

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HOME JOURNAL.

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

VOL. IV., No. 16.

VICTORIA, B. C., JANUARY 26 1895.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HOME JOURNAL is published every Saturday morning at 77 Johnson street, Victoria. Subscription, \$1.00, invariably in advance.

CORRESPONDENTS—THE HOME JOURNAL is desirous of securing a reliable correspondent in every town in British Columbia—one whose letters will present a complete and accurate record of the social happenings in his or her locality.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers ordering address of their papers changed must always give their former as well as present address.

CONTINUED—All papers are continued until an explicit order for discontinuance is received.

Advertising Rates on Application.

Address all communications to
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HOME JOURNAL,
Office: 77 Johnson street,
Victoria, B. C.

SATURDAY JANUARY 26, 1895.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

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

WHILE perfectly willing to have all possible facilities afforded for the obtainment of necessary legislation, whether of public or private character, THE HOME JOURNAL thinks that every care should be taken to maintain the safeguards that exist against hasty and ill-considered measures, or such indeed, as are calculated to do injury to individuals, or interests which are entitled to all the protection that there are any means of getting. I observe in the reports of the proceedings of the Provincial Legislature that notices of motion were given with respect to the Vancouver and Westminster amendment bills that the standing orders be suspended in regard to any irregularity in the manner in which they were brought in and that they be considered to be properly before the House.

Now I have no desire to insist

upon the observance of a rule for the mere sake of doing so, but I do say that if there be rules they should be acted up to, save under the most exceptional circumstances. The objections to the bills in question were not, I take it, on the ground of mere formalities, for according to the Speaker, contrary to the rules of the House, the objects of the bill are not set forth in detail. He added, however, that in connection with one of the two bills referred to an honest endeavor had been made before the committee to cure the defect. How could the informality be possibly cured before the committee of the House?

It is not, however, so much to the non-observance of the Standing Orders in connection with these particular measures that I specially object, but it is to the principle whose violation may some day prove to be most dangerous. Eastern cities—and the case of Montreal may be mentioned in particular—have been more than once advantaged in connection with municipal legislation by the invocation of an arbitrary standing rule, and it is only the other day that a Bill designed to sanction an increase of the public indebtedness of Montreal beyond the charter limit was thrown out by the action of the Legislative Council, whose usefulness not a few people declared to have been gone long ago. We have no Legislative Council to put on the brakes, and I am glad, therefore, to see that the Speaker has announced his intention of enforcing the rules in the future.

Bob Ingersoll, the gentleman, who, a few years ago, attempted to prove that Moses had been guilty of some grave mistakes, is once more lecturing in the United States on the subject of Christianity, and incidentally telling the people what he does not know about the Bible. Mr. Ingersoll is always interesting and enjoyable. In many ways he is the greatest orator in the United States. No doubt he is the most skillful joiner of words now living on the continent. He brings to his subject an eloquence which in a popular cause would be well nigh irresistible. One is conscious while listening to him that his power is real.

He never says that which will shock the sensibilities of his listeners. He proceeds continuously until he has gained the good will of his audience and then suddenly but quietly brings to bear all the satire and sarcasm of which he is capable. Ever in direct communion with his audience he will not allow them to rebel and when they have stood all in that line which they will patiently do he leads them into pleasanter fields. As an orator he is to be admired but as a student and scholar he does not impress one. He handles a subject which for two thousand years has been the constant theme of preachers and the study of philosophers, as lightly as he would a case in a justice court. Great as is the intellect and surpassing as is the eloquence of Mr. Ingersoll, the Bible is worthy of more study and sincere, honest endeavor at criticism than that shown by Mr. Ingersoll.