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THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

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VICTORIA, B. C., MARCH 3, 1894.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1894.

A LITERARY GEM RESET.

(Hymn after Midnight in the House of Assembly.)

Hast thou a charm to stay the morning star
In his steep course? So long he seems to pause
On thy bald awful head, O Speaker Higgins!
The members of thy House at thy feet
Rave ceaselessly; but thou, most awful Form,
Resist forth from thy noisy sea of sticks
How silently! Around thee and above
Deep is the air and dark, dim lit with gas,
Me'hinks, O sapient mass, thou piercest it
As with a wedge. But when I look again
It is thine own calm home, thy crystal shrine,
Thy habitation now from day to day!
O dread and silent Man! I gazed upon thee
Till thou, still present to the body's sense,
Didst vanish from my thought. Entranced in
prayer.

I worshipped the Great Unwashed alone.

—SAM T. COLERIDGE.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

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

THERE are some in this community who believe that while the members of the Victoria City Council have, "in the public interest," been careful to reduce the salaries of the municipal officials, they have not made what might be considered a sweeping reduction in their own. It is by no means a general custom in well ordered communities to pay aldermen for their services as is the case in the city of Victoria. There are no poor men among them, otherwise, under the present law, they would not be qualified to sit. They are all property owners and well to do citizens, and the office they hold should be considered to be amply recompensed in the honor conferred upon the members by the votes of the people. If they begin their work of economy at home, one would be

inclined to believe in the sincerity of their motives. As it is, there is grave reason to doubt that their desire to retrench is more than on the surface.

Some of the members are described as gentlemen, and others as capitalists. There are also real estate and other business men sitting at the Board, who are supposed to be well to do, otherwise they have no right to be where they are, in justice to themselves or to the public whom they are supposed to serve. Previous mayors to the one who last went out were content with the honorarium and allowance for expenses which they received, and, if the times are hard, the men to whom I refer, in the event of their service being other than for mere hire, should prove themselves to be equal to the situation. If they are not disposed to show the sincerity of their motives and their willingness to adapt themselves to what they say are the circumstances, they ought to make way for men to whom wages are no object.

The changes have been rung too frequently and emphatically upon what are persistently preached about as "hard times," and made such for the benefit of people whose desire is to prey upon the misfortunes of others and who also take care that they themselves shall not be in any way disadvantaged thereby. They contrive to keep up the costs of rents and all the articles of which they have to dispose, but with consummate meanness, they contrive to rob—for it is little else—those who have labor to sell, endeavoring at the same time to fill the country with Mongolians or those of whom, when they were dependent on their own exertions, they were accustomed to speak as "North American Chinamen." These are the men who make times hard. They are not even as enterprising as the man who is spoken of as having in olden times made up his mind to pull down his barns and build greater; but if an infinitely merciful Providence would, in his wisdom, deal with them as summarily as in the case recorded, there would be comparatively little lamentation, but, on the contrary, a good deal of satisfaction—not to say rejoicing.

A correspondent writes: "I read your article on crime, and while I agree with nearly everything you said I must confess that it would have been more satisfactory had you offered a solution of the great problem which is staring our present civilization in the face." In answer to this correspondent I might say, that in discussing this subject, I take no credit for the arguments advanced; I am indebted to the latest medical and scientific authorities on the subject of heredity. So in saying that it is only right that medical men should have something to

say upon the expediency of a marriage taking place between two persons in whom the criminal nature is abnormally developed, I take no credit for originality.

Biologists assert that inebriety is a physical disease which may be inherited, the children of inebriates becoming perhaps epileptic, insane or criminals. In a large proportion of cases the third and fourth generations from drunkards are criminals or paupers. But it is uncertain, having pointed out the undesirable nature of a union upon physiological or pathological grounds, the advice of the medical man would be adopted. There is no such thing as "future" with persons who have plighted their troth; they are too much absorbed in contemplating and revelling in the present. "The things that are," afford them all the satisfaction that they require without, in their opinion, demanding any consideration with regard to the things that might be. For example, no marriage should take place between persons having the same hereditary tendency to disease, a prohibition which is especially important in contemplated marriages between relatives. The medical profession admits that it is face to face with one of the greatest problems in sociology which confronts the present day, and it is its duty to open up the way so that the religious and civil authorities can follow. It has been proposed that, as undesirable immigration is another source of the growing evil in this country, the Government should take the matter in hand, and only admit those immigrants who can furnish a consular certificate that insanity, inebriety, crime nor pauperism is not hereditary in the families from which they sprung. It is a comparatively easy matter for the Government to exclude from admission any more of these people thus diseased, but how to dispose of the stock now on hand will tax the best minds of the country.

The Government interposes no objection to the marriage and multiplication of these people. It licenses and legalizes a traffic which largely contributes to their propagation and the influence of which will be handed down to posterity. It is the duty of the Government as a sanitary measure, to assume entire control of the manufacture and sale of alcohol. Every attribute of the human family might be improved and new ones be possibly developed were science brought to the aid of sentiment in mating the sexes.

As bearing upon the point that great public men often quake, before rising to speak, a recent issue of Cassell's *Saturday Journal* says that Mr. Spurgeon, although few guessed it, was nervous in speaking, and one result of the disastrous panic at the Surrey Gardens in 1856 was