

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1894.

A LITERARY GEM RESET.

THE HOODOO OF VICTORIA.

I met a traveller from an antique town
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of
stone

Stand in the market-place. Near them in the
dirt

Half sunk a shattered visage lies whose frown
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless
things.

The Votives that mocked them and the Self that
fed:

And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Beaven, Hoodoo of Victoria:

Look at my work, ye Mossbacks and despair!"

But little else remains. Round the decay

Of that dismantled wreck, nameless and bare,

The lone and muddy streets stretch far away.

P. B. SHELLEY.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

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

THE re-opening of the Y. M. C. A. is a matter of gratification to all parties concerned, especially to the young men who made this institution a second home, where they spent their leisure hours in profitable enjoyment, either physically or intellectually, and who have for some time now been deprived this privilege. It is regrettable that such a state of circumstances should have been allowed to exist for so long, but the fault can scarcely be laid at the door of the friends of the association. They have done a great deal, more probably, than in justice they should have been expected to do; or, as the Bishop remarked, there was too much dependence on the young ladies. He wished the reconstructed association to be made of a manly organization, more self-sup-

porting, and more energetic in every way.

It was necessary some time ago in these columns to refer to the business methods of this institution, and then the words of advice given were misconstrued partially into a charge of wrong-doing. Such was not the intention, although a man drowning and making an insufficient effort to help himself, when by exerting his powers he could do more, is manifestly guilty of wrong-doing. Now young men, try to be such in the fullest sense of the term. Strike out for yourselves, and don't hang so heavily to the young ladies, apron strings; you should reverse the order of things by assisting what you are pleased, with peculiar irony, to call the weaker sex. Reconstruct this association yourselves on a sound basis, conduct it on strictly proper business principles, and stand by it. By business principles is meant not contracting debt and then calling on your friends to help you, which rightly speaking is obtaining money under false pretenses. To do this you will have to deny yourselves many things, but that course is far more manly than being a mill stone round your friends' necks, and a reproach to all that is manly, enterprising and energetic. This paper is pleased at the reopening of the association, which is a great power for good if properly directed, and it is to be hoped that the doors will never be allowed to close again till the society is in a position to enter a more comfortable and better appointed establishment which it can call its own, and over the doors of which it can place the sign "paid for."

The time has arrived when under ordinary circumstances there should be a liberal volume of distribution of general merchandise, and the spring trade should be fairly inaugurated. But the actual state of affairs is anything but encouraging. In a few lines of business there has been some improvement in the demand for goods since the beginning of the year, but when comparison is made with previous years the great disparity existing shows how much less is the volume of business than when it is in a normal condition. Taking the country as a whole, and all the various kinds of business, there is apparently not only no improvement in trade, but on the contrary it appears to be getting worse and worse, the further we advance into the New Year. This is not so much because of the great army of the unemployed as because of the lower wages which most of those who have employment receive, and the economy in consumption which prevails, even among those who are able to supply every want. This economy seems to be contagious, and while it is compelled by

reduced incomes on the part of many consumers it becomes the habit of others, while the lower prices current for nearly all articles, except those of prime necessity, and in some cases of those also, reduce the volume of trade, and the aggregate if not the per cent of profit of manufacturers and distributors. While the trade situation in Canada is much healthier and sounder than in the United States, and while the distress is not nearly so great, nor the numbers of unemployed workmen nearly so numerous and difficult of management as in the neighboring country, yet it cannot be denied that there is considerable stagnation in trade throughout the Dominion. It is evident that there must be a radical change in the condition of the country before there can be a reasonable ground for hope of a larger and more profitable trade; such a change in conditions will be a long time in coming, in fact the looked for improvement has not yet begun in such a way as to give any assurance that it will be continuous, and it is not improbable that the extreme depth of depression has not yet been reached.

The unfortunate suspension of the banking firm of Green, Worlock & Co., calls forth the remark that the sole aim of a large majority of men is to get money. As has been remarked, when this is the predominating aim of life the man is always dwarfed. The acquiring of money for purely selfish ends is never elevating. The spirit of selfishness grows under the desire for wealth from a sordid purpose, and a selfish man has but little chance of becoming a fully developed man. What fools business men make of themselves sometimes. They become close, stingy and mean in order that they may become the slaves of money. And when they get it, they neither allow it to be useful to themselves or to any one else. What is the use of living this kind of a life? And yet all around us the scramble for money is going on and people are lying awake nights and wearing out their systems in order to perfect plans for the acquirement of money.

The acquirement of money is always proper when it is not the predominating purpose of life of ennobling character to gain money, they are as truly the slave of a relentless master as is the man who cowers before a slave driver's lash. A man must uniformly be developed. He must be intelligent, social, benevolent and studious. If he is not these he is not a man, but merely the animal part of man. The development of mind is as much the duty of a man as the development of body. It is the mind that makes the creation, Man. And yet business men will go on year after year and live with

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ICO HOTEL

) Government St.

ATED THROUGHOUT.

AT REASONABLE RATES

and LIQUORS AT THE BAR

& JACKSON

PRIETORS.

DERFUL!

HOES

MEN AND

WOMEN

S,

-AT-

McDONALD'S,

Church, Douglas St.

McINTOSH,

K BAY

Wood Yard

Wood Yard