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DAVID W. HIGGINS.

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EVERYONE knows the extraordinary power that men who speak from their innermost feelings exercise on society. It is perfectly immaterial what the subject matter may be; their whole being seems to speak; hence, people the most uneducated carry conviction to their hearers, when men dealing in the choicest language, enriched by every trope and figure that deep reading or the closest study of the fine arts can bestow on the speaker, cannot produce a tithe of the impression. Many of our readers will remember Gough the temperance lecturer who created quite a sensation by his powerful eloquence in advancing that worthy cause. We learn by the last mail that a reformed burglar has taken to preaching, and has thrown the celebrated Surgeon quite into the shade; ladies go to enjoy the influence of his powerful language as they formerly went to be mesmerised, and enjoy all the delights of fainting fits and hysterics to their hearers' content. Thus it will be seen that a man out of luck may do a great deal of injury by persuading his hearers that misfortune is sure to happen to the town or community in which he has not been able to succeed; his listeners are apt to forget that his opinion is generated in his monstrous egotism, and is nowhere else to be found; they are carried away by his persuasive eloquence that comes from the very bitterness of his heart—the precise reflex of his feelings at the moment. Looking at the matter as seen at this moment, the reader will come to a very proper conclusion in classing such people as both unprincipled and heartless; in order to enjoy a vent for their own feelings they make a point of misleading all those who are not prepared by experience for such senseless outbursts. Many a poor fellow has felt the evil consequences of giving heed to these crackers; in having left a position where he was doing comparatively well, and where he had formed associations that were thus lost to him forever. Let our citizens look out for crackers in all ranks of life, they are always dangerous; they are people who would enrich themselves even if at the expense of every virtue; they are modern Neros, and would play up a merry jig if the whole city was burning and those neighbors who had conferred so many kindnesses upon them were being thrust into the street in hopeless beggary. Such people have been regaling the leiges with predictions about the desolating effects upon us of the creation of the great city at the other side of the Sound. It is to act like the loadstone mountain on Siebad, the Sailor's ship; it will draw the last remnants of our population from us; our whisky will be undrank, and our clams remain unopened. If people would give themselves time to think, they would see the absurdity of such random assertions; instead of our population decreasing by the formation of a considerable town on the other side, we shall most assuredly

be largely benefited. Business people may erect stores and trade on the other side. But on the other hand with a different form of Government and our tariff so modified as to make this place as near as may be a Free Port, we shall do the largest business of any community North of San Francisco, the completion of the Railway being of as much advantage to this port as any other place. It is of no use in our American

Friday, April 30.
AN ECCENTRIC CHARACTER.—William Williams, supposed to be abounding in insanity, was brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday. The prison doctor had refused a certificate authorizing his detention as a lunatic.
Magistrate—Well, Williams, what have you to say for yourself?
Williams—Nothing, sir, I ain't committed no crime, 'cept I'm goin' to get married.
Magistrate—Get married?
Williams—Yes, Sir. Git married. And settle on a ranch.
Magistrate—On a ranch?
Williams—Yes, sir, on a farm. There's a heap of fine land on this island, your worship. And milk. I'm goin' to open a dairy.
Magistrate—Well, Williams, I'd like to see you at work—making yourself useful.
Williams—Thank you, sir, I'm obliged to you for your good remarks. I'll try to deserve 'em. I'm goin' to California. To marry a lady. (After a pause). A born'd lady.
Magistrate—You are discharged.
Williams—Thank you, sir, I shall go to the railroad terminus. I'll catch Bars and go the reward. G'mornin' sir.
The last seen of the eccentric Williams: he was leaning languidly against a post in front of the Barrack's singing in a low voice a negro melody commencing:
"Oh, if I had a scoldin' wife,
I'd lick her sure as born;
I'd take her down to the Terminus
And trade her off for corn."

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The following account has been issued of the gross public income and expenditure of Great Britain in the year ended September 30, 1868: The customs produced £22,590,000; the excise £19,875,000; stamps, £9,250,000; taxes (land and assessed), £3,507,000; property tax, £7,281,000; Postoffice, £4,500,000; crown lands (net), £247,000 and miscellaneous, £2,867,561, making a total income of £70,307,561. The ordinary expenditure was: the interest on debt, bonds, bills, etc., £26,495,774 18s. 7d.; charges on consolidated fund, £1,860,474 13s. 9d. and supply services, £43,820,740 7s. 9d., thus making a total of £72,176,986 18s. 1d. ordinary expenditure. The expenditure for fortifications under special acts was £865,000, and the total expenditure was, therefore, £72,981,986 18s.

INCIDENT CONFLAGRATION.—Yesterday morning, about 2 o'clock, as Mr. N. O. Murray, baker, of Fort street, was retiring to rest, he observed from the window of his room a dense smoke rising from the yard in the rear of Sehl's furniture warerooms. He issued immediately to the street and informed Sergeant Bowden, who, having aroused Mr. Sehl, made an examination of the premises and found a quantity of rubbish on fire in the rear of Mrs. Mahoney's house on Broughton street. Near the burning rubbish were five or six bales of hay and a number of empty backing boxes communicating with the house. Had the smoke not attracted the attention of Mr. Murray, a heavy fire must have occurred; as the entire neighborhood is little better than a tinder box.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.—William Anderson, the crimp, was sent for trial before the Court of Assizes, yesterday.

The Lost Bark John Bright.

From Mr. Neil Morrison, a shipwright at Port Ladlow, we learn the following further and important particulars: The Captain of the John Bright was a Welshman by birth, and, as our informant says, "as fine a man as he ever met with." His wife was a Chilean lady, which accounts for the long flying curly hair that was observed on the remains. They had five children with them—two girls and three boys, the eldest boy about 12 years of age, and the youngest a girl about 4 years of age. The servant girl was not among those found, and it is well known that Indians never kill children, so that there is reason to believe that the girl and children are still living and in the hands of the savages. These facts may be relied on, and require very little consideration for point clearly to what our citizens have to do. We have been informed that our duty as white men is perfectly understood by some of our fellow citizens, to the number of 50, who are prepared with Henry rifles and six-shooters to go up to the scene of the murders and wipe out the whole tribe of murderers; and this may yet be done. The Executive does not proceed at this time to administer summary justice for this terrible crime. At this same point on the coast, the Kingfisher, then the Alpha, and now the John Bright were lost; how many more no one can tell. Vessels in going out of the Straits, if met by a South-west gale would be driven precisely on that part of the beach where the wreck of the John Bright now lies. Should any hesitation be shown by the Government in dispatching the force requisite to punish the savages, the expedition above named will be at once organized, and the whole tribe, mustering some 300 adults, made food for the orow. It is the intention of the volunteers, if their plans should be carried out, that the Indian children belonging to the tribe should be brought down here and afforded Christian instruction. We strongly recommend that a limit be fixed for the time allowed the Executive for action, and at the termination, let our people vindicate their white blood and Christian teaching and rush off to the rescue of the poor lambs who are believed to be now in the claws of these wild beasts. A large expedition was formed and proceeded to Bute Inlet to avenge the death of the workmen and packers who were butchered there. Governor Seymour accompanied that force and doubtless saw that the ends of justice were attained. If his presence was necessary then, it is much more so now, when there are white children to be rescued and a long list of crimes to be atoned for. The locality to be reached is close to our doors and will not be productive of expense or inconvenience, as the war vessels can go straight to the spot and the difficulties of pursuit, if the savages take to flight, will be nothing to speak of. Vengeance quick and sure must be dealt, if by the hands of the Executive so much the better; but delay would now be criminal.

DEMOLITION.—The old Hudson Bay Bakery, on Bond street, near Fort, has been demolished. This building was one of the oldest in the city, and at a time when the Hudson Bay Company ruled the Colony was presided over by a jolly Scotchman, known to the residents as "Jemmy the Baker." "Jemmy," who was a genial soul, kneaded his last loaf long ago; and after his departure the building became a drug-store; next a tin-shop; then a junk-shop, a coffee-grinding establishment and a lodging-house in rapid succession; finally it fell into a state of disrepair and neglect, until, trembling beneath its own weight, it has been torn down and carried away for fire-wood. Yule!

SMASHING WINDOWS.—A woman named Elizabeth Thurber, on Wednesday night, smashed in the windows of the Do Drop Inn, on Yates' street, and was taken to the Barracks for her pains. Yesterday the saloon presented a sorry appearance. O'Connell's figurative coach-and-four might have been driven through any portion of it with perfect ease. Thurber stands over, until today for examination. It is said she lately came down from the mines, stating that she had been a fortune teller.

JAMES BAY BRIDGE.—Attention has been frequently called to the practice some people indulge in of riding and driving, better-skilled upon the fine new bridge lately erected over James Bay. There is a heavy penalty for all such infractions of the law, and the Police threaten to seize future delinquents should the practice be persisted in.

BEAR BALL.—The Victoria Nine will play the Collegiate School Nine at Beacon Hill on Saturday at 2 o'clock. Both Nines contain some expert players.

MASONIC.—The adjourned Annual Convocation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scottish Masons of British Columbia will take place on Saturday next the 1st day of May, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the Masonic Hall.
Ple-wic.—Governor and Mrs. Seymour entertained Mr. Holladay, Miss Campbell of Portland, and others of the excursionists, at a picnic, held at Langford Lake, yesterday. The party returned to town early in evening.
The work Delmaro will be ready for a in about two weeks. She will be commanded by Capt. Hornsby.
The steamer Enterprise sailed for New Westminster at 11 o'clock last night and will return this afternoon.

The Tariff Commission.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I observe that His Excellency has added two agriculturists and one miner to the Commission appointed to revise the Tariff. So far so good. But, Mr. Editor, are our small but growing manufacturing interests to be ignored? And our coal and lumbermen, are their claims not to be considered in any revision that may be made? Surely, where every other class is represented so largely, there can be no objection of ignoring the important elements of prosperity I have named.
TIMBERTONES.

Triple Murder and Suicide.

PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—A horrible murder was committed here yesterday under peculiar circumstances. Early yesterday morning a man threw himself into the Delaware and was drowned. Subsequently, a handkerchief was found in the water bearing the name of "Blackstone." This afternoon the body of a man named Blackstone, of the firm of Panston & Blackstone, picture framers, 912 Market street, the body was sent to his house, in the extreme north-western part of the city. Arriving there the parties found another party of police in possession, and that Blackstone's wife and two small children were dead, having been chopped to pieces with an axe.
It appears that previous to committing the murder, Blackstone wrote a letter to his wife's father in Connecticut, saying he had killed his wife and children and would kill himself. A party in Connecticut telegraphed to the police authorities here, who went to the house and found the dead bodies, as before related, and were investigating the case when the dead body of the father was brought in.
On Blackstone's body was found a paper stating he had been robbed and was a ruined man, and giving this as a reason for the deed.
His wife appears to have been killed while lighting a fire in the stove on Monday morning, as the neighbors heard a noise at that time. The children were killed in bed up stairs, and carried down and laid at the feet of their mother. Blackstone was probably insane.
DISRAELI IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The London correspondent of the N. Y. Times says:—The Conservatives stay away, as a rule, from the House of Commons. They like the Democrats in Congress, feel that at present they are not powerful enough to check their adversaries or to originate any important measures of their own. And as there is no special sound of the whip to call them to the House, they leave it in possession of the victorious Liberator. One sentinel of theirs however is never absent from his post. Although the benches on the left of the Speaker may be nearly empty, a spare figure, a careworn looking man with curls, which seem to be getting thinner and grayer every time one sees him, is always present. It is Mr. Disraeli—more regular in his attendance than any other member of the House. Hour after hour he sits listening to proxy talkers, on subjects which cannot interest him, and upon which he will never be required to express an opinion. No motion is ever visible on his countenance—he sits there like a stone man. Mr. Gladstone sits in and out, or goes home altogether, but the Conservative leader rarely quits his post until all is quiet for the night. He seems to be gifted with the "equal" mind in adversity or prosperity, if any man possessed it. It must have cost him a hard struggle to lose a grand position just when he had won it, by no fault of his own, but simply owing to an irresistible combination of circumstances. But a man who has hope and perseverance never fails. Mr. Disraeli's turn will come yet.

WATER IN OTTAWA.—Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion of Canada, has no water works, and the principal means in the city for procuring water for ordinary household purposes, and to extinguish fires, is the use of horses and carts to draw it up the steep bank of the river, and thus convey it to the distant quarters of the city where it is wanted either for general use or for sudden emergencies. The consequence is, that if a fire occurs, no matter how substantial the building in which it originates, the destruction of the edifice is inevitable. The insurance companies, it is asserted, have refused taking any further risks in Ottawa. The inhabitants of the capital, while exerting themselves to secure various expensive improvements, have neglected to construct the most important and most necessary of all conveniences—an engine to raise the water from the river.

A Pretended Peddler leaves a Pack at a Farm House.

AN ARMED MAN DISCOVERED IN IT—HE IS SHOT AND KILLED.
(From the Joliet (Ill.) Signal.)
A short time since, just at dark, a peddler, carrying a large pack, appeared at the door of a wealthy farmer in the town of Green Garden, in this county, and requested the privilege of remaining over night. The farmer, being away from home, was informed by the hired man that he could not stay. He then requested the privilege of leaving his pack until morning, as he was very tired and could not carry it any farther that night. This was granted and the pack deposited in the corner of the sitting room. During the evening some of the females of the household had occasion to move it, and taking hold of it discovered that there was something suspicious about the contents. The hired man was called, and upon taking hold of it found that it contained a man. He quickly stepped into an adjoining room and returning with a revolver, motioned the family to stand aside, and at once proceeded to fire three shots into it. A piercing shriek issued from it, and on ripping off the outside covering a man with a large bowie knife and revolver clenched in his hands, was found waltering in his blood. Two of the shots had proved fatal. The neighbors were alarmed, but no traces of the peddler who left the precious pack could be found.
Tans by a mere accident, doubtless, a shocking case of robbery and perhaps murder was prevented. It was doubtless a plot to rob the farmer, as it was known that he had a large sum of money in the house. An inquest was held over the body on the following morning, and the verdict was that the killing was justifiable. No clue leading to the discovery of the name of the victim or his accomplice has as yet been ascertained. Such summary justice is seldom meted out to the guilty.

DRINKING IN OLDEN TIMES.—There is a story told in the People's Journal which gives a good idea of the drinking style of the last century, and which ought not to be overlooked. This is what our grandfathers took for honor. The Lord Panmure here spoken of was, I believe, the father of the present Lord Dalhousie. Two young English noblemen were paying a visit to Lord Panmure, who gave the first toast, which was, "All hats in the fire, or £20 on the table." Four hats were immediately in the fire. One of the English noblemen gave the next toast, "All coats in the fire, or £50 on the table." Four coats were committed to the flames. The other English gentleman gave the next, "All boots in the fire, or £100 on the table." The whole of the boots were committed to the flames. Panlathie's toast came next—which was, "Two fore-teeth in the fire, or £200 on the table." When Panlathie put his teeth out and threw them in the fire. The English noblemen looked amazed. He had ivory teeth unknown to them; and Panlathie went home without hat, coat or boots, but he had £200 in his pocket. Lord Panmure thought much of his tenant after that.

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