

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

VOL. I., No. 36.

VICTORIA, B. C., JUNE 18, 1892.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

## TALES OF THE TOWN.

FOR the first time in many months I failed to attend last Sunday at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which I regret very much, indeed. Ever progressive and eager to enlighten all with whom he comes in contact, and a pleasant speaker to listen to, particularly on Sunday evening last did Rev. Mr. Macleod merit the admiration and respect of every right-thinking and virtuous man in Victoria by his uncompromising attack upon the evils of our fair city. I am heartily with Mr. Macleod in this crusade against the brothels and other hotbeds of nameless crimes which are said to flourish in our midst in defiance of not only the laws of the land, but against every sense of decency and self-respect. The position occupied by THE HOME JOURNAL as a family newspaper prevents me from dealing with this subject as it deserves, yet I cannot refrain from giving it a few words in passing.

The premium placed upon disgraced women in Victoria is a downright shame, and demands the attention of every well-conducted person. Something should be done to remedy an evil of such vast proportions; but it would seem that the authorities, who should be foremost in stamping it out, are utterly oblivious of the actual state of affairs, and in support of this view I point to the fact that nothing appears to be done in its suppression except what is absolutely necessary—what cannot be avoided. They are guilty of the most culpable negligence in this matter, and should certainly be brought to book for it.

The "women on the town" are constantly promenading the main thoroughfares of the city, taking as their right and privilege as prominent a place as that accorded to our purest ladies, and their presence at every public entertainment is an insult to our wives, our mothers and our sisters, and a reflection on the manhood of our citizens. The most conspicuous seats at the

theatre, the best position at all public entertainments, are given to these abandoned women in Victoria, while in other places they are prohibited from even attending such amusements. Surely Victorians should consult their best interests in this matter and arise in their might and crush this evil ere it crushes them. Let our citizens join hands and have these women removed to some place outside of the city limits, where they can be kept from daily insulting the eyes of the virtuous by parading their shame on the streets and leading our young men astray.

As Mr. Macleod says, there is a law against the keeping of houses of ill-repute, but as far as Victoria is concerned it is practically a dead letter. Nor does there seem to be any movement on foot looking towards the removal from the very heart of the city of the dives which shelter the lowest and meanest of humanity—men and women totally lost to themselves and to the world. The present system of allowing the evil to run rampant has proved a failure. Why, then, cannot some other procedure be inaugurated to deal with the matter as the welfare of the public demands? Are all our public men of such small mental capacity that they cannot find a way to check this constantly growing evil? Some may say that it is a necessary evil, but I confess that I cannot see it in that light. That women and men will degrade themselves is too true, but it does not follow that the majority should be inflicted because a few desire to degrade themselves. Let our officials bestir themselves: they are not supposed to be mere automatons. They must use their brains, and if they cannot find means to secure convictions, it is time they stepped down and out, giving room for better persons—room for men with more sense of honor in the discharge of their duties.

I cannot commend too highly the work undertaken by the churches in endeavoring to stamp out this evil.

They have much to fight against, and get little praise for honest efforts; yet, happily, they seek not after praise. In the good work they have identified themselves with their object is to rescue, first, the individuals from a life of shame and ignominy; secondly, rid the city of a standing reproach—an everlasting insult to cities as well as individuals. And there is a wide field here for their operations.

There is another matter that demands the serious attention of our people. It is the practice of parents permitting daughters of tender years to be alone in the company of men of doubtful character. Seemingly oblivious of the consequences, mothers have been in the habit of allowing their girls to wander about unprotected, until they fall victims to the wretches who are always on the watch for such opportunities. These mothers should be taught their duty. They should learn that they will have to bear the blame for any harm which may come to their girls.

To speak of the degeneracy of the times seems like harping on an old subject. But, as a matter of fact, there are too many young girls seen on the streets of Victoria. A good many of them are merely flirts, but quite a few are worse. It is no uncommon thing for men to be addressed by one of them in a way that cannot be mistaken. Hour after hour they parade up and down the main business street of this city, very often indulging in loud conversation as they pass young men. The police are powerless to stop this business, for they make but few arrests. In some of the churches there have been vigorous protests against the pernicious practice of mothers permitting their daughters keeping company with young men, who keep them out until very late at night, and through whose influence they are frequently lured on to their ruin. The matter has come to be a very serious one for the police as well as the parents, and something

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