

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

VOL. II., No. 52.

VICTORIA, B. C., OCTOBER 7, 1893.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM

TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

THERE is a period in the affairs of cities as well as men when a turn is taken for either better or worse. Victoria has evidently reached this point, and the turn is seemingly for the better, as has been shown in the election of Mr. D. R. Harris to a seat at the aldermanic board. It is a good omen, not merely his election, but the circumstances surrounding it. He was nominated by Mr. Robert Ward and Mr. George Byrnes, solid men both of them, and, as birds of a feather flock together, Mr. Harris is without doubt worthy of his nominators. Now this is as it should be; the men most heavily interested should be the most active, and it is to be hoped that this is but the beginning of a new era, when ignorance and business incapacity will be things of the past in the city council of Victoria. Let the good work proceed. Let these business men, with business ability and intelligence, who have made this initial move, not allow the thing to end there. We want men of their calibre to help the city out of the maze of difficulties and blunders into which it has been plunged the last two years.

Mr. Harris' election shows, too, that the intelligent portion of the community is waking up to the real state of affairs, and that they have seen the awful mistake they made in allowing such men as compose the present council to be elected at all. The fact of the matter was that there was comparatively no vote cast against these men. The better class of

people were disgusted and did not vote, consequently these men got in. This is where the mistake lay, and it is doubtful if the present state of affairs is not more particularly attributable to this lack of interest than to the blundering capacity of the men elected. It is scarcely right, therefore, to place all the blame on the present board; rather blame the people who so far forgot their duty to themselves as citizens and to the city generally as not to have the energy to come out and pronounce against a lot of incapable men as piring to manage the affairs of the city. If this thing is allowed to proceed, we shall ere long be worse off than contractor and boss governed New York.

Cholera is by no means stamped out, as the despatches daily inform us. It is lurking at our doors, waiting, as it were, for the slightest chance to slip in. In this regard, it is regrettable, if not reprehensible, that our quarantine arrangements are very deficient. I was out at Albert Head the other day, when I took the opportunity of looking over the place, and came to the conclusion even from a very cursory examination, that the means for fighting either cholera or smallpox are anything but complete. There may have been all the appliances required by medical science, but I failed to see them. If report be true, the same state of things also exists at Quebec. Should the disease ever gain an entry, there will be a terrible lesson taught these men in authority who wilfully jeopardize public life in this way.

Lovers, as well as players, of lacrosse, particularly the latter, would do well to read an interview

with Dr. Beers, of Montreal, reproduced from the Montreal *Witness* in Thursday's *Colonist*. This father of Canada's national game speaks very plainly of the low brutality into which lacrosse has fallen, and the necessity of reinstating it in its proper place as a game of science, skill and endurance. The laws of the game are all right, if they were acted up to. What is wanted is for the players to understand them better. "There is," he says, "no danger of the dash and vim of the game disappearing if we enforce the laws which exist, but there is every danger of its respectability disappearing if we permit the licence to rough play which has characterized many of our best matches of late years."

A case has arisen in the Behring sea question which may or may not have some significance as bearing on the recent regulations. It seems that an American schooner was discovered within the sixty mile radius by a Russian gun boat, which hailed the schooner. The latter ran up the stars and stripes, but the Bear did not seem to believe the statement true, and accordingly boarded the Yankee with a demand for the schooner's papers. These were produced and were promptly confiscated, the master of the vessel being ordered to "get out" immediately. Of course this may be all explained away by the proper authorities, but it will nevertheless be interesting to watch the outcome, as determining what will really be the course of the United States government in the regulation of the seal fisheries consequently upon the result of the arbitration, the benefits of which the sealers are still looking for.

It would seem as if British Columbia were some plague stricken spot from the manner in which it is treated by Dominion ministers and officials. They come along once in a while, but are always in a terrific hurry. Business at Ottawa requires their attention, or they have to catch a steamer for some place, so that they have not more than twenty minutes to stay. The consequence is that they come in here, say to Victoria, on the evening boat and generally go away on the following morning, just as though they feared to face daylight here, and go back to Ottawa where they puff themselves out talking utter nonsense about British Columbia, its people and affairs. The people feel this treatment keenly, for as a rule these men who are in such a rush, invariably go back and idle away weeks in Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto, or salmon fishing down in Quebec. This course of conduct is by no means fair to British Columbia, and it is to be hoped that ministers Foster and Angers will see their way to coming down from their exalted position and chat comfortably and freely with the people who have assisted in giving them that position by electing supporters of their government. It was a noticeable fact that Hon. Mr. Daly rushed through here just as fast as he decently could, but had time to stop at Brandon and promise all sorts of things in the way of Government favors.

In this connection it might be remarked that there is no reason why this province should not be represented in the cabinet. Quebec or Ontario could spare one of its ministers for the Pacific province; Pacific both by name and nature, for if any other portion of the Dominion had been so persistently neglected and overlooked, there would have been a prodigious kick entered. It is not fair the way British Columbia has been shunted and side tracked for

years, till last session its members woke up mildly and a few of the crumbs were thrown our way. A man is not sent to parliament to support any government; this country is not run by political bosses. A man is sent there to represent the people who elect him, and if he finds that the government he supports neglects the interests of his constituents he should come flat-footed out about it and let himself be heard where his voice has the loudest sound and the greatest effect, and that is in the division. Threats of resignation and remonstrance are no use; action is the only thing, and until this is realized by her members, British Columbia will be overlooked. Resignation is defaulting from the trust imposed by the people, and is mistaken honor; the member's duty is to vote in his constituents' interests, whether for or against the government

How the world moves these times, or is it that we are becoming more liberal minded. I remember the time, not many years ago, either, when the prince of musical instruments, the organ, was a thing unthought of in a church other than the Episcopalian or Roman Catholic. A dance was an abomination in the sight of these good people, and going to the theatre was an immorality not to be condoned. What is the case now, though? We were accustomed to glorify the Creator in the Roman Catholic church amid the melodies of Mendelssohn, the divine music of Haydn or the glories of Mozart, and we thanked Him that there men who could make sound so beautiful. The Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and even the Episcopalians looked upon all this as "operatic" and ungodly; they held up their spotless hands in holy horror at such rank blasphemy. But what is the case now with their great choirs and anthems sung to the

music of the leading masters? Indeed, I often go to any one of these churches simply for the pleasure of listening to the anthem by the choir, or some offertory solo. And why should this not be so?—for what is there that will more strongly awake the dormant devotional spirit than grand music grandly rendered.

But there has been a much greater advance than the introduction of classical music in church services of late, and two of them are the church concert and the "social," at the former of which all kinds of secular music are indulged in, and is often a first class and well gotten up affair. The social, however, is more free and easy. Songs and other items are given for the entertainment of those present, and "refreshments" are handed round; in fact it is a sort of indoor picnic. The social has undergone considerable evolution; there is the raspberry, the strawberry, the ice cream and so on; there is even the water melon social. Now comes the wax "figger" show, a sort of mild imitation of that popular and estimable lady Mrs. Jarley, which came off the other evening at one of the city churches. At the same time, in another religious circle, the members were indulging in a "regular plantation" social. It would not be at all surprising to next hear the announcement from the pulpit of the first social dance to be given in the school room by the Ladies' Aid (R. S. V. P. evening dress), dance music by the choir; all are welcome; proceeds in aid of the church debt. There is nothing improper in these socials, on the contrary, they bring both young and old together, enlarge the sympathies, liberalize the mind and generally improve the character. A young man or young woman could not spend an evening more profitably or properly.

It has been suggested, in view of the success of the eastern tour

of the lacrosse team, that the Victoria cricketers be gotten together and a representative team be sent east to meet the exponents of the English national game in Eastern Canada. The idea is a good one, for no doubt there are some good players here, men fit to meet those of Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal. As a general rule, the members of the cricket clubs are in better circumstances than the lacrosse boys, and there is no reason why a tour should not be arranged, so far as money is concerned.

By the time these lines are published, "our boys" will have returned from their victorious tour, and be in receipt of the congratulations and welcomings of their friends, of whom this paper is and has ever been a faithful one. The team is one that any city may well be proud of, as the birthplace of lacrosse has discovered; they have given Victoria a tremendous advertisement; have done more to dispel the muddle in eastern minds between Victoria and Vancouver, and have made a name for the province of British Columbia that no amount of literature could accomplish. Therefore, are the boys welcome home, with three times three and as many tigers.

Chief Sheppard has entered on a purifying crusade of another character, now. The last time it was the houses of disrepute; now it is lotteries and such other matters of chance, the first to become a victim being Mr. Morris, the Government street tobacconist, whose Saturday night "drawings" had become a feature of interest, and which seemed perfectly harmless on the surface. I don't think it was anything more than a bit of business enterprise. Perhaps, now that the good work has commenced, the police will find out the Chinese lotteries which are conducted just as openly as Mr. Morris' drawings were, and are manifestly more illegal. I know young girls and young men, very respectably connected, who spend

their pocket money at these lotteries. There are also the faro and black jack games going every night of the week, which might be found out with a little vigilance, and put a stop to. They are much more harmful than either the drawing or the lottery. If the police cannot locate these little amusements, I can do so for them. This show at being good is all very well, but strike the real evil.

When Mr. Macleod has his new church finally and fully started, he would do well to put over the door "save me from my friends," for his friends, so-called, have proved to be his bitterest enemies. The men whom he, so to speak, fed and clothed and gave shelter to have turned round and bitten him, like the proverbial snake that one takes to one's bosom. Ingratitude, the bitterest of inflictions has been Mr. Macleod's lot. But he is conquering all enemies, and that, too, in an open, honorable fight. Not once has he stooped to the mean lying and cowardly insinuations that have been hurled against him. He was deposed because he had the misfortune to be a little too able a man for the clique who wished to run St. Andrew's; he nailed his colors to the mast and stuck manfully by them. Now, when his brother Christian ministers begin to see that he has the sympathy of the majority, outside of packed meetings, they wish to compromise the matter by sending him over to James Bay. Whether or not his supporters will advise Mr. Macleod to do so, is a matter for them to say, but the very proposition is a victory. It was thought that Mr. Macleod would leave Victoria in indignation at the treatment he received, but his persecutors mistook the man.

There is talk of a movement to unite the Independents and Opposition of the Local Legislature into a regular opposition, and, perhaps, this would have been the proper

course in the beginning. Rumor does not say what is to be done with Mr. Beaven, or what will be his superannuation allowance if he should be retired. In any case, there is a lot of moss on the backs of both the Opposition and the Independents, or the new opposition as the combination will be called, for while they are rusticating at home, Mr. Davie and his colleagues are out making the acquaintance of the people, and every one must admit that the man who fires the first shot always has the best chance. In the Legislature, as in the Victoria City Council, an improvement might be made. Had there been an able energetic leader, there might have been a more healthy opposition, and, consequently, a more enlightened and intelligent legislation in place of some of the bungling enactments that have been passed, causing a considerable portion of each session to be devoted to repealing the mistakes of the previous year. Where opposition is weak in a deliberative body like a legislature, criticism, honest, sober-minded and intelligent criticism, which is the very life of wise legislation, is painfully absent. It is to be hoped that the next election will bring out the best men; men of brains and ability; men who have the country's and not their own paltry interests at heart, and men who will be capable of giving expression to their ideas in intelligible language.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1893.

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

LEGAL lights are burning brightly once again.

IT is hoped that the cold storage question will not get the cold shoulder.

THE ladies of St. John's excelled all previous occasions in the decorations for the harvest festival this year.

"IS ANY one waiting on you?" asked a polite clerk of a timid maiden in the Stanley House, the other day, "Yes, sir," replied the awkward damsel, pointing to the door and indicating a still more bashful youth. "That's him. He's keeping company with me, but he's afraid to come in."

THAT enterprising business man, Mr. A. B. Erskine, has added to his establishment a department especially for ladies, where they can obtain a drink of cool refreshing water or wash their hands while down town shopping. This is the only store at present fitted up with a place where ladies can retire when in town and rearrange their toilets or get rid of the dust of the streets.

AN OPEN LETTER TO "BY-STANDER."

SIR:—Learning from the first page of last week's HOME JOURNAL that "intelligent, honest and well written criticism, couched in "grammatical and courteous language is always received and given full and fair consideration" by the editor, it was with more than ordinary in-

terest that I turned to an article entitled "Arion Club Concert." On reading this, however, I came to the conclusion that the editor had taken a holiday, for in my humble judgment your curiously inconsequent sentences fulfil few indeed of the editorial conditions.

It is by no means easy reading this article of yours; even now I am uncertain as to whether it was the season or the concert which "was an improvement on last year," to instance only one of many obscurities; but I think I have caught enough of your meaning to entitle me to make a few remarks on the subject matter.

It is the very first duty of a critic to inform himself thoroughly of what he proposes to discuss, and if it is a musical performance, it is usual to make some reference in detail to that performance. It seems to me you have neglected both of these essentials, for to the concert itself there are only the vaguest allusions, while on matters of fact you are egregiously in error. For instance, admission was not by invitation, but by tickets issued to members in return for subscriptions in hand paid, therefore, although "the collective individual called the public" may be upon occasion "remarkably mean," your taunt in this case is quite uncalled for.

Again, you have given yourself a great deal of quite unnecessary concern over the fact that in the audience (and elsewhere) there were "vocal celebrities whose presence on the platform would add very considerably to the club's strength." There were, Mr. By-Stander, there were. There were first of all yourself; then there were, amongst others, two gentlemen whom I fancy do not exactly bless you for the unceremonious introduction of their names in your "criticism" of a private club concert which they attended, one as a member and the other as a guest of a member. One of these gentlemen is an esteemed professional singer, who would be out of place

in a purely amateur organization, and the other is for the present, and only for reasons of his own, quite content to be a listener.

After all, of what concern to a critic is the composition of the club. Is it not his duty to take the performance as it is given, and to criticise that, bestowing praise and blame impartially where either is deserved? Is there any attempt at this in your article? If there is I fail to find it. However, one lives and learns. I now know on your authority the awful truth, which I have hitherto only darkly suspected, that in the club "there is not a man capable of taking a tenor solo that could be listened to with any degree of comfort." But even if this were a fact, why press it upon the attention of an unsuspecting public, and the more so when, as no tenor solo was included in the programme, it is a matter of indifference. First class tenor soloists are not to be found growing on every gooseberry bush, Mr. By-Stander, so the fact that the club had not twelve tenor soloists, but only twelve members capable of worthily sustaining the first and second tenor parts, which was all they were there for, need not be deplored in such lugubrious tones.

I do not wish to exhaust your patience, so I will merely note my relief on finding that, in your opinion, "it was by no means an unpleasant performance," and pass on to express my admiration of the generous and chivalrous way in which you have treated the lady who has just come among us, and who must be most favorably impressed by the manner of your welcome. She has "a very ordinary voice" (how delicate the allusion) and her songs "were very much hackneyed." This is really very, very sad, but it is a comforting reflection that most of the good things of this life are more or less hackneyed. In music such works as the "Messiah" and Beethoven's symphonies are hackneyed in your sense of the word,

yet who in his senses would advocate that they be laid on the shelf on that score. If you had devoted your remarks, not so much to the songs but to the manner of their performance, you would have been perfectly within your rights, and whatever might have been your conclusions, they would have been listened to with respect.

In brief, let me say that no reasonable man deprecates honest criticism, rather he courts it, and nothing is so necessary and so salutary in connection with musical performances, but the criticism must be fair, it must be impartial, it must be confined to matters within the province of the critic, and it must not deal with things which do not concern him in the remotest degree. You have the makings of a critic, Mr. By-Stander, but it is evident that like good wine when it is new, you require further development and the lapse of time to arrive at full maturity. If you will come out from behind your *nom de guerre*, I shall be most happy to make your acquaintances. I say acquaintances, because I suspect your personality is plural, although your methods of criticism are undoubtedly singular.

I am, your obedient servant,
WM. GREIG.

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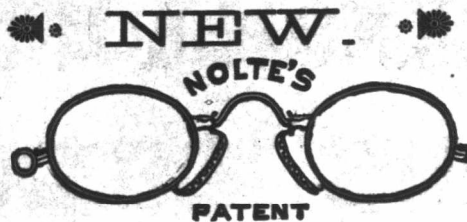
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PERSONAL GOSSIP.

F. Cryderman has returned from a holiday trip east.

Foster Macgurn and family have gone east for the winter.

Miss Leah Phillips returned from the Sound, last Saturday.

Mr. R. T. Elliot returned last week from a holiday trip through the interior.

Miss M. Wallenberg is expected

to leave shortly for San Francisco to visit relatives and friends.

Sir Matthew Begbie, it is learned from a private letter, is rapidly regaining strength and health.

Mr. J. A. Lawrence and family are expected home from England shortly. They crossed the Atlantic on the City of Paris.

Dr. Onequi, life reader, etc., who arrived in this city about a month ago, was united in marriage, this week, to Miss Laura McGregor, of this city.

Mr. Hugh Mackay and Miss M. McLennan were married at Victoria West Wednesday evening, the young couple being liberally and handsomely remembered by their friends.

Mr. A. S. Potts, who for the past two years has been a popular member of the *Colonist* reportorial staff, has resigned his position in order to study law, with which end in view he has decided to return to Toronto.

Mr. J. Fleishman, of Vancouver, Mr. Mose Hamburger and H. Merrimont, of Wellington, Mr. H. Mahrer and Miss A. Mahrer, of Nanaimo, left for their respective homes during the week, after attending the Jewish ball and visiting friends.

A reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hyams, Pandora avenue, on Tuesday evening last, in honor of their friends, Mr. Merrimont and Mr. Mose Hamburger, of Wellington, and Miss A. Mahrer, of Nanaimo. A very pleasant time was spent by all.

An At Home was given last Thursday afternoon, by Mr. F. Landsbery at his bachelor quarters on Pandora avenue in honor of his guests, Miss Dora Fleishman and Miss Olga Walder, both of Vancouver. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by all who attended.

Rev. L. N. Tucker, M. A., assistant to Dean Carmichael, of St.

Georges, Montreal, has accepted the rectorship of Christ Church, Vancouver. In Mr. Tucker, the congregation of Christ Church will have a most estimable pastor, and a sensible earnest man. Although not an extreme low churchman. Mr. Tucker is not by any means ritualistic, and is, in addition to being a good clergyman, a public spirited and progressive citizen.

The Simcha's Thora ball held last Monday evening at the H.L.A. Hall, Blanchard street, was a grand success, socially as well as financially. Some very tasteful costumes were worn by the ladies, who presented a delightful and charming appearance. Mr. F. Landsberg and Miss Dora Fleishman, of Vancouver, led the grand march. The supper, which was served at midnight, was relished by all, the repast consisting of the best of everything that was obtainable. Dancing to music furnished by the Brown & Richardson orchestra was indulged in until the break of morn when the happy people dispersed for their homes.

Lieut.-Col. Scott, collector of customs at Winnipeg, is in the city on a short visit. Col. Scott was one of the most prominent men in Winnipeg in the early days, and represented Winnipeg in the House of Commons from 1875 to 1887. In one of the election contests, he was opposed by Sir Donald A. Smith, who suffered a severe defeat. Col. Scott has had rather an interesting military career. He was captain of one of the companies from Ontario and Quebec in the Wolseley expedition to Old Fort Garry to suppress the Riel rebellion. Two years later, he commanded the second expedition to Fort Garry, on the completion of which he received a very complimentary letter from Col. Wolseley, for the successful manner in which he had conducted the expedition. During the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, Col. Scott commanded one of the provincial battalions organized in Winnipeg at that time.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

The approaching production of the Mikado is in good hands, those of Clement Rowlands, who made such an immense success of the Pirates of Penzance a short time back.

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Victorians will have read with pleasure the announcement that Miss Esther Lyons won her case, with damages and costs, against J. E. Rice, the manager of the late Imperial Stock Co., of this place.

Mr. Clement Rowlands, the well known and popular vocalist, has associated with that talented young violinist, Mr. Ernest Wolff, and the two will open the Victoria School of Music at 63 Government street. Both gentlemen rank high in their respective lines, and will be sure to command public confidence. Mr. Rowlands has taken charge of the Gorge Road Methodist church choir.

By very general request the "Kinderspiel" or Happy Family will be repeated by the children at Victoria West on Tuesday evening next. The little ones acquitted themselves at the first performance most admirably under the leadership of Mr. Moir, Mr. and Miss Semple. The object of the entertainment, in aid of the P. O. Home, is an excellent one, but apart from that the children deserve success from the meritoriousness of their performance.

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Owing to the fact that we are compelled to **REDUCE OUR STOCK** by **THIS AMOUNT**, we shall offer the whole of our new seasonable Stock at cost until we have sold the above amount.

Our **FALL OPENING** and **GREAT REDUCTION SALE** of **NEW**

MILLINERY, MANTLES,
DRESS GOODS, TRIMMINGS,
Etc. Etc. Etc.

Will commence on

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

And following days.

This Sale will only continue until we have reduced our stock by the desired **AMOUNT**.

Remember we are not offering you old, shop-worn goods, but New Season's Stylish Goods at

COST PRICE.

Our Mantles and Millinery surpass by far, both in quality and style, anything we have shown before.

CALL EARLY FOR FIRST CHOICE.

THE STANLEY HOUSE,

55, 57, 59 DOUGLAS ST., COR. FORT ST.

Wm. S. Hampson & Co.