

of fact he, Mr. Frank Barnard, M. P., for Cariboo as aforesaid, is the only one who is injured by the fracas. And now I come back to where I started and again repeat "Men are flagrantly apt to err in their notions of good or evil, virtue or vice." There are those who condemn in most pointed language, Mr. Barnard, others say Mr. Kellie was to blame, and still more say that both were at fault. Is it not unfair, yes even grossly unjust for us weak mortals to sit in judgment on the follies and weaknesses exhibited? "Good and evil, virtue and vice," how are we to judge?

What is frequently designated good nature in men, is nothing more or less than a specious weakness for admiration and applause which compels an acquiescence in what is manifestly wrong but undoubtedly popular. And yet some men are honest enough to stand or fall by their principles, be these principles popular or unpopular. The particular instance I have in mind now is the stand taken by certain people on the Chinese Exclusion question. It is popular to say "down with the Mongolians" and to cry with the mob "away with the yellow-skinned, almond-eyed sons of the moon," but it is also convenient to hire a Coolie to do your laundry work or to saw the pile of wood you bought with a portion of last week's salary. Let some one charge you with being a hypocrite, and there is immediately an excuse forthcoming. You are good natured when you join the rabble, and demand that the Mongolian shall be hustled from off this part of the earth at least, but in the washing or the wood sawing case you are true to a principle, the which is that it is legal and legitimate to hire the cheapest labor possible. About this exclusion business as about a good many other things, there is a good deal of rubbish talked. You can take this as a rule to which there are few exceptions that the loudest-mouthed anti-Chinese agitator is one of the first men to refuse to pay a white man two dollars for work he can get a Mongolian to do equally as well for one dollar.

Quebec is a long way off, and we don't take very much stock in the Frenchmen's political squabbles. Yet I honestly confess a feeling of satisfaction, in which nearly every Victorian

joined, when the news came over the wires, "Mercier is routed." I could quote a hundred homely old sayings that would just fit the case. A few will suffice. First and foremost the Divine command, "Thou shalt not steal," and another Biblical saying, "The way of the transgressor is hard." Furthermore, "Honesty is the best policy," and "Every dog has his day," for, as Bill Nye says, in the language of the late lamented Shakespeare, "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they get there just the same." All of which is worth bearing in mind.

I see that the Provincial Legislature is going to consider a bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Turner to establish a Provincial Board of Horticulture. This is a step in the right direction. In no other province in Canada do the lovers of the most beautiful of nature's varied gifts have such opportunities of reveling in their glory as in British Columbia. Sometimes I think we don't value the privilege half enough. Life, God knows, is cheerless enough to many of us, and for no other reason than that we neglect to profit by the mercies and blessings of a loving Providence. If only because of their fragrance and beauty and refining influence, insensible as we may be to these virtues, we should, one and all, in this land of promise, make a right start in this direction of horticulture. Victoria especially is in this direction so far advanced that no other city in Canada can compare with her. But this is not enough, and as the formation of a Board of Horticulture would doubtless tend to a more devoted pursuit of the art, I hope the bill now before the House will carry.

DOCTOR BEAST.

John McCallum, Merchant Tailor, 42 Broad street, received his stock of spring and summer suitings last week.

Chas. G. Craig, the actor, is a native of Cobourg, Ont. He acquired his love for the stage when connected with an amateur dramatic company in that city.

It is a remarkable coincidence that Annie Inman, Belle Inman and Baby Inman, all made their debut in the same piece. This piece was Rip Van Winkle, and the two former appeared with Jefferson, while the latter came out under the supervision of another actor in the same play.

Mr. Berry has engaged H. W. Kierski as new property man at the Imperial. Mr. Kierski is well up in his business.

J. J. Cross has resumed his position as leader of the Imperial Theatre orchestra. Patrons of that house can now be assured of good music.

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