

HENRY SAUNDERS,

Groceries, Provisions, Wines.

The Finest Stock from which to select for the Holiday Season.

39-41 JOHNSON ST.

CAMPBELL, THE TAILOR,
BIG \$6.00 PANTS.

88 GOVERNMENT STREET.

We Have the Finest Line

Of Christmas Presents in the City, and at the Lowest Figures. Come and See

Our Art Room : : -

OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

DAVIDSON BROTHERS,

The Jewellers, 59 GOVERNMENT ST, VICTORIA.

BOOK YOUR ORDER FOR YOUR

CHRISTMAS TURKEY

—WITH—

ERSKINE, WALL & CO.

A Large Quantity Ordered to Arrive 22nd Inst

THE VICTORIA TRANSFER COMPANY,
LIMITED.

This Company have the Largest and Finest Stock of Horses, Carriages, Buggies and Phaetons in the City

Strangers and visitors will find it to their advantage to employ our Hacks the rates being uniform and reasonable.

First class double and single Buggies and Phaetons can be procured at our Stables at Moderate Prices.

BAGGAGE TRANSFERRED TO AND FROM STEAMERS.

A. HENDERSON, Supt.

F. S. BARNARD, Presd't.

ALEX. MOUAT, Secy

TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

CHRISTMAS—the day on which the heart of the world pulsates with ineffable joy—is again upon us, and men of all countries and every Christian denomination will once more turn their eyes toward the Star of Bethlehem. How inspiring and significant is this grand union of all Christendom. Christmas is the day when we forget our personal grievances and in the broad ocean of true Christian Catholicity we sink all petty prejudices. It is right that we should encourage that kindly interchange of friendly interest which strengthens the bond of mutual love. Let every home be brighter and every heart happier for its rising sun, and in its serene setting leave us with a deeper devotion, a purer patriotism, and a more general good-will that shall promote peace throughout the earth.

But in our joy the Royal Infant, the Babe of Bethlehem, the blue-eyed embodiment of the blue Heaven's Creator, must not be forgotten. For nearly two thousand years His magic influence has constituted the world's reservoir of moral and intellectual force, from which mankind have drawn their noblest forms of social, civil and religious energy. And at no time during these two thousand years has He wielded a more potent influence for good than at the present time. This influence has purified literature, and glorified art by endowing it with a refining quality and making the marble contribute to its holiest conception. Truly the Babe in Bethlehem is seated in great power and glory, and still proclaims peace on earth and good-will towards men.

A circumstance which came under my notice this week, leads me to the conclusion that after all woman is a curious creature. She will go without rubbers and economize on flannels. She will walk holes in her shoes rather than waste money on car fare. She will launder her handkerchiefs in her own room, rinsing them in the wash basin and pasting them on the mirror to dry. They will be soapy and smell horrid, but she will use them heroically, borne up, by the knowledge that she has saved half a dollar out of the weekly laundry bill. She will deny herself the pleasure of having that dress which she really needs, though she has the cloth all ready and waiting, simply because the dressmaker charges so much. She will renounce correspondence because stationery and stamps, you know, really run away with a good deal of money. She will make a martyr of herself and talk about it and glory in it, until every young man who knows her (and who isn't old enough to understand) will think what a heroic little thing she is to battle with the odds of poverty. And then, brave and demure in her threadbare cloth gown, she happens across a bargain counter and mortgages her salary for a month buying impossible gauzes; things that will neither wash nor wear, nor keep one warm; things that must be made over stiff and crinkling