

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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## TALES OF THE TOWN.

THERE is every reason to believe that Summer is close at hand, and, while I rejoice over the fact, still my joy is tempered with sadness when I think of what Summer brings with it. It brings, among other things, the sailor-hat craze. Now, I am very fond of the sailor hat and I firmly believe that no self-respecting girl can get through the season without one, but I cannot understand why nearly every gray-haired old woman should perch one over her wrinkles. The contrast between the youthful, jaunty hat and the face beneath it is altogether too startling, isn't it? But they will do it.

Then there is the girl with big feet, who persists in wearing scarlet shoes, which make them look like mammoth blisters. Another feature of the season is the fat woman in the shirt-waist and blazer. Is there no law to prevent women from making guys of themselves? Why is it that the woman with a complexion like a robust milkmaid always wears red and lavender? Why is it that the woman with a short neck always wears a thick feather boa? Why is it that the girl with red elbows always short sleeves? Why is it that the stout woman wears a Russian blouse? Nobody knows that I know of. Do you?

For the information and entertainment of Hon. Marmaduke Wood, who is now, or was a few days ago, within our gates, I would say that the London Official Gazette has advertised his friend, the Earl of Clancarty, as a debtor who will not pay his bills. The advertiser is Sam Lewis, the famous bill-broker. Much of the money which His Lordship squandered upon Belle Bilton, who is now the Countess of Clancarty, was borrowed from Lewis. After vainly trying to serve his debtor Lewis now advertises in the Gazette as the legal alternative for personal service. He also announces that on a certain date he will apply to have the Earl declared a bankrupt unless he

settles in the meantime. The only chance for Clancarty to settle is to hand over to Sam Lewis the right to collect the meagre income which the former receives from the entailed property, and in the event of being declared a bankrupt he will also be deprived of this slender resource. This will leave the Earl penniless, and he will then have nothing to live on but the earnings of his wife. It is rumored that efforts are being made by aristocratic connections to have Clancarty appointed to some distant foreign post of little responsibility, which requires no exertion, as Clancarty is incapable of either. This would rid the aristocracy of the presence of the Countess of Clancarty. Should an effort be made to banish Clancarty by an official appointment abroad it is believed that the Countess, who is capable of earning considerable money on the stage in Great Britain, would object and keep the Earl at home.

Every sensible young man naturally enough looks forward to the time when he shall have a home of his own. He may well ask, in view of the frequent divorces and tragedies: Is domestic happiness a piece of sheer good luck? Is marriage a lottery in which only a few draw prizes? No, assuredly not. It is rather like a great university, where all share in the advantages offered according to their individual fitness and conduct. The family is a noble institution, but not all who enter its portals are in a condition to profit by this sacred relationship. Only those who are themselves virtuous can appreciate the sweet amenities and share in the unselfish love that go to make up the true home. The libertine cannot appreciate the music there is in the prattle of children, nor will he have the same tender regard for his wife that he would have felt had he always lived a chaste life. When only those who have a supreme affection for each other are married, no really unhappy marriages will occur. "When

once we have tasted the fruits of the upper Paradise, the lower becomes ashes to our lips." Other things being equal, it is always the man who during his bachelor days lived a chaste life that will be the happiest as a husband and father. I make these remarks in view of the startling revelations that have been made during the past few days, and which a paper conducted on the lines of THE HOME JOURNAL cannot discuss more minutely.

As illustrating how simple it is to be deceived in the value of diamonds, I might say that the thief, Ellis, who stole the diamond at Snobomish, went into a pawnshop in this city, and all the proprietor offered him on the stone was a dollar. As he was about to leave the shop Isaac offered him \$5, then \$10, and at last \$15; but this was as high as he would go. However, Ellis brought the ring to Uncle Aaronson, who loaned him two-thirds its value; all of which goes to show that Aaronson knows a diamond when he sees it.

A. A. AA. was a diamond expert in London, and from him I learn the following concerning the product and distribution of diamonds:—The Americans are the finest judges of diamonds in the world, and insist upon having the finest stones and the most perfect fitting. It is estimated that they will take three million pounds worth this year. India furnishes a market for large numbers of white stones, as well as for yellow or colored diamonds, or stones with flaws or specks in them. The natives invest their savings in them and in other precious gems as we do in stocks and shares. Russia's fancy is for large yellow diamonds. China is becoming a buyer, for very recently the Empress has broken through the old custom which prohibited women from wearing diamonds in her country. She could not resist the beauty of a superb diamond necklace presented to her. She wore it at court and set the fashion. Japan is also rapidly becoming a considerable consumer. With the opening

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