

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

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TALES OF THE TOWN.

HALF of the people of the world do not know how the other half are existing, or words to that effect, is a truism which can be carried to a much finer conclusion. For instance, there is one woman in this city who does not know how or where her husband is living. The fact of the matter is she has now no husband. About six months ago I met Mrs. John E. Patmore on Government Street. She was then living on Chatham Street in a tenement row. I happened to know the woman and her husband many years ago. In speaking of her husband she told me that she had not heard from him for years, and with tears in her eyes, she said, pointing to her bright little child, "I am afraid that the father of my poor little girl is dead." The incident had escaped my memory, and was only revived when the other day I received a letter from John E. Patmore, dated Lincoln, Neb. The following extract will enlighten Mrs. Patmore as to the relations she bears to the man who was once her husband:—

"While I was trying my luck at rail-roading my wife took it into her head that she did not like the Americans, and that she must go back home to her people again; but I told her I would never go to that country again, and that if she went she would have to go without me. So she packed up and took herself and child off, and I have never seen her nor heard from her excepting two or three letters since she went away, at all events not for four years, and I have since obtained a divorce from her. I don't know whether you have seen anything of them or not, but I believe they are somewhere on the Pacific Coast."

Mr. Patmore's letter also refers to other matters which might be of interest to the woman who was once his wife. It can be seen at any time at THE HOME JOURNAL office.

It may interest some of the readers of Ryder Haggard's novels to know that King Solomon's mines were not a myth. It has been conclusively proven that that wise and learned king was in the mining business on the Malay Peninsula, Africa, near Mount Ophir of biblical renown. Just what process was used to extract the precious metal is not stated, but at the same time his agent secured "peacocks and monkeys" as well as gold dust. After being idle for so many centuries a company is already at work at the mines with a ten-stamp mill pounding up the old rocks which were too low grade for King Solomon's reduction process.

A company has been organized to develop these mines, and the people

who have undertaken the work have had to cut seven miles of road through the jungle and clear sixty miles of river. They are just beginning to realize on their investment. The company with big capital has a concession of twenty square miles of this gold field. The formation is black slate. A shaft sunk 100 feet on the lode has uncovered enough ore to keep the mill going a year. The ore will yield two ounces to the ton. In one place on the concession there is a hill 250 feet high and half a mile long. The company has tunneled into this hill about half way from the bottom, and found ore ranging from seven pennyweights to seven ounces of gold. The reef varies in width from two to nine feet. Even the loose rocks scattered about on the hillside yield half an ounce of gold to the ton. This may add another link in the great evidence corroborating the Biblical tradition of the building of the Temple.

By the way, in my wanderings, a friend accosted me rather abruptly to announce news of a startling character, which set me thinking over the "Random Reflections" of THE HOME JOURNAL. "Have you heard that S— committed suicide?" said he. "No! When? Where? How?" I ask. "Yesterday, up at Nanaimo. He first tried to get run over by a train, and, failing in that, jumped into the river and drowned himself." "That is terrible," said I, "but what was the cause?" "Ah, well," said my friend, "you know his habits—he never could control himself. Good-hearted, good-natured, but he was his own worst enemy."

For a time, amid the day's hurry, my friend's words were forgotten, but later on, as a drunken man issuing from one of these places where that which induces the frenzy in which S— committed the terrible deed is lawfully sold reeled by me on the street, they came back with peculiar vividness. "He never could control himself; he was his own worst enemy!" Ah! thought I, his own worst enemy. Then he had other enemies—let me see—other enemies, who are they, this man's enemies, who brings up suddenly against that post yonder, and, as if returning good for evil, fondly hugs it despite its obstinacy in staying right there cruelly to thump his swimming head. If we ask the man who keeps the lawful drinking place from which he has just now come out for some information regarding the matter, he will tell us that this man used to be a pretty decent fellow, but he is going down hill fast; he is too much led by his chums.

It is too bad, but when a fellow gets going that way, there is no use in ad-

vising him; if a man is bound to make a fool of himself, he will do it, no matter what you say to him. He will tell you that he hasn't the slightest intention in the world of doing himself any harm, not a bit of it. But he doesn't care to be questioned too much on the subject. He has no time for that kind of thing, and on occasions of this kind he has been known to tell people that he is just as good as they are, and the best thing they can do is to mind their own business.

Where are the man's chums? This suggests a clue. He is led by them. If he is going down hill, they must be the cause. Just at this time they are not in a fit condition to give us much information of any kind on the subject. We will have to wait until they have sobered up, but then they won't care to acknowledge that they are his chums; yet if you get one of them in a corner by himself, on the quiet he will tell you that the man is very foolish; he has told him so often, but it ain't any use. He will admit, in a confidential sort of way, that he himself has been bad enough but he is going to quit; he has seen enough of it. He don't care to be closely questioned either and sometimes gets to saying that he is just as good as some people who say so much about drinking and take a drink behind the door themselves. Really it would hardly be fair to class him among the man's enemies, he has given him good advice and is going to set him the example of reformation. The good advice of the representative of the law who sells him whiskey, and of his chums who help him to drink it, don't seem to have much effect for his good.

We suspect that, after all, these friends of his are enemies in disguise, and we turn to the temperance people. What is their position? They will tell us that in behalf of such men and such as suffer with them in their ruin they want to have the whole business prohibited; and although the way in which they allow their political preferences to wheedle them out of what they want, does not reflect much credit on their astuteness, nor the complacency with which they permit the Government which is to do the prohibiting to be supported by the proceeds of the iniquity they denounce, is not the best kind of evidence of sincerity, yet they do honestly want it, and with more honesty than good judgment. When they can't get it, they try to get what they think is the next best thing—to have the business of making drunkards placed under the restriction and supervision of law; to see that those who conduct it are sufficiently respectable, that they have a real, sure enough lawful license, publicly issued by the proper board, for which they pay sweetly, and walk strictly up to its terms and condi-

tions, and not a kind of make believe article sent round by the city mayor on the quiet.

All this they do because they would stand between men who have lost all self-control and the influences which to them are so irresistible. If a remedy induces disease rather than cures it, it is more hurtful in the hands of a friend who ignorantly uses it than in the hands of an equally ignorant enemy, because it will be more assiduously applied. Whiskey will produce as equally genuine and distressing D. T.'s if bought in a licensed as an unlicensed house.

The great bulk of the whiskey that produces the maddening frenzy which ends in suicide in this province is got in licensed houses. The effects are the same so far as the disease is concerned, but not so as to the responsibility. For the effects of whiskey got in illicit houses, only the makers and sellers are responsible; but for the effects of whiskey got in licensed houses, all consenting to or assisting in authorizing the licenses are sharers in the blame. The temperance people will say that in lessening the number of houses they are lessening a man's opportunities for indulgence, and in making them more respectable they remove the accompaniments of such evil associations as gambling and the licentiousness of variety theatres. Is not evil most seductive when it puts on good clothes and assumes the ways of respectability? In its true garb it entices only those who have fallen so low as to have lost "all self-control."

Let this evil choose its own associations, by which it will be surrounded and known, and its very vileness will bring about a sentiment that will apply the remedy. Armed with the power of the purse in affairs of state, and clothed with the respectability of law by which it is invested by those who seek to curb it, it laughs at the tears and shrieks of its helpless victims. Strip it of these defences. Let it depend for its power on its true character, and the way is clear to apply the remedy.

From gin-mills to the police court is a natural transition. There is a fascination for me about the halls of justice which I cannot overcome. Fate or "Kismet" as the saying goes down at Alexandria, seems to guide my feet in that direction when I have a moment to spare. I like to see Judge Belyea on the bench dispensing justice to rich and poor alike. His Honor's decisions are invariably based on what he conceives to be pure and unadulterated justice, and they do say that it is a rare pleasure to get "ten dollars or thirty days" from the judge. An incident bearing on this point occurred the other day, which, to say the

least, was amusing. An Irishman had just donated a trifling sum towards the replenishment of the city treasury, and was leaving the court room. There was a broad, Corkonian grin on his face, and something about the man compelled me to ask him what he thought of the judge. "Well," he said, "His Honor is all right, and long life to him; but nobody begrudges him his place; look at the kind of people he has got to mix up with."

I began thinking over this expression, and I remembered that the Police Magistrate has to mix up with a decidedly unsavory crowd. To fully understand the nature of the acquaintance, you have only to attend one sitting of the police court. Take Monday morning generally as a representative occasion. Sunday is a *bete noir* to the loafer. Every place but the saloon is closed to him; if he has no money he hangs round the barroom where there are any billiard tables, and watches others play. He may meet an occasional friend who will give him a drink, in which case he will not be liable to get drunk before night. If he happens to have money, and he is drinkingly inclined, he has an opportunity of drowning his senses. In this state he usually wanders into the arms of the police, and finds a resting-place in a cell with several others of his species. Perhaps he is of a disposition very common among his class, whose perception of the difference between *meum* and *teum* is not very fine. If so, he will take advantage of the Sabbath quietness to appropriate to himself that which is not his own. As a general rule he finds himself in a place of safety before the operation is over. In either case he is introduced to Mr. Belyea next morning. That gentleman walks with firm step and placid features into the court house and ascends the magisterial throne. The dusky crowd in the dock rises to salute him, and the great unwashed in the auditorium uncover their unkempt heads.

It is not very pleasant to be in that crowd, more particularly if your interior organization is delicately constructed. The audience is usually composed of the most heterogeneous collection. Here is one of those unreadable countenanced Celestials, smelling strongly of Chinatown. Of itself it is a smell that one can bear, but when it is combined with the aroma of stale beer and bad tobacco that emanates from his white neighbor, it is decidedly unpleasant. When it receives all the strength of the unwashed, oily Siwash in close proximity, there is force enough to kill at long range.

Mr. Belyea sits opposite a large collection of this material nearly every

day and dispenses justice, as I said before, impartially. His decisions are received as the inevitable, and are invariably carried out as quietly as they are given.

He has many old acquaintances. Jimmy Chickens, for instance, who comes up with unflinching regularity. Jenny, the beloved spouse of Jimmy, accompanies her lord and master on nearly every occasion. These old faces, if lost to the police court, would be a disaster to the wellbeing of that establishment. In them are centered all the traditions of this indispensable institution.

I must not forget that historic figure in police court circles, Phillip Chalk. Phillip generally looms up in all the dazzling splendor of a linen duster. The duster was, in its early days, of a color tending towards white. Phillip has worn it on all state occasions for a number of years till every vestige of its original hue has become merged in the atmosphere. Personally, his mission on earth seems to have been to save the police and police magistrate from dying of ennui. He was born with a legal dispute bump well developed, and he has been at loggerheads with the law ever since. The magistrate says goodbye to him for a month at a time, but scarcely has the month expired or the farewell tears are dry on Warden John's cheeks, when Phillip has an argument with the policeman down Humboldt street, and the pair have to submit the question to the arbitration of the police magistrate. "Five dollars or a month" says that inconsiderate dignitary, and poor Phillip is hustled off to his home on Topaz Avenue. Thus life flows on.

Some of my religious friends were talking to me the other day on the question of Sunday shooting. They considered it a deplorable fact that many of our young men devote the Sabbath to hunting the wary pheasant or the swift flying grouse, and I am sorry to confess that I positively smiled at the genuine holy horror manifested by these good people at this terrible depravity. I am not religious myself to an extreme limit. Perhaps that will account for my lack of sympathy in the case. But I am not in favor of Sunday desecration. I believe in observing the Sunday as a day of innocent recreation and rest. That is the Roman Catholic belief, and a very good one I think it is, although I am not a Catholic. I take it that a man tied down all the week to a desk or to any occupation where only or chiefly his mental faculties are employed, needs physical recreation. He cannot get that better than by a good tramp. If he chooses to take a dog and gun with him in the

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66 TO 68 GOVERNMENT ST.

tramp and make it enjoyable, I can't for the life of me see any awful sin in it. For such a man to go to church, would be torture; his brain is already sick and he must have fresh air and physical recreation. I know many will disagree with me, but I am only expressing the opinion of one person and surely every person is entitled to an opinion.

I notice the portly form of my good friend William Templeman, of the Evening Times, again on the street. Mr. Templeman has just returned from eastern cities which he was visiting on a holiday trip; by the way, a thoroughly well earned holiday. He is one of those men one has to know before one thoroughly understands him. Then he proves to be the most genuinely whole-souled and good natured fellow in the world. Thanks to his energy and careful administration, the Times has crept along to a foremost place now and is making rapid headway.

Speaking of Mr. Templeman and the Times, I have seen an advance copy of the Christmas Times, and I was a little surprised at first. It is a beautifully illustrated, well written number, and accompanying it is a handsome colored picture. The production speaks well for the Times.

If may interest some Victoria ladies to know that the new fad called poker work, which is being interpreted, burning designs on wood with a red-hot metal point, is popular in the neigh-

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boring republic. A set of points and handles and a spirit lamp are the necessary outfit and also some fancy forms of designs for borders. A great effect may be produced by an expert with the hot point, a bold design and a piece of suitable board. Some of the etchings are really handsome. Holly, sycamore and lime are the best light woods for the purpose, while basswood, carefully selected, is cheap and satisfactory for beginners. Holly for striking and sycamore for light and delicate strokes are the choice. The outfit comes in a neat box, and my lady can enrich the panelling of her halls, her door panels, and any of her furniture that permits, with charming designs in flowers, fruit, scrolls, or any suitable object which takes her fancy. The Sunday-best name of the new art, or rather revived ancient art, is Pyrography.

PERE GRINATOR.

PEN PICTURES OF PROMINENT MEN.

In every community may be found men who have, by their own exertions, superior ability and sterling character, attained an eminence of position of which they may well be proud.

Victoria is no exception to this rule, for here may be found men who would be deemed an honor to any city of the West. Our business men are active, shrewd, and a credit to the world of commerce. Our coterie of professional men—physicians, lawyers, dentists, etc.—are entitled to be classed among the most expert.

LEWIS HALL, D.D.S.

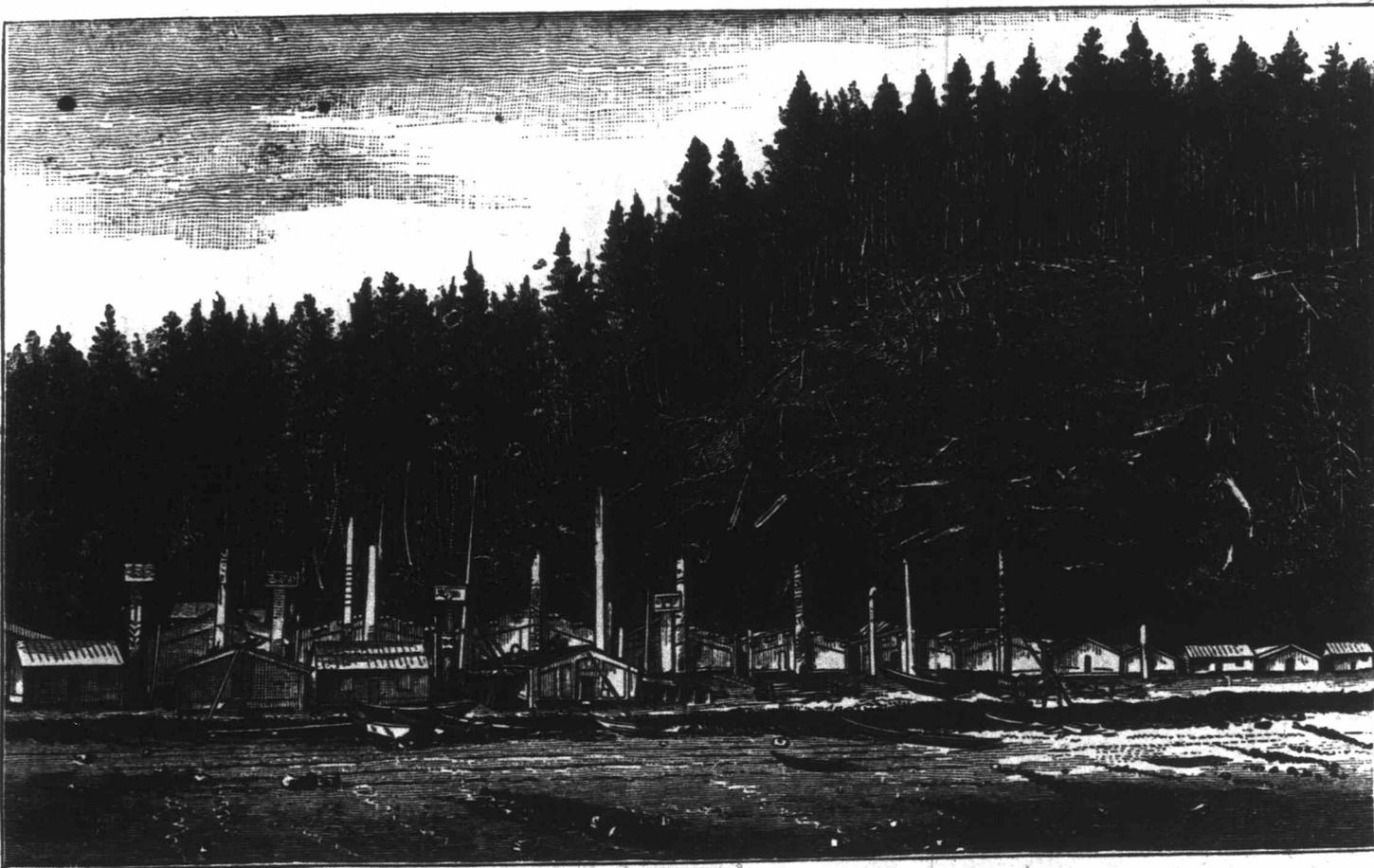
Among the dental profession in Vic-

Philadelphia Dental College in 1886. The money required for this purpose, he had, by economy, managed to save from his salary while working. In 1888 Dr. Hall graduated, receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, and in February of the same year returned to Victoria, where he began the practice of his profession. Dr. Hall is a brilliant operator, and is well known for his skilfulness and dexterity. He is a close student, thoroughly posted on all matters pertaining to dentistry, and enjoys a large and lucrative practice.

ALBERT C. WEST, L. D. S.

The subject of this sketch was born in Ontario, in 1851, and educated at the public schools of that province. When only eighteen years of age, he graduated from the Normal School

he had acquired an extensive and very lucrative business. As an operating dentist Dr. West has few equals and no superiors. His well-known skill in all kinds of plate work, filling, extracting, etc., has secured for him a reputation second to none on the Pacific Coast. If there is one thing more than another for which Dr. West deserves and receives credit, it is his ability to extract teeth without causing the patient that pain for which the dentist's chair is dreaded. By an application to the gums of a secret anesthetic it becomes possible to extract any tooth without the slightest pain. Dr. West is also the sole licensee for the celebrated "Chase Metallic Roof Plate." This plate possesses the merit of being extremely light and at



MASSETT, QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

toria none is better or more favorably known than Dr. Lewis Hall. This gentleman has, by his peculiar adaptability for dentistry, secured for himself a position in the foremost ranks of the profession. Born in Staffordshire, England, May 11th, 1864, Dr. Hall is now twenty-seven years of age. He attended the public schools of England until twelve years of age, when, with his father, he migrated to British Columbia. Here Mr. Hall, Sr., engaged in the occupation of farming. Our subject early manifested a desire for learning, and the life of a farmer not being to his liking, he entered the profession of journalism and became identified with the Victoria Colonist, remaining in this position for about two years, after which he removed to Philadelphia, Pa., where he entered the

with the highest honors, and shortly afterwards began teaching in the public school. Going to California a few years later, he continued teaching, being employed in the schools of Stockton and San Francisco for about five years. At this time he received a life diploma from the State, and shortly after began the study of dentistry under the preceptorship of Dr. D. F. Ogden, one of the most expert dentists in California. For two years he remained with this gentleman, studying faithfully, and then entered his employ as an operating dentist. Two years later he removed to Dayton, Washington, where he practiced with good success for four years. He then came to Victoria, where he continued the practice of his chosen profession. His success was immediate, and was not long before

the same time the most durable. The plate proper is composed of feather gold or aluminium, combined with celluloid, which for lightness, durability and perfect adaptability, far surpasses gold and by the use of this, enunciation is much better than if the plate was made entirely of rubber or celluloid. In a word it is one of the most cleanly, durable, comfortable and beautiful dentures ever devised. Dr. West's practice has grown rapidly during the seven years he has been with us and he now stands at the head of the dental profession of this city. He is a widely read man, a close student of human nature and in all a thorough gentleman. He is courteous, obliging and genial, has a host of warm, personal friends and is loved and respected by all who know him.

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PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The Montreal *Trade Review* comments upon the annual report of the British Columbia Board of Trade as being an interesting document, "replete with facts and figures, which are valuable as illustrating the rapid and substantial progress that is being made by the Pacific Province." It remarks upon the number of charters granted to railway companies last session as certain to exert a powerful influence in developing the resources of the province. But we may be permitted to observe that there is an "if" that should not be lost sight of. That "if" is "should those enterprises be worth more than the paper they are written or printed upon?" There is every reason to believe that the majority of the charters have been obtained in good faith with the intention of carrying them out to completion, and of giving the province and its resources the immediate benefits to be derived from railway construction. In the case of Manitoba and the Northwest there were many railway schemes that were incorporated by both the Dominion and the Provincial Legislatures for the sole object of selling the franchises obtained, and on this account vast extents of territory have not as yet been reached, which but for the existence of the charters would long ere this

have been reached and turned to practical account.

In this province development is hampered, not so much by the number of railways on paper only, but by the fact that so much territory has been grabbed by speculators who, despite the law to the contrary, are continually grabbing for more. From all directions comes the news that likely people have been looking out for locations on which to settle, but found the best lands all taken up, not by people who have the slightest idea of settling or doing anything with the properties which they have acquired, but by those whose sole object is to hang on to them until something altogether outside of anything which they themselves may do shall give the sections a marketable value. Let any one take the trouble to scan the columns of the *British Columbia Gazette*, and he will see that in open violation of the objects of the law; but in what may without much of a stretch of imagination be regarded as a compliance with its letter—thousands and thousands of acres of the best available lands are being taken hold of. These land-grabbers are advertising not only their own intentions, but are publishing those of their wives, "their sisters, their cousins, their aunts," their living and prospective children, their man-servants, their maid-

servants, their oxen and their asses, and everything that is theirs. And thus the valuable lands of British Columbia, about which so much is said, are being "settled up." Unfortunately this aspect of development is not alluded to in the admirable and generally comprehensive annual report of the British Columbia Board of Trade. Many of the most salient points in and the most important recommendations of the Board's report are recapitulated and in their turn commented upon, with the satisfactory commendation "we trust that the utterances will receive in the proper quarter the attention which is due them."—*British Columbia Commercial Journal*.

THE enterprising town of Seattle has just had a fire of considerable proportions, whose occurrence has shown that there is something wrong somewhere, which must be remedied. From its previous fire the city Phoenix-like rose from its ashes, a far handsomer, better built and otherwise substantial town, profiting immensely by the lessons as well as the substantial benefits of the conflagration. We say substantial benefits, for had it not been for the fire, it is more than possible that many existing improvements would not have been undertaken, and now Seattle is to-day an ornament and an example to the Sound country.

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FILLING BALLAST TANKS.

Investigation leads us to impress upon ship-builders and ship-owners and captains the advantages and necessity of fitting the water ballast tanks with a vertical continuous plate, so as to divide the tank in two. A deep water ballast tank extending right across the ship, is, unless so divided, a distinct source of danger, especially when the ship is in charge of a captain who is not conversant with the effect on the ship's stability of partially-filled tanks. Another conclusion is that when tanks are to be filled at sea, or even in harbor, they should be filled and emptied one by one, and those at the ends should be filled or emptied before the midship ones, as the loss of stability when a tank is partially filled will of course be less the smaller the tank and the smaller its breadth. Lastly, it is better and safer to fill tanks in port rather than at sea. Many captains and others agree that if their vessels are tender when laden down to their mark, the filling of the ballast tanks, causes a diminution of freeboard and its consequent penalty. This seems to show the force of our oft-repeated contention that far, far too much importance has been attached to mere freeboard. If it is a question between greater stability and freeboard, there can be no doubt that the former is to be preferred, other things being equal. — *Nautical Magazine.*

STRANGE WAVES.

The mysterious wave which did so much damage to life and limb and to the steamship *Etruria*, recently, properly belongs to

that class of physical phenomena for which there is as yet no satisfactory explanation, unless it be that of submarine earthquakes. Whatever the cause, certain it is that they have taken place time and again, and always caused much damage on account of their sudden and unexpected appearance and the awful power wielded while they last. One of the worst known occurred in the year 1869. It was the first day of November, and the people of Oran, Algeria, had been experiencing beautiful weather. No breeze was blowing, and the harbor was stirred by scarcely a ripple. Even after it was all over, marines on vessels lying a few miles out from shore said no storm of any kind had been experienced, yet the people on shore suddenly noticed the approach of a tide of unparalleled height and violence which submerged the coast line far beyond the ordinary mark, and destroyed in its course much valuable property. On the tide's ebbing, when the danger was supposed to be over, great submarine billows broke over the harbor and coast and beat furiously against the splendid new mole lately constructed for the protection of the port for the space of thirty-six hours. Receding, the immense waves uncovered the foundations of the mole to the depth of eight yards below the ordinary water level, and, advancing, broke high over the vessels within the harbor, some of them sending their spray clean over Fort Lamoune—that is to say, more than one hundred yards high. Those terrible shocks, repeated with regularity every minute, soon racked and rent the pier on the seaside; in the space of a few hours great fissures on the top and on the side next the town became

visible, and its total destruction was seen to be inevitable. Before evening scarcely a vestige remained of the once splendid mole, which, on the morning of the same day, measured nine hundred yards in length, and seemed to be able to resist the storms of many centuries.

In view of the importance of the sealing industry to British Columbia and the great losses to which Victoria sealers have been subjected by the joint convention between Great Britain and the United States, the following extract from the President's Message is both interesting and significant :

"In my last message I stated that the bases of arbitration proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the adjustment of the long-pending controversy of the seal fisheries were not acceptable, I am glad now to be able to announce that terms satisfactory to this government have been agreed upon and that an agreement as to the arbitrators is all that is necessary to the completion of the convention. In view of the advanced position this Government has taken on the subject of international arbitration this renewed expression of our adherence to this settlement of disputes, such as have arisen in the Behring Sea, will, I doubt not, meet with the concurrence of our Congress. In view of the reports as to the diminution of the seal herds in Behring Sea, I deemed it wise to propose to Her Majesty's Government, in February last, that an agreement for a closed season should be made pending the negotiations for arbitration, which then seemed to be approaching a favorable conclusion. After much correspondence and delays, an agreement was reached, on the 15th of June, by which Great Britain undertook, from that date and until May 1st, 1892, to prohibit killing, the United States, during the same period, to enforce its existing prohibition against pelagic sealing."

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1901.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

UNDER our municipal system as at present conducted, that part of the revenues for the support of municipal government and the making of local improvements which is not forced from industry by licenses or direct imposition, is levied upon real estate, which may be classed—1st, as unimproved or vacant land, and 2nd, as land and improvements, such as gardens, lawns, shrubbery, fences or hedges, and buildings. It does not require any lengthy argument to show that taxation so applied is made to discriminate against industry and the spirit of improvement, that it encourages the scheming speculator to gamble in land; that it turns revenues accruing on account of public improvements into private pockets; that it enables a sordid few to become rich in idleness, and to compel payment to them from the toiling many for values which their presence and industry has created simply by placing themselves in the way of the progress of the community.

To illustrate the effects of this kind of taxation, let us cite the case of two lots side by side, equally well situated, each taxed for the same amount, because unoccupied. One of the owners places a building upon his lot; it will then be assessed as an improved lot, the lot itself being more valuable because of the house on it. The value of the improvement is then added to the assessment, and so from time to time any improvement he may make will correspondingly increase his taxes, while the taxes on the other lot remain low for no other reason than that it is a blank increasing the area (and the cost) over which civic improvements must be extended to reach those who use them and who contribute the chief

part of the revenue for their support.

The first injustice we would notice in this case is that in proportion as the improver is a benefit to the community by his beautifying the city, furnishing improved habitation or improved business facilities, and giving employment by doing so, he is fined annually by the increased amount of his taxes, while his fellow-townsmen, who not only does not improve his lot, but refuses to allow anyone else to do it, is assisted in the scheme by a low rate of taxation. The second injustice is in assessing the value of an improvement on the lot on which it is located. The value of any improvement of any consequence is not confined to the lot it occupies, but communicates itself in a marked degree to a number of adjoining lots, and in a lesser degree to the whole neighborhood.

By taxing such improvements on the lot they occupy, the owner of the vacant lot not only profits by the added value they give to his property, but he profits on the taxes laid on them by others, to be spent in public improvements that yet again add value to his unused holding. Another injustice is that vacant properties increase the cost of making civic improvements altogether out of proportion to their contributions in the first instance, and that they escape altogether from contributing to the maintenance of many of them.

Look over the city of Victoria for proof, extending practically from beyond the harbor to Oak Bay, and from the outer confines of Beacon Hill Park to Cedar Hill. Twenty five thousand people are compelled to stretch improvements over an area that would suffice for 200,000; and when a number of residents, who by reason of these very vacant holdings are compelled to live at a greater distance from the business centre than choice or convenience would induce, ask to be allowed to contribute to the revenue of our water system on condition that they share its benefits, the public servants entrusted with the duty of complying with their reasonable request are met by the bullying, blustering, insolent opposition of the landed obstructionist, who does not forget when his opposition is overruled and the im-

provement made to attach the added value it confers to his holding, which does not pay a single added dollar to its maintenance in water rates.

Faugh-a-Ballagh!

It has been remarked that Government street wears an emerald hue these days. This is accounted for by the fact that every person, who can afford it, is wearing one of our Irish Blarney Suits. These goods were manufactured in a mill adjoining the celebrated Blarney estate, and are celebrated for their wear. Even the thread used in their makeup is Irish.

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Good :
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BARTLETT,**

9 TROUNCE AVE.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[THE HOME JOURNAL would be pleased to receive the dates of parties and the names of persons attending social gatherings. To insure publication, this information would have to reach this office not later than Thursday noon.]

THE preparations for the holidays have put a damper on social gatherings of all kinds. Arrangements for holiday concerts are being made by many of the church-going people. Outside of this, there is nothing to note particularly this week.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Fairchild, of Winnipeg, are visiting friends in this city, and will spend three or four months on the coast.

Mr. and Mrs. William Templeman returned home last week, after having spent several weeks visiting friends in the east.

The Iona Club will not hold any more dances until the first Friday in the New Year.

Mr. Daniel R. Young, the popular real estate dealer, who recently took to himself one of the fair daughters of Victoria, is having a handsome residence erected on Fort street, nearly opposite the Dunsmuir Castle.

The Queen Quadrille Club held a reception, last evening.

Mrs. Dixi H. Ross gave a pleasant party last Thursday evening at her residence on Hillside avenue.

Miss Bertha Franks gave an enjoyable birthday party to a large number of friends, last Thursday evening, at her father's home on Frederick street.

The Young Ladies' Institute held a meeting at the Bishop's Palace, last Tuesday, when returns from the late "At Home" were brought in. Over \$200 was added to the Y. L. I. fund as a result of their energies and cordiality at the late entertainment.

Mr. Burnette has accepted the position of organist of St. Andrew's church.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Jubilee Hospital are giving a grand promenade concert at the formal opening of the

new city market this evening. The best local talent are going to take part, and no pains have been spared in perfecting the arrangements, which have been carried out under the able direction of the President, Mrs. G. A. McTavish. Refreshments will be served during the evening. The proceeds of the entertainment go to the funds of the B. C. Benevolent Society, and should ensure a large attendance.

SHE GOT THE BUGGY.

"I want a buggy for my dollie," said a wee tot entering Russell McDonald & Co.'s store. "Where's your money?" "Aint got none." "No money? well you run off home and be a good girl, then yo'r mother will buy you one." "She can't," replied the little one, "my mamma is dead, but you give me one and I'll tell her about it." She got the buggy.

THE BON-BON WINDOW.

The show windows of Dixi H. Ross & Co., the well-known family grocers, are attracting considerable notice from all who pass. The novel attraction of Santa Claus coming in a bicycle (for sure he couldn't come with his sleigh) is sure to delay the passer-by so as to get a better look. In the foreground are numbers of fondants, mules, dogs, sow and pigs, cows, etc., which are both ornamental and useful, for they can be opened and fitted with candies. The background, sides and top of the window are lined with bon-bons of variegated colors. Mr Ross has just received a large importation of the latest novelties in bon-bons and luggage crackers from London for the holiday trade. They are put up in fancy baskets, wall pockets, and in transparent lanterns. All the popular features, shadowgraphic, mosaic and masquerade crackers, the game of Old Mother Goose, knock 'em down, Aunt Sally, and parlor lasso, are introduced. Some novel prizes are given, as china tea sets for girls, also boys' tools. The display is well worth a close inspection, for on every turn you find a new feature or novelty.

Do not judge the quantity of our stock by our windows but step inside. T. N. Hibben & Co.

Queen's Evidence, one of the strongest of realistic dramas, is to be produced Christmas week at the Imperial. Miss Carrie Franks the little lady who scored such a such a success as Eva in Uncle Tom's Cabin, has been engaged. The play will be a drawing card for the holidays.

**MUTUAL LIFE 6-PER CENT CONSOLS
LOTS FOR SALE.**

The following described lots are now offered for sale: Lots valued at \$500 each in parcels of twenty, to be paid for in twenty instalments, each of equal amount, and to include all charges.

The property is guaranteed to increase in value each year under a certain contingency until, with the payment of last instalment, the present value will be doubled.

A unique feature is that in case of the owner's death the mortgage is extinguished and payments cease.

A very valuable clause of the contract is the guarantee of the company that the property, when paid for, will produce a revenue (without spending further capital for improvements) equal to at least 6 per cent., free of taxes. For particulars apply to

HEISTERMAN & CO.,
Real Estate and General Agents,
75 Government Street, Victoria, B. C.

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ARCHITECT

70 DOUGLAS ST., VICTORIA, B. C.

STOP - YOUR - COUGH

By purchasing a pair of

Cork Soled Boots

For LADIES and GENTLEMEN, from
\$3.00 UP,

J. H. BAKER,

89 Government Street.

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LOOKING FORWARD.

TWO Store street merchants who had read "Looking Backward," were, the other day, discussing this interesting story and speculating as to what such a revolution as that proposed by Bellamy would do for them and their families. After much ingenuous prognosticating, one of the gentlemen whom we shall call Ecnarusni, the more practical of the two, proposed that instead of wasting their time in discussion of theories or fads, they should discuss the best means of securing their respective shares of the community property so that their declining years might have all the comfort and Idyllic happiness possible to men who, while not wealthy, yet enjoyed fair incomes. His friend, named Etatse-laer, agreed and suggested that they should decide the point on the merits of the various investments open to them in the province of B. C. "For instance," he said, "we have mining, lumbering, house and store property, steamboat, tramway stocks and, indeed, nearly every kind of investment that can be found anywhere." "But," said Mr. Ecnar, "remember we have, only what we can save each year out of our incomes and must choose something we can get into each year." "All right," said Etat, "then I'm for buying Mount Tolmie lots or any lots on the outside which I can get for about \$350 each, and I can buy one or two each year. I am certain Victoria is going to be a large city one of these days, and outside lots are just the thing for my money. Suppose I buy two lots each year, that will cost me \$700. I am now 40 years old and have not made my pot yet. Now, if I persist in buying each year, by the time I am 60, I will own property which will have cost me \$14,000, and if I hold on until I am 50 to 60, I would be worth, at a modest estimate, over \$20,000 and upon this I can get 7 per cent. or \$1,400 a year. This amount will keep myself and wife pretty comfortable in our old age. If I had good luck, I might get twice that much or more." "Yes," said Ecar, "that is good, if you have luck, and, besides, you have said nothing of taxes, commission to agents and, perhaps, you might have luck—bad luck—buying the wrong lots. Now, I know something that is pretty good in the way of lots, but they are sold on a new scheme. I

can buy one each year for the price you name from a big syndicate with lots of capital and each purchaser becomes a member of the syndicate as soon as he gets his deed. Only this concern selects the entire number of lots—say 10, 15 or 20—and gives you a deed right off to the whole batch, but keeps the property out of the market until you have made your last payment. Now suppose I buy 20 of these lots at \$700 each, I will pay for one each year and this new scheme includes taxes so that I am not worried on that score. They go further and agree that if I complete the entire payments of purchase money, they will improve my property so as to bring in a stated income on the increased value, probably \$20,000 or more, besides my dividend as a member. This concern guarantees me six per

cent. after making the improvements, paying taxes, etc., and relieving me from payment of all future taxes. I nearly forgot to mention that if I took a first or second class ticket and started to join the majority, my family immediately get the estate and all further payments cease. Now what do you think of that?" "Well," said Etat, "if all you say is in the deed, I for one want to invest in just such a snap." "All right," said Ecnarusni, "come along and I will introduce you to the manager for, to tell you the truth, I have already bought." And they hied themselves away to 75 Government street, and I was the means of making another good man happy and safe by giving him one of our consol deeds.

FOSTER MACGURN,
Manager.

THE HOME JOURNAL,

THE GREAT FAMILY NEWSPAPER,

\$1.00 - - - PER ANNUM.

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Circulation, - - 1,250.

**RETAIL GROCERS' PRICES
CURRENT.**

Quotations are per pound, or for such quantities as are usually ordered by families. Goods in larger quantities are obtainable at lower prices:

Apples, evaporated.....	\$ 12½
sun dried.....	10
Apricots, evaporated.....	16
Asparagus, tin.....	40
Barley, Pearl.....	10
Bacon, breakfast.....	18
spiced roll.....	16
Beef, corned, tin.....	35
Bloaters.....	12½
Blacklead, best..... 3 for	25
French Polish.....	25
Bricks, bath.....	12½
Butter, creamery..... 35c or 3 for	1 00
dairy.....	25
fresh Island.....	50
Catsup, tomato..... 25 to	40
mushroom, pt.....	40
walnut, pt.....	40
Capers.....	25
Candles, Belmont.....	25
Ozokerit.....	50
Caviar.....	50
Celery, salt.....	25
Chocolate, Eagle.....	50
Cocoa, Fry.....	50
Epps.....	50
Van Houton's.....	1 50
Chutney..... 25 to	1 50
Cheese, Canadian.....	20
Roqufort.....	1 00
Swiss.....	50
English Stilton.....	50
Limburg.....	50
Brick Cream.....	50
Mellors Cream, pots.....	1 25
Parmasam.....	1 00
Pineapple.....	50
Edom.....	50
Clams..... 3 for	50
Cocoanut.....	50
Coffee, Costa Rica, green.....	25
Java.....	40
Mocha.....	50
ground.....	40
Cream Tartar.....	50
Currants, Patras..... 12½	16
Vostizi.....	16
Corn, Ontario..... 3 for	50
Devilled meat.....	40
Eggs, fresh.....	60
packed.....	25
Extracts, flavoring, 2 oz..... 25 to	35
Farina..... 10 lb. sack	1 25
Figs..... per lb	25
10 lbs	2 00
Fish, cod, Pacific.....	12½
Eastern.....	16
" black.....	12½
mackerel bloater.....	35
tins.....	1 00
Flour, Hungarian..... 6 75	
Snowflake.....	6 50
Enderby.....	6 25
Fruits, assorted table, 3-lb. tins.....	40
" 2-lb. tins.....	25
pie, gallon.....	75
in Brandy.....	1 50
crystalized..... 25 to	75
Gelatine, Nelson's.....	25
Hams.....	20
Hops.....	40
Honey, gallon.....	1 75
" 4 lbs, comb, in jars.....	1 00
" 2 lbs.....	75
Jams, assorted C & B..... 3 for	1 00
Knife Polish.....	25
Lard, pure, 10 lbs.....	1 75
" 5 lbs.....	1 00
Lentils.....	16
Lemons, Sicily.....	50
California.....	35
Lobster, Clover Leaf.....	35
Marmalade, pots.....	35
Maccaroni.....	25
Milk, Reindeer, tins.....	25
Eagle, tins.....	35
Highland Cream.....	25

Mince meat, jars.....	1 50
condensed.....	25
Mustard, Colman's, ½ lb.....	35
" 1 lb.....	65
Mushrooms.....	35
Nuts, assorted.....	25
Oil, Coal, tin.....	1 85
case.....	3 50
Olives, qt bottle.....	75
pt bottle.....	50
½ pt bottle.....	25
Oysters, fresh, tin.....	75
Blue Point, 2-lb. tins.....	35
" 1-lb. tins.....	25
Onions.....	4
Pate de fole gras..... 1 25 to	1 75
Peel, mixed.....	40
Pearline.....	25
Pepper, ground.....	50
whole.....	35
Pickles, C & B, qt.....	65
" pt.....	35
Potatoes.....	1 25
Prunes.....	12½
Plum pudding.....	75
Raisins, Dehesa.....	50
layers.....	25
Valencias off stalk.....	12½
layers.....	16
Sultanas.....	20
Rice, Japan.....	8
Sandwich Island.....	10
China.....	5
Sauce, Lea & Perrins, large.....	65
small.....	35
Yorkshire Relish.....	25
Spices, tins.....	25
Sugar, granulated, Vancouver, 14lbs	1 00
" San Frisco, 13. "	1 00
" Hong Kong, 15. "	1 00
" cube, San Francisco, 10 lbs	1 00
" Vancouver, 12 lbs	1 00
" Extra C, 15 lbs	1 00
Syrup, 1-gal. tin.....	1 00
2-lb tin.....	25
Maple, gal.....	1 50
Tapioca.....	10
Tongue, Lunch, 2.....	75
" 1.....	50
" Ox 3.....	1 00
Tea, S & B..... 50 to	75
" Japanese..... 25 to	75
Tobacco, T & B.....	75
Vinegar, English Malt.....	1 00
White Wine.....	1 00

PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY
AND ASK YOUR GROCER FOR

FALCONER'S

Pure Malt Vinegar, per gal.....	75
Pure Tomato Catsup, bottle.....	35
Worcestershire Sauce, half pints.....	25
" pints.....	35
Mushroom Catsup, pints.....	35
Quince Cider, per quart.....	25
Apple Cider.....	25
(Excellent for mince meat.)	
Extracts—Lemon and Vanilla, 2oz.....	25
" 8oz.....	70
Fruit Syrups, per quart bottles.....	50
(Strawberry, Lemon, Raspberry.)	

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VICTORIA VINEGAR WORKS,
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**SCOTCH HOUSE,
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MEN'S SUITS, from \$3.50 up.
ALL-WOOL PANTS, from \$1.50 up.
OVERCOATS, from \$3.50 up.

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UMBRELLAS

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MACINTOSHES, from \$4 up.
RUBBER COATS, \$2.50.

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—THE IMPERIAL THEATRE—

THE GREAT FAMILY RESORT.

WEEK BEGINNING DEC. 21ST:

Monday and Tuesday, M'LISS.

Wednesday and Thursday, MULDOON'S PIC-NIC.

Friday and Saturday, SOLOMON ISAACS.

POPULAR PRICES, 25 35 AND 50C.

THE DRAMA.

"Standing room only" has been the word nearly every night this week at the Imperial. On two nights at least it has been impossible to gain admission after 8:15, and those present were decidedly enthusiastic. Miss Dalgleish as usual carried off the honors, and has honestly won the title of "Victoria's favorite." Miss Dalgleish is always well up in her parts, and has perfect control of the audience from the moment she comes on the stage until she leaves it. Mr. Armstrong, besides possessing a good voice, is a gentleman of magnificent physique, and in many ways resembles Robert Mantell, who is said to be the finest looking man on the stage. Miss Belmour is another member of the Imperial company deserving of special mention. During the performance of the "Two Orphans" Miss Belmour had an opportunity of displaying her versatility. She appeared in three parts, and her make-up was so perfect that it was only after she left the stage that she was recognized. Mr. Belmour as Danny Mann in the "Colleen Bawn" found perhaps his best part. This character is one requiring dialect, make-up and facial expression of an unusual nature, and Mr. Belmour was equal to the occasion. In this latter play, the Corrigan of Silas Robinson should not be overlooked. It is rarely that a better presentation of this character is seen than that given by Mr. Robinson. The "Ann Chute" of Miss Ella Damaris was very good, as was also the "Mrs. Cregan" of Miss Ada Wheeler. C. M. Gray as usual kept the audience in laughter, while Fred Summerfield maintained the position he has won, of being a ster-

ling actor. Mr. Bennett has done very good work during the week.

It is unnecessary to add anything to what has hitherto been said concerning the music furnished by Mr. Cross and his really excellent orchestra. Mr. Cross is making arrangements for an unusual programme for Christmas week, and with that end in view will make several additions to the orchestra.

Miss Belmour will leave in a day or so for San Francisco to spend the holidays. Her place is to be taken by Miss Margaret Marshall, whose reputation as a character artist is well known all along the coast. When the management secure Miss Marshall they will also require to enlarge the seating capacity of the Imperial, which by the way is not unlikely under any circumstances.

In fact a feature of the Imperial stock company will be that of adding new people from time to time. Manager Ward of the theatre and Business Manager Rice of the company are entitled to the gratitude of the people of Victoria for the provisions they have made for the comfort and amusement of Victoria theatre-goers.

The bill for next week is: Monday and Tuesday, M'liss, Wednesday and Thursday, Muldoon's Picnic; Friday and Saturday, Solomon Isaacs.

FOOTLIGHT FLASHES.

Kate Castleton was in St. Paul the first of the month.

Frederick Warde was at Givens' Opera House, Atlanta, Georgia on the 7th and 8th.

Sol Smith Russell played at

Davenport, Iowa, on Thursday evening last.

The President company is reported to have closed its tour at Spokane Falls.

Marie Heath in a Turkish Bath played to a poor house at Duluth on November 27.

The Hustler was presented at the Grand Opera House, Minneapolis and December 3 and 5.

McKee Rankin played to very poor business at the Victoria Wednesday and Thursday.

Thomas W. Keene has just completed a two-weeks engagement at the Baldwin theatre, San Francisco.

Mr. A. W. P. Goldsmid of the Vancouver Opera House has booked The Fast Mail, for July 18 next and The Witch for August 19 and 20.

AT THE VICTORIA.

Carleton Opera Company—22 and 23.
Midnight Alarm—Jan. 8 and 9.
Kate Claxton—22 and 23.
Devil's Auction—25 and 26.
Katie Putnam—29 and 30.

AT THE VANCOUVER OPERA HOUSE.

Carleton Opera—21.
Herman—Jan. 6 and 7.
Kate Claxton—Jan. 20 and 21.
Katie Putnam—25 and 26.
Devil's Auction—27.
Garrick Dramatic Club (local)—13.
John L. Sullivan—19.
Nanaimo Amateurs—Feb. 10.
Sport McAllister—29.
Hanlon's Superba—April 4 and 5.
Frederick Warde—11, 12 and 13.
Ole Olsen—15.
Spider and Fly—18 and 19.
Corinne Opera Company—20 and 21.
Marie Wainwright—May 9 and 10.
Frod Daniels—11 and 14.
Cora Tanner—27 and 28.
Lillian Lewis—June 1 and 2.
Thatcher's Minstrels—10 and 11.
Rhea—16 and 17.
Two Johns—22 and 23.
Natural Gas—July 20 and 21.
The Cruisheen Lawn—29 and 30.
Sol Smith Russell—Sept. 21 and 22.

MUSIC.

NO instrument ever has been, or ever will be, I suspect, invented capable of even approaching the violin in extraordinary power and variety of expression. Its vocal singing; its smooth sliding; the impassioned power of a sweep from one end of the string to the other; its weird tremola; its pensive and velvety LEGATO; its clear, bird-like harmonies; its pearly staccato bow; its wailing chords; the mellow VOX HUMANA of its bass string; the flute-like sweetness of its third; and the ringing brilliance of its upper register, can scarcely be excelled even by the human voice.

The shortest note in the faintest whisper or the most noisy fortissimo, the most rapid run, or the swiftest chromatics can be executed with a precision and perfection attainable on no other instrument.

In another and more scientific sense the violin is the only perfect instrument. The piano cannot be tuned perfectly and the flute that will play in tune on all its keys has never yet been made. Where these and other instruments stagger and limp, the violin springs to the front without an effort. Volumes may be written on its majestic powers, but what good?

The violin reached perfection nearly 200 years ago—for except the sitting back of the neck, a little to increase the pressure of the strings, on account of our heightened concert pitch, and give greater command of the higher notes, and a slight thickening of the bass-bar, no alteration of importance has been made on the Cremona models—and at the same time became king of all. Its reign is undisputed and therefore needs no demonstration.

My own advice to the student is to be sparing in the number of lessons he takes, but to be certain that they are taken from a teacher with a position in the musical world, and one having that unmistakable grace of style by which a good player may be picked out by a deaf man.

Then again there is what I call the pernicious teacher. A man

who has formed a theory of his own in regard to the position of the instrument, or the handling of the bow; the man to whom all the great masters, such as Spohr, Balliot, David, Campagnoli, Kreutzer, Henning, Maza and the rest, are as nobody, and who deforms his pupils for life by drilling them into his own style, till they may actually be picked out without prompting in a crowd. A student is better without teaching at all than with lessons from such a master. One such blind leader of the blind I have in my mind's eye whose peculiar cat's-paw-like style of holding the bow I can recognize at a glance in any pupil who has had the misfortune to study under him.

Another teacher I have before me who holds his bow about two inches from the nut as if these two inches of hair were a superfluous incumbrance; and a third who thinks nothing of expending half of the pupil's time in teaching him to rosin the bow, and who always wastes, at least, half of the hour in "blethering" about himself and the feats he has done. Another I remember whose bow described a half-moon curve in crossing the strings; and how such a player could turn out a pupil with flexible wrist I am at a loss to understand. F. B.

The pupils of the Conservatory of Music will give a concert in the R. E. Church next Monday evening. They will be assisted by Miss MacGragor, who has during her residence in this city charmed many with her magnificent voice. This in itself should be sufficient to attract a large number.

The Mendelssohn Quintette Club gave one of their musical entertainments at the Victoria last Friday night to a fair audience. The concert was under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. The Quintette Club sustained their well-earned reputation as musicians of an unusual order of merit.

The W. T. Carleton Opera Company will be at the Victoria on the nights of the 22nd and 23rd.

On the 14th inst. the Clemencau Case was presented at the Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Iowa.

Booklets, Christmas cards the Annuals, viz. Chatter Box, Infant's magazine, Boy's and Girl's Annual, Leisure Hours, Sunday at Home, and many others at Hibben & Co.'s.

The meeting at Government House last Thursday afternoon to form a Sir John A. McDonald memorial committee was presided over by Sir Joseph Trutch. Mr. Herbert Stanton was chosen secretary. After a long discussion it was decided that the Lieut.-Governor should appoint committees to collect in different parts of the province. The following committee was named for Victoria city: Messrs. Thomas Earle M. P., Sir Joseph Trutch, R. P. Rithet, E. G. Prior M. P., T. B. Hall, Hon. J. H. Turner, Hon. Dr. Helmeken and W. C. Ward, treasurer.

Hibben & Co. are well prepared for the Christmas trade of 1891.

SHEET MUSIC GIVEN AWAY!

For every \$1 spent in cash at our store till the New Year we give away a piece of Sheet Music FREE.

M. W. WAITT & CO.,
64 Government Street.

Liverpool Bakery.

XMAS CAKES.

The best kind from one dollar up.

37 PANDORA AVENUE, 1 door above Douglas

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER

—OF—

The Victoria Times

Will be ready for circulation in a few days. This number will surpass all previous ones in point of interest. Every person should have a copy of the

Illustrated Times.

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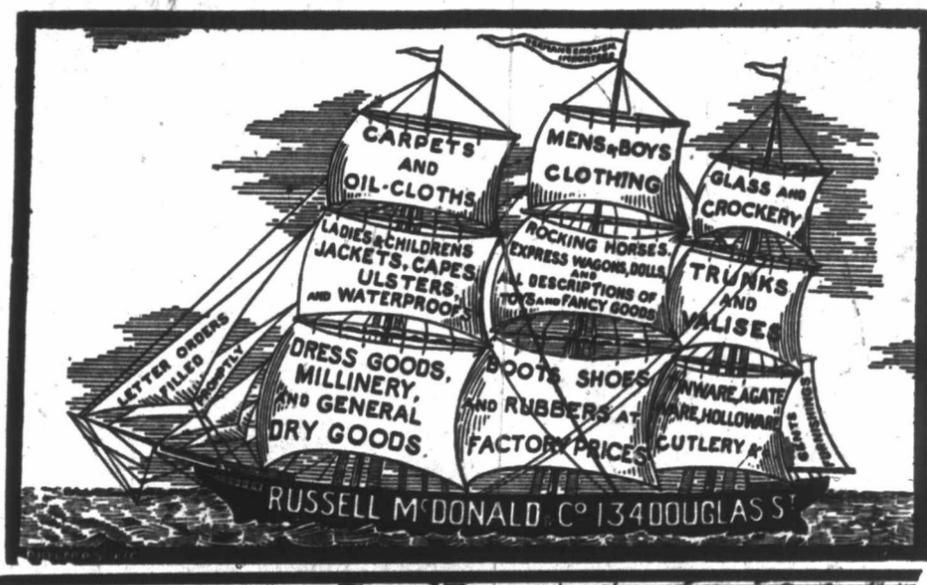
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