

siderably under what is calculated upon fully confirms the advantage of the care which I have already referred to as being exercised by the Board in the selection of the lives offered for assurance. The liberal concessions to policyholders which, it will have been observed, has been made in providing that death claims shall be payable at once, in place of after the lapse of three months, as hitherto, will add to public confidence and satisfaction, and will prove what this Company has always claimed, viz., that it offers assured every advantage which prudence and liberality can suggest. The percentage of expenses was lower last year than it had ever before been, and as its continued diminution will contribute largely to the profits of the Company, that result will not be lost sight of by the Directors.

As the report remarks, we had contemplated to have this year met in our new premises, but that has not been found possible. We hope, however, to occupy them by the 1st of November, and shall undoubtedly have the satisfaction of holding our future meetings there. If there be any information which I can give to the meeting, it will afford me much pleasure to do so.

I beg to move the adoption of the annual report and statements in your hands.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. F. W. Gates referred to the satisfactory condition of affairs as presented in the report and the President's remarks, dwelling particularly on the value of the securities of the Company which had been referred to by Mr. Ramsay. As a proof of their value, he might point out that there was no security for the past twenty years on which the loss would not be covered by a thousand dollars. He was happy to second the President's motion.

Mr. Yates asked for detailed information with reference to the expenses of the Company, and also about certain securities.

The President answered the several questions in a manner entirely satisfactory.

The report was adopted unanimously.

Mr. W. R. Macdonald moved a vote of thanks to the Directors for their attention to the interests of the Company during the past year. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Lyman Moore, who said that the Company had the reputation of being the best managed of any on the continent. He was pleased to be present and bear testimony to this fact.

Mr. Adam Brown moved that the thanks of the shareholders be given to Mr. Ramsay and the other officers of the Company for the zeal, attention and faithful services rendered to the Company. In proposing the resolution he said that it was hardly necessary for him to enlarge upon it. Proofs of the energy and zeal of the officers of the institution were before the shareholders in the highly satisfactory report and statements to-day presented.

Mr. McLaren seconded the resolution.

Mr. Ramsay neatly thanked the meeting for the compliment paid to himself and the other officers of the Company.

Mr. Alex. Bruce moved, seconded by Mr. D. Moore, that Messrs. Riddell and Young be scrutineers of votes for the election of Directors in the room of the three retiring, and that the poll shall now be opened, and be closed upon five minutes elapsing without a vote. Carried.

The voting resulted in the election of the following Directors for a period of four years:—Hon. Mr. Justice Burton, Colonel Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen, and Mr. N. Merritt, of Toronto.

On motion of Mr. James Osborn, seconded by Mr. Burton, Mr. Ramsay vacated the chair, and Mr. F. W. Gates took the same.

A cordial vote of thanks was then passed to the President for his conduct in the chair, which was duly acknowledged.

The meeting then adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors Mr. A. G. Ramsay was elected President and Mr. F. W. Gates Vice-President of the Company.

THE NEW FORTH BRIDGE.

The New Forth Bridge will have two spans of 1,700 feet, two of 675 feet, 14 of 168 feet, and six of 50 feet, with a clear headway of 150 feet above high water spring tides. Mr. W. Baker in a recent paper argues that not only will such a bridge prove stiffer than a suspension bridge, but it will also be cheaper. Steel is to be used in the construction of the bridge. No punching or shearing will be allowed, but all holes will be drilled through the whole thickness of plates and angles after being put together. The effect of wind-pressure on the superstructure has been carefully guarded against, and it is thought that the bridge will stand the strongest hurricane yet known. The total length of the great continuous girder is 5,330 feet, or say a mile, and the viaduct approaches, 2,754 feet, or rather over half a mile. The heaviest train traversing the bridge will not deflect the 1,700-foot girder more than four inches, while a wind-pressure equivalent to 30 pounds per square foot over the entire 1,700 feet will bend the bridge laterally less than nine inches. About 42,000 tons of steel will be used in the superstructure of the main spans, and 3,000 tons of wrought-iron in that of the viaduct approach. The total quantity of masonry in the piers and foundations will be about 125,000 cubic yards, and the estimated cost of the bridge, over seven millions of dollars.

The Traffic returns of the Midland Railway of Canada, for the week ending Sept. 9th, 1882, was as follows:—Passengers and Mails, \$8,792.34; Freight, \$15,132.20; total, \$23,924.54, as compared with \$21,188.84 for the corresponding week of 1881, being an increase of \$2,735.70; and the aggregate traffic to date is \$693,182.65, being an increase of \$163,077.11 over 1881.

ODDS AND ENDS.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

CLAUQUERS.—In the Parisian theatres, there is usually a body of persons hired to vociferously applaud certain actors. They are called *clauquers*, and sit in the pit, but are indistinguishable from the rest of the spectators. On one occasion, Mademoiselle Rachel complained that the *claque* had failed in its duty. She was representing a new character. The first night the applause was all that could be expected; but next night it fell far short of the proper amount of enthusiasm. In answer to her complaint, she was informed that the head of the *claque* was ill at the moment, and that he had been obliged to get his place temporarily taken by a confere, from a theatre on the Boulevards. This latter personage having heard the complaint, wrote to the great actress the following justificatory epistle: 'Mademoiselle, I cannot remain under the obloquy of a reproach from lips such as yours! The following is an authentic statement of what really took place: At the first representation I led the attack in person no less than thirty-three times! We had three acclamations, four hilarities, two thrilling movements, four renewals of applause, and two indefinite explosions. In fact, to such an extent did we carry our applause that the occupants of the stalls were scandalised, and cried out: 'A la porte!' My men were positively overcome with fatigue, and intimated to me that they could not again go through such an evening. Seeing such to be the case, I applied for the manuscript, and, after having profoundly studied the piece, I was obliged to make up my mind, for the second representation, to certain curtailments in the service of my men. I, however, applied them only to MM.—and if the *ad interim* office which I hold affords me the opportunity, I will make them ample amends. In such a situation as that which I have just depicted, I have only to request you to believe firmly in my profound admiration and respectful zeal; and I venture to entreat you to have some consideration for the difficulties which environ me—I am, Mademoiselle, &c.

HOME SOLACE.—It is a beautiful and relieving consideration in the struggles of men in this world, that every one of us may have and generally has his little circle within which he is admired, loved, and perhaps revered, whatever be the obloquy thrown upon him by the multitude. A man may be the scorn of every newspaper, and hardly able to shew his face in public: he may be regarded by the community at large as little better than a malefactor. But there will be a wife or a daughter, or a whole group of children, who regard him all the time as the best and bravest person in the world, and only another word for perfection. He knows there is a retreat from the peltings of the hooting multitude, available every evening of his life, namely, his love-sighted fireside; and he is content. Give me the partisanship of the parlor group, and I think much contempt may be borne out of doors.

DON'T QUARREL.—On this point I lately (1842) fell in with the following rational hints on quarrelling, in the *Emporium*, an American publication: 'One of the most easy, the most common, and most perfectly foolish things in the world, is—to quarrel, no matter with whom, man, woman, or child; or upon what pretence, provocation, or occasion whatsoever. There is no kind of necessity in it, no manner of use in it, and no species of degree or benefit to be gained by it. And yet, strange as the fact may be, theologians quarrel, and politicians, lawyers, doctors, and princes quarrel, the church quarrels, and the state quarrels; nations and tribes, and corporations, men, women, and children, dogs and cats, birds and beasts, quarrel about all manner of things, and on all manner of occasions. If there is anything in the world that will make a man feel bad, except pinching his fingers in the door, it is unquestionably a quarrel. No man ever fails to think less of himself after than he did before one—it degrades him in his own eyes, and in the eyes of others—and, what is worse, blunts his sensibility to disgrace on the one hand, and increases the power of passionate irritability on the other. The reason people quarrel about religion, is, because they really have so little of it, and the harder they quarrel, the more abundantly do they prove it. Politicians need not quarrel. Whosoever quarrels with a man for his political opinions, is himself denying the first principle of freedom—freedom of thought, moral liberty, without which there is nothing in politics worth a groat: it is therefore wrong upon principle. You have on this subject a right to your own opinions, so have others; you have a right to convince them, if you can: they have the same. Exercise your rights, but again I say—don't quarrel.'

'The truth is, the more quietly and peaceably we all get on, the better—the better for ourselves, the better for our neighbors. In nine cases out of ten, the wisest policy is, if a man cheats you, to quit dealing with him; if he is abusive, quit his company; if he slanders you, take care to live so that nobody will believe him: no matter who he is, or how he misuses you, unless there be something outrageous to complain of, the wisest way is generally just to let him alone, for there is nothing better than this cool, calm, quiet way of dealing with most of the wrongs we meet with.'

KING COTTON.—The yearly statement of the National Cotton Exchange of the United States, for the season ending Aug. 31, 1882, shows that the cotton crop of the United States was 5,466,048 bales,—a falling off from the previous season of 1,149,702 bales. The receipts at out-ports were 4,688,137 bales, against 5,878,106 bales last year. The exports were 3,551,075, against 4,565,316. The total quantity shipped overland by rail direct to northern mills amounted to 1,086,217 bales. Of this 510,902 bales

went direct to Eastern delivery ports, 489,170 to mills, and 86,145 from Southern outports to Eastern mills. Canada took overland 31,547 bales, or 31 per cent. more than last year. Exports to foreign ports aggregated 3,557,075, showing a falling off of 1,014,241 bales. Northern spinners have taken of this crop 677,581 bales, against 1,713,628 last year. The remarkable feature of the statement is the large increase in Southern consumption, these mills having taken from outports and plantations 286,954, against 225,311 last year. The stock carried from the year's crop amounts to 125,582, against 217,031 last year.

MASONIC STATISTICS.

OFFICIAL FIGURES OF THE STRENGTH OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA MASONS.

From the printed report of the proceedings at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, A., F. and A. M., held in this city last July, is taken the following statement of lodges for the year ending June 24th, which has been compiled by the Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, of Hamilton:—

Lodges organized and affiliated.....	401
Lodges extinct.....	12
Lodges ceded to Grand Lodge of Quebec.....	38
Lodges ceded to Grand Lodge of Manitoba.....	4
Number of Lodges on roll.....	341
Represented in Grand Lodge.....	286
Initiations reported.....	1,462
Passings ".....	1,365
Raisings ".....	1,205
Joinings ".....	434
Restorations ".....	115
Resignations ".....	768
Deaths ".....	182
Suspensions for non-payment of dues.....	493
Suspensions for unmasonic conduct.....	17
Members in good standing.....	17,967
Gross receipts for the year ending May 31st, 1882.....	\$10,913.47
Assets of Grand Lodge as per Grand Treasurer's statement, 31st May, 1882.....	\$65,199.27

—London Free Press.

WONDERS OF THE HUMAN FRAME.

In the human body there are about 263 bones. The muscles are about 500 in number. The length of the alimentary canal is about 32 feet. The amount of blood in an adult averages 30 pounds or full one-fifth of the entire weight. The heart is six inches in length and four inches in diameter, and beats seventy times per minute, 4,200 times per hour, 100,800 times per day, 36,792,000 times per year, 2,565,440,000 in three score and ten, and at each beat two and a half ounces of blood are thrown out of it, 175 ounces per minute, 656 pounds per hour, 7½ tons per day. All the blood in the body passes through the heart in three minutes. This little organ, by its ceaseless industry, pumps each day what is equal to lifting 122 tons one foot high; or one ton 122 feet high. The lungs will contain about one gallon of air, at their usual degree of inflation. We breathe on an average 1,200 times per hour, inhale 600 gallons of air, or 24,000 per day. The aggregate surface of the air cells of the lungs exceeds 20,000 square inches, an area very near equal to the floor of a room 12 feet square. The average weight of the brain of an adult male is three pounds and eight ounces, of a female two pounds and four ounces. The nerves are all connected with it, directly or by the spinal marrow. These nerves, together with their branches and minute ramifications, probably exceed 10,000,000 in number, forming a "body guard" outnumbering by far the greatest army ever marshalled! The skin is composed of three layers, and varies from one-fourth to one-eighth of an inch in thickness. The atmospheric pressure being about 14 pounds to the square inch, a person of medium size is subjected to a pressure of 40,000 pounds! Each square inch of skin contains 3,500 sweating tubes, or perspiratory pores, each of which may be likened to a little drain pipe one-fourth of an inch long, making an aggregate length of the entire surface of the body of 201,166 feet, or a tile ditch for draining the body almost forty miles long. Man is marvellously made.

THE NEW YORK CITY SAVINGS BANKS, numbering twenty-five, have made their semi-annual reports. On July 1, 1882, their aggregate resources were \$254,578,658. Their total liabilities amounted to \$219,478,278, of which sum \$219,417,477 was due to their depositors, leaving a net surplus on the basis of market values of \$35,100,380. The total number of open accounts was 566,163. During the six months 64,121 accounts were opened and 47,040 closed. The deposits received from Jan. 1 to July 1 amounted to \$36,587,840, and the withdrawals to \$32,147,281. The expense of management during the six months was \$314,874.

THE SALVATION NAVY.—The Salvation Army is not going to have a monopoly in the saving trade. The Salvation Navy, under Admiral Tug, possibly a connection of the illustrious pugilist, has been started, and those ranging themselves under its flag are cheered by a parody of a famous old sea song, viz:—

"Come all you sinners young and old
With hearts once cast in 'eaven's mould
And join our Christian Navy bold
On board of the 'Allelujah!
We're bound to floor the forts of sin
And the devil himself will soon cave in;
Then join the side that is sure to win—
On board of the 'Allelujah!"