Robbins, Miss Kelly, Messrs. J. F. Egan, George Clark, and E. G. Payne. Mr. P. D. Sheerin, a gentleman who describes himself as a comic vocalist, took up the time of the audience long enough to go through Scanlan's ditty, "Remember, Boy, you're Irish." The selection was entirely out of place. It is a pleasing sign of musical progress here that numbers for string quartettes and solo instruments are now frequently placed upon string quartettes and solo instruments are now frequently placed upon programmes, and receive a respectful, intelligent hearing. At this concert the Littleholes family (strings) with Mr. C. L. M. Harris, solo clarionet, played an air and variations from Mozart's clarionet quintette; and Mrs. Wigmore, R.A.M., a pianist of no mean ability, with the assistance of Mr. Littleholes and his clever children, played the first movement from Mozart's Piano Concerto in C. Master George Fox, widely known as an excellent boy violinist, contributed "A Legende," by Wieniawski, and "The Souvenir de Bade," by Leonhard, to the programme. C. Major.

THE Report presented by the Directors of the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Company, at their fourteenth Annual Meeting, held on the 23rd ult., showed a net gain on the year's business of \$18,047, which permitted the distribution of a scrip dividend of fifty per cent. to the mutual policyholders, and a two per cent. dividend on the capital of the Company. This is a very satisfactory result, as well to the stockholders and the policyholders, the latter especially gaining a substantial benefit; and both are to be congratulated on the excellent management this showing exhibits. The list of assets indicates careful investments; the stockholders are an exceptionally responsible body of men; and, altogether, we should say the Company is one worthy the attention of every insurer.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Some interesting works in biography may be looked for soon from the press, the subjects of some of which we may here notice, viz., Mr. Thomas Hughes' "Life of Bishop Fraser, of Manchester"; Rev. Mr. Dawson's "Life of the martyred Bishop Hannington"; a "Life of Dr. Bickersteth, Bishop of Ripon"; Mr. Dowden's "Life of Shelley"; Mr. Louis Jennings' indictment of Mr. Gladstone; Mr. Fitzgerald's "Lives of the Sheridans"; and Miss Strickland's Life of her sister, Agnes Strickland.

NEW issues of these useful compends, "Men of the Time," a dictionary of contemporaries, and "Men of the Reign," a biographical dictionary of eminent characters of both sexes who have died during the Victorian era, appear from the press of Messrs. George Routledge and Son, of London and New York. In the first of these volumes, Canada is represented by some forty members of Parliament, prominent politicians, and legal and literary luminaries, divines, etc., whose public careers are briefly and tersely sketched.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN are doing good service in re-issuing at a lower price, for the benefit of a yet wider public than the volumes have hitherto reached, Mr. Morley's excellent series of "English Men of Letters," written by the most prominent littérateurs of the day. The series, we need hardly say, forms a library of the most valuable kind to the student of English literature, embracing as it does the main facts in the personal and literary life of over thirty of "our best authors," with a list of their works, and a critical estimate of their place in literature. The re-issue is to appear in shilling volumes, and the original order of publication, we understand, is to be adhered to. The early volumes will therefore be Mr. Leslie Stephen's "Johnson," Mr. R. H. Hutton's "Scott," Mr. J. Cotter Morison's "Gibbon," and Mr. J. A. Symond's "Shelley."

Mr. Lowell will again appear as a contributor to the Atlantic Monthly in its March number. This time the poet's contribution is a poem shorter than that published in the February number, and has for its title "Fancy or Fact?" The reception of Mr. Lowell's poem in the February Atlantic has been extremely good, the publishers say. general opinion of the critics has been that the poem, in a light manner, puts a very Serious question, namely, Has science, having destroyed faith, supplied us with anything better? The March Atlantic will also contain the first instalment of Dr. Holmes descriptive papers of his visit abroad, to be entitled "Our Hundred Days."

THE growth of the literature of fiction is becoming more perceptible with each year. More novels are being issued by American publishers than almost any three other classes of books. During 1886, for example, fiction composed almost a fourth of the entire literature of the year, and 1,080 novels were issued, against 934 during 1885. Collections of Poetry are also on the increase, but not in the same proportion as fiction. Works of theology, on the other hand, are on the decrease, over fifty works less being issued during 1886 than in 1885, and this in the face of the last year being an unusually active and busy one in the world of books. Figures such as these certainly offer food for thought, and show in a measure the tendency of the American reading public.

FROM private London advices it is learned that the aged poet and philosopher, Martin F. Tupper, is rapidly failing in health, and is almost entirely broken down. "For the last ten weeks," writes a correspondent, "he has been suffering from an attack of nervous exhaustion of the brain, which entirely prevents him from doing anything. He can neither read, write, nor speak intelligibly, although he is quite sensible, and his mind is clear. The doctors give hopes that he may to a certain extent recover; but his age, which will be seventy-seven next July, is against him, and his daughter says that he is never likely to write prose or verse again. Only a few days before the illness that now prostrates him, Mr. Tupper finished his poem, 'Jubilate: A Jubilee Offering for 1887, the first copy of which was accepted by Queen Victoria, who accompanied her gracious acknowledgment of it with a sympathetic message of inquiry after his health. A member of his family told me that the philosopher's illness was undoubtedly brought on, in the main, by anxiety about financial matters. His books have brought him nothing for a long time. long time, and even his latest work, 'My Life as an Author,' has at present yielded no result, although it has been published nine months. His home at Albury, where he has lived so long, and where most of his books were written, is being disposed of; but it is feared to the contraction of the cont feared that the purchase money will not more than cover charges on the property and other pressing liabilities Mr. Tupper's daughter Ellen is his constant companion, and watches by his bedside with loving devotion. She is the only member of the family that entertains any hope for her father's recovery; but it will not be surprising to those who have conversed with the physicians if another month should remove the author of 'Proverbial Philosophy' from their sight and that of the world. His home is a sad picture, and traces of want meet the visitor at almost every turn."

HAND-IN-HAND INSURANCE COMPANY,

MUTUAL AND STOCK.

Report of the Directors to the Fourteenth General Ordinary Meeting of the Members and Shareholders, held at the offices of the Company, No. 24 Church Street, Toronto, on Wednes-

day, the Twenty-third day of February, 1887.

The Directors beg to submit to the members and shareholders the revenue accounts for the past year, and the balance sheet, showing liabilities and sessets on 31st December, 1886.

It will be seen from the Fire Branch Revenue Accounts that the total income was \$37,741.91, and after deduction of all expenses, losses, and re-insurance, a balance remains to the credit of this account of \$16,023.83, out of which sum your Directors; feel justified in declaring a scrip dividend to last year's Mutual policy-holders, under By-law No. 5, of 50 per cent., amounting to \$4,308.55, and a two (2) per cent. dividend on the capital of the Company.

The balance shown at the credit of the Plate Glass Brauch, \$2,023.85, may be considered fairly satisfactory.

In view of the general fire underwriting experience of the past year, there are just grounds

for congratulation on the above results.

The retiring Directors this year are: W. H. Howland and D. Mitchell McDonald, and who are eligible for re-election.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HUGH SCOTT, Secretary. W. H. HOWLAND,

President.

REVENUE ACCOUNT, FIRE BRANCH. DR.

To premium income, cash for year ending December 31, 1896 To premium income, undertakings in force	\$28,401 98 8,737 10	\$ 37,139 08
To interest income for year ending December 31, 1886		602 83
		#37,741 91
Cr.		
By salaries, directors' fees, commission to agents, advertising, postage, plant, plans, etc. By claims paid	\$1,822 74	\$7,439 66 9,681 10
By re-insurance	2,774 58	4,597 32
By balance		16,023 83
By Datance		\$37,741 91
REVENUE ACCOUNT, PLATE GLASS BRANC	DH.	
DR.		
To premium income and interest for year 1886		\$4,364 03
CR.		
By commission, charges, stationery, proportion of advertising, rent, directors fees, etc		\$1,467 08
	\$672 88 200 22	
By cancelled policies and rebate	200 22	873 10
By balance		2,023 85
by barance		84,364 03
BALANCE SHEET.		
LIABILITIES.		
To capital stock To sorip issued prior to 1885	*** *** ***	\$100,000 00
To scrip issued prior to 1885 To revenue, Fire Branch, 1886	\$11,208 00 16,023 83	
		27,231.83
To sundry craditors	\$1,437 93	540 61
To revenue, Plate Glass Branch, balance, 1885	2,023 85	
		3,461 78
		\$131,234 22
ASSETS.	•	
By capital liable to call By undertakings in force, December 31, 1886	\$80,000 00 8,737 10	\$ 88,737 10
By first mortgages on real estate By debentures, Man. and NW. Loan Co By bank stocks, Imperial, Federal, Ontario and Dominion By cash on deposit in Ontario Bank	9,725 00	
2 - 3-1-4 (gingo noid \$1 419 03)	\$2,105 66	40,228 69
By sundry deptors (since paid, \$1,412.00) By interest accrued	162 77	0.000 40
<i>D</i> ₁		2,268 43
		\$131,234 22

I hereby certify that I have audited the books, and examined the vouchers and securities of the Company for the year ending 31st Dec., 1886, and find the same correct, carefully kept, and properly set forth in the above statements.

TORONTO, Feb. 18, 1887.

After the customary votes of thanks were tendered, and the retiring Directors re-elected,

the meeting adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board W. H. Howland was elected Presiden*, and B. Homer Dixon, Vice-President.

List of Shareholders and amount held by each:

List of Shareholders and amount held by each:

J. Austin, President Dominion, Bank, \$5,000; A. H. Campbell, President British Canadian
Loan and Investment Company, \$5,000; L. Coffee & Co., Produce Merchants, Toronto, \$5,000;
B. Homer Dixon, Consul-General, Netherlands, \$5,000; John Downey, Barrister (Mowat,
Maclennan & Downey), \$5,000; Wm. Elliot, President People's Loan and Deposit Company,
\$5,000; D. Fisher, former Manager Ontario Bank, \$5,000; Col. C. S. Gzowski, A. D. C. to Her
Majesty, \$5,000; Sir W. P. Howland, K. C. M. G., President Ontario Bank, \$5,000; W. H. Howland, Mayor of Toronto, \$5,000; Sir D. L. Macpherson, Senator, Chestnut Park, \$5,000; James
McLennan, Q. C., \$5,000; Hon. Wm. McMaster, Founder Bank of Commerce, \$5,000; D. M.
McDonald, Director Central Bank, \$5,000; Prof. Goldwin Smith, The Grange, \$5,000; L. W.
Smith, D. C. L., President Building and Loan Association, \$5,000; H. A. Smith, Inland Revenue,
\$5,000; James Scott, Vice-President Farmers' Loan and Savings Co., \$5,000; Scott & Walmsley,
Underwriters, \$5,000; Sir Donald A. Smith, M.P., Vice-President Bank of Montreal, \$5,000. Underwriters, \$5,000; Sir Donald A. Smith, M.P., Vice-President Bank of Montreal, \$5,000.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 24 CHURCH STREET.

DIRECTORS.—W. H. Howland, President; B. Homer Dixon, Vice-President; James Austin, L. Coffee, L. W. Smith, D. C. L., D. Mitchell McDonald, Hugh Scott, Mauager and Secretary.

Insurers with this Company participate in the profits. SCOTT & WALMSLIEY, UNDERWRITER