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TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

SEVERAL Vancouver business men I understand, are agitating for the establishment of a house of entertainment in that city conducted on the plan of the variety theatres in Seattle Tacoma, and in every prosperous town in the West. On account of the absence of a resort of this character, the business men of the Terminal City claim, and with facts on their side to substantiate it, that an enormous amount of money has been lost to that city during this year. It must be admitted that a great number of men who are engaged in sealing, mining, logging, etc., for eight or nine months every year, and who have money to spend, will go where they can enjoy themselves in their own way. Because there is no place of amusement in Vancouver catering to this class they go over to Seattle and other Coast cities. Thus these latter cities reap the benefit of the money that should be spent in Vancouver.

That amusement houses of the character referred to above circulate and keep money at home, is borne out by the statement of business men in our own city, who agree that over \$160,000 has been lost to Victoria this year by the closing up of the variety theatre. Sealing men, miners and others, who hitherto remained in the city during the winter months, have gone to San Francisco and other American cities, simply because there was no place in which they could pass away the evening in a manner suited to their tastes, and the money which they would have spent with the merchants of this city has found its way into the pockets of the American merchants. In the meantime, Victoria business men must groan when their bills fall due at the banks, and by the way it would be well to secure the opinions of Victoria bankers as to the cause of the scarcity of money.

But the worst phase of the whole matter is the fact that young men who passed away a harmless hour or two at the variety theatre, have found their way to places which have ruined them both physically and financially. If a variety theatre is an evil (and I am far from thinking such is the case) surely houses of ill repute are a greater one; and would it not be well to follow the precept, to choose the lesser of two evils, as is proposed by the Vancouver people?

The new Irish organization has a grievance. Some few weeks ago, the Victoria

correspondent of the Vancouver World, cast a severe reflection on the Sons of Erin, and concluded by printing an imaginary dialogue between two members of the society. The dialect was certainly not Irish, and the man who attempted to pass it off as such is either a lunatic or an idiot. Who ever heard an Irishman pronouncing necktie "nicktoif"? There are a good many other things in this world which the ambitious correspondent of the World might better employ his transcendent genius than in villifying the Irishmen of Victoria—earning his salary for instance.

"Did it ever occur to you," said a friend of mine the other day, "why is it that so many young men fail now-a-days." I confessed that I had never given the subject the attention which it deserved. My friend then proceeded to enlighten me on this point. A young man may, he said, become very learned or skillful or rich, his name may be on all men's tongues; but into their hearts he can gain entrance by one thing alone—tact. If he has tact, he may do with men what he will. He may convince them without learning or eloquence. He may force them without authority. He may gain their assistance without money, and their friendship without prosperity. He has

"The only credentials,
Passport to success,—
Opens castles and parlors,—
Address, man, address."

There is an old English saying which tells us, in a quaint phrase, that "Manners maketh man," which is the same thing as saying that a man is not a complete man until he is a gentleman. Of similar import is the shrewd remark of the wise Frenchman, Joubert, that a man who is not polite enough is not human enough. That is, the basis, nay, the complete science, of manners, is sympathy with humanity. In Emerson's poem already quoted from, is the darning stanza:

"What boots is thy virtue?
What profit thy parts?
The one thing thou lackest,
The art of all arts."

This "one thing lacking" of Emerson's poem is tact; that is, the loving sympathy with men that moves men by putting itself in their place.

I regret very much the apathy of Victoria young men towards the Parliamentary Debating society. Such an institution is a great factor in developing the mind, and fitting young men to shine in whatever sphere of life they may be cast. It seems to me, however, that the cause of this lack of interest can be traced to the fact that several of the members, last year, devoted altogether too much time in discussing rules of order and laying down precedents which might very well be

dispensed with. Two or three red-hot debates would be of more benefit to the society than a lot of ridiculous discussion of rules, in which ordinary persons are not interested. I merely throw out this hint, with the hope that it may be acted upon.

During the course of a conversation with a female physical culture disciple, she made use of a few remarks, which I believe are worth printing. She said: "The amount and kind of exercise depend entirely upon the person and his condition; but there is one general rule which may be borne in mind: Exercise should begin gradually and increase daily, never overtaking the strength. Outdoor exercise is especially recommended for the various forms of nervous diseases especially insomnia. Various muscular exercises when properly taken soothe the overtaxed brain and nervous system. This is easily understood when it is considered how the muscular work aids in equalizing the circulation, quickens and enlarges the respiration, improves the digestion, as well as the functions of all the vital organs. Then sleep, nature's great restorative, comes like the benediction that follows after prayer. I may be asked how soon should this physical culture begin, I unhesitatingly answer, from birth. The little infant comes to us helpless and at the mercy of its surroundings. Perchance it may be deformed, its little limbs are crooked, but fortunately for this little treasure, its bones are at this time of its life mostly compound of animal matter and by careful manipulation they can easily be brought into proper shape. If all mothers and nurses understood how easily this can be accomplished and were properly educated for the work, we would never see bow-legged and knock-kneed men walking our streets. Children would grow up to manhood and womanhood with shapely and beautiful limbs. No set of muscles should be developed at the expense of others, all should have an equal chance. And with this impartial treatment there would come a perfect form. Adorn this form with a well-trained and educated mind and we have God's masterpiece." May that time soon come is my earnest prayer.

I am pleased to observe that the preliminary steps towards organizing for the forthcoming civic election have been taken. A meeting was held Friday afternoon, and the ball was started rolling by the appointment of a chairman and secretary to secure a place to hold a citizens' meeting Monday night, which will likely be the largest ever held in this city, as the people are now thoroughly aroused as to the necessity of securing a thoroughly busi-

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