

“NEWS FROM ‘HOUR’ FAIR CITY”

## Voice of Victoria

*Her Majesty, Queen Victoria*

**Victoria Times:** What is your view on the recent advent of large numbers of visitors to the city?

**Queen Victoria:** I think it's Simply Wonderful to have visitors who can honor and respect the Unique Virtues of Our City. I realize that there are worries that not all the visitors have that view, but I trust that anyone who spends a season or two in the City cannot fail to be swayed by its charms.

**VT:** Have you any opinions on particular groups of visitors, such as the "Machines", those of the Shining Kingdom, or the travelers from Essleford?

**QV:** I'm glad you mentioned Essleford. As many of your readers may be unaware, I studied abroad in Essleford myself before returning to the City. It is a place of Undeniable Culture, with many very learned Scholars. I am very glad that some Esslefordians now have the opportunity to experience Our City the same way I was so fortunate to have experienced their own.

**VT:** What direction do you foresee the city taking?

**QV:** Hopefully, we will Unite as a city to put on a Glorious Display for the foreign visitors, convincing them of the Virtues and Joys of Victorian Living.

**VT:** Are there any general notices the public at large should be aware of?

**QV:** Yes! I encourage the whole of the Populace to visit the World's Fair, where you can be made aware of many of the Delights of Distant Lands, while also celebrating the Distinctive Character of Victoria. I am hoping, incidentally, that everyone might have a chance to see (or even get to ride in!) one of the Esslefordian Aeroplanes, one of their most Thrilling Inventions!



*An artist's rendition of the Crystal Palace*

## Crystal Palace Constructed!

*Reginald Durling VI*

After weeks of hurried construction, the brand new Crystal Palace has been fully erected next to the Railroad station. Beautiful in design, the Crystal Palace has already attracted much attention from people of all walks of life, including not a few visitors from abroad!

As will all new developments, there has been some skepticism about the utility and purpose of the Crystal Palace for the City. Inside sources have verified that the Palace is intended merely to serve as a meeting place for people of all walks of life.

“We wish to welcome in the travelers, to help them learn something of Victorian society so that their stay may be all the more pleasant,” said a source who wished to remain unnamed. “This structure is a monument to our city’s beauty and high culture, and should be treasured as such.”

Rumor has it that the structure is to be dedicated within the next few days at a grand gala to which those of all walks of life are invited.

It has also been said that the “Machines”, a group of travelers from abroad, will help with the festivities and celebration through a fantastic display of light and sound.

There have been some questions raised as to the involvement of the Machines in the construction process. Wary citizens wonder if their involvement portends some secret plan to establish a base or communications center. However, extensive research has yet revealed nothing of the sort.

I can assure you, fellow citizens, that this is a matter I will consider with the highest priority. I, Reginald Durling VI, shall not cease my investigations and inquiries until all aspects of the matter have been explored and all possibilities for foul play routed out. You, the good citizens of Victoria, have a right to know what occurs within the city limits, and I am here to ensure that you are not left sitting blind in the dark.

Know, too, that experts in the area have been summoned, and are busy investigating the matter by my side.

## New Victorian Paper

*Reginald Durving VI*

It is with the utmost pleasure that The Victoria Times announces its founding.

There are such a great many doings about the city. Therefore, it has been deemed necessary in this time to create a means of dispensing word of important events to the ladies and gentlemen about the town.

The Times hopes to do more than spread word. Indeed, we have provided countless positions for orphans and others of the street in the delivery and sale of said paper.

At present, the Times seeks full time writers and spectators to report on any incidents of note.

## Health Advisory!

*Madame Synovea Ashburn, Royal Physician*

The Royal Physician would like to issue several health advisories. First, never drink a tonic that has not been verified safe by the Royal Physician, particularly those of Burlingby's. It could have any number of deleterious effects to your health. If you believe you have been poisoned or adversely affected by a tonic, please come to see me in my office next to the Royal Sanitarium.

Ladies should be careful with their clothing, as I have recently encountered several cases of women whose internal organs were harmed by rib and stomach compression due to their stays. If you feel faint, try to find a lady to go to the powder room and loosen you so that you can breathe properly. Corsets should never be worn tightly enough that one has trouble breathing when walking or engaging in any other daily activity.

Finally, if you have been having symptoms of consumption or other persistent coughing, alert the nearest medical professional and/or myself to make sure we can appropriately deal with the situation.

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## *Pencer: A Hero of Victoria*

*Pencer, Medal of Honor recipient*

**Victoria Times:** You've recently come into the spotlight as a Hero of Victoria. Could you share with us a few words about your experiences here in the City?

**Pencer:** It's a nice place, if kind of difficult to wrap my head around from time to time. Victoria kind of seems sort of smaller, denser version of the rest of the world.

**VT:** You were recently awarded a medal of honor for your services to the City. How do you feel you have served the City to achieve such a noble station here?

**P:** I'm used to undertaking all kinds of operations on the outside. The missions sort of hit harder and closer together here, but that's somewhat exhilarating. As for the medal itself, I don't want to harp on my past deeds. There was some stuff that needed doing, and I helped get it done.

**VT:** You have done some good services to the people of the City during your time here. Have you felt that you've come to understand the people and the city in a way you didn't before you arrived?

**P:** I think I've come to understand some things from time to time, and others, I admit, elude me. The customs and peculiarities of Victoria, of which there are many, are somewhat endearing. At the same time, it's pretty clear that people around here don't really know how my society works either, but we've had a pretty good show of it. Most people know that the Machines and I are here to help. Victoria seems to be a good place, though with some problems. That's where we come in to help fix it.

**VT:** If you'll let me be blunt for a moment, there have been some accusations that the Machines as a whole are attempting to subvert Victorian society to their own means. Do you see this happening?

**P:** Inside and out Victoria, people are always worried about other people. Anyone who comes along that they're not used to is someone they're probably going to at least fear if not worse. I'm happy that when the Machines came for me they made their case well enough that I signed on. There's a real love in the Machines that you don't really find outside. I see Victorians really worried about Machines coming in and taking over, but that's really just not what we do. It's true that the Machines have certain agendas in the city, but we can accomplish those with some degree of intercommunication between people of Victoria and the Machines.

**VT:** You mentioned "when the Machines came" for you. You weren't always a machine?

**P:** No, I wasn't.

**VT:** What led you to the decision to join them?

**P:** Before the machines offered me a position I was in a pretty bad way. The slums around here aren't pretty, certainly, but some are nothing compared the stuff outside. The Machines offer people who don't have their own resources a place to be and services to perform as part of a greater whole. Some of the progressives around here are up in arms about the situation of the lower classes. In some ways, Machines are some of the best progressives around. However, they don't do it by coming in and shaking things up or by just taking over. Rather, they offer you a way out. Most of the time it's as consensual as can be.

**VT:** Thank you for your time and frankness, Pencer. The people of the City appreciate your candor.

**P:** Certainly.

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## *Fashion Today!*

*Lady Abbey Malkin*

Know ye this: whomsoever is clothed, shall be again unclothed. The cloth, like the flesh, will go to wrack and ruin.

If the very cloth itself shall crumble, how then go the dictates of fashion? For lo, men weareth clothing for reasons three: to warmeth the flesh, to concealeth the flesh, and to be fashionable.

Men have asked unto me, howso should they attireth themselves to keep with the popular styles? And I saith unto them, the ways of style know you not. And yet again they asketh, "*Abbey, what do I wear?*" And I replieth, what you weareth is of no matter. It is the clothing of the heart that shall remain eternal. And yet a third time they come to me. And then I saith unto them: once wings were on every back, but that has passed. Then kerchiefs were found on every head, but that too has passed. Nigh but yesterday, all wore belts at court. But today, the only thing to wear is a Mask.

Let not your heart be troubled by these concerns. Cloth thyself in a Mask.

## In Modern Times

*Reginald Durning VI*

Over the past year, the City of Victoria has seen some drastic changes. Some attribute it to the ideals of the new High Aristocrats, while others view it as part of a larger trend.

Let us take a moment to reflect on what has occurred within the city. The Mills have been altered in some fashion, no longer producing nearly the same amount of smog as previously. However, the advent of mechanized parts put many out of work.

We may now travel about the city via trolley instead of walking about everywhere we go. There are those, of course, who still prefer their own two feet to the speed of the trolley, but most agree that this convenience has improved life for all.

Madame Ashburn opened a new Royal Sanitarium to help those who suffer illness of the head. In addition, she helps treat those who were once imprisoned in the Breaks but have since been released back into society. This certainly seems dangerous, but inside sources confirm that it is being handled with the utmost cautions.

The new Royal Orphanage has begun helping the unfortunate young of our city to reintegrate with society. After the mass loss of jobs at the Mills, many hands were idle. The advent of the Orphanage, however, gave those left without occupation a place to study and learn. It should be noted that this very publication has begun working towards the same ends, hiring orphans for distribution.

"Machines", as they call themselves, have begun entering the city in large numbers. They are an odd addition to Victorian society, to say the least, and many fear them and their unique customs. However, it should also be noted that Pencer, a Machine, was recently awarded a Medal of Honor from the city.

Lastly, the Crystal Palace now graces the outskirts of the city, welcoming travelers from abroad.

While there have been a great many changes and some of them rather sudden, most would agree that progress has been made and that, by and large, these modern conveniences add to our society.

## *New Horizons*

*Duke George Pratton*

Citizens of Victoria-

This is truly an exciting time to be living in our fair city! From the Trolleys to the Mills, from the Sanitarium to the Orphanage, our city has seen wondrous changes over the past few months. Together, we are carrying forwards the unique character, honor, and traditions of Victoria into its glorious future.

This week heralds a new chapter in Victorian history. The World's Fair, and the Crystal Palace itself, marks a broadening of our horizons as a city. It will be a chance for every citizen to meet and learn from those who live beyond the boundaries of our city, to touch and speak with those who live beyond the fog. To expand our knowledge, to forge friendships with new people and places: these things alone would be no mean goals.

Yet, not only will this be a chance for us to meet others, but also an opportunity for them to meet us! Just as there may be lessons to be learned from foreign lands, so too can they learn from the strength of our City and its people, our wit and courage and honor.

This shall be a grand opportunity for us all- a chance to showcase Victoria and all its glory to the world. I have no doubt that each and every one of you will do this city credit.

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# *The Crystal Palace*



*Come and See the Wonder!*

*All are welcome to the Crystal Palace, now  
in its final stages of construction. Truly,  
this is a modern display of Victoria's  
Majesty!*

*Brought to you and the City of Victoria by His Honor, Duke Pratton*