

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

VOL. II., No. 7.

VICTORIA, B. C., NOVEMBER 26, 1892.

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TALES OF THE TOWN.

IF the liquor commission results in a change in the present lax laws, its mission will not have been a failure. It is impossible to examine any subject connected with the progress, civilization, the physical well being, the religious condition of the masses, without encountering that monstrous evil—the legalized liquor traffic. It is at the centre of all social and political evil. It paralyzes beneficent energies in every direction. It neutralizes educational agencies. It silences the voice of religion. It baffles penal reform. It is the great obstruction of political reform. It rears aloft a mass of evilly inspired power which at every salient point threatens social and national advancement; which gives to ignorance and vice a greater potency than intelligence and virtue can command; which deprives the poor of the advantages of modern progress; which debauches and degrades millions, brutalizing and soddering them below the plane of healthy savagery, and filling the centres of population with creatures whose condition almost excuses the immorality which renders them the enemies and the disgrace of their generation. All this and more, the Chief Justice of British Columbia to the contrary, notwithstanding.

The proposal to purchase broken stone, the product of convict labor, is not one which reflects credit on some of our city aldermen. Here we have hundreds of men out of work who would be only too glad to work at breaking stone, or any other kind of work, deprived of the opportunity of gaining a livelihood, except they steal something and go to prison, where they can get work. The principle of permitting convict labor to enter into direct competition with free labor has long since been abandoned in the east, and it remained with a few Victoria aldermen to dare to perpetuate a system which is alike damning in its influence and results. Such a policy, if persisted in, would reduce every laborer in this city to the level of a convict, and no doubt when the election of aldermen comes on in January the workingmen will find some way to repay the aldermen, to whom they are also indebted for the recent visitation of smallpox, for this latest insult.

Notwithstanding the recent warnings received by drivers of vehicles, there appears to be an unconquerable desire on the part of certain Jehus to ride roughshod over everybody and everything. While crossing the street at the corner of Yates and Government streets, the other night, four different drivers made several unprovoked attempts to deprive me of existence. But for the fortunate intervention of the Divine hand of Providence, I would not

now pen these lines. Has the pedestrian no rights, and is there no law to prevent these attempts on the lives of our citizens?

There are few things which are of more value to a community than a broad, wide-gauged weekly paper. Since the first issue of THE HOME JOURNAL, it has been the desire of its publishers to make it a medium of conveying to its readers words of wisdom and truth, at the same time eschewing the worm-eaten policy of the daily papers of this city. In it, from week to week, have been found interesting features from the pens of the leading men of thought in this city. And truly, I felt that its mission was being fulfilled until I read the *Times* last Wednesday evening. In the latter paper of that date, a correspondent irreverently refers to THE HOME JOURNAL as a "faint echo of the voice of the *Colonist*." I am not aware that THE HOME JOURNAL is indebted to the *Colonist* or any other paper for the high degree of excellence which it has attained. In fact, in size, make-up, or policy, we doubt if THE HOME JOURNAL would be mistaken for the *Colonist* or the *Times*, for that matter.

At first I suspected that the correspondent was a friend of the *Colonist* who desired to pay a compliment to an organ which I regard as the most perfectly preserved specimen of primeval journalism extant, but further reflection led me to the belief that it was some creature who was not able to distinguish between a great modern newspaper and a joint stock concern, published on joint stock lines and with joint stock ideas. The correspondent of the *Times*, in speaking of the eligible candidates for the mayoralty, should not have overlooked himself, as I understand he has aspirations in that direction.

The Australian ballot system, or rather the Canadian ballot system, seems to meet with the approval of the Republic over the way. By the new process of voting the tumultuous scenes about the polls—henchman rushing wildly about with packages of tickets, many of them fraudulently arranged to deceive voters; bulldozing bosses ordering men how to vote—are all eliminated. The secret ballot, as cast, under the system, places the bosses and bulldozer in contempt and under defiance. As it is now carried out in the United States, it has one drawback, however, and that is the process of counting. A good many of the judges, or as we say, returning officers, have had to remain 48 hours or more without sleep or fresh air because the count had to be completed and because in many precincts, instead of 400 voters and under, as the requires, there are included 500, 600 and even 700 voters. In order to remedy the existing defects, and thereby prevent

delay, it is proposed to limit the precincts so that they shall not include not over 250 voters; or if this cannot be accomplished, to allow two sets of ballot boxes, the contents of one set to be counted while the other is receiving ballots, the counting to be done by sworn counters, guarded from intrusion and counting until the count is complete. The latter would seem to be an easy way out of the difficulty.

The Jubilee Hospital, no one will deny, has done a good work in this city, but there is another charitable institution which I venture to say, is equally as deserving as the Jubilee Hospital, and which I do not think, has been fairly dealt with. I refer to the British Columbia Benevolent Society. This society for years, quietly and unmostentatiously has been pursuing a work worthy of commendation. But wonderful to relate it does not receive that hearty support to which it is entitled. The churches devote the collection of one Sunday in the year to the Jubilee Hospital, but no church has yet treated the British Columbia Benevolent Society with such liberality. This treatment some of the members of the society resent, and believe it is an oversight which should be rectified; and the sooner the better.

The other night, in the absence of other amusement, I sauntered "behind the scenes" at The Victoria Theatre. The occasion was the annual semi-annual, or quarterly entertainment of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Through the "peep hole" in the curtain, which is an indispensable feature of every well-regulated theatre, I observed that there were few vacant seats in front. But behind the curtain what a scene! The ladies were doing their best to look as though they had considerable stage experience, but behind all this I could see that most of them were almost scared to death, and considering that this was an amateur entertainment it is not to be wondered at that they should suffer from what is even common with professionals—stage frights. The men, I could see at a glance, were even more frightened than the women. The lany manager, on whom devolved a great deal of the hard work, was free to confess that she felt convinced she would have brain fever. After a long time, order came out of chaos, and the quartette, who were down for the opening number, admitted that they were ready—the bell in the flies gave a prolonged ring and up went the curtain. One young man ambled on the stage from what is known as the prompt entrance, and the others wandered on from somewhere "upstage" and in the course of time they ranged

themselves in line and commenced. The audience was good-natured at the beginning, and when the noise on the stage stopped there was considerable noise in response. But the young men had failed to provide themselves with an *encore*, so there was an oppressive wait until some one could find out what happened next. Other numbers dragged themselves along until it was about eleven o'clock. Then children in front who had come to see their sisters "act" were all asleep, and the adults looked as though they were liable to pursue a like course any moment. Behind the curtain, Morpheus failed to get in his work. Chaos reigned supreme. The women wanted to look their best and the men wanted to create an impression themselves. There was very much about the entertainment that could be commended, but much that might have been left out altogether. As this is not a criticism, I will not mention names. About midnight, the curtain was "rung down," and, as I breathed a sigh of relief, the thought was forced upon me that some of the pretty young men who were standing around the stage during the entire evening could have contributed vastly more to the success of the entertainment had they remained behind the scenes with their coats off and lent a helping hand to the one or two overworked women who did nearly all that was done from "making up" the faces of the "actresses" to wheeling the "Rocky Mountains" on the stage in the final scene.

PERE GRINATOR.

EYE WATER VERSUS SPECTACLES.

In the course of my professional business I have observed that many persons, both old and young, but especially referring to young ladies and gentlemen, are in the habit of wearing spectacles. As it is very difficult to credit that young persons really require to use them, I have come to the conclusion that in a majority of cases young people wear them more as an ornament than use, forgetting that they are really injuring their eyes by so doing. As I have had many years' experience respecting persons wearing eye-glasses, and also the professional advice of one of the best physicians of his day, the late Sir Henry Marsh, physician to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who gave me his formula for eye-water, recommended by him, I think it my duty to advise the public and young people in particular to refrain from their use. Sir Henry condemns the usual eye-water given by druggists as very injurious to the eyes. Druggists' eye-water as a rule is sulphate of zinc. I beg to offer a bottle of eye-water made from the formula of Sir Henry, free to the first twenty persons that call for it (for their own use) at the Dominion Hotel from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except Sunday. In one township of County Grey, Ontario, I sold 12 dozen bottles of this eye-water in six weeks; 16 pairs of spectacles were to my knowledge taken off for good, and I heard great compliments paid to me for the benefit the eye-water conferred on them. Price 25 cents. Apply to

PROFESSOR TOTTENHAM.
Victoria, Nov. 11th, 1892.

Read THE HOME JOURNAL.

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PERSONAL GOSSIP.

The bachelors at 9 South Park street entertained their friends with music and dancing Friday evening.

Miss Winnie Phillips, who has been visiting friends in Victoria, has left for her home in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dalby entertained about thirty friends at their regular "at home" Thursday evening.

Hon. C. E. and Mrs. Pooley gave a pleasant "at home" Thursday evening at their residence, "Fernhill," Esquimalt Road.

Mr. Wm. Dee, formerly in the C. P. R. Telegraph office in this city, has returned from Vancouver, having been appointed night manager here.

A social dance was held in Harmony Hall Thursday evening. Messrs. J. Grice and H. Flemming were the promoters, and they hope to organize a dancing club.

Mrs. M. Cameron, Miss Sophia Cameron and Miss Cecelia Cameron left for San Francisco Thursday morning. They will spend the winter in California.

The visit of a prominent Government street merchant tailor to Vancouver this week is regarded as a sure sign that the matrimonial market is booming. Full particulars next week.

The Ladies Aid of the Pandora Avenue Methodist church will give an at home, next Tuesday evening at the residence of Mrs. J. W. Williams, 137 Blanchard street.

The St. Andrews Choral Society are making preparations to give a grand concert on January 15th in the Pro-Cathedral on View street. The music will be of a secular nature and the numbers will comprise some choice selections from the celebrated composers. Mr. Werner, the conductor of the society, is desirous of securing additional talent for the society, especially soprano voices.

THE Y. M. C. A. CONCERT.

The much talked of Y. M. C. A. concert took place last Wednesday evening in the Victoria theatre, before a large and enthusiastic audience, every reserve seat being taken and occupied. The concert was under the direct patronage of Lieut. Governor Dewdney and party, and the elite of Victoria were present in large numbers. As usual, at a fashionable gathering, the entertainment was late in starting, and, owing to the great length of the programme, it did not close until midnight. The management of the entertainment was fearfully bungled, the performers were moved about, on the programme like chessmen, until the programmes in one's hand were useless. The working of the scenes was evidently in amateurs' hands. In fact, there did not

seem to be any head, tail or body to the management of the concert at all. So far as the financial part is concerned, I am glad to say it was a big success, and I congratulate the Women's Auxiliary in having attained the primary object of the affair. In criticising the various performers at a concert like this, it is always best to bear in mind that amateurs should be judged from a totally different standpoint from that of professionals, and at this time we will follow this rule. The selections by the Warspite band were very much enjoyed, serving as they did to pass the time during the long waits between the numbers.

I always feel a great deal of sympathy for those taking part in unaccompanied concerted pieces, and although Messrs. Kent, Wollaston, Kingham, Floyd and Keith sang well, their selection received but little marks of appreciation. Mr. W. Ralph Higgins again made his debut before a Victoria audience after a lengthened stay in Europe where he went to qualify for his adopted profession. The daily press before the concert was full of the fact that he was to appear, and perhaps caused me and others to expect a little more than I ought, and I confess to having been disappointed. He sang well, especially in his first *encore* song. Judging from a professional standpoint, he came far below the standard; from an amateur's, he sings well. His singing is vastly improved, and no doubt will still further improve, especially as he intends to follow music as a profession. Miss Harrison's singing was excellent, showing careful training. Her voice is a flexible soprano, rather thin and wanting sympathy and expression. She deserved her basket of flowers. The cornet solo by Sergeant Proctor, accompanied by full band, was not up to the usually high standard of his performances. Perhaps the bungling of the scene shifters unnerved and excited him, for he kept continually ahead of the band and rattled through his solo as if for dear life. The rifle drill by the young ladies was exceedingly well done, and, if any of the B. C. G. A. were present, they might have received lessons on precision and martial bearing. Miss Gowen, who was in command, has the ring in her voice suitable for one to give orders, and, as the orders were given, the various movements and exercises were executed beautifully. "The Arrow and The Song," by Miss Mouat and chorus, did not allow Miss Mouat an opportunity of showing her fine soprano voice, yet it was excellently rendered and received well merited applause. Mr. J. G. Brown then sang "The Village Blacksmith." His appearance on the stage was the signal for an outburst of applause amounting to an ovation, which continued for several seconds, during which the singer bowed his acknowledgments. His rendering of this beautiful song of Longfellow's was exquisite. The pathos and expression put into the song could not be surpassed, and, at the close of the song, the audience were fairly wild with enthusiasm and were not satisfied until he again favored them with another masterly rendering of "The Bugler" by Pilsute. There could be no question as to who was the favorite on Wednesday evening, Mr. Brown's singing imply carrying the audience by storm.

Corporal Hamilton, of "C" Battery, gave a very pretty exhibition of club swinging and was well received. Mr. A. Werner sang "Salvi di More," but was unhappy in his selection. Although he is possessed of a very sweet tenor voice of good range and pure quality he can certainly do much better than his performance last Wednesday. Miss Rhodes' soprano solo would have been much better had it not been for the wretched violin obligato. Mr. Hawthorne, the basso cantante, made his first appearance in concert selections, substituting that well known and popular song "The Storm Fiend" for "Love's Sorrow," which was his original selection. His singing of the Storm Fiend was a grand effort and succeeded in producing a well merited *encore*. He is inclined to make a little too much of his really fine voice and at times approaches a howl, letting the music leave his voice and paying attention merely to volume. Whether this was from not being acquainted with the capacity of The Victoria or not, the fact was apparent that at times his big voice was altogether too much for the theatre. For an *encore*, Mr. Hawthorne sang "Love's Sorrow," which showed his voice to even more advantage. He has a fine stage presence, easy and graceful, and will always be a favorite at entertainments in Victoria. The quartette by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jay, Miss Arrowsmith and Miss Bowden was painful to listen to, probably because of nervousness on account of the piano having to be moved from the wings to the proper place. Miss Brady is always sure of a welcome. Her selection from Byron was exquisitely rendered, full of pathos, deep expression; the prisoner, the cell and the bird all coming in for a most powerful description. Her voice is very musical and sweet. She deserved the vociferous *encore* and responded with a short description of an English hunting scene, which made one feel as if he were really on a good hunter and taking ditches, hedges, stone walls along with her. The duett "Excelsior," by Messrs. Kent and White, was not particularly well rendered, Mr. White making two or three bad mistakes. I remember the days when Mr. White would not be given second place to any singer in the province, but one cannot be young always. Mr. Kent deserves great sympathy for the noble way in which he helped to carry the duett through. Mr. E. Wolfe gave a very fine violin solo, and, but for the lateness of the evening, would have received an *encore*. I had almost omitted to mention the song by Miss O'Neil. She has a sweet little voice, rather thin, yet telling. She sings with ease and simple grace, which have a power in themselves. "Down the Shadowy Lane" was very prettily given, and deserved the applause received. I cannot conclude this report without commenting on the fact that great complaints were made against the committee of management for paying some of the performers and not all, for granting complimentary tickets to a few while others had to pay at the door. It is hardly fair to the performers, and makes an invidious distinction where none should be at such an entertainment as that. I trust those remarks will be taken by the various parties interested in the spirit in which they are written and that is one of the kindest and best intentioned.

TENORO ROBUSTO.

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1892.

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

THE dyer is not a desperate man, yet he usually dies with his boots on.

ROSALIE—"Didn't you find it very cold in the mountains?" Grace—"Sometimes; but I often went driving with Fred."

A RELIGIOUS weekly says: "The race horse must go." Surely. And it must go like the deuce to be of any value.

HE (clasping her to his manly bosom)—"Do you love me darling?" She—"Well, I have a leaning toward you, Gerald."

RALPH—"There is one thing I notice that every girl likes to have her finger in." Robert—"What is that?" Ralph—"An engagement ring!"

ETHEL—"Yes, uncle, dear George proposed five times before I finally accepted him." Uncle—"Er—what you might call well shaken before taken."

WE merely mention it as a coincidence that the only lean house at the Delmonico Music Hall this week was Wednesday evening, the night of the Y. M. C. A. concert.

Two systems of justice: In Chicago Thomas Neill Cream was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and than set free to go on murdering. In England he was hanged. Which is best?

"WHAT, sir, you call me pretty! Why, I am an old woman, my hair is turning white, and look, here is a wrinkle!" "A wrinkle! No, madame, it is a smile that has drifted from its moorings."

A PECULIARITY of certain cranks is that they can't be turned. This is not said in connection with the fact that the city council has not yet evinced a disposition to turn from the error of its ways.

NEW YORK Republicans claim that the Democrats carried that State by importing voters. Following this statement comes the announcement that Hon. Theodore Davie visited New York during the recent presidential election.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH in his latest universal tirade addressed to The London Times refers once more to "American hatred of England." Yet he claims to be

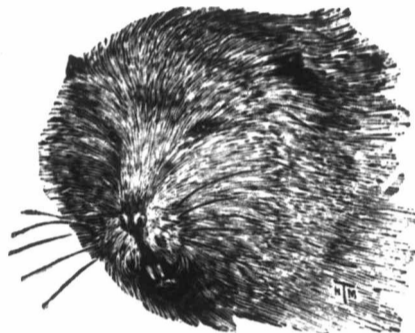
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a loyal Englishman while seeking to increase American power by annexing Canada to their territory.

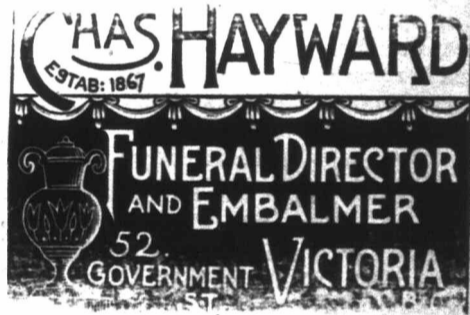
LADY FREDERICK CAVENDISH'S attack upon alleged drinking habits of society women in England was, of course, cabled almost verbatim to the American press. English papers to hand criticize her statements most unmercifully, and The Birmingham Gazette calls the speech an "hysterical screech."

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THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL,

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Paper of the People

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BAN An E tempta very of the ser rights, our fell plane n genes market in his h man. "rara s which, is the r to find The he official" newspa room 1 Yet ba and sta expecte toned from e connect before have th If relig him t depend his sup him str ations placed compe He mu is not f run of l places charge such m to susp hood, t means, would and wo an unc the me his em which This is higher ful. T ing sal impos private worry step or cations amoun a full salary, But it path e anothe anothe may aj cing i before sooner the se positio tionat would honest of the

BANK CLERKS' TEMPTATIONS.

An Eastern exchange, speaking of the temptations to which bank clerks are very often subjected, says: "Perhaps in the sense of a stricter regard for the rights, property and vested interests of our fellowmen the world is on a higher plane now than when that old cynic Diogenes started to search through the market at noonday with a lighted lantern in his hand in order to find an honest man. An honest man is no longer such a "rara avis," and yet the profession in which, perhaps, above all others, honesty is the most necessary qualification seems to find it difficult to keep up the supply. The heading "Another defaulting bank official" is so frequently seen in our newspapers that foreman of the newsroom might safely keep it "standing." Yet bank officers from education, breeding and standing in society might fairly be expected to be living exemplars of high toned honesty. The young man just from school or college, of respectable connections, and with a promising future before him might fairly be expected to have the moral fibre to resist temptations. If religion or morality has no hold upon him the knowledge that promotion is dependent upon earning the confidence of his superiors should be sufficient to keep him straight. There are, however, temptations peculiar to the profession. He is placed in a position where he is almost compelled to appear in fashionable attire. He must move in good society, and if he is not fortunate enough to have still the run of his father's house he must board at places where the highest rates are charged. To attempt to economize in such matters would actually expose him to suspicion. To live in a cheap neighborhood, to associate with persons of small means, to appear shabby or unfashionable would be fatal to further advancement and would make even his present position an uncertain one. And yet to keep up the measure of dignity forced upon him his employers allow him a pittance on which it is scarcely possible to exist. This is a point on which we imagine the higher officials are not sufficiently careful. They should know that on the starting salary generally given it is almost impossible for a young man, unless he has private means, to avoid debt, and the worry of debt is often the cause of the first step on the downward path. The defalcations are generally small at first and the amount is taken as a temporary loan with a full intention of replacing it out of his salary, which may be due in a few days. But in how few cases is the downward path ever retraced. One error leads to another. One robbing is used to cover up another, and so the course is run. The man may apparently be prosperous, and advancing in his profession. It may be years before the crash comes; but come it does sooner or later. If more care were taken in the selection of aspirants for responsible positions and the pay were made proportionate to the responsibility, the world would be less often startled by the dishonesty of persons who up to the very day of the discovery have been looked upon as of the highest character."

WORLD'S FAIR SOUVENIRS

The World's Fair souvenir coins are "going like hot cakes," and those who want to get one or more of them will have to bestir themselves or they will be too late. The desire for one of these mementoes of the Exposition seems to be almost as universal as the interest in the Exposition itself, and orders for them have been sent in from all parts of the United States and also from foreign countries.

This souvenir half dollar, it is reported from Washington, will be the most artistic coin ever issued from the mint. On the obverse side will appear the head of Columbus, designed from the Lotto portrait and surrounding it words, "World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1892." On the reverse side will appear a caravel, representing Columbus' flag-ship and beneath it two hemispheres. About the caravel will be "United States of America," and beneath the hemispheres, "Columbian Half Dollar." There is no doubt that this coin will be regarded as the most distinctive and highest prized cheap souvenir of the World's Fair.

All of these souvenir coins, except five, are being sold at a uniform price of one dollar each. For the first coin struck off, \$10,000 has already been offered, and various prices have been bid for the 400th, 1492nd, 1892nd and the last coin.

A vast number of enquiries by letter have been received at exposition headquarters asking how the coins may be obtained. The best way is to get them through U. S. banks, all of which are no doubt willing to accommodate in that way their patrons and the residents of the city or town in which they are doing business. If, however, for any reason it is desired to obtain them otherwise, the proper method is to form a club of subscribers for fifty coins, or some multiple of fifty, and select some one member of the club to send on the order and money, and to distribute the coins when received.

It is probable that the coins will not be ready for distribution until some time in December. But the orders are being sent in rapidly, and will be filled in the order received. Therefore, it is important that all who desire coins should put in their orders as soon as possible.

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\$ 2,500.00
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80 acres of beautiful bottom land close to new railway—"Sydney, Saanich and Victoria." Party will slash and burn at 11 per acre. Would make a splendid investment for right party. \$2,100.

10½ acres, 8 miles from town, all cleared, good roads, easy terms, close to lake, \$1,100.

6 acres bush, \$300 per acre, 4 miles from town, very prettily situated and on gentle slope, \$1,800. Easy terms.

11 acres very good bush land on line of railway, good water and roads, good neighbors, \$1,100. \$100 cash and \$15 per month. Easy terms.

Lot and boat house with 9 boats to sell, \$1,150, on sea shore.



OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

EVERY woman delights in her house gowns, and a new idea for their designing is always welcome. Soft tints in coloring, light easily draped material, and the suggestion at least of a negligee effect should be considered in planning an at-home gown. An effective creation in this line is fashioned of old rose bengaline, the new material which shows the colored effect. The foundation of the gown is of Princess design, the plain straight effect being broken by the suggestion of a long jacket made of heliotrope silk embroidered in gold. Below the arms and crossing the bust is a scarf of soft heliotrope crepe fastened by graceful loops of the crepe in the centre. The sleeves reach to the elbow, are plaited high on the shoulder and fall in narrow way folds. About the bottom of the gown is a kind of heliotrope feather trimming. Another house gown recently seen was more stately in its effect, being made of changeable poulte de soi. The gown was tight fitting. The square neck was cut low, and out-lined with a band of jewelled trimming. Below this was a loose arrangement of pale green crepe held in place at either side by brilliant ornaments of gold. A high puff reaching from shoulder to elbow forms the sleeve, which was finished with a band of jewelled trimming and a deep frill of plaited pale green crepe.

Several attempts have been made in the direction of women's dress uniform, but hitherto without much effect. M. Worth prescribes the fashion, and over the whole civilized world his innumerable clients render implicit obedience. They decline to reason—which, indeed, is not an unusual habit; it is sufficient for them that the ukase has gone forth, and they proceed as expeditiously as possible to array their persons in accordance with the latest design. The thing may be artistic, or it may be—as it very often is—a marvel of ugliness; it may be comfortable or produce a modified form of torture; it may be set off or spoil the figure—the feminine mind succumbs all the same, and appears to rejoice in the sacrifice. But there is one phase of this tyranny against which at least a few of the sex have decided to offer a practical protest. A number of

young ladies in Nottingham, Eng., have resolved not to wear long skirts during the muddy or snowy weather of the coming winter. They have agreed by resolution that the reformed skirt shall at its extremity be at least five inches above the ground. The ordinary members of the sterner sex have but the vaguest notions of the almost inscrutable mystery of women's attire. If the Nottingham young ladies think a minimum of five inches from the ground will suffice no questions will be raised. But they have a trying ordeal awaiting them. The spirit of charity does not prevail amongst their sisters when they come upon a violation of the sacred canons of fashion. What will the sanitary authorities think of the innovation? Long skirts have hitherto done some service in gathering up the mud from the thoroughfares, whereas those now proposed will leave it where it lies.

The engagement ring is worn upon the same finger as the wedding ring, and after marriage is worn as a guard to it. The solitaire diamond is always a favorite, but the range of styles and prices is wide, and the girl's fancy may combine to make any ring proper. As to wedding rings, the "square" and "round" ones each have their admirers. A wedding ring with sharp-cut edges fits snugly, but being worn constantly will in time make a callous spot at the base of the finger, which is anything but beautiful. A ring with all round edges renders this impossible, and is more comfortable to wear, giving with every motion to the finger. In this country, there is a pleasant freedom allowed the engaged lovers, says the *Boston Post*. They ride, drive or walk together unquestioned. Her engagement is one of the most charming experiences of a girl's life, and she is wise who will not let it be cut too short. The length of an engagement must depend mostly upon outward circumstances. It is only a journey, of which the end must come sooner or later. A month or six weeks is not too short if such a time is found best, and there are couples who have waited seven years to see their hopes realized.

Perhaps in no industry has there been more rapid advancement than in the manufacture of muslin underwear.

Only a few years ago undergarments for women were made at home or by seamstresses working at day's pay in private families. A prospective bride, the morning after she had graciously accepted the engagement ring, was very likely to be seen at the dry goods store, favored with her custom, purchasing a bolt of muslin and examining Swiss embroideries. She not unfrequently wrecked her health by a too close application to her needlework, fashioning her dainty undergarments for the wedding trousseau, half ruined her eyes and wholly dissipated her lover's patience, who found her each evening worn out with fatigue and anxiety. To-day, she merely gives an order to a large retail store, like the Stanley House, and an outfit of more or less value is delivered to her in due season. She has only her costumes and millinery to consider when shopping, while her evenings are devoted to the enjoyment of the company of her fascinating and fascinated lover.

Women who are the proud possessors of silk petticoats covered with embroidered autographs will hide their diminished heads when they read about Mrs. Eduard Sacher's tablecloth. Mrs. Sacher is the wife of a well known Vienna restaurateur, and her tablecloth is covered with the signatures of distinguished guests who have dined in the Sacher rooms. Archdukes, prince of foreign houses, men and women of the Austrian nobility, artists, writers and musicians are represented. The autographs were originally written in pencil and afterwards embroidered by Mme. Sacher. It is said that no one has ever refused to sign his name.

The greatest feat in riding ever performed by a woman has recently been accomplished by an English girl, Miss Thomasson, who rode on an untrained horse over 251 miles in 62½ hours through the mountains of the Tyrol. On the first day, she went from Innsbruck over the Brenner Pass to Bozen, 77½ miles; on the second from Bozen by Meran, Vintschgau, and the Malser Heide to St. Valantin, 56 miles; on the third by Hochfinstermunz and Landeck back to Innsbruck, this being 88 miles. Rider and horse are in perfect health, though the tour was a novel experience to both.

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MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

IT is not within the power of words to express that depth of ecstasy which harmony touches in its devotees. No language can be so exquisitely framed as to convey an adequate idea of that elevation of soul, that sublimity of feeling, that rapturous abandonment of mind which beautiful harmonies awaken in those natures attuned to their utterance.

"The thought that most thrills our existence is one which before we can frame it in language is gone." And infinitely more difficult to embody in words is the spell, the charm, the chaotic thoughts of music. If it were otherwise an attempt might be made to compass in morals the ebullitions of delight which "Cavalleria Rusticana" engenders.

It is a remarkable composition. A melodrama in melody, a tragedy in tempos, an opera in obscurity.

The libretto of this extraordinary work is a masterpiece of dramatic construction. There are but five characters, but they are disposed with admirable skill. The story is sad. A maid is betrayed by a faithless lover. Her rival, a married woman, has unblushingly met the same fate. The husband murders the miscreant.

At the door of the church, the maid confesses to her shame. Her confessor is the mother of her betrayer. She cannot enter the holy place. Anon she meets her lover and upbraids him. She is repulsed and renounced with scorn. Her rival with the shamelessness of Carmen, approaches to enter the sanctuary. She asserts her supremacy in the bosom of her cavalier Cervantes. The ruined girl tells the wronged husband. The two men meet. A duel follows in the garden. The seducer is murdered and the victim of man's caprice is avenged. An intensely dramatic story, delicately and unoffendingly told.

The music of "Cavalleria Rusticana," is by Pietro Mascagni, an Italian boy of 23. It is of the advanced school of his native land, with Wagnerian touches of singular grandeur. Its superb melodies are original and indescribably beautiful. Its instrumentation is something marvelous. Nothing like it has been heard in years. It is refreshingly new and delightful, and has excited the wonder and envy

of thousands of musicians all over the world.

The above popular opera will receive its first rendition in this city next Tuesday night, by the Duff Opera company.

"A Trip to Africa," which will be given by the Duff company, is too well-known in this city to require extended notice. Already nearly every seat in the house has been sold for the first night.

Decidedly one of the very best melodramatic and spectacular productions now on the road is the great drama. "After Dark," now in its fourth successful season under the management of Wm. A. Brady. It will be the attraction at The Victoria Wednesday night next. "After Dark" deals largely in what may be termed the shady or "spotty" side of city life, introducing concert halls, boxing matches, crooks, life in the lower stratum of society, and introducing scenes far more safely viewed upon the stage than in real life without the accompanying protection of a policeman. Added to the spice of the realistic dialogue, the sensational incidents, the truthful reproductions of city life, is a most absorbing plot carrying with it a story that increases in intensity as the action moves along, leaving the spectators impatient, as the act drop falls, to know what will follow, when the scenic curtain rises again. A fortune in itself has been expended in the beautiful scenery, the great railroad effects and the different mechanical contrivances, while the company of artists depicting the characters in play, who are experienced professionals, have been selected for their peculiar fitness to each part.

The Imperial was reopened as a stock house Wednesday night, by the Carra Morris Company. The organization is well balanced and should be well patronized. David Garrick holds the boards for this week, except Saturday night. For the first three nights of next week the company will produce the "Streets of New York," and the last three nights with Saturday matinee, "Lady Audley's Secret."

Prof. Foster has arranged for an athletic exhibition at the Imperial to night. Several local sports will

participate in the evening's entertainment.

Charlie Reer, who was seen here with the "hoss and hoss" combination, died last week in Boston. Death was caused by pneumonia.

Margaret Mather has been dreadfully scored by the San Francisco critics.

The Delmonico Music Hall is attracting large crowds every night.

Salvini will be seen for the first time in this city, Dec. 12 and 13.

Margaret Marshall has returned to Cordrays Seattle house.

Incog will hold the boards at The Victoria, Dec. 5 and 6.

George Berry is playing in stock at an Oakland theatre.

Our German Ward is booked for The Victoria, Dec. 8.

CLOCKLESS COUNTRIES.

Liberia, in Africa, has neither clock nor time piece of any sort, the reckoning of time is made entirely by the movement and position of the sun, which rises at 6 a. m. and sets at 6 p. m., almost to the minute, the year round, and at noon it is vertically overhead. The islanders of the South Pacific have no clocks, but make a curious time marker of their own. They take the kernels from the nuts of the candle tree and wash and string them on the rib of a palm leaf. The first or top kernel is then lighted. All of the kernels are of the same size and substance, and each will burn a certain number of minutes and then set fire to the next one below. The natives tie pieces of bark cloth at regular intervals along the string to make the divisions of time. Among the natives of Singar, in Malay Archipelago, another peculiar device is used. Two bottles are placed neck to neck, and sand is placed in one of them, which pours itself into the other one every half hour, when the bottles are reversed. There is a line near by also, on which are hung twelve rods marked with notches from one to twelve. A regularly appointed keeper attends to the bottles and rods and sounds the hours upon a gong.

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