Hope.

I lay in grief,
And Hope drew near to where I cowed alone,
Without relief,
And paused a moment when she heard that moan;
Then raised her glowing eyes and met mine own.
Never a word she said,
Yet still I gazed and still was comforted.

Then bending low, with wond'rous grace,
She laid her head upon my breast,
Her cool hand on my burning face.
And at her touch bright visions rose,
Fresh woods and streams and unimagined skies.

In softest tone
She sang the song that has no close,
That first then took which no one knows
Save she Hope;
The song that bears no memory,
The song of sexless victory
And future love;
And as I listened to the voice there
I felt as one returning from the dead;
Slowly I rose and raised my drooping head.

Hobbies.

Some Famous Ones.

(From the London Globe.)

Of all the various hobbies in which men of mark have interested themselves, perhaps no one has been so common as gardening. Even monarchs, from Diocletian to the present sultan of Turkey or the king of Bavaria, seem to have found greater pleasure in cultivating fruits and flowers than in the exercise of kingly power. Every schoolboy has heard of those famous cabbages, the sight of which Diocletian firmly believed would reconcile his old colleagues to his loss of empire; and future readers of European history will probably be duly impressed with the fact that while the Russians were thundering almost at the very gates of Constantinople, the father of the faithful was engaged in the formation of a new orangery. Pope used to say he was prouder of his garden than of his poems, and a similar pride is said to possess the most popular of transatlantic preachers and lecturers, who apparently spends an inconsiderable portion of the income derived from his oratorical efforts in making good the losses entailed by his amateur gardening and farming. It was to the hobby of a Scotch duke principally that we owe the richness of colouring so peculiar to our modern landscape in autumn, as having taken much the same interest in the introduction and acclimatization of foreign trees and shrubs that Dr. Compton, a former Bishop of London, displayed in the importation of the choicest exotic plants and flowers. "The father of exotic planting in England" was the title which the Bishop's hobby was the means of conferring on him, and the vast collections at Kew and the splendid shows of the Horticultural Society may be regarded as the latest results of this venerable churchman's pastime. When monarchs have taken to gardening, it has sometimes been carried on in a truly regal fashion. Cyrus is said to have planted all Asia Minor, and he had a splendid estate more particularly under his own supervision. "Never, when my health permits," wrote the prince, "do I dine until I have laboured two hours in my garden." Not a few men who have acquired a taste for gardening have become so enamoured of their hobby that they caused themselves to be buried in the spots where they spent so many pleasant hours. Sir William Temple, though anticipating that his body would find a resting-place in Westminster Abbey, ordered his heart to be enclosed in a silver casket and buried in his garden.

Most men who have commanded sufficient energy of character to attain prominence in the world have cultivated some sort of recreative taste. Milton and Luther practised music in the intervals of their turbulent public lives. Charles V., in his seclusion at Yuste, loved nothing better than to spend an afternoon with the mechanical inventions of Torriceli. Of Gustavus Vasa it was said that a better labourer never struck steel; and Mohammed rather prided himself on his dexterity in mending his own shoes and making his own pantaloons. Charles IX. was enthusiastically fond of a blacksmith's occupation and was something of a poet too. Domitian gave special attention to all matters pertaining to the hair, upon which he ultimately wrote a volume. Constantine, whose main function in life may be supposed to be kingcraft, had a considerable number of hobbies—so remarkable, indeed, that it may be doubtful whether in a measure man his versatility would not have been considered fatal to any considerable success in any one of many lines. Besides being an author, he was a painter of very respectable ability, —so, at least, the great man's critics affirmed—an excellent architect, a performer and composer of sacred music, and besides all this, was a skilful metallurgist and first-rate ship-builder. Louis XIII. was another royal rider of hobbies, though his hobbies could hardly be said to bear on them the stamp of royalty. Indeed his epitaph itself declares that—

Il eut cent vertus de valeur,
Et pas une de malice.

It is true that he painted a little, and was said to be no indifferent composer, but then he found a peculiar gratification in emulating his own cooks and gardeners. He could force green peas and lard joints of meat with any of them, and no doubt his courtiers took care to bestow the proper applause on such glorious achievements. Stimulated to still further enterprise, Louis next turned his attention to the barber's art, and one day took it into his head to shave all the officers about him. This he did, leaving only a small tuft of hair on each man's chin. Whether the court applauded this new phase of the royal versatility, unfortunately, history has not recorded so far as we know. Of versatile monarchs perhaps Maximilian I. was the most remarkable specimen. He was no mere dabbler in many subjects, but an able writer on military matters, on heraldry, on horticulture, on horses, architecture, cooking, morals, falconry, and fishing. Fishing has been the hobby of many a notable man. Paley was so enthusiastically fond of the pastime that he refused to have his portrait painted in any character but that of the fisherman. The gentle George Herbert was another eager fisherman, and so were Wotton and Dryden. Mr. John Bright's piscatorial achievements have become as familiar to the public as Mr. Gladstone's tree-felling hobby, or Mr. Lowe's bicycle-riding. Philip, Duke of Burgundy, found his recreation in the contrivance of such whimsical surprises as were to be found in the country-house of Mr. Wantenley, the unlucky projector and builder of the Eddystone lighthouse. This house must have been a charming place for a nervous and uninitiated guest to stay in for a night. "You placed your foot in a slipper in your bedroom and a ghost started up upon the hearth-rug; you sat down in an easy chair and were made prisoner in its arms; you sought the shade of an arbour and were set afloat on a canal." Many ingenious individuals have indulged in vagaries of this sort. The father of the famous Miss Edgeworth was one of them, though most of his mechanical contrivances seem to have had a more sensible purpose than Winstanley's. They were planned mainly for the purpose of making the ordinary acts of life subserve other and unforeseen uses, says Sir Henry Holland. The mere opening and shutting certain doors, for instance, set in motion machinery for winding up clocks, or raising weights in different parts of the house. Many men have been prouder of their hobbies than of their regular avocations in life, as we have seen that Pope was. If was so, no doubt, with the case of Winstanley, who was a silk-merchant on Ludgate hill. What sort of a business man he considered himself we do not know, but that he had abundant faith in his mechanical genius, the story of his lighthouse abundantly proves. While it was certainly a marvellous display of ingenuity, full of all sorts of quaint contrivances for doing things of minor importance, it was in its main features that about all that a lighthouse should not be, presenting innumerable angles and projections that might have been designed for catching the full power of the hurricane and breasting the unbroken might of the billows. Yet its architect had unbounded confidence in its stability, and hoped that he might be in it when the fiercest of storms beat about it. As it happened, singularly enough, he had his wish, and, as everybody has heard, his mechanical hobby cost him his life.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

CHINA merchants never have to invite British sea-captains to dine, as they always come after too.

THE good man is the only one who can be indifferent to a slander; the bad man must needs chase it and try to head it off.

EVEN the most religious man, who would scorn to worship an idol, takes a peculiar delight in being worshipped as an idol himself.

IT is a row of empty houses that gets its windows broken; and empty heads, empty hearts, and empty hands are sure to come to grief.

"It's only a spring opening, ma," exclaimed that awful boy, as he exhibited his torn trousers after a leap over a picket fence.

MADRID papers report that Leo XIII. induced Don Carlos, during his late visit to the Vatican, to renounce all claim to the crown of Spain.

A PORTRAIT, said to be the missing one of Shakspeare, as been discovered at Sydney. It has been despatched to England, insured for $25,000.

"YOU see," said a hen-pecked husband, "I don't mind staying at home to mind the youngsters, but I do mind when the youngsters won't mind me."

A VIENNA doctor spends his leisure hour in practising on the cornet, and pastors-by, thinking amputation is going on inside, are deluded as to the number of the man's patients.

"ISN'T my photograph excellent?" said a young wife to her husband. "Well, my dear, replied he, "there's a little too much repose about the mouth for it to be natural."

MANY people who boast of being "plain" and "blunt" are merely coarse and boorish. Such persons are constantly inflicting wounds which neither time nor medicine can ever heal.

THERE are two classes of men among our acquaintances whom we never trust. The first consists of those whom we do not know enough about, and the second of those whom we know too much about.

AN old Vermonter offered a widow $1,000 to marry him, and she accepted; but in seeing her daughter, he recanted, and offered $2,000 for the younger woman. A breach of promise suit is the result.

MORE than 400 yards length of cliff, at Courville, near Havre, fell into the sea, with three reports like thunderclaps. The tide was in at the time, and the material was carried away by it when it retired.

A MAN retained his seat on the back of a kicking horse at Uniontville, Nev., in spite of all efforts to throw him, but fell off dead after the beast had become quiet. The excitement had brought on heart disease.

JOHN MORSE, a prisoner in a Denver gaol, mingled with the members of the Young Men's Christian Association when they held services in the prison, sang as loud as the loudest, and walked out with the party.

ROBERT HELD eloped with a Denver widow, and his own wife aided him in the exploit. The object of the Helds was to get the widow's $1,000, and, after doing that Held deserted the widow and returned home.

DISTINGUISHED patron of a New York restaurant—"These sausages are hardly up to the mark." Waiter—"I am surprised at that, sir; we have had no thing but first-class Scotch terriers made up of late."

MOTHER-IN-LAW holding the screaming baby—"Dear little darlin' how it looks like its papa now." Papa wonders why it is that his wife's mother always compares the baby to him when it is crying, and not at other times.

A LOTTERY has been authorized by the French Minister of the Interior, for the purpose of raising three hundred thousand francs, wherewith to complete the big statue of "Liberty," which is to be presented to the United States.

A LITTLE girl was punished by her mother for some misdemeanor. When the correction had been pleadingly and said: "What shall I sing?" "Sing 'There is rest for the weary.'"

THE sight of a young man with a gun across his shoulder, compelling a well-known physician to march before him, drew a crowd in New Albany, and the physician had insulted a young woman, and was on his way, under compulsion, to apologize.

A BOSTON wife slyly attached a pedometer to her husband when, after supper, he started to "go down to the office and balance the books." On his return, fifteen miles of walking was recorded. He had been stepping round a billiard table all the evening.

THE charges in a first-class London boarding house are from $10 to $12.50 a week. English people of the higher class are very rarely to be found in these establishments. Single ladies who would be driven to their lodgings and take their meals in their own sitting-room.

A FEW days ago, at the breakfast-table, his mother said she dreamed a man had shot her in the arm, and then she woke up. Master five-year-old listened with blooming gravity until the story was done, and then he said: "It's a pity, mamma, you didn't keep on sleeping. You'd have hung that man before you woke up."

THE Methodist Church has a mission in Buenos Ayres, South America, which is in part self-supporting. It has 54 members, 107 probationers, and 320 children in the Sunday-school. There is an English congregation of 250 and a Spanish congregation of 500, the total average Sunday attendance being 875.

A YOUNG gentleman being pressed very hard in company to sing, even after he had solemnly assured them that he could not, observed testily that they were wanting to make a butt of him. "No, my dear sir," said George Coleman, the younger, who was present, "we only want to get a stave out of you."

A BACHELOR dropped in the other evening to see a married friend whose wife was away from home on a prolonged visit. He found him smoking desperately at a cigar near a foot long. "Why," gasped he, breathlessly, "where on earth did you get such a preposterous cigar as that, Charley?" "Had it built by contract," was the response. "You see," continued the smoker explanatorily, "I promised my wife before she went away—bless her heart!—that I wouldn't smoke more than six cigars a day. Promises to a wife are sacred, you know, and I mean to keep mine if I have to get cigars as long as a lamp-post."

WHEN Napoleon III. kept court at the Tuileries, Paris had four lyric theatres. In the Rue le Pelletier dwelt the Academie Imperiale de Musique, until the building, scored by the bombs of Orsini, went the way of its class and disappeared in flames. Across the Boulevard the Opera Comique flourished, the Italian opera had gained a firm footing in the theatre to which it gave its name, while the Lyriques flourished and gave promise of permanence. Last season the Grand Opera was at sixes and sevens, the Italian opera had no longer a house, and the Opera Comique, of all four, alone was unaffected by change.

A RECENT examination of French black silks in New York showed that they were heavily adulterated. The weight of dye in American silks is about seventeen per cent., but the French silk showed a weight of from thirty-three to fifty per cent. The principal article used in weighting is iron. It then receives a blue tint from prussiate of potash, followed by several baths in gambier, and a treatment with acetate of iron. It is then made bright by logwood and soap. To make the silk soft, a little oil and soda are added, while to make it stiff and rustling an acid is used. The "wearing shiny" is caused by the action of the soap and alkali, which develope, under friction, a sort of grease. The cracking of silk is owing to its inability to carry the great load of material used in dyeing.

The Home of Leprosy.

The District in China Where the Vile Disease has its Stronghold.

(From the New York Sun.)

A case of leprosy has lately presented itself in one of our hospitals, and has attracted considerable attention from the medical profession on account of the rarity of the disease in this portion of the world. The question of its contagiousness, and the consequent liability to spread among our people, assumes therefore a certain importance, as, if it have a contagious character, Chinese immigration to the United States might be attended with a physical danger even more grave than its alleged moral or political evils.

China may justly claim priority in this remarkable disease. It was known and described by her physicians long previous to its mention in the Hebrew sacred writings, or in Greek medical literature. It is endemic in Southern China, whence come most of our Mongolian population. It is an affection, however, not entirely confined to warm latitudes. It has prevailed from time immemorial in Scandinavia, and has thence been transported to the somewhat similar region of Canada by Norwegian settlers, and remains among them as a gradually failing reminiscence of their fatherland. Still, it may be regarded as really co-existent with the intense miasmatic influences which infest such localities.

It seems to be well demonstrated that among the Chinese, at least, it is not a contagious or infectious disease, but a purely personal chronic disorder, affecting more particularly the nervous system and cutaneous envelope. Among a vast number of cases investigated and reported during the past ten years by the medical gentlemen attached to the English customs at the treaty ports in China, none appear to have presented any evidence of the transmissibility of leprosy by contagion from person to person. These customs stations extend along thousands of miles of the Chinese coast. They are situated at Pekin, Niuchuang, Tientsin, Chefoo, Hankow, Kinkiang, Chinkiang, Shanghai, Ningpo, Foochow, Amoy, Tamsuy, Takow, Swatow, Canton, and Whampoa. Some twenty carefully selected surgeons have charge of them, and their practice and observation are not confined to the English residents, but are largely extended among the native population. The results of their observations are embodied in very interesting semi-annual reports to the Inspector-General of Customs, which have been of a special value in affording scientific information relative to the diseases prevalent in China, among which leprosy must perhaps be assigned the most important rank.

Indian Trappers, Hudson Bay.

About the first of November, when the animals have got their winter coats, and fur is "in season," the Indian trapper lays out his tripping walk for the winter, along which he places a line of traps from ten to fifteen miles in length. Once or twice a week he makes the round of this walk, and gathers such furs as may be caught. Most of the finer furs are taken by means of the wooden dead-fall and steel traps of various sizes, the larger fur-bearing animals being either shot, caught in snares, or killed with the poisoned bait.

Towards the latter end of March the Indian trappers leave their hunting grounds, and make a journey to the forts with the produce of their winter's toil. Here they come, moving through the forest, a motley throng. The braves march in front, too proud and lazy to carry anything but their guns, and not always doing even that. After them come the squaws, bending under loads, driving dogs, or hauling hand-sleds laden with meat, fur, tanned deer-skins and infants. The puppy dog and inevitable baby never fail in Indian lodge or procession. The cheerful spectacle of the two packed together upon the back of a woman is not of infrequent occurrence. Day after day the mongrel party journeys on until the fort is reached. Then comes the trade. The trader separates the furs into lots, placing the standard valuation upon each. Then he adds the amounts together, and informs the trapper that he has sixty or seventy "skins." At the same time he hands his customer sixty or seventy little bits of wood, so that the latter may know, by returning these in payment for the goods for which he really bartered his furs, just how fast his funds decrease. The first act of the Indian is to cancel the debt contracted for advances at the beginning of the season; then he looks round upon the bales of cloth, blankets, etc., and after a long while concludes to have a small white capote for his toddling boy. The price is told him, and he hands back ten of his little pieces of wood, then looks about him for something else. Everything is carefully examined, and with each purchase there is a contest over the apparent inequality between the amount received and that given. In the Indian's opinion, one skin should pay for one article of merchandise, no matter what the value of the latter may be. And he insists, too, upon selecting the skin. The steelyard and weighing balances are his special objects of dislike. He does not know what that medicine is. That his tea and sugar should be balanced against a bit of iron conveys no idea of the relative value of pelteries and merchandise to him. He insists upon making the balance swing even between the trader's goods and his own furs until a new light is thrown upon the question of steelyards and scales by the acceptance of his proposition. Then, when he finds his fine furs balanced against heavy blankets, he concludes to slide by the old method of letting the white trader decide the weight in his own way; for it is clear that the steelyard is a very great medicine, which no brave can understand.

When the trapper has spent all his little pieces of wood, and asks for further advances, he is allowed to draw any reasonable amount; for, contrary to the rule in civilized life, a debt is seldom lost save by the death of the Indian. He may change his place of abode hundreds of miles, but he at least his only a Company's post at which to trade. The Company has always been a good friend to him and his, and he pays when he can. He knows that when he liquidates his old debt, he can contract a new one just as big. No attempt was ever made to cheat him, and there never will be. When he is ill he goes to the nearest fort, and is cared for and attended until he recovers. When he does his duty well he gets a present, and he never performs any labour without receiving fair compensation. Such humane treatment strongly binds the Indian and half-breed to the Company.—H. M. Robinson, in *Harper's Magazine for June.*

Haydn and Mozart.

After Mozart's death, Haydn was asked by Broderip, in his music shop, whether he had left any MS. compositions behind him that were worth purchasing, as his widow had offered his unedited papers at a high price, to the principal publishers of music throughout Europe. Haydn eagerly said: "Purchase them by all means. He was truly a great musician. I have been often flattered by my friends with having some genius, but he was much my superior." Though this declaration has more modesty than truth in it, yet, if the genius of Mozart, who died at the early age of thirty-six, had been granted as many years to expand as that of Haydn, the assertion might, perhaps, have been realized.

Mr. Thomas Atwood, who had the honour of being pupil to Mozart, as Mozart was to Haydn, declared in a judicial proceeding respecting the Opera House, in which he was a witness, that he regarded "Mozart's music as the best in the world, and *Don Giovanni* as the finest of his compositions."

An enquiry into Irish endowed schools has elicited the fact that in 1816 a school at Rathvilly, Carlow, was endowed with $15,000 under the will of Benjamin D'Israeli, a broker in Dublin.

STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

On Monday last the second annual meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at the Company's offices, in Hamilton. There was a fair attendance of those interested, all of whom appeared to take a lively interest in the proceedings, and seemed to be highly pleased with the results of the Company's operations during the past year. The President, D. B. Chisholm, Esq., who occupied the chair, called upon the secretary, Mr. H. Theo. Crawford, to read the annual report which was as follows:

Second Annual Report of the Standard Fire Insurance Company.

Your Directors have pleasure in submitting for your approval the annexed statement of the Company's business for the year which ended on the 1st ultimo, accompanied by a statement of its assets and liabilities on the same date.

During the year 2,765 policies were issued, insuring property to the amount of $2,513,507, from which the company derived a revenue of $47,316.67, an increase of 965 policies and of $9,574.13 premium income over the previous year, which with $1,174 63 received for interest on investment, $3,648.48 received for losses re-insured in other companies, and $164.55 on capital account, makes the total income of the Company for the year, from all sources, $55,457.34. At the close of the year we had 3,933 policies in force, covering insurances to the amount of $3,607,471.36.

Our premium income would have been much larger had we accepted all the business offered. It was deemed advisable, however, in the best interest of the Company to decline applications for insurance amounting to $199,020.23, and upon which the premiums would have reached $4,848.30. We have also been advised of losses to other companies on many of these very properties amounting to more than the premiums we would have realized had we accepted them. While many of these applications were declined on account of the undesirability of the risks themselves, the larger portion were refused because of the inadequacy of the rate of premium offered.

Your Directors have experienced great difficulty in maintaining equitable rates, owing to the reckless competition of other companies, principally English offices, but by a careful policy, confining our business to the best class of risks, and accepting these only at adequate rates, we are enabled to place before you so favourable an exhibit of the Company's operations for the past year.

The claims paid during the year amounted to $18,232 36, of which $5,768 50, were for losses of the previous year. The Company's liability on losses reported, but not adjusted, and adjusted but not due, we estimate at $4,500. Of the above $3,648.48, were reinsured in other companies, making the net losses for the year $13,315.88, against a premium income of $47,316.67. The entire expense of management has been reduced during the year to about 30 per cent. of the income, notwithstanding the extending of the Company's operations by the establishing of a considerable number of new agencies, and we anticipate a still further reduction in expense account during the current year.

As the business offered to the Company during the year has been largely of the most desirable class, and in lines much larger than your Directors deemed it advisable to carry, adhering to the policy laid down at the outset, it necessitated the payment of a very large amount for re-insurance, which, in future years, as the Company grows in strength, we shall be able to retain by having these larger lines ourselves.

Considering the prevalency of incendiary and other fires during the year, and comparing our experience with that of other companies, we think the year's record is highly satisfactory, and exhibits great caution and close attention to the Company's interests on the part of its officers and agents, all of whom have performed their several duties to the entire satisfaction of your Directors.

During the year we have widened our field of operations by increasing the number of our agencies, but in doing so we have been careful to appoint none but influential and reliable men, believing the Company's success depends largely upon the respectability, energy and integrity of its representatives in the field, and your Directors take pleasure in the fact that the Company's agents are, as a rule, gentlemen prominent in social and business circles, who have identified themselves with its prosperity and are cordially co-operating with us in carrying the Standard to a proud position in the front rank of the insurance institutions of this country.

From present prospects we feel warranted in anticipating a largely increased premium revenue for 1879, while the dawn of a better feeling in commercial matters leads us to believe that the percentage of loss will in all probability fall within our experience of the past year.

After paying all the expenses of the year and providing for losses unadjusted, and adjusted but not due, and an ample reserve or re-insurance fund, there is left a profit on the year's operations of $9,740, out of which your Directors recommend the payment of the usual dividend of 10 per cent.

The following is a summary of the Company's financial position on the 1st ultimo:

Total assets and capital Stock	$177,346 65
Liabilities, including losses adjusted but not due, reported but not adjusted, and amount required to re-insure all outstanding risks (50 per cent. of the gross premiums on all policies in force)	26,000 00
Leaving a surplus, as regards Policy holders, of	$151,346 69

D. B. CHISHOLM, *President.*
H. THEO. CRAWFORD, *Secretary.*

ASSETS.

Cash on hand in Bank	$ 6,568 45
Bills receivable	5,216 32
Loans on Real Estate (First Mortgages)	25,322 00
Agents' Balances	4,612 09
Interest accrued	1 200 00
Office Furniture	1,093 68
Due by other companies for Losses re-insured, and other items	1,993 65
Capital Stock (balance not called up	132,350 00
	$177,356 69

LIABILITIES.

Losses adjusted and in course of adjustment	$ 4,500 00
Reserve, or re-Insurance Fund (50 per cent.), and all other liabilities	21,500 00
	$ 26,000 00
Surplus (as regards Policy holders)	$151,356 69

To the President and Directors of the Standard Insurance Company.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to report that I have carefully examined the books, accounts and vouchers of your Company, also the statement of receipts and expenditures for the year ending 31st of March, 1879, also the assets and liabilities, and have much pleasure in certifying to their correctness.

The future operations of the Company have been conducted with much business ability.

I have to thank your Secretary and Accountant for their very courteous attention, and for the assistance rendered by them to me during the audit, and I also have to express my pleasure with the very neat and accurate manner in which the books are kept.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JOHN W. KERR,
Auditor.

Hamilton, May 3rd, 1879.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said it gave him great pleasure to be able to move the adoption of the report which had been read by the Secretary. This was the second annual report, and he was glad that the predictions made by him last year, with regard to the probable business of the Company for the year then to come and now just expired, had been more than fully realized.

The fact that after paying the losses by fire during the year they had left over $40,000 for expenses, reserve or re-insurance fund and profits, was a cause for congratulation. It is true that the expenses were large, but that is expected in all new enterprises. Another such year as the past will enable the Company to materially reduce the expenses, and at the same time perceptibly increase its business. As a Canadian, he would like to assist in demonstrating that home companies can, not only hold their own, but also pay a fair dividend to stockholders. It is no easy task to be able to compete with the foreign wealthy companies doing business in this Province, and it can only be done by the strictest economy and a vigilant and prudent oversight of every department.

It should be the policy of Canadians to support and build up their home companies. A vast amount of money is taken out of this country to maintain foreign Insurance Companies that ought to be left here to develope the resources of our own country. In no branch of business can a national policy be more successfully demonstrated than in the support of home companies.

For the future, as in the past, he trusted that it would be the policy of the Standard to pay all just losses equitably, and to resist all fraudulent ones when there was a hope of doing so successfully.

Only by this method can a stop be put to the many fraudulent claims that too frequently arise in our day. He was glad that with the dawn of returning prosperity there was a decrease in the number of fires. While the report embraced a period up to the first of April last, it gave him pleasure to be able to state as a matter of fact that while the business of the Company was never so large as it had been during the month immediately preceding that in which he was speaking, not a single fire had occurred or loss been made by the Company. It was gratifying to himself, as he was sure it would be to all the stockholders, to know that the Company was in a position to declare the usual dividend of ten per cent.

He could not allow the present opportunity to pass without giving expression to the satisfaction he felt in presiding over a Company for the past two years, where every official appeared to be well up in his work and took a personal interest in the welfare of the Company.

The Company had entered upon its third year under the most favourable auspices, and he had every confidence that the coming year would even show a more successful record than the past.

The adoption of the report was seconded by John Baird, Esq., of St. Thomas, and carried.

The election of Directors then took place, and at a subsequent meeting of the Board D. B. Chisholm, Esq., was re-elected President.

Ask Yourself these Questions.

Are you a despondent sufferer from Sick Headache, Habitual Costiveness, Palpitation of the Heart? Have you Dizziness of the Head? Is your Nervous System depressed? Does your Blood circulate badly? Have you a Cough? Low Spirits? Coming up of the food after eating? &c., &c. All of these and much more are the direct results of Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint and Indigestion. Green's August Flower is now acknowledged by all Druggists to be a positive cure. 2,400,000 bottles were given away in the U. S. through Druggists to the people as a trial. Two doses will satisfy any person of its wonderful quality in curing all forms of Indigestion. Sample bottle 10 cts. Regular size 75 cts. Sold positively by all first-class Druggists in the United States.

Business Items.

THE never-ending battle of the ages—when they are ill and dependent. A heavy percentage of old people suffer from kidney complaints, etc., brought on by the ungenerosity of this secretory organ, who will fail with joy the great remedy prepared expressly to meet their case—Victoria Stout and Kidney Cure. It can be recommended with confidence. For sale by all dealers.

TO be well draped, your linen must be faultless, and to insure it, get your Shirts and Furnishings at Cooper's, 109 Yonge St., Toronto.

VICTORIA HYPOPHOSPHITES extends its influence into every part of the human organism, commencing from the beginning, correcting the cause of action, and restoring vital powers, creating a healthy formation, a rich purification of the blood, driving out disease, and leaving nature to perform its natural part. It is the finest nervous remedy known, and the greatest brain and blood food in the world. For sale by all dealers. $1.00 per bottle.

READY FOR BUSINESS.—The new spring stock of Furniture now being shown by the Oshawa Cabinet Co. is ahead of anything yet offered. The latest styles of parlour seats from fifty dollars upward are very pretty and well got up. In walnut bed-room sets they have extra bargains. In chairs their prices are much reduced. Their warerooms is very tastefully arranged, and the four large flats are filled with every kind of Furniture. Oshawa Cabinet Co., 97 Yonge St., Toronto.

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