

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

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TALES OF THE TOWN.

THE members of the House have returned to their homes, as also have the Brothers Kennedy, of Westminster, who were temporarily incarcerated in the Provincial jail, for what the majority of the members of the House, in their representative capacity, voted to have been a contempt of the House. The Speaker's warrant of commitment required the sergeant-at arms "to take the bodies of the said James M. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy and them to keep safely during the pleasure of the said Legislative Assembly, or until the same shall be prorogued, or until the Legislative Assembly shall be dissolved, whichever event shall first be signified or happen."

The Kennedys having, by the punishment which they have undergone, purged themselves of their contempt, it now remains to be seen what will be their next step. They make no bones about saying that they propose to test the powers and prerogatives of the Legislature in every possible way, while the Attorney-General has formally announced that the Government contemplate submitting the question of the powers of commitment possessed by the Legislature to the Supreme Court under the Supreme Court Reference Act.

Whatever may be the result of this reference, it is certain that a strong feeling exists in many quarters adversely to the action which was taken. In the first place, there are many who strongly object to the assertion among us of what they regard as an antiquated principle—and the exercise, under it, of authority—by what is regarded by them as not much more than an ordinary County Council—to commit and imprison, without reference to any other jurisdiction those who may act in what its members decide is in contempt of them. There are many who have yet to be convinced that a Provincial Legislature is

a "High Court of Parliament," and for long to come it may be expected that the changes will be rung upon this incident as well in the press as upon the platform. Many people contend that the House should have made itself absolutely sure before it went ahead—the more particularly as each member of the House who felt himself aggrieved would have had ample opportunity to vindicate himself and obtain substantial redress under the existing almost all-comprehensive libel law.

Already the Trades and Labor element has taken up the subject, and their influence is not to be belittled. They have emphatically condemned the action of the House, "as an interference with the liberty of the press—the true and only safeguard of the people's liberties." Some people may say that this is only a spark that will flicker for a moment and then disappear; but sparks have set the heather on fire. In any case the end is not yet.

Apropos to the reference, the *Colonist* (a well-known Ministerial mouth-piece) says: "We must say that we do not attach much importance to this reference to the judges. Press prosecutions are not in accordance with British public opinion or with the spirit of the age, and it is not likely that, whatever may be the decision of the judges, the practice of our little Provincial Parliament in such matters will differ much from that of the big Parliaments of larger countries. . . . Whether the Legislative Assembly has or has not the power to call them [the Messrs. Kennedy] to account, and to punish them, makes no difference in the moral aspect of their case. Neither will the decision either way be of much consequence to the community." There are many people who will differ widely from the last remark quoted; for if the press is to be muzzled what will become of free speech or of public rights?

"I have heard of many odd things

in connection with funerals," said a member of a little group a few days since, "but this tale regarding last sad rites is the most ghoulish, I think. A prominent citizen of an Arkansas town died and the boys laid out to give him a great send-off. They did. In doing so they all got loaded. At the grave they gave three cheers for the undertaker. When they left the mourners at the residence of the departed they cheered the widow and orphans. Then they hurrahed for the parson who preached the sermon, and wound up with three and a tiger for the corpse."

"Pshaw! That's nothing to what I saw in Salt Lake at a Chinese funeral," said a little, quiet man, who had hitherto said nothing. "The Celestials had no band and they hired an Irish musical organization. After the preliminary services, such as introducing the corpse to his rations, had been performed, the coffin was loaded in the hearse, and to the cemetery they started to the tune of, 'Some Day I'll Wander Back Again.' When the box was lowered the almond-eyed sleeper was laid to rest to the soul-inspiring strains of 'Down Went McGinty.'"

The above recalls to my mind an incident in the life of Joey Beef. This character had been a private in the British army at one time, and after his regiment disbanded, he located in Montreal, where he started a cheap eating and lodging-house. An abbreviated description of Joey's "canteen" may be of interest to HOME JOURNAL readers. The dining-room and bar were combined, in rear of which was a capacious hall, used for the purpose of furnishing patrons of the place with a cheap variety entertainment. This was patronized by all classes, in fact it was not an unusual sight to see some of the best people in the city in Joey's theatre.

In his youth, our hero wooed, won and subsequently married a young woman in his own station in life. For

years the happy pair trod the tempestuous pathway of life together; but at last, one morning, grim-visaged Death paid the "canteen" an informal visit and carried off Mrs. Joey Beef. The bereaved husband concluded that he would have a funeral worthy of his better-half, and with this end in view he secured the services of a brass band to march in front of the hearse to the cemetery. At the grave Joey was a typical mourner, but the ludicrous part of the whole affair was when the procession was ready to start for home, Joseph straightened himself up, and, with the dignified air of a man who had just sold a choice corner lot in Bogusburg, ordered the band to strike up, "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

I see by the *Manitoba Free Press* that Winnipeggers came nearly having a sensation on their hands in the shape of a duel, which, but for the good judgment of the gentlemen appointed as seconds, would have taken place at daylight last Saturday morning. The principals are two French gentlemen at present residing at one of the hotels in that city. The dispute arose over a question of religion, the climax being reached by one of the principals being called a liar. This is an insult which to Frenchmen can only be settled in one way, and cards were at once exchanged and seconds appointed. The two seconds met on Friday, determined to take no "backwater," but upon second thought better judgment prevailed, and an apology from the offender was given and accepted. In the meantime every detail had been arranged, and witnesses and doctors were ready to rise at daybreak to witness what would have probably been the first duel in Manitoba. The choice of the arms fell to the offended party, who chose swords, which were obtained after a long search through the city. The affair was kept as quiet as possible, but a reporter being acquainted with one of the seconds was introduced as a physician and went to the needless expense of borrowing a physician's grip and supplying it with the necessary articles in case his man was wounded.

PERE GRINATOR.

Subscribe for THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.

To the Editor of the *Victoria Home Journal*:

In the last issue of THE HOME JOURNAL there appeared a discussion of the doctrine of eternal punishment. In looking at this question it might be well to re-quote your proposition, namely:

"Whoever in Christian lands, and after arriving at years of discretion, dies without having surrendered to the will and believed in the sacrifice of the historic Christ, shall have his lot and part in hell. And he shall there suffer torments which, whether they be material or spiritual, are of such a nature and intensity as to be aptly represented by the torment of unquenchable fire. And from this torment he shall never have surcease nor respite, but shall be maintained in a conscious existence of unceasing anguish forever and ever."

This doctrine is given to us as an absolute fact, it has become a dogma of the Church, and, consequently, to doubt the existence of eternal punishment and the "Devil" is equivalent to doubting the existence of God. It seems curious that we are compelled to depend upon tradition for the support of this view of the future state of the "wicked." Such a support at the best is but a frail one, especially when we remember that the tendency of religious fervor is ever toward exaggeration. But a critical examination of this doctrine, together with the knowledge we have of the lives of the Armenians who formulated it, would at the least suggest to the rational investigator many doubts as to the truth of the statement contained in the above quotation.

It is apparent that the word "Christian" lands contracts its operations to a given portion of this world, and therefore it is not universal and inapplicable to mankind as a whole. It is also apparent that the minds which conceived such a monstrous idea were those of fanatics incapable of any charitable thought exercising the least charity or mercy towards their enemies—the unbelievers; and that, as the operation or effect of this doctrine is restricted to Christian lands, it is not, nor can it ever be, applied to mankind as an Infinite idea. The expression of Infinitude is all-embracing, and no rational, reasoning being could libel or blaspheme the All-Good by conceiving or promulgating such a belief, even though no weightier reason could be

adduced than that it did not apply to the inhabitants of every land.

God is a God of War to the Major-General, but a God of Dove to the pure in heart; and man's anterior conception of the essence of God and the rectitude of his actions, the purpose of his daily life, will ever correspond to his growth interiorly in the conception of truth, right and justice—faith, hope and charity. Therefore, bearing in mind that man can only comprehend the spiritual, the essence of the All-Good, and a discreet use of charity in proportion as his life embodies the practice of virtue, and in proportion to his knowledge of the spiritual and separation from the grossly material existence, it needs not any to point out the corrupted source of the doctrine in question.

Viewed in another aspect, this belief is presented as a most pernicious one, in that it contracts, from childhood, the ideas, the actions, the scope, and the ambition of the inhabitants of "Christian" lands. To those inclined to at all examine it, in conjunction with the popular belief in "Heaven," there is presented the cheerless prospect of but two circumscribed existences—one on earth and one in another world, the conditions of the latter being surrounded with an impenetrable veil pierced only by those who have left their "coats of skin" for the (so-called) "Great Unknown." Yet, happily for the human race, this ignorance of the future is peculiar only to Christianity. Never having pierced the "Veil of Isis," and held back from knowledge by fear, they have the presumption to form into a dogma a gross misconception of a principle in nature. It cannot scarcely fail to be recognised that to this gross belief is directly chargeable much, if not all, of the unhappy condition of Christian lands. Again, this tendency of the Christians to grossly misinterpret their Sacred Book works evil by a like deficiency in their conception of God. Had the minds, the hearts, and the lives of the early "Fathers" been pure, no such travesty on the laws of the Infinite Good would have found support in the Church—a higher, nobler, more sublime ideal of God would have been conceived and preached, and the miserable failure failure of Christianity to accomplish the design of the Supreme Teacher Jesus would have been un-

recorded. Christianity has failed to raise mankind, for its ideal God was a capricious, revengeful, limited being. Without pure ideals man can never progress. His potentialities remain unknown to him, and the purpose of life is degraded to the materialistic pursuits of business, pleasure, or crime. Were we to teach our children the secret powers of pure idealism, the apparent impossibilities of Utopia would become realities. I claim that to the gross ideals inculcated by the Christian religion, as expounded, is directly due the debasement and wickedness of its votaries.

To assert that the doctrine is infallible merely on traditional grounds would be as reasonable as the revival of the old fallacy of the earth's shape—a fallacy, be it noted, ably supported by the rack and the stake—worthy types alike of the meek and lowly Jesus and the doctrine of eternal punishment. However old may be tradition concerning the manner of such punishment, no one at the present day should believe the doctrine true simply on such authority. If the tradition was simply that eternal punishment would be meted out to the wicked irrespective of the "Devil" it might be different; but the Christians, misinterpreting their Sacred Book, have interwoven with tradition the "Devil," "Satan," "Beelzebub," and kindred terms for the antithesis of God until their theology is a mass of error and corruption, and the enlightenment of the people, the freedom of thought, and the finding of the key to the sacred Scriptures now compels the elimination from the Christian theology of much hitherto devotedly believed. Any name expressing contempt, pity, or threatening punishment from God is too good in their eyes by which to call those who dare to think for themselves. Their Sacred Book is to them a meaningless jumble, for they throw away the key. They have no conception of the true meaning of the names or terms they apply to that scapegoat of theirs, the "Devil."

Taking up the assumption of the Christians that eternal punishment is a synonymous term for "retribution," we find it but a travesty on the natural principle of repetition, due wholly to the degraded and distorted imaginations of the fanatics of 1,800 years ago. By the exercise of a little ingenuity, the

Roman church inserted "purgatory," and from this they derive a handsome revenue and a powerful support, finding in it a formidable ally to the doctrine of eternal damnation. Why should the thoughts of the people of to-day be trammelled with the absurd absurdities of fanaticism? Who made the "churches" our keepers? These are the questions asked by intelligent men and women, and the old hackneyed phrase is the only reply given by Christianity—"We must not enquire into the inscrutable mysteries of God!"

The doctrine of the Trinity was introduced with bloodshed and rapine, and amid the turbulent crowd of murders and outlaws of the times, unscrupulous men declared they had received orders from heaven for any non-sense they desired to promulgate. Revelation upon revelation was reported and believed by a crowd of effeminate men, crazed with religious excitement, and to this era is traceable the ignoble beliefs of Christians—be they Papist or Protestant. Nothing asserted to have been "revealed" at that time was too extravagant, too absurd, for general belief, especially when the descendants of "St." Peter scrupled not to use arguments more forcible than loving or Christ-like.

No doctrine which teaches of a revengeful God is worthy of thought. That only is fit for promulgation which leads us onward, upward, inward, refining, ennobling, emancipating, teaching the equality of women, the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. God is love, now, as ever. Natural laws must not be confounded with the distorted imaginations of bigots, and no doctrine, however traditional, should find credence if it does not show a perfect freedom on the part of man, embracing the white and the black alike. That which embraces the whole universe is of good; but that which selects a favored few for divine favors is of Antichrist. The doctrine of the Christians is a selfish, unreasonable dogmatism, and giving untold opportunities for the exercise of hypocrisy and wickedness. Yet the bible contains that knowledge which, when extracted, will raise mankind as far above their present sinful condition as the stars are above the earth and leads us to a real participation in the joy emanating from the Great Father—Mother, the Supreme Good, to whom be reverence and glory.

A. M.

VICTORIA BUSINESS INDEX.

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W. T. WHITEWAY, architect, room 23, Five Sisters' Block.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1892.

BOGUSBURG BUGLER BLASTS.

From the Bogusburg Bugler.

The Bogusburg Board of Trade will discuss the insolvency question at its next meeting.

A "natural gas" well has been discovered on the townsite; also a new star in the heavens.

The rolling stock for the tramway is arriving. A wheelbarrow was brought in by the last boat.

Bogusburg is agitating for a wind-mill. Power will be supplied to real estate joints at a reasonable rate.

The police magistrate has caused to be imprisoned a tourist, who will be detained until after a census of the city is taken.

For sale at Nanaimo: Two Bogusburg lots at half-price. Owner does not want to break the price in his own city.

Swift's comet has come back again with half a dozen "tails." That looks as though it had been making a visit to Bogusburg.

Pauline Pocahontas Mulligan was married last week to Jack the Capper. Several congratulatory telegrams (collect) were received.

King M'Bora has been looking over Bogusburg for the past few days, and if he receives sufficient encouragement may establish a popcorn factory here.

A point of considerable legal importance will be decided in the courts next week. It is, can a man be fined for peddling Bogusburg lots without a license?

The syndicate are negotiating with the French Government to bring out Messrs. Ravachol, et al. to exercise their dynamiting pro-

pensities on the boulders of Bogusburg.

Several ministers of the town have, by special arrangements with the syndicate, undertaken to pray for a typhoon to lighten the labors of the axemen in clearing the townsite.

For the convenience of the army of men now grading the streets in Bogusburg, the highly educated and enterprising gentlemen composing the townsite company will establish a pawnshop.

Sir Robert Ball, one of the foremost astronomers of Great Britain figures that the sun has radiated enough energy to last 5,000,000 years yet. So there is a chance of yet seeing Bogusburg a town.

It is officially announced that Mrs. Jack the Capper (nee Pauline Pocahontas Mulligan) will make her debut at the Hyiu Opera house in "Ta-ra-ra-Boom-de-ay." Popular prices. Proceeds in aid of night school.

A fashion paper says: "Hats, much reduced in size, will be the style in Bogusburg this summer. For instance, two months ago, 8½ was very fashionable, but now 5½ is quite roomy." It is wonderful the rapidity with which styles change these days.

The Bogusburg townsite company's map will be on view at the next art exhibition. The work is one that will compare favorably with anything from the brush of the old masters, and speaks in language stronger than words, "What Might Have Been."

J. Ready Reckoner, a young man of unrestrained veracity, is our authority for the statement that King Solomon's Mines have at last been located on the outskirts of this city. It is now suspected that this fact has been known to the townsite company for some time, but modesty prevented them from making the matter public.

As we go to press, a report reaches us that a prospector has discovered some mummies in a mountain cavern. They will be shipped to Victoria, and with the aid of electricity, it is firmly believed that they will next year be able to take their seats in the Legislature and

vote with the Government on the adoption of effete methods of procedure.

Jack the Capper having run a-muck outside the townsite limits in a frantic attempt to use his mandibles on a petrified Bogusburg banana, stumbled on what he thought would make him a fortune—a mine of quicksilver. But his hopes have been ruthlessly dashed to the ground, for taking a sample to an assayer he found that it was only a deposit of tin slag, which has evidently dropped from an overheated tea-pot.

In answer to a Toronto exchange's inquiry, "Where is Bogusburg?" we would say that the townsite is nowhere and yet everywhere. It is not indebted to any particular town for its existence, and if any company desire to adopt our general make-up, plan of sale, manner of declaring dividends, making improvements, etc., it is welcome to the distinction and prosperity which is certain to result from such a policy. Should the townsite company declare a dividend of 50½ shares, represented by lots, we opine that it is purely an affair of their own. Personal liability has nothing whatever to do with the case. Again we rise to remark that Bogusburg is simply Bogusburg, and no other town in particular.

Hangman Berry says: "On March 31, 1884, two men were executed at Calton Jail, Edinburg, for shooting three gamekeepers. On the Saturday before their execution the two wives, each with five or six children, paid them a last visit to say 'Good-by.' The wife of one of them was so overcome that she went out of her mind and was taken to a lunatic asylum. There was such frantic crying and calling for 'daddy' that I could not help crying, and the prison warders who were standing about all shed tears." It is also related of a Bogusburg townsite man that he actually wept because he was forced from a deep sense of duty to extort from a poor widow woman her last hard-earned dollar to liquidate an overdue instalment on a lot that had sunk its identity in the howling abyss of Gall River.

Look out for the Bogusburg Bugler next week.

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

Victoria is improving. The attempt to wreck the city with a real estate boom miscarried.

Can a man who has learned to box at the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium be said to be versed in Christian science?

Over 20 traveling theatrical companies have collapsed this year. This is great news for the shoe and leather trade.

Did somebody say John Grant? Quoth the raven when speaking of the late lamented Lenore, "Nevermore," or words to that effect.

Deeming's defence claims that he was born with a mania for murder. The Crown should set up a plea that it was founded with a mania for hanging just such wholesale murderers.

From present indications it seems as if the principal streets of this city will be paved before long. Of course there will be some opposition from a certain set, who oppose any kind of public improvement that will cost them a dollar.

As another argument against Chinese immigration we would direct the attention of the labor agitators to the rumor that Chinamen can be hired to testify in courts of justice on either side at ten cents, or on both sides at fifteen cents. Such competition can only result in ruining a thriving industry.

The present disturbed condition of Paris give rise to the reflection that the anarchists employed on the Victoria sewers might proceed with their nocturnal tunnelings with a little more regard for the comfort and well-being of the virtuous among us who may feel constrained to retire to their couches before the witching hour of night.

We should be sorry, indeed, to learn that the recent unprovoked assault of the elements on the World's Fair buildings, at Chicago, will in any way interfere with the resurrection of the Beaver. If such should happen to be the case, we see no good reason why the San Pedro could not be secured as a fair substitute, providing she has

been removed, in time, from what now seems to be her final resting-place.

"How long would you be willing to wait for me?" she asked, in tones so low he could scarcely catch the words. And then she went on: "You know, George," she said, "that father has recently invested in a Kootenay gold mine, and I cannot leave mother alone. So I ask you again, George, how long would you be willing to wait for me?" "Wait for you, my darling," repeated George with deep emotion, for his was no fleeting love, dear reader; "I will wait for you until we learn how the gold mine pans out."

LITERARY NOTES.

The following new books have been received at this office:

"Joseph's Coat," by Tom Keith.
"Awaiting the Verdict," by John Grant.

"Prison Leaves," by the Messrs. Kennedy.

"The Way to Success," by S. Perry Milla.

"The Day of Judgment," by Sir M. B. Begbie.

"Extradition Made Easy," by Supt. Sheppard.

"Wait Till the Clouds Roll By," by E. M. Johnson.

"The World is Mine," by a Townsite Boomer.

"The Downtrodden Press," by William Templeman.

"A Stray Bullet, or the Lost Clue," by Sergt. Levin.

"A New Way to Pay Old Debts," by Ald. Munn.

"Anticipation, or the Governor's Chair," by Hon. John Robson.

"Lex et Consuetudo Parliamenti," by Hon. Theodore Davie.

"The Law of Libel, or We've Both Been There Before Many a Time," by Hon. D. W. Higgins and W. H. Ellis.

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MONTREAL ST., James Bay—Lot on front, 104 feet, good house, \$2600.

CRAIGFLOWER ROAD—Lot 120x80, small, new house, \$700, corner lot.

SOOKE DISTRICT—117 acres on the water front, close to railway terminus, \$1,200.

CHATHAM ST.—One lot and 7-room house, \$1700. \$500 or \$750 cash, balance in 2 years.

SOUTH TURNER ST., James Bay, next street to one to water, \$1,300.

FRONT ST., Esquimalt Road—12 to 14 trees, \$500.

ESQUIMALT ROAD—Lot 20, by switch of Tram Co's Line, \$700.

JAMES BAY—Lot and two houses, renting at \$25 per month, \$2,800.

One 13-room house, 2 acres of land, all fenced and cultivated, highest part of the city and overlooking everybody, \$13,000.

OAK BAY, on the water side—7-room house and beautifully situated for bathing facilities, this is an absolute bargain, \$1,650.

Four and a half acres in Saanich District for \$13 per month without interest; also farm of 76 acres on Saanich Road.

ROCK BAY—Two beautiful lots, very suitable for a garden.

EDMONTON ROAD—Lot 18, Block 70, good garden soil, \$425.

Hotel to lease, doing a good business, with four acres of land, \$1,700.

Eighty acres of land, all of first-class quality, Saanich, 30 acres absolutely clear and 30 acres nearly so, facing salt water, \$6,500.

EARL STREET—Two 1-acre lots, \$800 each, partly fenced, well situated. Also one acre of land with house and improvements—\$3,200. Terms easy.

BELMOT AVENUE—One lot, beautifully situated, \$600; also one lot, \$550.

FERNWOOD ROAD and Johnson Street—A fine 3-story dwelling containing 8 rooms, closets, hot and cold water, \$3,600.

VICTORIA WEST—A new 5-roomed house on front street, fine, airy situation, \$1,200.

FAIRFIELD ESTATE—Dwelling house, seven rooms, rented at \$14 per month, \$1,300.

LAKE DISTRICT—6 acres partly cleared, situated near tram line, \$2,100.

CONSTANCE COVE—About one acre of land fronting on salt water, \$2,500. \$500 cash.

BEACON HILL—Beautiful house and lot, every convenience, 8 rooms, \$4,200.

PINE ST., Victoria West—Very good lot cleared, \$525.

ALBERNI, B. C.—152 acres of beautiful land, barn, stables and everything complete, capable of being made into a first class home for right party, \$3,200.

POWDERLEY AVENUE—Lot 21 113x118x120, \$525.

VICTORIA WEST—One house to sell, 5-rooms, bath and pantry, hot and cold water laid on all over the house, \$1,500 very easy terms. Two houses to let, \$12 and \$16 per month, respectively.

PINE ST., Victoria West.—Lot 60x150, fenced, cleared, small house (new), water laid on, \$1,200. Very easy terms.

OAK BAY AVENUE—2 lots 60x120, \$500 each.

ALFRED STREET—One lot, 30x175, \$175.

OAK BAY, Water Front—Large lot, 60 feet front on road and about 120 feet on water, \$1,000.

CADBORO BAY ROAD—Lot, 40x120, \$450.

CADBORO BAY ROAD—Two 7-room houses, very easy terms, \$4,200.

CHAMBERS ST., cor. North Park St.—3 lots, \$2,650.

CHATHAM ST., cor. Stanley Avenue—Two beautiful lots, 108x120, \$2,000.

VICTORIA WEST, Powderly Avenue—A fine lot, 60x120, \$325. \$75 cash.

ESQUIMALT DISTRICT—100 acres excellent timber, all good land, no rock, adjoining Public School, \$3,000.

METCHOSIN DISTRICT—102 acres land, 4 acres cleared, 40 acres slashed, two log houses, two rooms each, \$30 per acre.

House of 6 rooms, bath and pantry, \$1,400, \$18 per month.

No WILD CAT schemes, but solid bargains.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Monday evening, the lecture room of the First Presbyterian Church was well filled on the occasion of the concert given by the Y.P.L.S. The tableaux were the feature of the evening, and the able way in which they were presented reflects great credit on the young people. The Glee Club rendered "Beautiful River" in their usual good style. Mr. John Boyd did some Indian club swinging. The instrumental duet—piano and cornet—by Mrs. Hall and Mr. Sinclair, was well rendered. Mrs. Walt recited "The Slave that saved St. Michael's" very well. There was also an instrumental duet by Mrs. Hall and Miss Berridge, trio by the Hall brothers, and a solo by Mr. Watson, all of which formed a pleasing entertainment.

The new Roman Catholic Cathedral could scarcely have held one more, last Wednesday evening, at the entertainment under the auspices of the Young Ladies Institute. Everything in connection with the event was pleasing, more especially the songs, recitations, violin and piccolo solos. The military drill by a company of 27 young ladies, with Miss Sarah McDowell as captain and Miss Goddyn as lieutenant, was gone through with military precision and not a single hitch occurred to mar the pleasing effect. The orchestra from H. M. S. Warspite furnished excellent music on the occasion.

The closing social of the season was held in the Y. M. C. A. rooms last Wednesday evening. A very fair programme was rendered, and the hall was well filled by young people. The feature of the evening was the exhibition by Mr. R. Marwick in mind reading. He did some exceedingly clever work, for an amateur, and found hidden articles to the entire satisfaction of all who witnessed the tests.

Rev. Canon Beanlands has decided to accept the position of secretary to the S.P. C.K., and his legion of friends in this city will regret to hear that he will not return to Victoria. Mrs. Beanlands will shortly leave for England to join her husband.

Messrs. McDonald and Vilber gave a masquerade ball in Omineca Hall, last Monday evening. The silver medal for the prize waltz was won by Mrs. Lisby and Mr. Goff, Sergt. Walker, Mrs. Levy and Mrs. Smith being the judges.

The second annual bazaar in connection with St. Saviour's Church, Victoria West, will be held next Tuesday.

Mr. E. G. Anderson has returned from a visit to California.

Miss Crickmay has returned from the Mainland.

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MONDAY, MAY 2.

HEBREW AMATEUR DRAMATIC COMP'Y

IN

Leah, the Forsaken

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For the benefit of the Hebrew School Fund.

:O:

Prices of admission, \$1.00 and 50 cents. Seats now on sale at Jamieson's bookstore.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

The following letter speaks for itself:—
CHICAGO, Ill., April 21st, 1892.

Manager Victoria Theatre, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir,—I write to inform you that I have just learned through a trustworthy source that a characterless, renowned, inferior and meretricious concern, consisting of eight (8), or at most ten (10), kitchen malodorous darkies, lured by promises made them by a nameless knave, are about to infest your district and give a show under my copyrighted title, using the words "Creole Company." They are said to be aided in this flimsy attempt to injure your business and mine by giving a so-called Creole performance without an act or artist worthy of the name, by a R. R. Co., who will transport their little concern from town to town, and then put a man at the door to secure the R. R. Co.'s money from the first money taken.

This little affair may play in dance halls, but if it gets as far as your town, and bills a Creole Company, it knocks our business, because amusement seekers, instead of being pleased, will become disgusted.

I ask you, therefore, to join me immediately in giving publicity to the fact throughout your district in the newspapers, and by all other legitimate means, that there is but one Creole Company, and that one is Sam. T. Jack's big 50-people organization, and that it is coming on its own train of palace hotel cars, after long runs in first class theatres in New York city, Philadelphia and Chicago.

Publish the fact that a mountebank and scamp, whose proper vocation is throwing three cards, or flim-flamming with a wheel or sweat cloth, is trying to steal your business and mine by false pretences, masquerading in the guise of a manager. Let the public know that I am booked with you, and that Sam. T. Jack's big and only genuine Creole Company will play at

Victoria, July 12th, and bid them wait for the big show.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,
SAM. T. JACK.

Monday evening, May 2nd, promises a treat to the Victoria public, the event being the production of the romantic drama, "Leah, the Forsaken," by the Hebrew amateurs. Elaborate preparations are being made to give this drama a fitting presentation. The scenery, costumes and stage settings will be grand and gorgeous. Miss Maude Howe is a very talented emotional actress, and no doubt her playing will be highly appreciated. Special mention might be made of the chorus from the opera "Queen Esther," which will be sung by a chorus of 20 voices, and also a solo, "Maid of Juds," by Miss Louisa Philo, and the wedding scene, when six small children will act as flower girls. An orchestra of 12 pieces, under the direction of Mr. J. J. Cross, will supply the music. The stage manager and leading man, Mr. Isadore E. Philo, and Miss Maude Howe are endeavoring to give a good production, and they will surely succeed. The proceeds will be donated to the Sir Moses Montefiore School Fund.

The dramatic entertainment given in Victoria West Hall in aid of St. Barnabas Church, was very successful. The farce, "Declined With Thanks," was very creditably given by the following amateurs: Messrs. J. R. Chambers, H. J. Cave, C. Chambers, A. C. Cave and C. Holmes, and Misses Weller, Harris and Nicholson. The rest of the programme was highly enjoyable.

The James Corbett aggregation of pugilistic talent, under the management of Wm. Brady, will appear at the Victoria Theatre, on May 6th, Thursday next. Corbett is touring the country previously to going into training for his battle with Sullivan in September next.

A neat uniform of black and gold has been selected for the Imperial Theatre band, under the direction of Prof. J. J. Cross. The suits are now in the hands of the tailors, and the band will make its first appearance in full regalia next week.

Frank Daniels in "Little Puck," will be at the Victoria for two nights beginning May 9. His company has been highly spoken of all along the line.

The Belmour-Gray Imperial Company were in Golden, B.C., last week, and gave two performances—Hazel Kirke and Fanchon the Cricket.

Eli Perkins holds May 12 at The Victoria.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

Richard (a Pirate chief).....	Mr. C. Rowlands
Samuel (his lieutenant).....	Mr. Martin
Frederick, (a pirate apprentice).....	Mr. White
Major Gen. Stanley.....	Mr. C. A. Lombard
Edward (sergt of police).....	Mr. H. Kent
Mabel.....	Miss M. Heathfield
Kate } daughters {.....	Mrs. Goepel
Edith } of {.....	Miss Pauline
Isabel } Gen. Stanley {.....	Miss Johnson
Ruth, (a piratical maid of all work).....	Miss Wolff

Conductor..... Prof. E. Pferdner
Stage Manager..... Mr. C. Rowlands

In fear and trembling do I usually attend an amateur theatrical performance, although it does not take much of an effort to stay out the ordinary concert. My wife the other morning woke me up in a terrible hurry. I thought the house was on fire, or that baby had got the croup, or perhaps that the gas man had called. But she only told me that the box office for the amateur performance of the Pirates of Penzance opened that morning, and I had better not lose a moment but get right

down town and secure the seats, the very best seats. I was bundled off without any breakfast, filled only with the expectation that I would have to wait my turn at the tail-end of a clamorous line of what is called the public.

In due course we went to the theatre, and found that the amateurs were quite equal to the professionals in one thing, and that was the time they kept the audience waiting for the rise of the curtain. The opera is well known; it has nothing much attaching to it beyond the usual catchiness and lightness that should be a feature of all comic operas. There is a good deal in its construction that will not bear criticism, but then comic opera, like poetry, has a good many licenses. As put on by the Victorians, it was a success. The honor attending that, if any, belongs to Mr. Clement Rowlands, who also sustained the part of the Pirate King with a vigor and manliness very becoming the part. The male chorus was excellent, the ladies a little lacking in strength, musicalness and spirit. There was not what may be called a really good voice in the ladies' chorus, and if there was it was not brought forward. Miss F. Pauline was in reality the star of the evening, although given only a minor part. She was at home, lively and entertaining; but her voice was weak, although sweet, and at first she was inclined to be a little nervous. Miss Heathfield, as Mabel, was a success so far as the acting of her part went, but her voice is not adapted to stage singing. I have heard her frequently in concert, and she is very acceptable. Her presence is pleasing, her musical knowledge and, so far as her capabilities go, her execution is good, but then if a person has not the natural qualification of a good voice, backed up by good lung power, all the taste in the world will not make him or her a good singer. Miss Heathfield has all the spirit necessary, all the vim, all the happiness of nature, all the will and spirit of captivation, but providence has afflicted her with an indifferent intonation, an imperfect enunciation, both insurmountable obstacles to public singing in general and operatic singing in particular. She was very poorly supported, too, by Mr. White, in the role of the Pirate Prentice. She had to work hard to prevent both her own and his part falling flat through his want of activity and life, and credit must be given her for the amount of success she had in the effort. Mr. White was the typical amateur; loggish, spiritless and automaton-like. His voice is gone, and he was out of place in trying to act the part of a boy at 21, fresh, innocent of the world and women, a flower of the sea, so to speak. His love scene with Mabel was indifferently acted to a degree of sleepiness. He tried to wake up on one or two occasions but the effort was only temporary, and at one time made a bad blunder. Mr. Rowlands was a rattling good Pirate King. Bluff, hearty, jolly, rollicking, with all the natural qualities for such a life, he threw himself into the part with a lifelike naturalness. His superb voice, too, lent presence and power to his acting. I have never heard that solo and chorus of the "Pirate King" better or more manfully rendered. Mr. Lombard, as the Major General, was very entertaining, and nearly funny. He was in love with the part, and did it remarkably well. Mr. Kent made a good sergeant of police, a little inclined to overdo it, but better too much conscientiousness than too little. His singing was not up to his usual, but then to the ordinary vocalist, it is always difficult to sing and move about as required by acting. The police force was comical to a degree, and, at the risk of being invidious, I would say that Mr. Rhodes should have had a more prominent part. We hope, however, to see him shine in the Mikado which I understand is shortly to be produced under the able managership of Mr. Clement Rowlands.

Taken all in all, the Pirates was a great success, and those who worked to the end deserve all the commendation that can be given them.

THE BYSTANDER.

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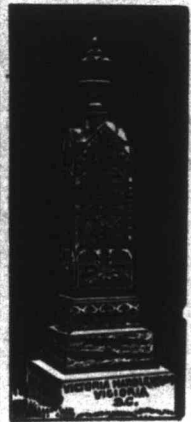
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