## TALES $\dot{C} F$ THE TOWN.

IsN DEFEATING the University by-law, I think that the ratepayers hardly realized the full significance of their act. Fifty thousand dollars could hardly be contributed to a more worthy or im, ortant object than that of aiding the establishment of a university in Victoria.

Victoria is par excellence of all places in British Columbia the spot for the local habitation of the Provincial University. Its pre-eminence commercially, its comparative age, its unique location, its equable climate, and last, but not least, the tact that it is the seat of government-all these things render it almost out of the question that the university should be located elsewhere than at Victoria.

The advantages to the city would be simply enormous, assuming the university started on a broad and liberal basis. Students would throng in not merely from all parts of the Privince, but from the Puget Sound district as well, for Americans, when it comes to a question of procuring the best education for their children, almays select the best institution within reasonable distance, even if it should happen to be Canadian.

What does the presence of a strong university mean in a city disregarding its commercial value? It means an i mmeasurable development of the intellectual growth of its inhabitants, a desire to hear and read of everything new in literary and scientific circles. It means a higher standard of political morality, particularly in municipal matters, elevation in its tone of theatrical entertainments, an impetus to the reception and absorption of new ideas in matters of art.

A poem in stone such as the university building at Toronto would, I
imagine, go far to interdicting the erection of any more such balracks of brick as at present disgrace the business quarters of the city. But the greatest consideration of all is the vicinity of the university to the Legislature of the Province. High intellectual envircnment js always the sine qua non of ripe and statesmanlike legıslation. Put even such men as Gladstone and Salisbury in a Legislature located in Kooteray and you would still have the most bovine kind of legislation as the result. Else how is it that the cities of Toronto and Boston are on the whole the best governed cities of America, and the habitats of the highest order of local legislation and judiciary? The fact that a powerful university influence and spirit pervades both these cities cannot be a mere coincidence. Given a strong university at Victoria, ard I venture to predict that in 10 years' time it will be found not only that her commercial supremacy of this great Province is assured, but that she will be the Boston of the Pacific Coast.

I understand that the citizens of Victoria will probably have the opportunity of reversing their judgment on this question. If so, the man who votes for the by-law votes for better city and provincial legislation ; he votes for the beginnirg of a new order of things; he votes for the suppression of the low and the vile, and when the university rises in mortar and stone, he will gladly admit it to be the chiefest jewel in Victoria's Crown.

I see there has another phase cropped up in the schoo! question, which, to my mind, is nothing more or less than a fight between the Victoria City Council and the Government people across the Bay. Without at all entering into the discussiun between this pair of bodies of wiseacres, I am reminded of the Irishman who was called to arbitrate between the Englishman and the Scotchman on the pronunciation of the word "either." One said "eether," the
other said "eyther." Pat said "it's nayther, for its ayther ;" and I am thus inclined to think that neither the government nor the city takes the trouble to study this vastly inpportant question in all its bearings. One party wants to get ahead of the other, and, in the endeavor, too blindly anxious to see that this should be no poltical tool, or party weapon. Each will oppose the other on principle, regardless of consequences.

I see, too, that both the morning and evening papers follow their respective sides with the same blind pertinacity Mr. Robson is wrong, always was wrong and always will be wrong, says one. Mr. Robson and his government are right and could not be otherwise, say the other, and on these lines the fight is fought, while the children look on at the exemplary conduct of those they are commanded to respect and honor.
Speaking of newspapers, I am often set thinking, as I take up the Colonist over my matulinal egg, or the Times, as I toast my toes at the fireside in the evening. In the country where I re ceived my first impressions of the newspaper, I was always tought to reverence the editor as a spectacled man of awful wisdom, seated in his chair surrounded by all the literary authorities classic, legal and religious, dispensing this wisdom with a lavish hand, or rather pen, and directing the affairs of state with unimpeachable justice. When I was first introduced to one of these individuals, my (ideal was realized, not altogether, thougtafil found a man of rave ability and experience, and in his charge I was placed for three years as apprentice. He handed me over to a sub-editor, or the managing reporter, and I was duly installed as a sort of editorial and reportorial messenget boy for one year. The next year I was advanced a step by being allowed to learn type-setting, and the next year I was made a junior reporter. In these
three years I was subjected to rigorous discipline and carefui training. I never saw anyting to lower my ideal of the editor. That great man's room was always to me a place of such sanctity that I took off my shoes, figuratively speaking, before entering. I am afraid that my ideal is shattered in the produc tions I see in the editorial columns of our local papers. This department I have always considered sacred to the education of the public in matters of the general weai, or great matters of state, or, when possible, the ssber discussion of great movements, experiments or inventions. In a word, any thing more dignified than a back-door squabble between our morning and evening contemporaries on some paltry matter about which the public don't care a red cent.

Mayor Grant will now be addressed with the prefix "ex"; he has retired from the field of munic pal legislation in which he has worked for so long, and although the city may yet get what is called a more godly man to fill the Mayor's chair, it will never have a lar-ger-hearted or more whole-souled man than Jchn Grant. He, like all of us, has faults, but he had many virtues which aspirants to the office he held had not even begun to think of cultivating. His crowning fault was that impulsive readiness to put his hand in his pocket at the first and every request. I have often remonstrated with him about this evil, and he would say, with cheerful carelessness, " Oh, if it's not a deserving case it's all right. Do good when you can, old man." John was always doing good when others only preached it. I speak of Mr. Grant as I found him. I have never had any communication with him as Mayor.

I took up the Times Monday evening and the first words that caught my eye were "Opposed to Dancing." I read the article-I beg pardon, sermon -for sermon it was. Messrs. Crossley and Hunter had been talking about the dance. They don't dance themselves; they used to, but now all their time is taken up with something else. I'll take Mr. Hunter's ten reason's of a lady opposed to dancing.
I. Heated rooms and late hours. True, to a certain extent, I say; but there is reason in all things; come

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## Desire to Return Thanks to the Ladies of Victoria

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#### Abstract

home when you have had a reasonable


 amount of it.2. Close contact with pernicious company.-A lady's presence will have the same effect on "pernicious company" as the summer sun will have on the winter snow. Her purity disarms all attempts at corruption.
3. Permits freedoms.-No necessity for it in the world. It never occurs in a ball-room where "ladies" ate. Thes wouldn't allow it. Brothers' busbands' and lovers walking-canes would be speaking were there any individuals ungentlemanly enough to attempt it, or unladylike enough to permit it.
4. A lady will not be out late with a man she does not know, or whom she is ashamed of introducing to her parents and friends. -
5. Ministers and "good" people generally often disapprove foolishly and prejudicially of beneficial amusements -a drive earnestly but silently asked for assist-
hearty laugh even, or reading the newspaper.
6. Dancing has a bad name.-To the pure all things are pure.
7. Dancing is generally accompanied by drinking.-Mr. Hunter's remarks refer to twelth rate theatres, music halls and saloon concert frequenters, among whom I hope he did not wish to include the highly respectable congregation he had the privilege of addressing.
8. It is no temptation to "young men "unless there is encouragement from the "young women." The foregoing paragraph will fit in here, Mr. Hunter.
9. Dancing promotes healthy thought from the pleasurable recreation it affords, and often, as I have led a young lady to her seat after having had the privilege of a dance with her, I have earnestly but silently asked for assist-
fluence her companionship has brought me.
10. This falls flat as I combat the other nine objections.

I regret that I cannot agree with these reveiend gentlemen that dancing is disastrous to good morals. That passage in Ezekiel, 7th chapter, to the poor girl who is said to have thrice dreamt that peculiar dream, doesn't strike me as appropriate, unless the girl had been a thorough outcast. I should like to bave names, dates and place of this occurrence. Not that I doubt the reverend gentleman's word spoken from the pulpit, and over the Holy Bible, but a great number of these sermon narratives are beautifully vague generally. Perhaps there is some delicacy in making them public.

It is often a matter of wonder to me what a "professing Christian" really is. In business I see so many of these
professing Christians do things that I
wouldn＇t attempt．My tenets of re－ ligion are to be honest，honorable，to pay my debts，to be truthful，belp a brother in distress，to consider woman－ kind sacred and pure，and to help in the endeavor to raise a fallen sister or brother，never letting them know，par－ ticulatly the sister，that I think she is less worthy of my help．These are the the fundamental principies of the re－ ligious training I received，and，without being egotistical，I think I have carried them out fairly well．I dance，and find a deal of the purest pleasure in it． I take a lady into the dance with the same feeling as I expect other men to take my sisters They all dance，and have danced for several seasons，and I can vouch for their pure－mindedness and wholly unalloyed pleasure and in－ nocence of wrong in the dance．There is a terrible retribution awaiting the man who attempts to spoil that inno－ cence，and I should expect similar treatment were I to forget myself．But no gentleman does．

I fo not know whether or not I have ever done anything to bring down upon my head the wrath of the hackmen and drivers of vehicles generally in this city． One thing is certain，that there seems to be a conspiracy among these people to maim，or perhaps kill me．On three separate and distinct occasions this week attempts have been made to run ovet me，and nightly in my sleep I see visions of mad hackmen，incapable drivers of Assyrian steeds，rushing headlong，dashing to the earth in their path weak women，helpless children， and men of mature years like m．yself， who do not feel it just dignified to run foot－races at every crossing．I ask for information，has the pedestrian the right of way ？

Pere Grinator．

## MISS STEPHEN＇S RESIGNATION

Miss Stephen，the accomplished or－ ganist of the First Presbyterian Church， has resigned her position，after the lengthy service of in years．In these days of changes and squabbles with choirs in the churches，it is refreshing to hear of an organist having held a position for such a length of time． Miss Stephen has filled the position with credit to herself and to the church， and while a great deal of praise is due the choir－master of the First Presbyte－
rian Church for the excellency of the musical service，it must not be forgot－ ten that much of it could not have been accomplished but from the able seconding recelved from Miss Stephen． As a musician，Miss Stephen holds a place in the front rank in this city．Her ability as an organist is excelled as a pianist．In addition，Miss Stephen has a splendid contralto voice，although seldom heard in concerts．＇The First Presbyter＇an Church hardly realizes the extent of the loss，and they will find it hard to get another player to suit．
We understand several applications for the position of organist at the First Presbyteriar Church have been re－ ceived by the managing board，but nothing definite has yet been done to－ ward the appointment．

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SCOTCH HOUSE， 31 FORT 8T．

## General

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL. [THE Home Journal would be pleased to eceive the dates of parties and the names of persons attending social gatherings. To insure publication, this information would have to reach this office not later than Thursday noon.]

The Y. P. A, of St. Andrew's Church held their usual fortnightly meeting on Tuesday night. Being Christmas week, the executive arranged that the meeting should take the form of a social. Mr. Burnette; the new organist, opened the proceedings with selections on the piano, which were well received by"the andience, whose close altention wascompelled by hisskilful and delicate manipulation of the instrument. Solos were given by Miss Jameson and Miss Christie, and Messrs. Martin and Robertson, all of which were artistically rendered, and eonsequently well received. Recitations by Miss Gordon and Miss Lawson and Mr. Allen made pleasant breaks in the programme of song, and a quintette by Misses Christie and Spring and Messrs. Martin and Patrick was warmly applauded, the sweetly blending voices making a very pretty effect. At the termination of the concert the chairman, Mr. Gregory, announced that Tuesday, the 5th prox., the date of next meeting, would be devoted to Burns and Scotch music, Mr. Allan to read an essay on Burns. Mr. Allan is a warm admirer of Scotland's na tional bard, so the essay should be an excellent one.

A must enjoyable party wasgiven by Mrs. E. B. Carmicheal, of 117 Menzies street, the other evening to commemorate the birthday of her daughter. Dancing, games, music, singing and recitations contributed io the pleasures of the evening. The party was serenaded by a number of characters in the most grotesque costumes, who played some choice selections on banjo, flute, bones and rattles. After participating in the hospitality of the hostess they favored the company with some songs and musical selections, and departed leaving pleasant recollections of their welcome visit.

A serenading party of six or
more young gentlemen will pey visits to friends this evening. The orchestra is said to be good and the members are excellent company. They have several new songs, recitations etc.; for their hosts.

The many fiiends of Mr. Walter Morrnw, who welcomed him at his accustomed place of business not more than a week ago, are sorry to learn that he has since taken a relapse, from which he is, however, recovering nicely, although it will be some days before he will be able to be out rgain.

Invitations were issued last Friday by Mrs. Erb to an "At home" Thursday evening, December 31st, at the family residence, 283 Doug. las Street. Dancing will be the feature of the evening. -

Mr. Geo. A. Morphy, a junior member of the legal profession, will eat his Christmas turkey with friends in Port Townsend.

Mr. J. A. Johnsson, who lately returned with his bride from a visit east, has taken up his residence at 100 Quadra Street.

The Ielantha Club are making elaborate preparations for the ball and supper they are going to give next Tuesday evening (29th) in the Harmony Hall. An enjoyable evening is assured to all who accept the hospitality of the Iolantha.

There will be a social in the schoolroom of the Pandora Avenue Methodist Church, Thursday avening, the 31st inst., under the auspices of the Sunday School.

The charity concert given at the opening of the market hall was highly successful, much money being raised for the benefit of the Jubilee hospital.

There will be a "children's service in Christ Ohurch Cathedral next Monday evening at 6:30, A
been in preparation by the children under the direction of Mr. Wollaston. After the service the usual Christmas festival will be held in the school house, and a good time is in store for the young.

The concert given by the pupils of the Conservatory of Music, in the R. E. church, last Wednesday evening was a pronounced success. Miss MacGregor on account of a bad cold was unable to sing, which caused much disappointment.

Mr. Alf. Blackburn of Toronto, now in the city, will spend Christmas with the Rev. Mr. Baer, of Nänaimo.
The Hebrews of this city will celebrate on the 25th day of December, the feast of "chanuka" and will continue to celebrate the same for eight days. Special services will be held in Temple Eman-u-el on Sunday eve when the school children of the synagogue will perform the whole services. A good programme has been arranged by Rev. Dr. Philo and all are welcome.

Mr. F. Bourne, practical piano tuner, of this city, has written an article on the preservation of the piano. After the usual cautions to be found in most piano catalogues, be says some things tersley and as an authority. The article is well calculated to be valuable to the owners of pianos, as it contains sueh expressions of common sense as follows;
"The piano is a musical instrument, and a work of art at the same time, and requires care and good treatment. -The piano is not unlike the human organism; and, as it is in many parts very cielicately and finely made, it needs careful handling, and, when out of order only a competert regulator and tuner should be employed."
"The use the piano has, has not everything to do with its getting out of tune. The expansion and contraction of the strings by the temperature is what puts it out, If it were not used at all, it would get out just the samu."

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PEN PICTURES OF PROMINENT MEN.
A. R. BAKER, D. D. S.

Albert Richard Baker, the popular ynung dentist, is a native of Victoria, B. C. born on the 14th day of July, 1870. His early education was received at the public schools, and in 1887 he graduated with honors from the High School of this city. Having decided to adopt the profession of dentistry as his life work, be commenced practical study under the preceptorship of Lewis Hall, D. D. S., a biography of whom appeared in these columns last week. He remained in the office of this gentleman for about one year, when he moved to Philadelphia, entering the Dental College of that city in 1888 . Receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in February, 1891, he returned to his native town, where be immediately began the practice of his profession. He
was successtul from the first, and soon acquired an extensive practice. Dr, Baker, although comparatively a young man, is entitled to be classed among the first members of his profession. As an operator, he has few superiors. In "reparative" dentistry also he is entitled to rank among the most expert, although his greatest ability lies in that most difficult and delicate branch of dental surgery known as crown and bridge work. Dr. Baker is very popular in the circle of society in which he moves, his genial, pleasant manner making him a welcome addition to social gatherings. Dr. Baker has always kept thoroughly posted on all matters pertaining to his profession, and uses the very latest methods and apparatus known to science.

RICHARD MORRISON, M. D.
The well-known physican and surgeon, Richard Morrison, first saw the light forty years ago in Wellington County, Canada. The father of our subject was a very prominent man in Wellington County, he having been reeve of Arthur Township for ten years. His early mental training was received at the public schools of that province, and when 1.7 years of he age entered the celebrated Academy of Rockwood, near Guelph. Here he pursued his studies with great diligence and assiduity for two years, when he graduated. We next find him teaching school in Wellington County, impart ing knowledge to the youth of his district with such saccess that he became one of the most respected and popular teachers in the county. For ten years he followed this laudable occupation, becoming more and more interested in his work. The great ambition of his life, however, had been to study medicine; and in 1879 we find him in the city of Detroit, Michigan, U. S. A., attending the Detroit Medical Collegethat famous school of medicine from which so many of the world's greatest physicians have', graduated. Iv 1882 he received the degree of M. D., and returning home, he arrived in Victoria, B. C., during the month of May, 1883 . Here he began the practice of his chosen profession. His ability was soon recognized, and in a short time he was the possessor of a large and rapidly increasing practice. He was appointed Coroner for the district of Victoria, April 26th, 1890, and has filled this
position ever since with honor to him self and to the entire satisfaction of the people. Dr. Morrison also served the people of Victoria on the School Board during the years $1888-89$. As a surgeon, Dr. Morrison stands among the foremost members of the profession. He is one of those men for whom the mysteries of disease possess an irresist ible fascination. Ot a strong analytical mind, which quickly masters the difterent phases of an ailmont, he is, in fact, one who seems to have been desined by nature to administer to the genial


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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1891.
a Merry christmas.

The Home Journal in for the first time wishing its readers not alone the mere compliments, but all the blessings and enjoyments of the season, deems it well to refer specially to the household element, of which He , whom the Christian world so joyfully honors, should be an important part. It is very true that He had no dwelling place ex. cept in the hearts and hands of those who were disposed to make room for the despised Nazarene, nevertheless there are few domestic pictures so full of simple beauty as that of the humble cottage in Bethany to which He occasionally retired when wearied with the harrassments and buffetings to which He was subjected. The description in the narrative is of the simpiest, albeit the imagination need not be severely taxed to fill in the details, and to convince one's self that He was a lover of home. The remarkable instance given of His subjection to His parents demonstrates the high respect and regard He had for parental authority, while the many instances are given of His love and solicitude for the little ones. The aged and inftrm, the sick and afflicted were the constant subjecis of $\mathrm{H}_{1}$ is ministrations, and all the way through, even after He had made the portentious announcement "it is finished !" He saw to it that those who followed him wanted rot food, indeed, He specially enjoined those who were nearest Him to feed both His sheep and His lambs. The readers of THE Home Journal, whatever their creeds happen to be, may well think over these aspects of the lite of Him to whom at this season the entire world pays special tribute, and will find even in this prosperous city of Victoria many to whom they can extend the open hand of generosity and charity, for the objects
of both are p!entiful and easy to be dis covered.

Christmas is especially the time during which the young very naturally expect and are justly entitled to special consideration. It was not in His full fledged stature that the world's redeemer came to this earth; but as an infant, and as He passed through the various stages of life, from infancy to manhood, He, whom all adore, may very fitly be claimed by the juveniles as having been one of themselves. Parents worthy of the name-and there are but few who are not-will, as far as possible, practically demonstrate their affection for those who are the dearest to them, and they in return will not be slow to reciprocate by-if that be possible-- in more numerous and more intense manifestations of their love, as shown in their obedience. This much accomplished, the charity which has begun at home will extend to the less fortunate and comparatively friendless members of the community loving kindness, towards whom it cannot fail to be enhanced by the reflection that Christmas is the anniversary of Him who, when he comes to His kingdom, will say to the benetactors of their fellowmen, "inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The Editor.

## RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

AFEW eveuings ago, in the business quarter of the city-
" Between the dark and the daylight, When the night clouds began to lower," a group of men, mechanics and others, about to cease from the "day's occupations " and go to their homes, were approached by a gentleman in faultless apparel and puffing a cigar with a business-like air, who demanded from each one present the sum of tour bits in exchange for a concert ticket, " for sweet charity's sake," he explained. Two or three whose appearance suggested easy circumstances invested, while a like number with sharper features and sharper habiliments gave the very sufficient reason for not doing so that they had not the wherewithal." The man with the tick. ets waxed eloquent in denunciation of working men who had work and who wouldn't give four bits to feed hungry
children and helpless women in mid. winter.

Following up a puff of unusual volume, with a round oath or two, as a preface to the accusation, he said: "I can get more money from the prostitutes and gamblers of the city in this cause than from mechanics and Christians. Yes, sir," said he with vigor, "every time I can get $\$ 5$ from a courtesan or a blackleg easier than bits from a mechanic or a Christian. Now, I leave it to the crowd if it isn't so." To which the crowd readily assented with the exception of the impecunious toilers aforesaid. As to whether mechanics and Christians, as might be infer red from this man's classification, must needs be separate and distinct in dividuals we venture no opinion. We repeat his expression here as nearly in his own words as the proprieties will permit for another purpose.

What we propose to deal with is the assertion that disreputable characters are more generous to suffering humanity than those who gain a livelihood by honest toil or who make a profession of Christian conviction. We have heard the accusation before. So often has it been repeated that we have almost at times come to look at it in the spirit of the saying that "what everybody says must be trie ; " and the question arises, if it be true, why? We are convinced that mechanical skill or industrious habits do not of themselves tend to make a man mean with his money or indifferent to the sufferings of his fel-low-creatures; and although we firmaly believe that there is such a thitg as a mean Christian, we do not believe it to be berause of his convictions, but in spite of them, and because ot his natural propensities. Yet our experience has been sufficiently extensive to lead us to admit that those who live by vice and dishonesty are quite often more recklessly generous than those who "provide things honest in the sight of all men"

And we know something of the rea. son why. Men are never very generous with anything they do not possess, and men of limited income who weigh justice with mercy find a necessity for practising a careful economy even in their charities. Mechanics and Chris-

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tians who are also men can hardly be blamed for preferring to try to provide for present necessities and prospective old age rather than trusting to luck; and they find, if they deal honestly with all men, that the conditions under which they must make the provision are such as to leave only a very small margin for generosity. Mechanics and Christians who live by ther labor must sell it in a market to which the laborers of three-fourths of the world may be admitted free, and spend what their labor brings in a market in which the gonds of the whole world have 35 per cent. and profits on it added to their cost by a tariff tax.

And whenever the mechanic or Christian seeks ascess to natural opportunities for the production of good things at home, or a site for a home near a factory, or shop where he may assist others in such production, he must go to some idler and pay or pledge the profits of his industry to the idler's use for years for the privilegemust pay the profits to a fellow-worm for the use of the earth which God created for the use of mankind. Although mechanics and Christians may not know the economic reasons, their experience teaches them that to disregard their effects is to bring disaster ; and many of them of noble and generous impulses are compelled to practice a parsimony distasteful to them in all the relations of life, but particularly so when called upon to help misfortune and suffering.

It may be said that soiled doves or crooks are subject to these same conditions and yet are the more generous. To say so is, in the words of Shakes. peare, "To lie like truth." We admit that those who are comparatively young in vice, while its profits are large and before the canker of $\sin$ has eaten out the soul and obliterated its finer sensibilities, are more recklessly liberal in charities as in all their expenditures for the reason that they have at the time plenty to be liberal with, and that the future is to them a blank, and tor the further reason that there goes with wrongdoing in every form an uneasy consciousness of responsibility that begets spasmodic impulses to do something signally good for the purpose of balancing the evil account.

All mankind, professing Christians
included, are subject to this influence From its promptings, wealth which has been accumulated by crushing life and hope out of men is donated to build hospitals for the cure of such. Christians subscribe princely sums which they have gathered by extortion and oppression from Christians to send missionaries to convert the heathen Chinee. And the possessors of wealth inherited from the devotees of lechery and debauch, seek to make propitiation by erecting memorial windows ornamented with sad pictures of Christ in fashionable churches. But what proceeds from the gnawings of conscience or from efforts to restore a tar. nished respectability are not to be attributed to generosity.

If you would know the true value of this kind of generusity, go to the old harlot whose soul is deadened by sin and whose perscn, no longer attractive, fails to bring her the revenues of earlier $\sin$; or to the gambler in his age, his eye dimmed with excess and every trace of eqrier manhood gone, and you will realize the falsity and hollowness of the accusations of the man wilh tickets. If his contention were true, all we have to do to bring mechanics and Christians up to the proper standard of generosity is to induce them to become gamblers and prostitutes, but, in this case, you would have a living witness of the folly of "doing evil that good may come."
'A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kindi" and men who have reached years of discretion and being possessed of common sense, need not grumble, if when they use such arguments, they are suspected of being associates in the pleasures or partakers in the profits with those whom such arguments are intended to excuse. It is high time, that the "mechanics and Christians" of Victoria aroused themselves to the situation and met such accusations with the overwhelming logic of truth ; that they refused to permit public officials, entrusted with the guardianship of public morals, to insult virtue with the hypocritical application of the question, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone ;" that they investigated the causes which compel industry and faithfulness to practice parsimony even to meanness where impulse and conviction alike urge to
generosity, and that with the unsparing hand of truth they plucked these tares from the wheatfield of our national inheritance.

## A Mepry Xmas

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## THE WITCH OF PLUM

 HOLLOW.(Written for the Home Journal.)

IN A RURAL DISTRICT, not
far from tho town of Brockville, Ontario, lived a woman, known from the Atlantic to the Pacific a:s "The Witch of Plum Hollow. This remarkable woman's life was one bundle of contradictions. She used to relate that she was born near the town of Belturbet, Ireland, of noble parentage, but, forgetting her high social position, she followed the dictates of her heart, and eloped with her father's coachman. Her husband died not long afterwards, and she made a second choice-this time unhappily. A separation soon followed, and she determined to make ute of a gift kestowed upon her by Heaven at the time of her birththat of being able to foretell the future. She asserted likewise that she had solveci the mysteries of astrology, and an old worm-eaten chest was pointed out to the visitor to her cabin, as containing the documents from which she derived the knowledge of her mysterious art. Her home was an old log cabin, and the searcher after the future was conducted up an old creaking stair, and, upon stating the time of his or her birth, the past, present and future of their lives was revealed in all the moods and tenses. Most remarkable things did she relate, and people upon quitting her abode. said, truly she surpasses Moll White of Sir Roger de Coverly fame, or the more ancient beldame of the broomstick, viz., the Witch of Endor. She was visited by high and low alike, and the walls of her cabin were adorned with the names of people from all over the American continent-not the least of which was that of a prominent Wall street man.
For sixty years Mother Barnes, that was her right name, practised her art, and she is still believed in by thousands of people. Persons of undoubted veracity positively affirm that she has reveuled to
them where lost articles might be found. Oñe thing is certain, she could describe people and places accurately, though she had never seen them. The question now arises, was this woman a mind reader, an adept in occult sciences, an impostor, or what? The answer is as much a mystery as, the round tower near her old home in Belturbet.
L. C.

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## THE DRAMA.

AS far as houses are concerned, at the Imperial this week has been a repetition of the last. During the first two nights, M'liss, a dramatization of one of Bret Harte's novels, was presented in a most acceptable manner. Miss Dalgleish played the title role in her usual style. The Bummer Smith of Mr. Belmour was good, as was also the broken theatrical manager of Mr. Benett. Miss Marshall played Mrs. Smith, the adventuress, very acceptly. This was scarcely the role in which Miss Marshall should have made her first appearance, but after all, the character was sufficient to demonstrate this lady's artistic merit; and Mr. Rice is to be congratulated upon having secured such a clever lady to take the place of Miss Belmour. Mr. Armstrong was as usual equal to his part, as was also $\mathbf{M r}$. Snmmerfield. Every climax scene received a curtain call, the jail breaking scene being particularly effective. Mr. Gilbert made this scene so realistic that the audience could not help thinking that Mr. Gilbert had escaped from prison before. Tue other parts were well taken.

The company played to a good house on Wednesday, and began the evening's amusement with the one-act farce, the Rough Diamond which put the audience in a humor to receive Muldoon's Pic-nic, the greatest of Irish comedies, in two acts. Miss Dalgleish appeared as Kitty Muldoon and played the part in a most charming fashion. Miss Marshall acted as Mrs. Muldoon in which she represented the old Irish woman to perfection. Mr. Gray as Mulcahy kept the audience in roars of laughter as also did Mr. Belmour as Muldoon. Both brought down the house. Messrs. Armstrong, Bennett and Summcrfield, in their respective parts, added not a little to the successful rendition of this farcial Irish comedy. Muldoon's Pic-nic will be repeated to-night (Thursday) with the Rough Diamond as
a curtain-riser. Friday and Saturday night Solomon Isaacs will be produced.

The bill for next week will be: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Camille; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Octoroon.

The orchestra of the Imperial has been enlarged by the addition of a bass viol. Mr. Cross promises an extra musical programme, for Ohristmas.

## FOOTLIGHT FLASHES.

Miss Wheeler of the Imperial, contemplates visiting San Francisco, in the course of a week or so.

Mr. Oliver Ward, late of Cordray's, has arrived and will look after the Imperial stage.
The Oarelton Opera Company sang to good houses at the Victoria, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.
Mr. John E. Rice of the Imperial Stock Company has again been unjustly assailed by the Dramatic Star. During the time Mr. Rice has been on this circuit he has made many friends, and the editor of the Star should not permit himself to be led into the abuse of Mr . Rice, because Nip and Tuck, in which the former is interested, got roasted at every turn. Ihe editor of the Dramatic Star, Mr. Rice says, should know better than to make the statement that the Star was in existence before he became smitten with the theatrical business. While the editor of the Star was conducting an ordinarily fair coffee house in Los Angeles, Mr. Rice was managing the Spanish Student, and Mexican Orchestra. Previous to that, he had controlled organizations in the east, and reference to eastern dramatic papers would inform the Star man on this point.

## PEN PHCTURES OF PROMIN

 ENT MEN.S. PERry mills, ESQ.

Samuel Perry Mills, the eminent barrister, is an Englishman, born in the world's metropolis-London
-18th September. 1853. His grandfather was a inarchant in Philpot Lane, City of London, and resided at Muswell |Hill, Tottenham. It appears that the mother of our subject was a Celvert, and a direct rescendant of Frederick, the last Earl of Baltimore, Sir George Calvert being the Secretary of State to James I. of England, whose son Cecill was the founder of Maryland, in the United Stares, and afterwards created Earl of Baltimore. From his mother', side Mr. Mills inherits that strong judicial mind and capasity for public affairs which forms such a striking part of his character. There were many barristers in this branch of the family, who were afterwards driven from the Bar of England by religious parsecution, and later on, assisted in forming one of the schools which mude conveyan sing a distinet branch of the law. Mr. Mills' early education was received at the hands of a clergyman of the Church of England, after which he entered the City of London school It was the wish of his father that he should enter the Navy. but he refused to do so, and, acting on his own responsibilty entered the office of a firm of solicitors in the city of London $A$ few years after attaining his majority he left England for British Columbia arriving in Victoria, during the mouth of June, 1877. From 1877 until 1882 he devoted his energies entirely to the study of thi law, and on the 30th day of June, 1882, was admitted as a solicator and called to the bar the same day, he having successfully passed the barrister's examination. His career since that time has been a continuous success. In 1883 he was appointed a public notary for this province, and the same year was appointed Judge of the Court of Revision and Appeal under the Provincial Assessment Act. This position he has held ever since, discharging the duties of that responsible office to the entire satisfaction of the public and honor to himself. On the 7th of October, $1876, \mathbf{M r}$.

## 53. His

 chant in ndon, and I, Tottenmother of ert, and a erick, the lir George retary ofEngland, the founhe United eateḑ Ear! s mother's lat strong ty for pubch a striker. There this branch afterwards England by d later on, 20 of the eyan sing a law. Mr. as received man of the fter which , of Lon. the wish of d enter the do so, and, asponsibilty firm of sosondon A ig his mafor British n Victoria, ! June, 1877. he devoted the study of 30th day of mitted as a the bar the successfully xamination. me has been In 1883 he c notary for । same year of the Court al under the Act. This or since, disthat responsatisfaction $r$ to himself. rr, 1876, Mr.

Mills was united in marriage to Matilda, the sixth daughterof Henry Donald, Esq., of Highbury Cres. cent, London. Four children was the result of this union, the young. est of whom bears the name of Leonard Calvert Mills, after Leonard Calvert, who was the first Governor of Maryland. As a barrister, Mr. Mills stands at the head of the profession in Canada. He is one of the most convincing and eloquent orators that ever addressed a jury. Wheneverit is known that he is to plead before a court, a crowded room is sure to result. His grasp of all legal matters is thorough, and his knowledge of human nature, of which he is a close student, aids him not a little in his practice. Mr. Mills has made a special study of divorce, criminal and sheriff"s law, and his almost unbroken record of successer in these liues attest his thorough mastery of legal knowledge. He is at present devoting himself to the especial study of constitutional questions that must eventually arise under the B. N. A. Act. Mr. Mills is a widely read man, a brilliant conversationalist, and, with ail, a thorough gentleman. $\dot{H} e$ is affable and courteous to all, and, although like ali men of tuperior mental development, rather reserved, he has a large circle of warm personal friends, one of whont said to the writer a short timg ayo, " it is impossible to know him and nut love him. M.. Mills is generally a very quiet, but independent, man to those who do not know him, but is brimful of good humor and fun to those who know him well." The Seabird marder case, tried at Nanaimo, proved him to be one of the finest cross-examiners at the Bar in the Province. He was highly complimented by the presiding judge. In his able and successful defence of Mrs, Rutledge charged with murder, he was highly commended by all parties ; both his addresses were openly and loudly applauded in the Court. One of his latest successes is the Greer case. It is believed that Mr. Mills will in the not distant future enter politics.

## nUSIO.

THE social importance of the piano is, beyond question, far greater than that of any other musical instrument. "One of the most marked changes in the habits of society," writes Thalberg in his valuable study, "as civilization advances, is with respect to the character of its amusennents."
Formerly, nearly all such amusements were away from home and in public; now, with the more educated portion of suciety, the greater part is at home and within the family circle, music on the piano contributing the principal portion of it. In the more fashionable circles of society, private concorts increase year by year, and in them the piano is the principal feature. Many a man engaged in commercial and other active pursuits, finds the chief charm of his drawing-room in the intellectual enjoyment offered by the piano. In many parts of Europe, the piano is the greatest solace of the studious and solitary. By the use of the piano, many who never visit the opera or concerts become thoroughly acquainted with the choicest diamatic and orchestral comporitions.

It may here be suggested that the most wearisome as also the most worthless kind of practice is that gene through by the children who are without talent or even inclination for music. "When," said a little girl of this species to her mother, " when, mamma, shall I play well enough not to have to play any more?" But a gonuine taste for the piano is increasing more rapidly than the population; and one can already see a time when, in all well. appcinted houses, it will be thought necessary to have in the drawing-room not one, but two pianos; for how otherwise are some of the finest piano duets to be played?

Mr. Gladstone declared some years ago in one of his ingenious speeches that the invention of the
violin was as much a work of genius as that of the steam engine. The contrast between the two things invented was more striking when, in opposition to a heavy and formidable locomotive, the harmless and portable violin was put; but the piano, regard being had for the complexity of its construction, the wideness of its utility and the powerfulness of its effect, is a much more wonderful piece of mechanism than the violin. The piano, too, possesses in common with the steam engine, this noticeable par ticularity, that people are by no means agreed as to who invented it.

Italy, Germany and France claim equally, the honor of having invented the piano, and it is now generally assigned to Bartolomeo Christoforo, sometimes called Christofali, a native of Padua, who perfected his discovery, according to some authorities, in 1711.

The Germans, on their side, assert the piano was invented in the year 1717 by C. A. Ahsceter, a German organist, to be afterwards improved by Silbermann Stein and others.

The great Mozart, however, seems to have taken kindly to the piano almost from the first; and in 1711; when it is true the piano had already been some years before the world, he wrote from Augesburg to his father a letter in which he expressed particular admiration for the pianos manufactured by a maker named Stein of that city, who with Spacth, of Ratisbon, was the best maker of the day in Germany. "Stein," write Mozart, "does not sell his pianos for less than 300 florins. That is a good deal of money, but the labor and zeal which his work represents cannot be paid too highly. Many years later, in 1763, poor Schrœeter published a long letter asserting his claim to the invention which was now being represented in Germany as the work of various manufacturers.

Frank Bourne,

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## CHRISTMAS.

We take the following remarks upon Christmas from the British Columbia Commercial Journal:-
What, it may be asked, has a journal devoted to finance and commerce to say about Christmasi. It will be said that It is all very well for the clergy in their pulpits and the editors of the ordinary news. papers, whose scope is so extended and whose field is so comprehensive, and who, moreover, are always glad of something to break the comparative monotony of their dally routine, to devote some of their space to a talk about the great festival of Christianity. For our part, we protest against being left out. We may posisibly make few pretensions to piety; we may hold our own individual views as to minor questions of theology and sectarianism; but we cannot forget the old, old story of the angel messengers, nor can we affect to ignore the fact that there was at one time a babe born in Bethlehem whose birth and its surroundings were different to those of any other. We have, all of us, heard from our childhood that as He grew up, though He might in many other respects have been like other boys, He lived a life like to that of no other; that He spake as no other boy or man ever did, that He suf fered and died under the most painful and ignominious circumstances, yet that today, though more than eighteen centuries have passed, He is still held in hallowed remembrance by the truest and best men and women of the world.
This same Jesus is really and truly believed in by hunireds and thousands as the one who has saved them from their sins and the attendant consequences, has given them a hope for the hereafter, for their happiness in which it is their duty to strive. Whatever there may be in all this, it has nevertheless raised the aspirations of all those who have been brought under what are termed Christian in. fluences and the example which the Man of Galilee set in his solicitude for the welfare of others has been the means of makinf whole-souled men out of many, who, whatever their natural good qualities, might never have been led to believe in the all comprehensive brotherhood of human ity. The proclamations of the Decalogue given amid the thunderings of Sinal have never been made so effective as by the example of their observance set by Him, who presumed to honor God as His father, and as he went about doing good daily emphasized the fact that even the meanest and lowest of the community were His brethren.
Christianity, as it exists, has done much for commerce. It has been the means of creating confidence in one snother, and à measure of consideration for those who were not the most successful in their avocations, and, moreover, has opened up and given a stability to communities that are renowned the world over for what may be termed the business probity of their people. For these and many other reasons we would join our tribute to that of the shepherds and the wisemen and, re-echoing the angel's message of Peace and Goodwill, would say we wish to all a Happy Christmas.

## BANK OF MONTREAL.

Stalement of the result of the businesy of the bank for the halfyear ended 31st October, 1891 :-
Balance of proft and loss account, 30th Aprili, 1801 .

4439,728 30
Profts for the hali-year ended 31st October, 1891, atter deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts..

606,642 98
\$1,106,371 28
Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st
December, 1801.
..............
Balance of profit and loss carried
forward.
..............
600,000 00

Nots,-Market price of Bank of Montreal Stock 31st October, 1821, 227 per cent. (equal to 454 per share.
General Statement-sist October, 1891, Liabilities.
Capital stock-
... $88,000,00000$
Rest.
Belance of profte car
ried forward.
500,371 23
$\$ 8,508,37123$
Unclaimed dividends.
Half-yearly Dividend,
payable1st Dec,, 1891
600,000 00
87,111,158 08
819,111,158 08
Notes of the bank in circulation Deposits not bearing

85,397,602 00
interest..
Deposits bearing inter-
est....ay
$7,449,53630$
Balances due to other
Banks in Canada.
19,324,509 49

## 3,497 50

## Assets.

Gold and silver coin Gold and silver coin Government demand notes.

2,038,150 12
notes................
2,011,607 75
Deposit with Do
Govtrequired by Act of Par'm'nt for security of general bank note circulation.

135,00000
Due by Agencies of this bank and other banksin f'reign countries. ....11,913,565 98 Due by Agencles of this bank and other bank and other banks in Great Br tain ..... 3,022,054 25

Government bonds, In-
dia stock, etc........ 1,308,000 00
Notes and Cheques of
other banks ...
1,200,093 86
Bank premises at Montreal and branches.

600,00000
Current loans and dis-
counts, (rebate inter
est reserved) and
other securities and
assets.
$\$ 28,714,72933$
Debts secured by mort-
gage or otherwise.
Overdue debts not specially secured (loss provided for).

432,934 65
provided for).
110,167 52
29,257,881 50 \$51,486,303 46
E. S. CLOUSTON, General Manager.

Cannor beet root be successfully grown In British Columbla 1 The sugar produced from it and the industry connected with its production are increasing in favor al. most everywhere. Sugar of this descrip. tlon is, with all the augmented production, about two shillings per owt. dearer in the English market.
" Mr. Howard Vinoent, as the origin. ator and chief apostle of the Empire Trade League, has recently been in Japan 'blowIng a blast,' as the local newspapers put it, "w hich heralds a condition of trade that must come to pass in the near future.' He has already converted Canada, it appears, to his ideas of commercial federation ; and he is probably now on his way to Austral ania." The above is from an English trade journal, which has been wrongly informed on this subject, for to our mind Mr. Vin cent, judging from the recentions he has had in the Eastern provinces, is a long way of having " converted Canada." He would do well in the meantime to look at home and to take the advice given him by the paper from which we quote:-"The British public knows little or nothing about Mr. Howard's scheme ; and it looks very much as though his friends have not sufficient confldence in its efficacy to stand up for it. As for Mr. Vincent, if he has his idea at heart, he should be among the working men voters of Shoreditch or Battersea rather chan wasting his eloquence in places thousands of miles from the centre in which it is being weighed and found wanting."

WanteD
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Lots.
must be barcains
YOUNG \&
BARTLETT,
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