

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

VOL. II., No. 49.

VICTORIA, B. C., SEPTEMBER 16, 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."*

WHEN Rev. P. McF. Macleod announced from the pulpit of the old Methodist Church last Sunday evening that the efforts of certain members of his former congregation to drive him from the city had proved unavailing, he was greeted with applause, subdued and respectful, but applause nevertheless. The fact is, the opponents of the rev. gentleman have been altogether too assiduous in their endeavors to drive him out of the house dedicated to the worship of God, and the result is, they have defeated their own ends and made a martyr of Mr. Macleod. Many who formerly took very little, if any, interest in the church war, are now enrolling under the standard of the deposed pastor of St. Andrew's; and a new congregation has been formed, which bids fair in time to become one of the largest in the city. It will surprise many to learn that already 142 names are on the roll of the new congregation, and every day adds to the number.

The latest development in the prolonged strife is that Mr. Macleod has been summoned to appear before a meeting of the Presbytery, to be held Thursday next at the First Presbyterian Church, to explain why he still continues preaching, presumably without authority from the congregation of St. Andrew's. It is stated that the rev. gentleman received a letter signed by three members of the Presbytery, warning him not to preach last Sunday, under penalty of the displeas-

ure of the Presbytery. Mr. Macleod, on receipt of the notification, called a meeting of the committee who have charge of the new church and laid the matter before them. They regarded the note in the light of an attempted intimidation and unanimously decided to continue the meeting in spite of persecution, no matter from what quarter it might emanate. Of course no other issues than the one for which the meeting has been called can be discussed. A committee has also been appointed to represent the petitioners at the next meeting of the Presbytery to deal with the matter of organization.

From the above it will be concluded that Mr. Macleod's new friends are as determined that he shall remain here as are his enemies that he shall depart from our midst. Judging by the phenomenal growth of the new congregation it looks as if many members of St. Andrew's were following the advice of the elders who at the last meeting of the Presbytery hinted that any one in the church who was dissatisfied with the manner in which its affairs were conducted could "get out."

There has been considerable discussion of late concerning the attempt of certain Episcopalian clergymen to introduce the confessional in that church, and it may interest many to learn that Chief Justice Sir Frederick Jeune, of the London Court of Probate and Divorce, recently compelled the minister of a high Church branch of the Church of England to reveal on the witness stand the secrets confided to him by a penitent in the confessional.

I believe that it is not customary for the law to compel a priest of the Catholic Church to divulge the secrets of the confessional, and therefore the action of the Chief Justice in forcing the clergyman of the High Church to do so, will no doubt call forth comment from many quarters.

A learned priest of the Catholic Church believes that the decision of Judge Jeune rests on the fact that the Church of England—the State Church—does not recognize the Sacrament of Penance, and hence that the secrets confessed in a ritualistic confessional do not come under the sacramental seal; that the clergyman in receiving such a confession acts unofficially, not ministerially. The decision thus viewed is technically correct, for it in no way runs counter to the claims of the church of which the ritualistic clergyman is a minister. His right to immunity from the obligations of a witness in court, if he have any, is not personal, but professional, and is derived from the rights of the religious body to which he belongs. The Church of England, not recognizing the Sacrament of Penance and the sacred obligations of confession, does not claim protection for its confessing penitent or immunity on the part of the clergyman who receives such confession, from the obligation of giving testimony when called on by the court. The confidence reposed in him by the penitent is therefore non-professional and as such is not protected by the law. If the Church of England claimed for its penitence and clergymen the protection of the sacramental seal the ritualistic clergyman would have a ground of defense;

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but this not being the case he had none.

In the United States the question of professional confidence and secrecy has been settled by several decisions in regard to priests, lawyers and physicians. None of these is bound by law to reveal secrets he has received professionally. The first decision was given in the case of Father Kohlman for not revealing on the witness stand secrets he had heard in the confessional. The ultimate decision was that he was not guilty of contempt for refusing to answer. The case of a physician was decided in a like manner by a vote of the Illinois State Senate, before which the case was brought. He was asked by the president of the senate the same question that he had refused to answer in court. He refused to answer it, and the question was raised, was he guilty of contempt of the senate? And it was decided by a majority that he was not.

It is remarkable that the seal of the confessional in the Catholic Church has ever been kept inviolable, even by priests who professed confession to the Protestant religion. History does not record a single instance of its violation by innumerable priests in all ages and nations, and not one of them has availed himself of the knowledge obtained through confession to exercise political or any other undue influence. The priest is bound by the most sacred obligation to make no use whatever of the knowledge thus acquired outside of the confessional itself. A short time ago the papers related that a man who had stolen money went to confession to a priest in some part of France and gave him the ill-forgotten funds. Being afraid that he was detected the thief went immediately to the authorities and accused the priest of stealing the money. On being arrested the money was found in his possession. The thief ap-

peared as the prosecuting witness, and the innocent man was convicted on his false testimony. The priest was found guilty and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment which he bore patiently for conscience sake. In Irish history it is related that a murderer in the confessional declared that he had killed the priest's own brother. So confident was the criminal that the priest would keep the secret that he had no hesitation in confessing the perpetration of the bloody deed. Some time afterward, so the story goes, the murderer when engaged in conversation with the same priest referred to the murder of his brother and alluded to the confession he had made to him. The priest succeeded in getting all particulars from him outside the confessional and then caused his arrest for the crime. He was convicted and executed.

That the penitent pays a fee at confession on a scale commensurate with the enormity of his sins is a fiction only accepted as fact by that small class of fanatics who believe that the Pope wrote a letter last December calling on all good Catholics to exterminate all the Protestants of the country by fire and sword. Were Catholics obliged to pay a tariff on sin in confession, the priests would have an easy time of it, for mighty few would bother them, and their best customers, the poor, would be entirely cut off, for they would have nothing to give for the remission of their crimes.

President Ellis' grand aggregation of world-beaters have once more emphasized their right to hold the title of "Invincibles" by humbling in the dust the crack lacrosse team of Montreal. Those who sneered at the idea of sending the Victoria team back east are eating humble pie; on the other hand, it is really wonderful to know how many people knew Victoria would win. In the light of their brilliant playing in Mont-

real, it may occur to many that we have been entertaining angels unawares. If the Victorias win one or two more games it will give a wonderful impetus to lacrosse in this province next summer.

As I predicted before even the necessary legislation had received the sanction of the Lieut.-Governor, Mr. A. B. Gray is the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, his appointment having been formally announced in the last number of the Official Gazette. I objected to Mr. Gray as the head of the Department on the ground that he had not and could not possibly have the necessary knowledge of labor and its requirements, nor had his past experiences been such as to enable him to secure the confidence of those who constituted that important element. For that reason and because I felt that in him capital would not have one who had had any practical means of acquainting himself with its attitude in relation to labor, I objected to Mr. Gray. It was held that there were actual workingmen—skilled artisans—who would be much more acceptable to both the parties concerned in whatever issues might arise. It was further held that the appointment was objectionable inasmuch as it was likely to be the means of patronizing a political partizan at the expense of the service which was to be performed.

In a letter which recently appeared there was a suggestion which struck me at the time as being a good one. It was with regard to the park, drives, etc. It is stated that at the present time the chain gang is employed keeping the garden at the Lieut.-Governor's residence in order. That is good, as far as it goes, but the result of their labor only gives enjoyment to the Lieut.-Governor himself and his household. I believe it would be much better to

employ the chain gang in beautifying the park, and give pleasure to all the visitors that come to the capital from the mainland towns and cities as well as tourists from all over the world. Beacon Hill Park could be converted into a Paradise. I would like to get other opinions on this subject.

I was very sorry to hear of the sudden death at Seattle of an old friend, Guy C. Phinney, one of the builders up of the queen city of the Sound, and the owner of large amounts of real estate there. He was a Nova Scotian by birth, a lawyer by profession, a miner up in old Cariboo by choice, and one whose anticipations of becoming rich there almost as if by magic were disappointed. Going to Seattle almost without a dollar, he grew up with the place and became one of its leading and wealthy citizens. Hard work, pluck and natural ability made him what he eventually became after disappointments that would have weighed almost any ordinary individual down to the ground. He was a young man in the prime of life, being carried off by heart failure.

PERE GRINATOR.

THE CHURCH CONCERT.

In point of attendance and musical merit, the concert given in the hall of the First Presbyterian church on Tuesday evening was equal, if not superior, to any preceding event of a similar nature. The programme was just long enough, enabling people to reach home by half-past ten, which is a highly respectable hour, and was so arranged as to make it pleasantly comfortable to the audience. As to its execution, there is little or no fault to be found. Mr. Brown might have selected a better baritone for the solos in the cantata "Song of the Bell," but no doubt he has to foster a spirit of ambition among the members of his choir, and rightly so. Mr. Collister's voice is not

bad; it is clear, and at times musical, but it lacks energy, life, finish, openness. Mr. Collister has fair material for a voice; he should wake up and see what it is capable of developing. Mrs. McCandless, who took the soprano parts, is gifted with a sweetly expressive voice, and evidenced much faithful practice in her several solos, which were sung with correctness, precision and taste. Mr. Russell is also a good tenor, but is somewhat deficient, not in confidence in himself, for he has plenty of it, but in a proper method of rendition. He sings too much to the written music and too little to the sentiment of the words, which makes his performance harsh and mechanical. I was glad to see the audience evince a proper appreciation of Mrs. L. Hall's accomplishments. The little lady won golden opinions as an accompanist. Mr. Brown, the conductor, was only heard once in the cantata, but what an improvement that once made!

There were two new acquaintances to be made in part second of the programme, and the prodigal was to be welcomed home. The first of the new comers was Mr. W. Edgar Buck, basso-cantante, who sang as his first number "Valley of Shadows," a rather solemn piece, and well adapted to his voice, which has lost none of its music and sympathetic power since I first heard him, now a good many years ago. Mr. Buck needs no idle praise; he is a musician who has reached the high part of the ladder by personal ability backed by careful and conscientious work. His hearers at once perceived his merit and appreciated it. Miss Sharp, principal of the Conservatory of Music, was the other stranger within the gates, but who is no longer a stranger in view of the hearty welcome accorded her by the first Victoria audience before whom she appeared. Her selection "Oh Hush

Thee, My Baby," was as pretty as it was difficult, and was rendered with a finish and graceful ability that spoke of the true musician. The prodigal was Mr. Clement Rowlands, who received a veritable ovation. His magnificent baritone was never, it seemed, in better form, the notes ringing, clear and musical as a silver bell. His rendition of "Queen of the Earth" took the place by storm, the recall being positively deafening. The other numbers on the programme, given by Mrs. Walt, Mr. Wolff and Mr. Brownlie, were very acceptable. Mr. Kent sang "Love's Sorrow" and sang with that spirit of sympathy with the meaning of the work which characterizes all his performances.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1893.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Manager Jamieson is trying to arrange for the appearance of Patti here next January.

Burt Coote, a brother of Charles Coote of the Frohman forces, has been engaged to play James T. Power's roll in a production of "A Straight Tip" this season.

The Diamantine troupe of French dancers that was originally imported for the production of "The Black Crook" are a feature of the minstrel show of W. S. Cleveland.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Clement Rowlands will be the choir leader in Rev. Mr. Macleod's new church.

The Victoria Canoe Club are arranging to hold a club race meeting next Saturday, 23rd.

Mr. W. Edgar Buck, the new music teacher, has been appointed conductor of the Metropolitan church choir.

Mr. Brundridge, manager of the Enso Institute for the cure of the liquor habit, has returned from a visit to Helena, Montana.

Several young lady teachers of the Reformed Episcopal Sunday School gave a picnic to their classes last Saturday afternoon at Oak Bay.

The Ladies' Aid of the Centennial Methodist church will give an at home Wednesday evening, 20th inst., at the residence of A. J. McLellan, Gorge road.

Messrs. Robert Ker, Jos. Wilson and Golding Wilson intend leaving for New York Monday evening on a pleasure trip. They will return via Chicago and spend some time at the fair.

Rev. Dr. George, the eminent Seattle divine, will preach in the Metropolitan church at both services to-morrow. He will also give one of his interesting literary readings early in the week.

A number of young bachelors entertained their lady friends to an excursion and picnic at Peddar Bay last Saturday afternoon. There were about forty young people, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The annual meeting of the Victoria Chess Club will be held at 7 p. m., Thursday evening 21st inst., at the Wilson Block, for the election of officers for the ensuing year. All members are requested to attend. Any persons desirous of joining the chess club are requested to communicate with the secretary, Mr. J. Kingham, 49 Government street.

A social was held Wednesday evening in the church, corner Pandora and Broad streets. The following excellent programme was rendered: Miss Warren, Recitation; Clement Rowlands, song; Mrs. McLeod, solo; Mrs. Clarke, recitation; Mr. P. Gordon, song; Mrs. Wolff, solo; Mr. Wolff accompanied on the piano and Miss Trimmen on the violin.

Miss Mabelle Biggart and Miss Marie Louise Gumaer, of New York city, will give a musical and dramatic entertainment in the Victoria, Tuesday evening, September 19. Miss Biggart will present her interpretation of Adam Bede, George Eliot's masterpiece. During the evening Miss Gumaer, contralto, will render a number of vocal solos. The entertainment will certainly be unique and entertaining.

A good deal of interest is being excited by the forthcoming concert of the Arion Club, on 27th inst. This will be a strictly private affair it is understood, and admission will be confined to the members and their friends. There has lately been a considerable accession to the membership, some seventy-five subscribing members having been elected, but the list is now closed. Of course no tickets will be sold, and only members of the club, active and associate are eligible to receive them.

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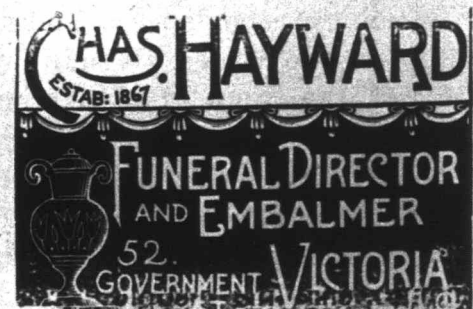
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ROUGH ON THE CHURCH.

To the Editor of THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

SIR:—I shall feel highly pleased, nay rather I should say honored, if you will grant me some quiet corner in your paper to vent a few hints regarding the present condition of church choirs and choir conductors. And perhaps in the passing I may have a quiet word for the preacher.

Being a stranger comparatively in your midst, and having no church connection, I find myself in a better position to give unbiased and unprejudiced information regarding the present musical ability, or otherwise, of the choirs and conductors of the several churches in the city.

With this intention, and being my first Sunday, I wended my way along what they told me was Blanchard street. Passing a spacious church building on the left hand side of the street going north. Making tracks for the building which was right across the street, being as I found on approaching it, the First Presbyterian, but on enquiry I found that there was one other church still further along. Time being limited I had to hasten my steps to try and find it, looking for some spire to conduct me. In a few minutes I came upon the desired place and on glancing at the board above the door I found it to be Calvary Baptist church.

The seat I was ushered into suited my purpose splendid, just about the proper distance from the choir and the speaker, at the same time affording me a fine view of the many angles of the quaint looking building. It struck me that the architect must have spent many a weary hour pondering over the difficulties of how he was to get in these angles. The announcement of the first hymn called me away from many wild ideas which came rushing in upon me regarding the structure. Being furnished with a hymn book I prepared to listen, which I did to

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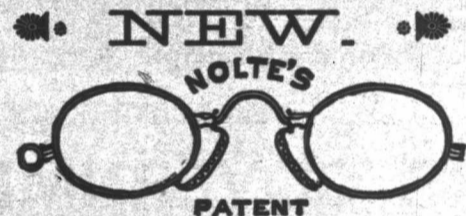
every hymn as they were being sung.

The three essentials which form the basis for a criticism on music, are knowledge, production and execution. Where these are almost entirely lacking, as in the present case, there is no ground left for a favorable criticism.

Having been rather disappointed in the musical part of the service I set myself in an expectant attitude to hear what the preacher had to say. As he stood up I put my phrenological eyes on and saw that although he was not of a very commanding appearance, he was well proportioned, and according to some conspicuous developments, I formed the opinion that silence regarding him would best become me, if I ever wanted to have the pleasure of looking upon him, or never being able to look upon him again. He took for his text "Eve," being the first woman of the women of Scripture.

To make a long description of what he said, short, I would say that it was the worst slop I ever listened to from a church platform on Sunday.

It did not take me long to decide that when my time comes to shuf-



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AN ENJOYABLE CONCERT.

The school room of Christ Church Cathedral was crowded to the doors Thursday night, standing room being at a premium. The concert was without doubt the best held in the building. A glee chorus of twelve members of the Arion Club, led by Mr. Greig, sang The Rhine, The Three Chafers, The Waltz and The Toast, all of which were heartily received and Mr. J. G. Brown sang The Outlaw in his usual good style and was encored. Mrs. McKenzie in the solo, Dreams, was very pleasing. She possesses a sweet voice. In the vocal duet, The Sinking Ship, the voices of Messrs. Russell and Kent blended nicely. Miss Warren made her debut in the solo Once. She has a pleasant voice, but not much range. The lower notes and some of the higher ones are good, but some of her notes in the middle register are not musical. Her second selection, The Moorish Maid, seemed to suit her voice well and was sung very nicely and deservedly encored when she sung The Irish Emigrant. Mr. Geo. Jay gave the Robber's Grave. The song brought out the full compass of his rich voice. He, threw a deal of expression into his work, and was never heard to better advantage. The violin solo, Cavatina, by Roff, Mazurka, was played beautifully by Mr. E. Wolff, and he was loudly encored. Miss Harvey in a vocal solo sang very nicely.

In the interval tea, coffee and cake was served by the ladies of the Aid Society, assisted by the gentlemen present, after which the Rev. Canon Beanlands in the course of a few remarks thanked those present for their attendance and then called upon Mr. Wollaston, the superintendent of the Sunday school, to say a few words. He stated how the old school room had been found totally inadequate to accommodate 160 scholars, divided into 13 classes, and that the Church Committee had decided to

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make the present addition, which had cost about \$800, upon which there only remained a debt of about \$100, which he trusted would soon be cleared off.

CHINA'S NAVY.

China has six armored vessels and twenty-six unarmored vessels, built in British and German dockyards. Two of her armorclads are of 7400 tons displacement. Besides steel protective decks, they have water-line belts of 14 1/2 inches of compound armor, and the main battery of each includes four 12-inch Krupp guns, protected by an armored breast work and two smaller Krupps, while each also carries eleven Hotchkiss cannon and tubes for torpedoes. China has a shipyard at Foochow on the

Min River originally established by a French officer in the service of China. Docks, machine shops and rolling mills have been added, and it is a busy scene of construction. At that point was built the armored coast-defence vessel Ping Yuen of about 2000 tons and 2400 horsepower. She has a water-line belt of 8 inches and a 2-inch protective deck. She has a 10 1/2-inch Krupp gun at the bows in a 5-inch breastwork, 2 6-inch guns amidships, 8 small rapid-firing guns and 4 torpedo tubes. Her factory also builds steel breech-loading rifles from ingots furnished and rough-turned in England.

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FORMATION.
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cupful of yeast or
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