contemplated without a much larger expenditure.

This was followed by a lot of informal discussion of no importance. Some suggested expropriation of a few feet of right-of-way through the properties, but others pointed out the cost of such a method. Another North Ward alderman wanted the city fathers representing that district to be appointed a committee to wait upon the protesting property-holders and endeavor to obtain their consent. Ald. Oddy and others did not think such a plan would prove effective. The only way was to obtain the signatures of those through whose property the outlet must be laid to a document granting the corporation right-of-way. Until this was done it was no use proceeding, as it would be ridiculous to go on with a public work involving an expenditure of about \$35,000, when it was doubtful if the system could be completed. He suggested that the city solicitor be instructed to draw up such an agreement and secure the consent of as many as possible. In this way, he explained, it would be ascertained just who intended opposing the city, and the council could govern itself accordingly.

Ald. Fell moved to the effect, adding that the work now in progress be stopped on Monday. This carried unanimously.

The meeting shortly after adjourned. COULDN'T ESTIMATE ITS VALUE.—Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart never fails. It relieves in 30 minutes, it cures. It is a beacon-light to lead you back to health. W. H. Musciman, of G. A. R., Wessport, Pa., says: "Two bottles of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart entirely cured me of palpitation and smothering spells. Its value cannot be estimated."—130.



SIDNEY METHODIST PARSONAGE.

The Methodist parsonage at Sidney owes its erection in no small degree to the retiring pastor, Rev. T. H. Wright. By his indefatigable efforts he secured the necessary funds for the building, and as a result a very comfortable home for the minister in charge of that circuit has been put up. The parsonage is now occupied by Mr. Wright and his family.

Victorians, particularly those of the Methodist denomination, contributed very freely towards the enterprise. Mr. Wright himself circulating the subscription list. The work was not allowed to flag, and as soon as sufficient funds were guaranteed to warrant the enterprise the contract was let and the parsonage is now occupied by Mr. Wright and his family.

The South Saanich Methodists have unanimously passed a resolution inviting Rev. Mr. Wright to remain a fourth year as their pastor. Many complimentary references were made to the good work accomplished under the guiding hand of the pastor during the past three years. The erection of the parsonage received their hearty endorsement. Mr. Wright stated that their kind remarks and appreciation of his work were highly valued. He had sought to advance the best interests of the work of Christ.

During the past three years under his pulpit ministrations the congregations had increased and a keen interest taken in every branch of Christian work. At Sidney a parsonage had been erected through his instrumentality; a church bell had been donated; a driving shed erected, and a flourishing Sunday school is in existence. At South Saanich the congregations at the regular church services have been doubled. At Strawberry Vale regular prayer meetings were organized, a choir formed, a driving shed erected and the interior of the church renovated.

After due consideration Rev. Mr. Wright has decided to leave Saanich mission at the next conference.



The month of May. Half a year gone and nothing much consumed in any way than what was spent in my report of the week to rank 1905 as an epoch date. Cast a glance over the globe and what do we see?

In England—for a time at least—the triumph of one-eyed Cobdenism out of date, Chamberlain checked, and such cockerels as Churchill crowing on an Empire's dunghill whose putrescent activity they mistake for budding growth.

In Germany—a mad Emperor urging forward to dreams of war power a phlegmatic people whose common sense leads all to peace and social equity.

In Russia—a waste of frozen hopes red spotted with budding rebellion—all rotted with graft or drunk with licensed vodka—despairing or demoralized.

In France—a stock market glutted with Russian bonds—mobs of thrifty peasants dumbly comparing the relative value of these and Panama deferred.

In Japan—a new born nation, strong, active and ambitious, shamelessly misled by older peoples through the horrors of unnecessary war to the slaughter of harmless thousands.

In America—a conservative and heterogeneous middle class, welded to solidarity by the upper and nether mill-stones of trust and trades union, slowly but surely striking the disguise from a plutocracy that has long posed as respectability.

In the Colonies—a strange and voiceless lethargy that takes no steps to demand with the Mother Country a fair platform of free trade within the Empire and walls against the world.

There is nothing sufficiently creditable in all this to inspire cheerful writing, and so, we must take to our books again. I have read—hastily and one only, I must allow, Mr. Harper's interesting "Mortgage on the Brain."

As a story of the world, it is not so gruesomely enthralling as "Jekyll and Hyde," but naturally one does not look to see Stevenson ousted from his seat by a first effort.

Harper's work should greatly increase in art and interest with a second strong trial, in which I hope he will give more time and detail to the exemplification of the scientific theories he wishes to exploit.

The hints he gives of a possible "switching on" to various, even to all mentalities is distinctly promising, and the work more truly progressive than the negative hope of having one's bad memories destroyed and one's weaker personality elicited to be replaced by a rapid tenam, whose memory or knowledge of facts would have no logical connection with the physical frame it occupied.

I wonder our author's clever Dr. Ymagar did not introduce the perfect ghost of Edward Tompkinson into Lady Torbett's vacated brain pan and turn him (or her) loose in that condition on a startled London.

After all, there is a good deal of truth in that old fantasia of Dickens (I forget the name of it) of a man whose final prayer, after long and painful trial of the blessings of Nephew was, "Lord, keep my memory green."

I have been trying for some hours to prepare a suitable composition in the grand old five rhymed form of a Chant Royal. This requires not only a worthy sub-

ject, careful arrangement of the five rhymed words, but also a certain amount of restraint, delicate handling of rhyme and metre, but also perfect peace and uninterrupted tranquility.

And my door bell rings every twenty minutes with the following result:

CHANT ROYAL.

When in my Den all dark, or dimly lit,
I linger o'er the thoughts that do not to me
Thro' rhythmic waves of rhyme, by winged wit.

Upheld, impelled, and guided carefully—
When in this mood I grasp a phrase, and
I stab it thro' and thro' with piercing pen,
That splutters as it utters what I write,
The while my spirit with emotion sings
In that my hand hath captured from the flight.

Of precious words—What's that? Again,
to-night?

That Bell annoys me every time it rings!

I know not if your mind may fathom it,
This pun that I cannot wholly see—
The why and wherefore that a little bit
Of ringing metal should so disagree
With all my moods and tenses. Now and then

I argue thus: If all the world of men
Had tasted alike to mine, and appetite
For self-same sounds, there would be no
such things.

As front door bells—alas, my hapless plight,
Howe'er to others it may bring delight,
That Bell annoys me every time it rings!

Noises of many kinds there are—to wit,
"The watchdog's honest bark" (as sang Lord B.),

The crow of cock, the caterwaul of kit,
The caged canary's endless melody,
The clack of an egg-creating hen,
The clang of clocks that wake one at ten,
What time the brain needs rest to set all right—

Yea, these and more of homely utterings
I know, but none so cruelly excite
My evil thoughts, nor cause the good to flit—
That Bell annoys me every time it rings!

Some Bells of other sort, I must admit,
There are, that tinkle less unpleasantly,
As when low music summons me to rest
Before the breakfast board with toast and tea.

Or when the dinner gong, with loud
"Amen,"
Rounds off the day of duty toll. Again,
I love to hear those chimings whose steeped height

Thrills distantly with fluttering of wings
All of a Sabbath morn. But different quite
My feelings when the door bell does me spite.

That Bell annoys me every time it rings!

"Tis not alone the Balfist with a writ
Those busy japs may know that hideous he,
The Tarmar—may it matters not a whit
Who rings, the ring itself is what I dread—
And tho' I rise and loudly cry "Open!"
And greet with smiles that invaders of my Den.

I must confess tho' all in silken white
Fair ladies come with floral offerings,
Or five o'clocking men in garb polite,
Or bross unasked, or those whom I invite—
That Bell annoys me every time it rings!

Envoys.

Princes! (that's my dog!) If thou a collar
Bright
Would'st win, that well befits a son of
kings,
All cloth of gold, embossed with malachite,
Guard well my doorway—do not bark, but
bark!

That Bell annoys me every time it rings!

THE DEN.

AN O

REFUS

Building Str

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DR.

A Small V

The vote

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