Vile Politics of Montana.

How Affected by the Fierce Rivalries of Two Mining Millionaires.

Incidents of Fight for State Capital Revived--The Copper Combine.

Butte, Mont., Sept. 10.—The commonwealth of Montana has been described as an empire in itself. The description is pre-eminently just. It is a country of varied resources, whose glens and valleys are as prolific as those of Languedoc or of Andalusia, whose mountains are glorious, and whose lakes are supremely lovely. Its rivers that rival the Rhine and the Danube roll over precious stones and sands of gold, and its climate has no parallel on the Atlantic seaboard or in any of the states of the Mississippi valley. The gods decreed that here should dwell a great race, for such a country as this breeds men and heroes, and the pioneers of Montana are worthy sires of a race that in future will be great. Men who meet W. A. Clark in Washington, in London or in Paris, and hear him talk of the great masters of art and literature can have no conception of the W. A. Clark of a quarter of a century ago. To me, at least, he is not half so picturesque a figure playing dilletante and statesman as the Bill Clark who made the famous ride to Butte to call the pioneers to arms against the Nez Perce Indians in 1877. He covered the distance of 42 miles in three and one-half hours, and the entire way he rode but one noble animal. D'Artagnan, in his most glorious days, could hardly have done better. The Major Clark who led the Butte battalion against Chief Joseph—the most redoubtable of Indian warriors—and sang for his command beside his bivouac the "Star Spangled Banner," is a far more interesting personality than the Senator Clark who will soon join the distinguished galaxy of men who form the United States Senate. When W. A. Clark was forging his way ahead against ten thousand obstacles sin what was then the wilderness of Montana, for us Bohemians he was a far nobler figure than now, when he has become the peer of the Rothschilds, the Astors and the Vanderbilts. The Napoleon of the Boulevards, patronized by the actor Irving, whose bread he ate and whose money he spent, was a far finer character than the Napoleon on whom shone the sun of Austerlitz, whose glory has had no parallel for a thousand years. There is something almost royal in wealth that is unpoisoned by the venom of the plutocratic. It was this that rendered the genius of Cicero diseased. It ruined the magnificent possibilities of the great Frederick II. of Germany. It corrupted the famous Marlborough. All the imperishable monuments of art and literature that the world possesses have come to us from men whose genius was spurred by poverty. "Paradise Lost" we owe to the blind and poverty-stricken old age of Milton. We owe Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered" to a genius sharpened by outrages which only mediaeval buffoons and tyrants could have been guilty of. Poor Cervantes created "Don Quixote" when stung by the pangs of hunger. The butler that waited at Sheridan's table when Burke and Fox and Reynolds and Wilberforce sat at his board were bailiffs in disguise. And yet, when he succumbed and gone the "School for Scandal" and "The Rivals" entitle him to a tomb in Westminster Abbey and an immortality of renown which gold can never buy. From Homer to Poe and poor Clarence Mangan, poverty has been the bride of great poets. The genius of the artist, the poet and the orator seem to perish in the arms of wealth and luxury. And this is why I do not admire Senator Clark nearly so much as I have admired that sturdy pioneer who braved the wilderness and achieved imperishable fame as one of the founders of the great commonwealth of Montana.

Nor can I see anything in the Marcus Daly of to-day that I can eulogize with the achievements of his past. Boundless wealth and the parasites that crawl around its possessor have changed him from what he once was. He grew up in an Irish village, and his ideals were shaped by the history and traditions of a race whose past either in tragedy or in glory has no parallel in the world's annals. While poor and unknown these traditions were his religion and his life. But when Fortune showered wealth and fame upon him the ideals of his dawning years died.

Daly had a noble and generous heart, but success and gold have almost transformed him. He has conferred immense services upon his state, and in his younger days he conferred benefits which made many men great and famous. John W. Mackay and James G. Fair owed him more than the world ever knew. It was Marcus Daly that pointed out the road to George Hearst through which he achieved boundless wealth, a seat in the American Senate, and a name that was not unworthy of being classed as illustrious. He had done ten thousand goodly deeds in secret. Today he will exhaust the vocabulary of the English language denouncing certain people, and on the morrow his purse will be at the disposal of the men denounced. Daly is a strange and complex character. That character is full of contradictions, and these who understand it must always recollect that poverty, struggle, danger and distress were this partners in early life, and that never for him have the gates of higher education and learning stood ajar.

It will be easier to understand the political conditions of Montana from this little insight into Marcus Daly's character. He has made them what they are. The old theory that "the voice of the people is the voice of God" is as dead in Montana as in the realms of the Sultan of Turkey. I doubt if political conditions have ever existed in any state of the Republic similar to those of Montana. There have been Spanish parliaments controlled by the gold of Louis of France, and by the mistresses of Charles II., and there have been Montana legislatures controlled by equally disreputable influences. Political corruption in Montana has reached the point when its people say it must end. It has become a festal ulser devouring the body politic, and that ulcer must be cut out, lest the state perish. Pious folk back East, who wear grave faces and sit in front pews and thank God each Sunday that they are not like godless folks out West must not be too ready to fling stones. Much of this corruption is due to gold squandered by the agents of pious New England folk. Even as I write, plans are being laid for the prostitution of Montana politics to a depth of infamy which has never been attained before, and the gold which is to effect this prostitution is to come mainly from the pockets of New York and New England capitalists.

The rivalry of Marcus Daly and W. A. Clark form for twenty years part of Montana's political history. It is impossible to tell the origin of the feud between Clark and Daly. Nearly ten years ago I asked Mr. Daly why such bitter animosity should exist between two Democrats. He told me he did not know, and admitted it should not be. Years after I put the same question to W. A. Clark, and he was as powerless to explain as Daly.

The truth is, it had no other cause than difference of character and temperament. Social and business rivalry fanned the flame of natural antipathy till it grew to be a devouring passion and a feud as fierce as ever arose between mediaeval barons or Oriental satraps. The state divided itself into two camps; the Daly colors floated over the one, the Clark banner over the other. The Montanans who did not belong to either seemed

"To hang
Quite out of fashion, like a rusty mail
In monumental mockery."

In 1889 W. A. Clark won the Democratic nomination to Congress. Montana was then overwhelmingly Democratic, and a nomination was naturally equivalent to election. But Daly played the part of Achilles when Agammemnon took his prize away. He sulked in his tent, and a bright young lawyer of Helena heard of it, and sought and obtained the Republican nomination. Nobody thought that the Republican nominee had the ghost of a show. But when the votes were counted, Thomas Carter was member of Congress from Montana, and a new and brilliant star had arisen in the firmament of the great Republic. Daly's following had broken away from party lines, and to avenge their sulking chief had elected Carter. The year following Billy Dixon, a Daly standard-bearer, won the Democratic nomination; the Daly clans returned to their allegiance and Tom Carter lost his seat in Congress.

In 1892 Montana chose a Democratic legislature, and W. A. Clark was chosen by the caucus as the party's nominee for the vacant seat in the United States Senate. But nine Democrats balted, and under Daly's leadership they fought Clark's election the whole session through. Cleveland had just been elected, and for the first time in nearly half a century Democracy had a chance to control the Senate. But if Daly balked Clark's election, the United States Senate might continue Republican. Naturally all eyes were on the senatorial contest in Montana. Mr. Cleveland sent ex-Governor Hauser to J. B. Haggin, Daly's alter ego, with a fervid appeal to stay Daly's hand, but Haggin declined to interfere. The Democratic National committee sent representatives West with appeals to Daly personally, and letters and telegrams of a like tenor reached him from all parts of the Union. But Democracy might just as well have appealed to the ghost of Julius Caesar as to Marcus Daly. He had resolved that Clark should never sit in the United States Senate, and an angel from Heaven could not have changed the resolution of Clark's implacable foe. And so for two months the legislature of Montana became the theatre of a drama as strange, as varied and as passionate as ever yet has been enacted on any political stage. Clark was beaten, but by methods, by influences and by passions which no lover of liberty or of genuine Americanism can contemplate without rage and shame.

No man admires Marcus Daly more than I. In private life he ranks among the best of men. His wonderful business genius has conferred untold benefits upon Montana, and I might justly add on the Republic as a whole. But politics have been the bane of Marcus Daly's life. They have stained his name, and not all the waters of the Missouri can ever wash that stain away. Had he left politics severely alone, and devoted his great talents entirely to business, his world have been a record of unsullied honor. Bad politics led him into association with the worst elements of the population, with the boodler, the intriguer and the parasite, and wealth that should have gone to benefit mankind has been squandered on the degraded and the corrupt.

These are severe criticisms, but they are the criticisms that I hear from the independent men of Montana—who are his true friends. Mr. Daly himself, will some day realize that the criticism is just, when he is removed from the wheathy atmosphere with which politics have surrounded him.

In 1893 J. B. Haggin conceived the idea of transferring the state capital from Helena to Anaconda. Negotiations were under way for the sale of the Anaconda properties to the Rothschilds, and the far-seeing Haggin felt that if Anaconda possessed the paraphernalia of state government the Rothschilds would be all the more eager to buy. It was a bold and daring attempt, but its very boldness and daring made Marcus Daly all the more eager to enter the campaign. One should have been in Montana in 1894, and a witness of the passions to which this capital fight gave rise, to realize their depth and intensity. A veritable cyclone of fierce excitement swept the state, and the passions then aroused are not yet at rest. Helena was fighting for its very existence, and Daly for his prestige. Daly spent millions for organization, for pamphleteering and for mercenary oratory. He held, so he thought, the prize in the hollow of his hand. But many of those who shouted for Daly and Anaconda, and who jingled Daly's golden ducats in their pockets, voted "nay" to Anaconda in the secrecy of the ballot booth.

W. A. Clark took advantage of the capital fight to pierce the Daly armor with many a deadly shaft, and his money and his influence undoubtedly defeated the attempt to make Anaconda capital of the state. It was a fortunate thing for Daly, from a financial standpoint, that he lost, for the deal with the Rothschilds was only partially consummated, and he and Haggin retained their interests till Anaconda securities were threefold more valuable than the Rothschilds could then have acquired them for. The Anaconda fight demoralized the Democracy of Montana, and in consequence two Republicans, Thomas Carter and Lee Mantle, were elected to the United States Senate. Daly's passions or ambitions have, therefore, been twice the cause of Mr. Carter reaching a pre-eminent place in the public life of the nation, and this was not because he hated Carter less, but he hated Clark the more. In the campaign of 1896 Clark and Daly were both in the Bryan band-wagon, and in the elections of 1898 Clark and Daly legislative tickets were in the field. Daly, with the aid of F. A. Heinze, sent a full delegation to Helena from Butte, but Clark carried the Helena and other districts which had been alienated by the capital fight. When the legislature met Daly was in New York negotiating with the Standard oil barons for the formation of the great copper combine. Clark was on deck at Helena, richer, more powerful, more suave than ever. The Daly forces were in line, but they lacked the guidance of the master hand of the chief. As a consequence, Clark outmanoeuved his opponents and made a trade with some Republicans, and by their aid secured the great prize which had been the dream and the ambition of his life.

There is much talk among the Daly following of carrying the fight against Clark to the floor of the Senate. The Daly clans talk sanctimoniously about Clark's methods and the methods of the men that elected him. But all the world knows that it was Daly methods that made the Clark methods possible and even inevitable. It was Mr. Daly's gold that prevented Clark from wearing the senatorial toga five years before. If the Daly people are wise they will let Mr. Clark take his seat quietly. I find Montana infested by gangs of political highwaymen of whom the people at large are growing tired, and I feel sure that the United States Senate will not play into the hands of such highwaymen, even to please Mr. Marcus Daly. In fact, I have been told by influential Senators that there is a strong sentiment in Washington in favor of Mr. Clark, which arises partly because of his pluck and perseverence and his success in finally carrying off the laurel crown of victory.

Moreover, J. B. Haggin is no longer Daly's evil genius. The Standard Oil kings are Daly's new allies, and they have favors to ask of Mr. Clark, and are exceedingly anxious to be on good terms with him. They control all the great copper mines of Butte except those of Heinze and Clark. Clark's Colusa Parrot mines are fabulously rich, and they are right in the midst of the Anaconda ore bodies. In fact, Clark claims that the Anaconda has been encroaching on his preserves, and has been filching some of his hidden treasure. He has brought an army of lawyers and experts here to prove his contention. The Standard Oil-Daly combine have assembled an army, too, and both armies are even now contending over the ownership of these certain ore bodies.

Daly would like to fight on forever against Clark, but the oil barons prefer peace to the expenses and possible losses of a long and bitter struggle, and I am inclined to think that they will pull Daly off the war-path and make a treaty with Clark. Clark is the biggest individual factor in the copper world to-day, and the great copper combine can no more ignore him than the navigator that sails the seas can ignore the winds and tides.

P. A. O'FARRELL.

MR. MAXWELL IN ATLIN.

Awakens New Hope of Some Attention by the Authorities at Ottawa.

Mr. Maxwell, M.P., attended a meeting at Pine City in order to learn the needs of the miners and their feelings in regard to the laws in general which most affect them. It was a large meeting, the chair being occupied by Rev. Pringle. Seated on the platform were Messrs. W. McCraney, J. Staples, N. McLean, John Grant (ex-Mayor of Victoria), R. McLemon and others. Mr. Maxwell being introduced, rose amid loud applause. He was glad to be among his constituents in this extreme limit of Burrard district. Atlin had come into existence as a community of people since his election four years ago, and he had taken the first opportunity that presented itself of becoming acquainted with this new camp. He had been spending a week or two in the Dawson camp, for he felt that a representative of the people in the Dominion parliament required a personal knowledge of the whole country, in order intelligently to aid in the enaction of new legislation required in the ever expanding West and Northwest of Canada. Klondike was now an important section of the Dominion and he was not less surprised than delighted to find that the Atlin district, also a part of his own constituency, had in so short a time grown to such proportions as it had now attained, and he had come here to learn of what service he could be to the people in his representative capacity. There had been some serious difficulties here, he understood, during the summer, but these had been in relation to matters coming under the authority of the provincial administration and with which of course he had nothing to do, but expansion and development were going on here rapidly and the government must be kept fully informed as to our increasing needs in the public service. He asked that the gentlemen present should express their views as distinctly as possible, so that he might understand thoroughly the duty that lay before him as their representative.

The chairman then invited those present to make known the public requirements of the district, and a number of speeches were made, those taking part in the discussion being Messrs. McCraney, Stables, McLennon, Grant, McLean and others. A wide variety of subjects were touched upon, but those chiefly appealing to Mr. Maxwell as the Dominion representative were the necessity of a better mail service and the appointment of a county court judge. Mr. Maxwell understood the difficulty under which the people were labouring in regard to these matters and the government would be apprised at once. In regard to the mail service it was the earnest desire of the Postmaster-General, Mr. Mulock, to meet the demands of the public in this respect to the fullest extent. (Applause).

Mr. John Grant then moved the following resolution:

"Whereas it is desirable and necessary on account of the importance of this portion of British Columbia, that the members of the Dominion government of Canada should be properly informed as to its wants as well as to its great possibilities, not forgetting its contributing powers; therefore, be it resolved, that this meeting is of the opinion that its present member, Mr. Geo. R. Maxwell, is possessed of the necessary qualities to enable him to present its cause in a forcible manner to the members of the House of Commons as well as to the individual members of the government, and feel that reasonable results will follow his endeavors, and thank him for coming to see us."

SHAKESPEARE IN FRANCE.

Shakespeare in France is not Shakespeare at all; nor can Shakespeare in France be anything like himself until the crack of doom. There is no doubt that he is a kind of influence in France, this "Williams" of ours—and that apart from 1830 and the ames d'elite, the select souls—Hugums, let us say, Delacroix, and Berlioz—who went for him then, he has never been more in France than, as I say, a kind of influence. For in France the Great Convention—the achievement of the Golden Years—being disestablished, being even dead, yet speaketh, and speaketh with an authority none can oppose. It is the Convention which best suits the French, and with some few concessions in the matter of local color, etc. I believe that fifty years hence there will be as little left of Romanticism in France as there is left of Classicism in England now. My dear Marcel Schob may turn out "Hamlet" into French the most plangent, the most vibrant, the most expressive, now writing. But neither he nor the Voice of God (for which he takes his transmuting, neither Marcel Schwob, who is a writer born and made, Bernhardt, who is at all events a disease, neither Marcel with his prose, nor Bernhardt, with her method and voice, can make Shakespeare anything like so much to the average Frenchman as Corneille and Racine and Mollere are to us. Not anything like so much. For we always have dealt, we English, with the Literary Frog. We know his weakness, and deride it. But we respect and love his work (I think I could find as good Mollerists in England now as ever lived in France, for instance); and we shall ever read him, as we've always read. He never has read us, and he will never read. There is a difference; and that is why Shakespeare must ever remain unalterably unFrench—an ideal, it may be, but not a French one; not an Ideal that France can ever pursue with dignity, decorum, la tenue.

And in the matter of ideals the Frenchman was ever curiously disposed. Once, for example, it was Racine, or Mollere, or Corneille; then it was Beranger; then it was Hugo. Now it appears to be none other than the Great Marquis—even the Marquis de Sade. I think that Shakespeare would be a better guide than the Great Marquis. But the Great Marquis is near to France, and Shakespeare is not. And so I end my plea.—W. E. Henley, in Pall Mall Magazine.

To Elect Delegates.—A meeting of the Victoria Liberal-Conservative Association will be held in Pioneer hall to-morrow evening for the purpose of electing delegates to the Liberal-Conservative Union, which meets at New Westminster on Thursday next.

More Warlike Than Ever.

Military Movements Show Outbreak of Hostilities to be Imminent.

Natal Agent-General Thinks Two Months' Campaign Will Suffice.

By Associated Press.

London, Sept. 27.—Most important light is thrown upon the situation by a frank statement to-day to the Associated Press by Sir Walter Peace, agent-general for Natal, who fought against the Boers in former years.

"The attitude of the Orange Free State," he says, "means its inevitable acquisition by Great Britain. Peace in South Africa can only be accomplished by war. In my opinion, a war would not last more than two months. In order to make pacification effective Great Britain must assume absolute control over the whole of South Africa.

"So far as the position of Natal is concerned, all this talk about poor, undefended Natal is nonsense. There will be little or no fighting in Natal if it comes to a war, and I fear that no other issue is now possible.

"What do you think 10,000 British troops would be doing while this much-talked-of Boer raid was in progress? Our railways are in good working order, and our troops can be transported quickly. A campaign could be carried on now just as well as in any other season."

London, Sept. 27.—The war office has ordered the whole transport and supply for an army corps to proceed to the Cape. This is a very important order, and means the early despatch of an army corps. The men of twenty-five companies are being medically examined at Aldershot to-day.

The camp at Dundee now consists of two regiments of infantry, a Hussar regiment, two field batteries, one mountain battery, and a detachment of engineers. The King's Rifles are now encamped at Ladysmith, and the Fifth Lancers are arriving there. An armored train left Capetown at midnight for Ladysmith. The cars are dropholed for rifles and machine guns, and are capable of carrying 120 men. The Bechuanaland border is closely patrolled day and night.

It is reported that Boer agents have made large purchases of grain at Durban. A despatch to-day announces that the Transvaal government has begun to appoint officers to go to the front in case of hostilities. Cablegrams from Pretoria and Capetown show that the general impression prevails there that the Boers will not recede from their position, and that the feeling of unrest at Pretoria has been intensified. A telegram from Johannesburg says an American named Blake is raising an American corps of 500 men for the Boers.

The executive council of the Transvaal had a prolonged sitting yesterday, and has been in constant telegraphic communication with the Orange Free State. The numerously replies to the despatches of Mr. Chamberlain will be drafted to-day and submitted to the raad in secret session. Members appear convinced that Great Britain is determined on war. Being anxious not to force Great Britain's hand, the Boers will not take any definite steps until the draft of their reply is considered, but notice has been issued to burghers to be in readiness for commandeering, which will be commenced shortly.

Notices of the adjourned cabinet council were forwarded this afternoon and the chief government whip will be on hand to give immediate effect to any decision received at regarding the re-assembling of parliament.

Information from Bloemfontein this evening leaves little doubt that the Orange Free State volksraad is unanimous in favor of supporting the Transvaal.

THE TIMES AND THE CHINESE.

From the Cumberland News.

In a recent issue we ventured to criticize a statement made by the Times to the effect that Chinese because of their illiteracy and ignorance of the nature of gas are a source of danger in coal mines. We cited in support of our contention that Chinese are not necessarily a source of danger owing to their illiteracy, the fact that coal miners in England were formerly unable to read and write but were never for such reason considered unfit to work under ground. Now the Times scoffs at the parallel and says: "Those illiterate English miners had what no Chinaman has—a knowledge of English speech and a fair share of English sense." Is the Times prepared to state that a Chinese because he cannot pass an exam in English does not understand orders given to him by managers? We have it from such officials that the Chinese employed by them do understand directions given in English. Else, what earthly use would they be in the mines?

The Times seems to lay stress on "English" intelligence. Well, we never knew anyone—except some meandering Knight of the Eye-glass and Cane—to hold that brand superior to French, German, United States or any other kind of common sense, and we don't see that it is necessary to be "English" to work successfully in a coal mine or anywhere else.

Then again, there are extensive coal mines in China. A great many of the Chinese employed in British Columbia mines have worked in their own country. We presume gas in a Chinese mine is quite as dangerous as in a Canadian mine. It is reasonable to hold that such miners are aware of the danger of gas before ever coming to this province at all. The Times says: "There were hopeless moral idiots among them (the English miners) who would endanger hundreds of comrades' lives for the sake of a few whiffs of the pipe. Yet these men knew what they were about; they understood the risk." Much consolation in that! Which would a miner prefer: to be at the mercy of an individual who would wilfully and knowingly endanger hundreds of comrades' lives for the sake of a whiff of the pipe, or have in the mine a man who, though unable to read English, was fully aware of the danger of gas and exercised care to avoid an explosion?

"What will the News say to the white coal-miners who insist upon exacting the same precautions as the government have seen fit to put in force?"

A meeting of white miners was held in Union on the 10th inst. to consider the question of Chinese in the mines. It was decided to allow miners to employ Chinese helpers if they wished. Many phases of the matter were discussed but there was not a word about the presence of Chinese being a source of danger to the lives of white men. Now, the News does say that the miners of Union are every whit as intelligent as the miners of Nanaimo or any other district in the province, and their opinion should carry as much weight. As a proof of the competency of Chinese miners, we have been informed by experienced miners that Chinese in many cases give better satisfaction and get out more coal than some white men.

In the next place, if persons honestly wishing to exclude Chinese from our mines made a law to that effect, they would endeavor to exclude all Chinese and not insert labor-catch-vote clauses like the celebrated "previous to August 9, 1899," condition. If the Semlin government really wanted to keep out Chinese, why did they specify that only those who had not worked before the 9th of August should have to pass an educational test? Does not such a course look suspicious?

Finally, the News does not claim to be an "eminent authority" on coal mining or anything else, but we do hold that anyone residing in the centre of a coal mining district and taking advantage of the opportunities that offer for obtaining an intelligent knowledge of the industry must necessarily learn something about the conditions that obtain. The News is not compelled "to write the kind of thing" the Colonist copies, but it may be remarked that most people in the province consider "the kind of thing" the Colonist allows in its columns to be marked by common sense at least. If the Times means by saying the News is not independent, that we do not say what we think, it is greatly in error; if it means we are opposed to the Semlin vote-catching policy, it is quite right.

It may sound "superior" for the Times to write sarcastic concerning our humble little paper, but that kind of thing is not argument nor does it display a very deep knowledge of the "elements of logic" which the Times so sadly fears we dropped too early.

BELL-SMITH'S RECITAL.

Delightful Two Hours Spent at Institute Hall Last Evening.

Those who failed to attend Mr. Bell-Smith's recital last evening missed one of the rarest literary treats ever given to a Victoria audience. Mr. Bell-Smith proved himself to be an actor of exceptional power and personality, carrying his audience along from grave to gay, and from the sublime to the ridiculous, with such ease and grace that the moments seemed to fly, and the programme, which lasted two hours and a quarter, all too short. His numbers were all received with unstinted applause and encores were demanded in every instance. Whether in the vernacular of the "Habitant," the Irish and Scotch, or the coster, his dialects were perfect. But it was in the rendering of the pathetic poem, "Pelang," that he showed his true histrionic powers to the greatest degree. The sketches were of a class never before seen here. Drawn with really astonishing rapidity and appearing almost mere smudges when examined closely, they have a wonderful effect at a distance. The ship on fire, Niagara, and James Bay, showing the bridge and parliament buildings by moonlight, with the trolley car, electric lights and shimmering reflections in the water, were received with enthusiasm.

Miss L. Hartnagle, so well known to Victoria audiences, sang very sweetly, and Mr. Bell-Smith showed himself to be possessed of a baritone voice of singularly sympathetic quality. His rendering of Vendi's "Infelice," a most difficult composition, was artistic and finished. Dr. Nash played a violin obligato in his usual finished style, Miss Marrack being the accompanist for the evening. Altogether the programme was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, which though fair was by no means what the high quality of the entertainment merited.

ALNWICK CASTLE.

In the troublous times of Stephen, the Northern chieftains were in their element—levying forces, imposing taxes, and filibustering, to their hearts' content; and it happened that there was born here the son of that fourth Percy who took Stephen's side and helped to rout the Scots at Northallerton, in 1137, who presently, with two other barons, violated the sanctuary of Saint Hilda's chapel by rushing after a wounded boar and slaying the protesting priest; in expiation of which outrage, later on, "Whitby's nuns were enjoining on how to their house three barons bold must menial service do," by annually bringing faggots on their backs, to mend the pier.

The oldest existing portions of Alnwick were built by Eustace Fitzjohn, husband of Beatrix, heiress of Yvo de Vesci; and the castle was so far completed by him that as early as 1135, it is spoken of as strongly fortified. It remained in that family until William de Vesci failing legitimate heirs, assigned it, in trust for his natural son, to Beke, Bishop of Durham, by whom it was sold to Sir Henry Percy.

In his brief five years' occupation, the new owner managed to reconstruct the stronghold almost throughout; and as you approach the castle from Narrowgate you are at once confronted by his work. For here stands the Barbican, blackened and weathered with centuries of smoke and storm, with its two turrets and archway as it was when he built it. As it was, also, when, in 1388, Hotspur and his knights sallied out under the Lion of Louvaine, to meet and fight the Douglas, but surely not to say him; since Hotspur was captured), at Otterburn; and, again, when in 1402, he went forth to Homildon and declimated the Scots, and then, enraged at not being allowed to ransom his prisoners according to custom, drew his rapier at his liege; passing on "to purge the country of its oppressor," as he thought, but to meet his own fate at Shrewsbury—the first of a race predestined to have their heads impaled on stakes for some generations to come.—Rev. A. H. Malan in Pall Mall Magazine.

FRIENDSHIP.

Highest thanks I owe you, excellent one,
Who carries on the world for me,
Enlarging the meaning of all my thoughts
Into the new-born poetry.

The indulgence of human affection,
In poetry, in common speech,
Emotions of love and complacency,
That fine irradiations teach.

I know it not, but yet I fear it not,
My relation to thee is pure;
I hold thee by simple affinity,
Which makes life easy to endure.

Give me friendship, the pure nectar of God,
Not the all-confounding pleasure,
That which comes near in the hollest ground,
That which I alone may treasure.

—Wm. Brydson.

New Buildings.—Architect Hooper is calling for tenders for the new block to be erected at the corner of Government and Broughton streets for Mr. Charles Vernon. Tenders must be in by October 5. It is understood that Alderman P. C. MacGregor will commence work on a four story building on his property at the corner of Broad and View streets early in the new year and still another building is to be erected by a new firm about to start business here.

COL. STEELE'S RECALL.

Surprise at Dawson That an Honest, Capable Man Should Be Singled Out for Removal.

From the Yukon Sun, Sept. 12.

An advance order has come that Lt.-Col. Steele is to be relieved from his command here and transferred to the Northwest Territories. To say that the order has created surprise is to say it very mildly. It was with the greatest surprise, mingled with indignation, that the announcement was received in Dawson.

Without the slightest reflection on any other official in Yukon, some of whose public duties are of a more complicated and unsatisfactory character, no man stands higher in the esteem and admiration of the whole population than does Lieut.-Col. S. B. Steele. His life in Dawson has been a model one, publicly and privately, although he has steadily shunned publicity and has been too dignified to deviate an iota from his duty, from a desire to please the public. Those who know him most intimately respect him the most highly as a moral living, honorable, intelligent gentleman and officer. The breath of suspicion has never assailed his name. Nor will any respectable man in this territory believe anything against him.

His administration of his force here has been soldierly and admirable in every respect, and the N. W. M. P., whom he commands, not only respect and admire their chief, but have retained a high reputation themselves under his command. He has been honest and painstaking in his character as a member of the Yukon council. In fact Canadians have pointed with pride to the commanding officer of the N. W. M. P. as a Canadian official who was a credit to his country.

What we have said above is a mere recital of facts, and are not in the nature of flattery, which would be out of place in an emergency of this kind.

We fear that dishonest representations have been made against him and have been sufficiently pressed and skilfully distorted to gain the ear of the department of the interior. We have been mistaken in our estimate of the Hon. Mr. Sifton if, with the real facts before him, he will tolerate a slur on an honorable and loyal officer of the government and country, by countenancing his withdrawal. If any charges have been made against Lieut.-Col. Steele let him have a chance to meet them by the rules of British fair play, and we have no fears as to the outcome.

We cannot stand by ourselves and see a gentleman like Lieut.-Col. Steele suffer such an injustice at the hands of the government we strongly and freely support. We ask the support of all Liberal newspapers in Canada and more particularly the Western members of parliament in urging upon the minister of the interior and the Canadian government the wisdom of cancelling the order recalling Lieut.-Col. Steele from the Yukon, where his services and experience are of the highest value in assisting to administer and open up the country, to protect life and property, and to support and uphold the dignity of British law and government.

We have only to add, in conclusion, that the Colonel has no knowledge of what action we are taking. He is too much of a soldier to connive at any action subversive of military discipline, but will, so far as he is concerned, obey the order in due course, although we are satisfied he is absolutely in the dark as to the reason for his unwarranted and unexpected recall.

PARTITION OF POLAND.

The first partition of Poland between Austria, Russia and Prussia took place September 18, 1772. War between Russia and Austria was imminent, and Prussia was likely to be drawn into it. Peace was concluded at the expense of poor Poland, in which both Russia and Austria had already done considerable grabbing and the three powers now arranged to set bounds to their robberies. Russia got the lion's share, about 4,157 miles with a population of 3,000,000. About a third of Poland was taken. It is notable that although the accepted doctrine of Europe at that time was that one country was entitled to meddle in the affairs of another, neither France nor England intervened to prevent this act of spoliation. The parties bound themselves to rob Poland no more, but by other partitions in 1793 and 1795 Poland was obliterated from the map.

HOLLAND AND TRANSVAAL.

The Hague, Sept. 27.—A treaty of commerce and friendship is on the eve of conclusion between Holland and the Transvaal.

SOMETHING IN THE WIND.

Railway and Steamship Promoters Coming to the Coast.

Winnipeg, Sept. 27.—(Special)— Wm. McKenzie, the railway man, and Mr. Peterson, promoter of the fast steamship line for the Atlantic, are here. They intended going to Dauphin but suddenly changed their plans to-day and will go direct to the Pacific Coast.

BUILT THE OCEANIC.

It will be news to many to learn that the builder of the Oceanic is a native of Canada. The Right Hon. William James Pirrie, according to Morgan, was born in the City of Quebec in 1847. He is the only son of the late Alexander Pirrie, of Little Clandeboye, County Down, Ireland. Although born in Quebec he received his education in Ireland at the Royal Belfast Academic Institute, and he became one of Belfast's shipbuilders and engineers. He is now chairman and principal of Harland & Wolff (Ltd.), and has designed and built a number of the largest and fastest steamers afloat, including the Majestic, Teutonic, Canada, Cymric, Pennsylvania, and now the Oceanic. The tonnage output of the company in 1896 for instance, was 81,316 tons, the highest on record up to that date.

Mr. Pirrie is a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, a member of the Institute of Naval Architects, a member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, and a member of the Institute of Journalists. He was Lord Mayor of Belfast in 1896-7 and is a member of her Majesty's Most Hon. Privy Council in Ireland. He is on the roll for High Sheriff, County Antrim, 1898, and for County Down, 1899.

Dance To-night.—The members of the Entre Nous Club will entertain their friends at the first dance of the season at A. O. U. W. hall this evening.

Visitors Received.—A reception was tendered Archbishop Bruchesi of Montreal at St. Ann's convent yesterday. The distinguished prelate was tendered an address of welcome by one of the pupils and made a brief reply. A concert followed.

Bonding Hitch In Boundary.

Washington Makes Order Depriving C. P. R. of Traffic for Republic

While American Competitors Are Privileged in Adjoining Canadian Territory.

Grand Forks, Sept. 26.—A big row is impending between the C. P. R. and the Great Northern railways over freight shipments destined for Republic, Wash.

Recently heavy shipments for the Mountain Lion mill and other prospective mills at Republic was received at Grand Forks by rail over the C. P. R. The intention was to haul the freight by wagon to Republic, which has no direct rail communication. The distance from here is 35 miles. The Mountain Lion shipment alone will weigh 250 tons, and other shipments will bring the total up to 500 tons. This is outside of the regular commercial shipments that would come over the C. P. R. for Republic. All these shipments are from Chicago and other points in the United States and come in bond.

Somebody has been to Washington and has been talking to the treasury officials, with the result that a notice has been issued stating that it is thought inadvisable to permit the breaking of the seals on bonded cars of freight at the Grand Forks station. This means that the United States treasury officials will not look with favor upon the shipment of goods in bond over the C. P. R. for Republic. Unless this decision is modified, freight will come over the Spokane & Northern (Great Northern) railway to Bossburg, Wash. This will necessitate an expensive wagon haul of 80 miles and will rob the C. P. R. of business which their proximity to Republic naturally gives them.

Whether in view of the situation any modification of the existing Great Northern rates is to be made is not known. The C. P. R. had counted on doing a big business with Republic. If the United States treasury department adheres to its ruling the C. P. R. may not get any. The ground upon which the ruling is supposed to be based is the difficulty of having an American customs officer stationed at Grand Forks to break the seals of cars, in bond. Grand Forks is three miles from the boundary.

F. W. Peters, assistant freight agent of the C. P. R., was here a few days ago. He drove across the line to Nelson, Wash., to see the local customs officer, who said the orders from Washington could not be modified.

It is believed the C. P. R. will adopt a policy of reprisals unless the treasury order is modified. They may induce the Dominion government to place some obstacle in the way of hauling freight from Bossburg to Republic through Canadian territory. This could be done through the imposition of certain restrictions by the Canadian customs officials at Cascade, where wagon shipments for Republic enter Canadian territory. It is certain the C. P. R. will not lose its prospective Republic business without a struggle.

DUNCAN'S BIG EXHIBITION.

Lacrosse and a Bicycle Gym the Special Attractions — Good Band Music Promised.

If the fall show and fair of the Cowichan Agricultural and Industrial Association to-morrow and Saturday is not the biggest and best ever held on the Island, it will not be through any fault of the committee of management. They have worked for a huge success, and it is only right that they should score, and that Victorians should help them to do so.

In the first place, the show itself promises to be a notable one, with a larger list of exhibits and better quality of district productions than ever before. Duncan is the heart of a magnificent farming area, and with first-class prizes as an encouragement to competitive display, the residents owe it to themselves to see that no one secures the awards who is not legitimately entitled thereto.

Then there are special attractions without number. The band of the Fifth regiment has been engaged to supply good music, and in connection with the exhibition the new cinder track—one of the best in the Northwest for its size—will be inaugurated with a bicycle gymkhana, for which a very large number of Victorians have entered, with an equally large representation among the competitors from the Navy.

The contests include several that are distinctly original, and the afternoon's programme gives ample promise of continuing heaps of fun for everyone. Besides the gym there is to be a good lacrosse match, and athletic sports of all sorts have been arranged for.

Entries for the show are not by any means confined to Cowichan district, while for the convenience of residents from this city and the Mainland, a special and entirely convenient train service has been promised by the railway management.

There is a famous restaurant in the town of Robinson Crusoe, near Paris, where rustic dining huts are built far up on the limbs of each tree. For fifty years or more men and women have made excursions to this place and eaten in the trees like squirrels. One of the trees is three-storied, the dining-rooms and kitchens being connected by stairways. A waiter is stationed on each floor, and the food hauled up to him by means of a basket and rope. It is a novel experience to be eating away above the world in this fashion.

Mr. Charles Wyndham's new London theatre will possess a novel feature in the shape of an elegant roof garden, similar to those that exist at many New York theatres. The roof lounge will be a very fine conservatory, measuring about 50 feet square, from 25 to 30 feet high, constructed of ornamental iron and glass. It will be at the service of the better parts of the house—the stalls, circle, and boxes—who will have the advantage of a specially designed lift, elevating some dozen people at a journey.

Reception to Sir Henri.—Many Victorians took advantage of the reception given by Mrs. McInnes at Government House yesterday to meet Sir Henri and Lady Joly. The visitors left for the East this morning.