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THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

Vol. II., No. 14.

VICIORIA, B. C., JANUARY 14, 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."

writer in an eastern paper believes A that every woman in her secret heart knows that the theatre is no place for a hat, and the same writer attributes her adherence to this custom to the fear that some one may think her action in removing the objectionable headwear is unfeminine. This hat problem impressed itself forcibly upon my mind Curing the opera season which closed last Thursday night. I attended the performance of Said Pasha, and a woman in front of me wore a hat of such enormous dimensions that it was utterly impossible for those sitting immediately behind her to see the stage. Of course nearly every other lady in the audience wore her hat, but I was pleased to observe that many of them were considerate enough to have the objectionable head-piece reduced to its lowest possible size, consistent, of course, with feminine delicacy. I realize the fact that many women object to removing their hats because the process rumples up their hair. This objection would be removed if every theatre possessed convenient cloak

A gentleman connected with The Victoria informs me that managers generally would do anything if ladies would only take off their hats. They need not feel that full dress is necessary, but simply do as men do, take off their has and keep their other wraps with them if they so desire. What prettier sight is there than a foreign audience, where not a hat is to be seen. For my part, I sincerely hope that the custom will soon be established.

In the past complaints have been numerous as to the inefficiency of the orchestra of the Victoria Theatre. But there are extenuating circumstances in this connection which I would speak of at this time. The principal one is, that Manager Cort is afraid the mashing propensities of certein Victoria females might utterly disorganize any orchestra he could bring to his house. I was amused at the antics of a couple of these female mashers during the engagement of the Calhoun company. The clarionet player, a Minneapolis young man, is something of a masher himself. The two females referred to spotted him early the first night, and for over two hours the air was filled with sighs and invisible kisses, varied with slight movements of the eye, generally spoken of as winking. The last night was a repetition of the first night, with a few additional features. With all these things taken into consider- so bitterly antagonized on election day.

ation, Manager Cort should not be blamed for the rather "ordinary" or-chestra which holds forth at The Victoria.

By the way, I was nearly forgetting to remind my readers that the great "snow under" predicted by THE HOME JOURNAL last week for Mayor Beaven did not materialize. Just now, I could cite fifty five reasons why Mr. Dalby was not elected, but I shall content myself by stating the most important one, viz., he did not get enough votes. Mr. Beaven is a hard man to beat, and no one knows this better than the men who worked so hard against him. Victoria could have a worse mayor than the present incumbent, although it was exceedingly difficult to see the matter in that light last week.

The gentlemen composing the Citizen's Association have no reason to grumble at the result of their work. I am greatly mistaken if the six men elected on that ticket do not make themselves felt during the coming year. Victoria requires men with progressive ideas at the present time, and in Messrs. Miller, Belyea, Munn, McKillican, McTavish and Henderson, I believe such men have been found. The defeat of Mr. McCandless I regret, believing, as I do, that he would have worked hard to advance the interests of Victoria. Altogether, the present city council is a great improvement on the previous one.

There was one thing in connection with the municipal contest, which I must refer to while I am on the subject. A few days previous to the election an emmissary of the Moral Reform Association called on Mr. McCandless and sounded him concerning certain matters, in which the members of the association have interested themselves recently. Mr. McCand-less gave straightforward and manly answers to the questions put to him, but it transpires that on one or two points he was at variance with the society. For this reason they "knifed" him, and to this fact alone the friends of Mr. McCandless attribute his defeat. I do not object to the Moral Reform Association, or any other body of men, for that matter, having a full understanding as what any candidate may work for in case of election, but I do object to asking one man to commit himself and allowing others to go without pledges. Such a policy does not reflect credit on the society from a moral stand-point. Mr. McCandless possesses a reputation that will compare favorably with any man belonging to the Moral Reform Association, and I really believe that very few of its members would be willing to submit their records to as close a scrutiny as would the gentlemen they

The result of the municipal elections proves conclusively that the element in this city in favor of tax reform is by no means inconsiderable. Mr. West came out squarely on a single tax platform, and he polled 191 votes in the North Ward, It is safe to say all who voted for Mr. West were single tax men. During the campaign he created a favorable impression on account of his honest desire to avoid anything that would reflect on the cause he espoused, and no one can blame him for the idiotic actions of one or two of his followers at several of the public

Mr. West not only discussed intelligently the ills borne by tax payers, but, unlike many other reformers, he explained what measures were required to remedy the evil of an unequal and bungling taxing system. His conclusions may be accepted as the result of the mature deliberations of the tax reform party. The primary principle put forth by Mr. West and by all single tax reformers is that it is a palpable injustice to tax a man who improves his property, while the speculative holder of unimproved land is permitted to shoulder a comparatively insignificant burden. This, they claim, and not without reason, is not in keeping with the boasted civilization of the nineteenth century and should be abolished.

So far as taxing unused railroad lands is concerned, I contend that the railroads should be taxed for the large body of unused wild lands they hold, together with the gross earnings tax. The tax reformers demand such taxation together with taxation of land at terminals. and stations. The inclusion of wild, unused land would be sufficient, so long as the tax on gross earnings is levied. Otherwise double taxation will result. Would it not be well to have a government tax commission appointed. The intelligent work of an expert commission would greately enlighten the public, and surely lead to the actualization of needed reforms in taxing methods.

I think it would increase public confidence somewhat in the medical profession of this community if a very good practice followed in many, if not all, big centres, were also adopted here. I refer to the fact that, when a patient enters a public or private hospital, suffering from some complaint which requires such patient to undergo a surgical operation, and when that patient dies during or from the effects of the operation, there should be held an inquest, or independent medical testimony should be given as to the proximate or approximate cause of death. There may be some delicacy on the part of the friends of the person in submitting to any publicity of this kind, but the safety of the public has to be considered, and must not be sacrificed even in the interests of science. Doctors are but human; a knife, lance or scissors may slip in the course of an operation, and the life of a patient is gene in a second. The public do not know what goes on in the seclusion of the operating room, and it would be a wholesome check, as well as strong incentive to the greatest care, if the thought of public enquiry hung over such proceedings.

There is no charge of carelessness advanced against any one in these few remarks, but, in making this statement, I am not at all excusing my expressions. It is a matter that has long engaged my attention, and which I will investigate shortly; but I have always thought it was not proper for the public merely to learn that such and such a person had succumbed from the effects of an operation. The fact of a person dying under or from surgical experiments, for they are nothing else, is not sufficient for the public; and I consider it is not good form on the part of the medical profession that they should permit a patient to be carried from the operating table to the cemetery without some enquiry being made, and the direct cause of death being established. Several cases have occurred within the past year where scarcely forty-eight hours have elapsed between the time of operation and burial. I shall look closely into this subject with a view to throwing more light on it, and I shall be grateful if some medical gentlemen will communicate to me their ideas on the matter.

PERE GRINATOR.

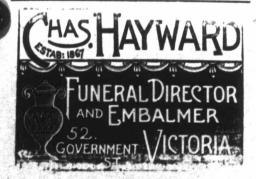
Ex-Chief Justice Lilley to a Sydney newspaper reporter: "I should be prepared even now to accept the responsibility of independence. If Great Britain attempts to interfere with us at any time it will snap the link or break the cord, or whatever else you like to call it. My advice to her is to let well alone. I don't believe that I shall live to see independence."

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KASLO CITY

Situated on the west shore of Kootenay Lake, has unequalled natural advantages, and this city, to-day, has a brighter future before it than was ever predicted for Denver, Col., for there is more rich silver ore in sight in the Kaslo-Slocan district immediately tributary to Kaslo than was ever seen before on any continent or in any country.

ENQUIRE OF

JAMES O'NEILL, 104 YATES STREET.

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PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Mrs. M. H. Cowan left for California Wednesday evening.

G. Leiser and wife will leave for a two months' visit to California to-morrow.

Lieut. Col. Andrew Haggard and Mrs. Haggard returned from Okanagan Wednesday night.

The Grand Annual Ball of the Knights of Pythias, will be held on Friday evening, 27th inst., in the Assembly Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. M. King, of 30 Caledonia Avenue, gave an enjoyable reception to a number of friends, Tuesday evening last.

Miss Lizzie Watkins gave a pleasant party Monday evening, at the home of her uncle Sheriff McMillian, 138 Cormorant street.

Mr. J. G. Brown, the popular Scotch vocalist, has been invited to sing at the Burns' Anniversary concert on the 25th inst., at Vancouver.

The Sunday school teachers, and choir of the First Presbyterian church, Pandora Avenue, held a very enjoyable converzaione in the school room, Wednesday evening. The evening was a musical success, and refreshments were served.

The Y. M. C. A. will give a reception to the Christian Endeavor Societies, Epworth Leagues, and all Y. P. Societies of Protestant churches of the city, on Wednesday evening, 25th inst. All of the Societies have been invited and a large attendance is expected.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smith, Hillside Avenue, was surprised by about forty young people last evening. The evening was spent in a pleasant manner. The company were entertained by music, games and dancing, which continued until a late hour.

Mr. Wm. A. Murray, who has been for some time past been acting manager of the Victoria branch of the Bank of British Columbia, went to Vancouver, Monday evening, to take the management of the branch in that city. During his stay in Victoria, Mr. Murray has made many friends with whom he had to transact business.

An effort is being made to organize a cance club in this city. A meeting with this object in view was held last evening, and everything points to an early realization of the desire to form such a club. In this connection, it might be mentioned that the favorite Peterboro canoe can now be purchased on the instalment plan from Messrs. Page & Winnett, 18 Trounce Avenue. The superiority of the Peterboro cance has long been acknowledged, and the easy terms on which they are now offered will no doubt result in the certain organization of a canoe club. It might further

be mentioned that several sailing cances have already been ordered from this firm.

The Burns Anniversary concert, on Tuesday evening, 24th inst., in the schoolroom of the First Presbyterian Church, promises to be a rich treat to all lovers of Scotch music Mr. J. G. Brown has charge of the programme, which contains the names of most Scottish singers in the city. Mesers. Grant, Kinnaird and Brown will contribute in character and costume representing a scene common in Scotland a century ago the trio, "Willie Brew'd a Peck o' Malt." Miss O'Neill and Mr. Brown will sing the duett "Come Under My Plaidie." The following well known soloists will contribute: Madame Laird, Miss O'Neill and Messrs. Brown, Kinnaird, Watson and Grant. Mrs. John Cochrane and Mr. E. H. Russell will favor with instrumental selections. The concerts given by the First Church choir are always popular, and on the evening of the 24th the hall is sure to be crowded by those eager for a treat of the good old Scotch

The Gold Cure is, without doubt, the most marvelous discovery of the age, and the world is beginning to realize this fact. That the remedy is no experiment is beyond dispute. It is restoring victims to their families and to the world day by day. Wives and mothers are beginning to realize the difference between a cheerless fireside and that over which a redeemed, sober father, husband and son preside. The baneful habit once shaken off, the patient goes out into the world to make it the better for his living in it. The very smell of the noxious drugs are distasteful to him, and his debauchery and the shame and sorrow of over-indulgence are but memories of the past. He enters a brighter world, filled with sunshine, happiness end contentment.

Brownlee's Map.

Withold your patronage pending the publication of Brownlee's New Commercial Map of British Columbia. Size 34 x 45 inches; colored; indexed up to date. Mounted ready for use. Price, \$3.50. A home production, carefully compiled and complete.

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FATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1802.

NOTICE.

Owing to unusual pressure on our advertising columns, we are compelled to hold over a large quantity of reading matter.

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

LET us have peace.

It is Ald. Miller now, if any one should ask you.

COUNT PETER ROMANOFF fought a duel with an American. The undertakerski has carried Romanoff.

WHEN Adam was 1 year old he was the smartest baby in Asia. If he had not dealt in ribs he would have been all right.

THE report circulated by THE HOME JOURNAL last week to the effect that Mayor Beaven was sure of being defeated was caused by a "typographical error."

"ETIQUETTE wishes to ask "what to do with one's overshoes when invited out to dinner." Put them beside your platedear boy, so thieves can not break through and steal.

THE RICHEST ACTRESS.

I saw on the street the other day that marvellous little woman, Charlotte Crab tree, known professionally as Lotta. She is resting this season. Her permanent residence is at Lake Hopatcong, and her home there is a marvel of elegance. She comes to town to visit her friend, Mrs. Doremus. Lotta must be somewhere near forty eight years of age. She was a bright little dramatic star in California before the war. Barring a few wrinkles about her eyes, which are only revealed on close inspection, she looks as fresh as she did twenty years ago. She is just as vivacious and fully as magnetic.

Lotta is not given to boasting about her wealth. She told an intimate friend not long ago that her fortune was not less than \$2,500,000. This makes her the richest actress, undoubtedly in the world. She owns several apartment houses in this city, the Park Theatre in Boston, and real estate in nearly every large city in the country. Her mother, who manages all her affairs, is a woman of great business sagacity. She has an eye open for a bargain always. Lotta, who is



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absolutely devoted to the old lady, says that but for her great tact and judgment she would not to day be worth \$5,000. It is not at all likely that Lotta will do much more stage work, though she says that her profits last season were as great as they have been of late years. In other words, her drawing capacity is still good.

Lotta is domestic in her tastes. She cares little for social life in a gay sense. She is religiously inclined. She is a bright conversationalist and can tell good stories. Her favorite jewel is the turqueise I saw her one night at a little dinner given to BillylFlorence in the St. James Hotel, when she must have had \$10,000 worth of these gems on her person. She gathers them from all parts of the world. Lotta has had several narrow escapes from matrimony, but there is little probability now that she

THE VICTORIA

HOME JOURNAL,

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had \$10,000 worth of these gems on her person. She gathers them from all parts of the world. Lotta has had several ago, and her attachment to her mother harrow escapes from matrimony, but there is little probability now that she affections to tray again.—Chicago Tribune.

WEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

The estimated wealth of the United States, that is, the value of all lands, buildings, railways, etc., is put at \$64,-000,000,000. The amount of money of all kinds is estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury to be \$2,108,180,092, and this volume of currency is found amply sufficient to transact all the business of the country. No individual thinks it necessary to have in the bank or in his pocket a sum of money equal to the value of his farm or store; he is content that part of his wealth should be in other form than money. There is no fixed limit to the issue or coinage of money, except such as Congress may determine. That body fixed a limit for the issue of United States notes some years ago, but has since then violated the act in spirit, if not in letter, by largely inflating the paper currency by means of the silver certificates and the treasury notes of 1890. It is certainly true that if the government were required to redeem every silver dollar with a dollar in gold (which it may, indeed, be regarded as virtually pledged to do), it would have no profit in the coinage of silver. In fact, however, very few, if any, of these dollars come back to it to redeemed. Should they be brought back thus in any large numbers, it would be only a short time before the treasury would be obliged to suspend gold payments altogether.

INDIAN MAGNIFICENCE.

Years ago, when Ismail Pasha ruled Egypt, Messrs. Phillipson, coach builders, Newcastle-on Tyne, built for His Highness some gorgeous railway carriages, brilliant with arabesques and harmonious color, to run on the line which, before the days of the Suez Canal, connected the Mediter-ranean with the Red Sea shore. Luxurious as these carriages were, the three magnificent saloon carriages now being re-erected in Bombay go far beyond them in the arrangements for ministering to the comfort of Indian princes who will journey in them by rail. These carriages were built in England, and were sent out to Bombay in sections. The length of each is sixty-three feet, and the width nearly ten and one-half feet. The outside color is cream and gold. The roofs are double, with an air space between, and sun shades are placed along the whole length of the sides, such protection from the sun's rays being indispensable in the climate of India.

Provision is made for lowering the temperature by inserting an ice tray in the floor of the carriages, over which is placed an ornamental grid. The first of the carriages is a ladies' saloon divided into dining, drawing and bedrooms, and provided with bath room, lavatories and servants' quarters. The saloon and bedroom are upholstered in blue silk and old gold.

Conspicuous in the bedroom is a highly ornamented brass bedstead and an elaborately carved dressing table. The two other carriages are for gentlemen, with some modifications, and are quite as The saloon of one carriage s uphoistered



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Winnett, 18 Trounce Ave.

in dark blue Russian leather and old gold, that of the other in green and old gold silk. Each saloon is fitted with bronzed grate and tiled hearth and carved walnut chimney piece and overmantel, and coal fires can be burned. Heavy silk and plush curtains hang over all the doors, and the decorations throughout are of Oriental magnificence.

THE GLOVE.

Though a glove is one of the small articles of attire, it ranks with the most important and among the oldest mentioned in history, as we read of the ancient Hebrews and Persians wearing gloves when engaged in manual labor, and in the Anglo Saxon writings, gloves are mentioned as early as the seventh century. St. Anne is known as the patron saint of glovers, and in some of the old world pictures of this saint she is represented as knitting a glove.

Butler, in his "Lives of the Saints." relates a miracle in which Saint Gudula and gloves figure. The ancient Romans wore gloves when they feasted, in order to keep their hands clean, as this was a time when forks were unknown. Greece and Rome for many years in the early centuries only high ecclesiastics wore gloves, as one mark of official dignity. The Norse of glove is glauf; the Saxon, glof; the Belgic, gheloare; and in some parts of Germany it is still called handschuh (hand shoe). Peets have not dis-dained to sing its praises, and painters consider a glove in many cases a valuable accessory to the finish of a painting.

In these latter days, so devoid of romance, a glove represents a practical and dainty covering for the hands to protect them from cold, sunburn and injury, or to add a finishing touch to an otherwise complete toilette. In bygone days, gloves formed a gift between faithful lovers, hence the expression gage d'amour. They have also figured in battle, as to elaborate in furnishing and decoration. throw a glove at the feet of an enemy was a defiance to fight until the best man won. mercial Journal.

QUARANTINE AND HOSPITAL.

We are well satisfied that the Board of Trade, at its last meeting, took up the questions of quarantine and marine hospital accommodations and adopted cogent resolutions with respect to them. Time and again have there been denunciations of the existing condition of things which ought to have had some effect; but the deafness and obtuseness of the Deputy Minister of Marine, Mr. William Smithwhom even his subordinates think so little of as to speak of as "Billy"have prevented any action being taken. Mr. Prior, too, has had sufficient courage to talk out against Mr. Smith who belongs to an age when the people were well satisfled with supplies of rain water for their sick, with fish of their own taking to live upon and with driftwood-saturated with water and salt-as their fuel. Moreover, this same Mr. Smith has ideas regarding the value of money and its purchasing power that are a long way off, otherwise he would not hold that \$40 per month was a munificent salary for a hospital caretaker and his wife, who have not only to find themselves but to run all the risks that are inseparable from the care of the sick.

Then as to the quarantine station and marine hospitals themselves, it is notorious that they possess no accommodations worth calling such and this although British Columbians and the seamen who come here pay more money per head into the treasury than those of any part of Canada. The resolutions of urgency for increased and improved facilities at both the institutions of which we speak are in the right direction; but they do not go far enough-for instance one of them should demand, and that without delay, the immediate chopping off of the head of the Deputy Minister of Marine and such of the officials as belong to the same category as that to which he appertains. We want men of progress at Ottawa as well as elsewhere. - B. C. Com.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

ATELY, says a Vienna correspondent, the good natured Queen of Saxony, who dotes upon little children-she has never had any of her own-was walking in the park at Dresden, where she is well known. Meeting a nurse in charge of two little children she stopped to admire the rosy babies. The following dialogue was then heard:

The Queen-"They are twins, are they not?"

Nurse--" Yes, please your Majesty." "I suppose their papa is very proud of them?"

"This little boy's papa ie, but that little boy's papa died a month ago."

"But I thought you said they were twins?"

"Your Majesty said they were, and I don't think it right to contradict the Queen."

"My dear," said a Mormon wite to her husbard, "I think that you should be ashamed of yourself, flirting as you did with Miss B. in church to-day."

"Firting with her," he replied, in astonishment: "Why, we've been engaged the last three months. It's all over the town."

"Oh, I beg pardon," answered his wife, indifferently: "if you are regularly engaged, I suppose it's all right. When does the happy event take place?"

One stormy night, 18 years ago, so runs the story, a young girl, living in the town of B--, expressed her determination to attend a "pound" party at a neighbor's house. But her parents said her nay. She, however, persisted in her determination, and finally her father said, "you are no longer a child mine if you go." She She never returned home. Years rolled by and naught was heard from her. A tew weeks ago a hack drove up to the house where she had spent her youth, and the brokenhearted father—for he had long repented of his harshness-saw with joy his missing child.

"Father," she said in sebbing accents, "father, I've been gone a long time, but I've come home to stay with you and be a faithful daughter hereafter." The old man said nothing, but the glad light that beamed from his

he gave her told her she was forgiven. And then she turned toward the hack and said "Come." And lo! six children got out and came, "These are all mine, too, father," she said, "and how happy we will all be together." And the old man sat down on the steps and sobbed like a child.

The young women of England are taking up physical culture with an enthusiasm which will carry them far ahead of their American sisters if the latter do not look to their laurels. Recently the pupils of the Young Women's Christian Institute connected with the Polytechnic gave a remarkable gymnastic performance. Fencing, vaulting horses, figure-marching and other evolutions were gone through with much energy and skill to the accompaniment of a full brass band. The pupils of the Regent Street Institute for Young Men looked on and were much impressed.

The glad tidings come over the sea that Queen Victoria is making great progress in her Hindustani studies. Further proof of this is furnished in a recent issue of the Strand Magazine, where two pages of Her Majesty's Diary are given as copied by herself expressly for the article. The article itself, by the way, is written by an eminent Indian scholar, Moulvie Raffiuddin Ahmad, whose enthusiasm over the acquirements of his sovereign is very naive. Everybody, however, will agree with him in considering it interesting that the Queen at her age should have shown her ability to "master a new language entirely alien to the people of Europe, acquaint herself with the philosophy of the East. read the sentiments of her Eastern subjects in their vernacular, and keep a daily account of her work in her new language."

minds herself of social and other engagements by writing them out on a postal card and mailing it to herself twenty-four hours in advance. She notes intelligible to nobody else, and as a result of her unique plan she never fails to meet her appointment.

"Mrs. Noble, of Washington," re-

not to say furious, advocacy of temperance principles is well-known, is herself the owner of four een-public houles. Lady Henry is accused by one writer of being "void of conscientiousness and morality to her cause" because she is alleged to have utilized the proceeds of the sale of "that cursed drink" to defray the expenses of her tour as an itinerant denouncer of alcohol.

JERUSALEM MODERNIZED.

"T ERUSALEM, the railroad center of Palestine."

The words have an unnatural sound to most people, as with the mention of Jerusalem and Palestine is generally associated some fact of sacred history or the events of the crusades in the Middle Ages.

But since Baron Rothchild has begun to carry out his gigantic colonization schemes Palestine has experienced an awakening, the Holy City has found itself moved by the mighty machine of progress and the destiny once predicted for Jerusalem by Napoleon seems not impossible of accomplishment. The Corsican's prediction was that Jerusalem would one day be the capital of the world. The last few months have worked a great change in the city so long regarded as having few attractions beyond its religious and historical associations.

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A letter just received from Mrs. A. E. Davis, a woman missionary who has spent II years of her life in Jerusalem, gives a striking picture of the changes now under way.

"Palestine," says the writer, under date of Aug. 16, "will soon assume an appearance truly European. Its principal cities are fast being connected by modern railroads, and before long the toot of the American locomutive whistle, so familiar to your readers' ears and yet no novel to the native Syrian, will be heard every hour in Jerusalem, which will be the railroad centre.

"Our Joppa railway is about finished, has invented a system af abbreviated connecting us directly with the Mediterranean coast. A branch line is contemplated to Halfa and one to Jordan. The passenger depot has just been completed. To look at it one would hardly realize that he is still The English newspapers say that in Jerusalem-it is so thoroughly eyes and the warmth of his embrace Lady Henry Somerset, whose ardent, modern. The freight house is in

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course of crection. In seven days gained control of the land by paying from now the first train will be run what he calls 'hand money' to the from Joppa and we are arranging for a owner of the plain of Esdraelon. By celebration of the event, which is of no this he has bound himself never to sell small import to us.

"The Akka-Damascus railway is progressing rapidly. Startling at the great fortress of Acre it will run down the plain of Acre along the coast of the Mediterranean and branch out to Halta. Thence across the famed plain of Esdraelon, with the hills of Galiles to the north, and passing near Nazareth the road reaches the Jordan by way of Shunem or Jezreel. At this point the banks of the Jordon are of solid rock, and in the center of the st eam stands a natural pier of the same material.

" From this pier east and west will be erected suspension spans, connecting the west bank of the river with the slopes of the Jordan plateau on the east. The road will extend from the Jordan over the slope of this plateau and along the crest overlooking and inclosing the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Reaching the plateau proper near El'all and thence north to Damascus direct it passes through the most fertile and beautiful plains of Palestine.

"An English company has mapped out a road to connect Damascus on the north with Gaza in the extreme southwestern portion of Palestine, in the plain of Philistia. The distance is almost two hundred miles.

"It will be seen that ere long our little country will be covered with a network of railways. In the last few months, a wonderful change has been wrought in the city of Jerusalem. Several hundred new buildings have been erected, including residences, shops, hotels and hospitals. The old residents are all surprised and know not what to think of it, because there does not seem business enough to warrant all this expense.

"The reason for this outlay and building activity is to be found in Baron Rothschild's purchase lately of a large tract of land, comprising some thousands of acres east of the River Tordan and near the Damascus railway. This year he will send 1,000 Tewish families to the tract. Acre he has also purchased a large tract on which will be located three large colonies.

the plain to any one but Jews. At present the Turkish government refuses to allow the Jews a deed to the plain. However, it is expected the government's consent will soon be gained to the transaction. It is only recently that the restrictions preventing the Jews coming to Palestine have been removed.

"A number of his colonists will be located in the houses being built for them in this city. A Mr. Scheick has been given the contract to build houses along the line of the Joppa road for some miles. A large institution is under construction which will be dedicated for the use of the Jews having no one to care for th m. Houses for the accommodation of 100 families will be built on the Bethlehem road, near the depot."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

SEATTLE paper has the following to say concerning Siberia, which will be produced in this city for the first three nights of next week: "Mr. Bert Coote, to whose painstaking supervision such satisfactory results were produced from practically raw material, deserves more than passing mention for his work. The special teatures introduced in the third act won plaudits from all parts of the house. These included the ballet evolutions just referred to, the extremely graceful serpentine dance by Miss Julie Kingsley, the laughable appearance of Mr. Coote as the manipulator of the Ca mencita skirt and the clever feats of Miss Laura Ashby. Miss Kingsley is known all over the country for her proficiency in this pecufiar skirt gyration, and she certainly has no cause to feel dissatisfied with her reception last night. Miss Ashby performed several difficult balancing feats dextrously and cleverly and did some wonderful juggling tricks. Mr. Coote's Carmencita dance convulsed the house. enaction was all that could be desired and every part was presented with greater or less merit. Mr Osborne portrayed Nicholai Neigoff, a lover of the people, with much force, and Frank Jamison made an Mr. accomplished villain as Sparta. Miss "About three weeks ago, the baron alice Sheppard was a beautiful figure attraction at The Victoria."

as Sara and her personation showed both art and skill. Miss Julie Kingsley rendered the pathetic scenes in which Marie appears distracted with considerable power, and was warmly applauded. Peter Trolsky, the dispenser of samovar, was crisply presented by Mr. Coote, who amused the audience by the rendition of his lines as well as by his ludicrous make up and appearance. His scenes with Vers, a part cleverly rendered by Miss Bertie May, provoked much merriment. Mr. Thomas Quinn represent. ed the Governor-General with true official dignity and Mr. Walter Hale depicted the crafty, dissolute Jaracoff very creditably. Mr. Lipman sustained the part of Ivan with good taste as did Mr. J. A. Nunn the character of the landlord."

The Calhoun Opera Company gave general satisfection during their three nights' engagement in this city. 'This organization did not "blow their born" quite so much as the Duff company, vet they gave a more pleasing and more artistic performance. The Calhouns can rest assured that they will be well received if they ever again visit Victoria.

E A. McD well is still confined in the Bloomingdale asylum and is hopelessly insane. Mrs. McDowell is now travelling with a company headed by E. D. Lyons. The fate of her husband has caused the poor lady greaf sufferirg, which is said to have told on her greatly.

Fred Bryton is now said to have lost his voice completely. During the month he played with the Rankin party he was hardly able to speak above a whisper. Excessive smoking is largely the cause attributed for his loss of voice.

U and I, with John T. Kelly in the cast, is underlined for an early production at The Victoria.

The Calhoun company played to over \$1600 in the three nights.

Katie Putnam will be seen at The Victoria in the near future.

Schilling's minstrels will be an early

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