

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE COMPANY'S BUILDING.

This building, which forms the subject of one of our illustrations, stands on the north-west corner of Front and Scott streets, Toronto, and is now approaching completion. In style of architecture it is purely renaissance. The two fronts are similar in design. The whole exterior is bold and effective, and rich in detail, being elaborated with highly ornate columns, pilasters, cornices, enticed windows and other appropriate adornments, and is not surpassed by any building in Canada.

The frontage on Front street is 84 feet and on Scott street 104 feet. The building is of five storeys, including basement and mansard; the two fronts being of Ohio stone. The Company's General Office will be an exceedingly handsome room of 30 feet by 56 feet, and 16 feet high, on the ground floor on the corner. The Board-room will be on the first floor above, the remaining space on that and other floors above, as well as the basement, being handsomely and comfortably fitted up as offices. There are also two warehouses of 22 by 104 feet each, which are being furnished with superior hydraulic hoists. A new feature in Toronto will be a passenger elevator for the use of tenants occupying offices on the upper floors.

The building throughout will be warmed by steam.

The Company deserves great praise for its enterprise in erecting so magnificent a structure. The architect, Wm. Irving, Esq., is also entitled to great credit for the design, and the contractors for the superior workmanship displayed in all parts of the building. The contractors are for stone and brick work, Messrs. Brown and Love; carpenter work, Mr. Geo. Gall; plastering, Mr. Duckworth; painting and glazing, Mr. O'Connor; iron work, Messrs. Hamilton & Son; galvanized iron work, Mr. Ringham; slating, Mr. Rennie; safes, Messrs. Taylor; heating and plumbing, Messrs. John Ritchie & Son; elevators, Messrs. Wm. E. Hale & Co., Chicago and New York.

We learn on enquiry that the British America Fire and Life Assurance Co. was incorporated by Act of the Parliament of Upper Canada, passed February 13th, 1833, being in the third year of the reign of William IV. Sir John Colborne, afterwards Lord Seaton, being Lieut.-Governor at the time.

The Corporators of the Company were Wm. Maxwell, Jas. Meyers, Jno. G. Culverwell, David Browne, Richard Northcote, Richard Crispin, William Ware, Alex. Dixon, Thos. Wallis, Richard H. Oates, William Steunett, Alex. Fiskine, Geo. Monro, Wm. Prondfoot afterwards President of the Bank of Upper Canada, James King, Alex. Wood, the late Bishop Strachan, Thomas Mercer Jones, James Cull, Hon. R. B. Sullivan, A. H. Hart, Gamble & Birchall, Hon. Chris. A. Hagerman, Wm. K. Jarvis, Hon. Jno. Rolfe, E. A. Parker, Sam'l P. Jarvis, Watkins & Harris, E. C. Ferrier, S. Washburne, John Ross, J. Baby, J. M. Strange, Jno. Kitson, S. Cockburn, S. P. Hurd, J. C. Chewitt, Hon. Jno. H. Dunn, B. W. Bonycastle, G. W. Houghton, Thos. Bell, M. McNamara, James Such, Geo. A. Barber, Alex. Hamilton, Peter Deihl, John Bishop, Senr., Hon. H. I. Boulton, C. J. Baldwin, and Hon. John Eimesley.

The capital of the Company was \$400,000, all of which was subscribed, and \$100,000 called in. The paid up capital was subsequently increased to \$200,000. The Hon. Wm. Allan having become a shareholder, was elected the first Governor of the Company, and Mr. Thos. Wm. Birchall was appointed Managing Director.

The Company was authorized to transact a Fire and Life business at its incorporation, and on October 12th, 1842, power was given to extend its business to Marine Insurance. The name of the company was subsequently changed to the "British America Assurance Company." The powers conferred in the charter for a life business have never been acted upon, the company having, during the first nine years of its existence, confined itself to fire risks, and for the last thirty-five years to fire and marine.

In April, 1862, the Managing Director, Mr. Birchall, was compelled by failing health to relinquish the duties of his office, and Mr. G. Pevical Ridout, the then Governor, assumed the general management of the Company's affairs. In August, 1871, Mr. Birchall was allowed to retire from the office which he had held for thirty-eight years. It was not determined to appoint a successor until March, 1873. Mr. Ridout died on the last of June, 1873, and Mr. Peter Paterson succeeded him in the office of Governor.

The present manager, Mr. Fredk. A. Ball, was appointed early in July, 1873, and entered on the duties of his office on the 14th of that month.

The report of the Company shows that on the 1st July, 1873, the paid up capital amounted to \$200,000, and the gross assets to \$330,250.26. During the year 1874 arrangements were made for extending the business of the Company into the United States. Subsequently the capital was increased to \$500,000, which we understand is now all paid up; and we find on reference to the returns of the Superintendent of Insurance for the year 1876, that the assets of the Company had been increased to \$1,034,082.40 on 31st December, 1876.

MISS NELSON has a diamond weighing thirty-one carats, and valued at ten thousand dollars—the largest ever worn on any stage in the United States, they say.

RIGHT REV. DR. HANNAN.

We present our friends in Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia with a portrait of the successor of the lamented Dr. Connolly. The elevation of Dr. Hannan to the See of Halifax was a foregone conclusion from the first, and he was pointed out by public opinion for the dignity. The choice was also confirmed by the committee appointed to make nominations, and without loss of time the selection was approved of at Rome. It is a very unusual thing that a simple clergyman should rise at once to the highest position above other prelates older than himself, for the Archbishop of Halifax has jurisdiction over a number of other dioceses, but in the case of Dr. Hannan the precedence was eagerly acquiesced in by all parties. From all the accounts which we have read, Dr. Hannan will walk with honor in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor. His consecration was a brilliant event. A large number of prelates from different parts of Canada were present, and the ceremony was performed by Right Rev. Dr. Conroy, the Papal Ablegate.

THE GLEANER.

THE death is announced of "Grand Bourbon," the finest tree in the Orangery of Versailles, at the advanced age of 445 years.

THE greatest novelty of the season is the chameleon bouquet. It blushes or turns pale at every variation of the atmosphere.

IN Paris monograms in the centre are among the novelties for window curtains. This is a step in the direction of the abolition of brass door-plates.

PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH has been recently making a tour of the Italian cities, examining especially the remains of ancient art and painting. While Professor Smith was in Italy, Mrs. Smith remained in Paris. They will return to Toronto in July.

THE promoters of the consumption of American beef have received a valuable coadjutor in the person of the Duke of Wellington. It is stated that he has given up the roast beef of Old England, finding the roast beef of Young America to be better as well as cheaper.

CHARENTAISE, the well-known liqueur made by the monks of the French Carthusian Monastery, near Grenoble, is still manufactured according to the original recipe of 300 years ago. This recipe is kept carefully sealed up under a stone of the high altar, and is only removed from its hiding-place when a fresh Superior is elected. The head of the Order having lately died, the new "General" will shortly go in grand procession to unseal the stone, and formally read the directions.

It is said there is not now living a single descendant in the male line of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Spenser, Milton, Cowley, Butler, Dryden, Pope, Cowper, Goldsmith, Scott, Byron, Moore, Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh, Drake, Cromwell, Hampden, Monk, Marlborough, Peterborough, Nelson, Stratford, Ormond, Clarendon, Addison, Swift, Johnson, Walpole, Belingbroke, Chatham, Pitt, Fox, Burke, Grattan, Canning, Bacon, Locke, Newton, Davy, Hume, Gibbon, Macaulay, Hogarth, Sir Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, Edmund Kean or Schiller.

SOME few gentlemen in the British Press gallery of the House are going, after the 1st of July, to give a practical solution of the difficulty of a verbatim report, about which so much was heard in the course of the debate a few weeks ago. Several of the most prominent members of the House have lent their names to the scheme, and, if only sufficient money can be raised, it will be carried out as from the 1st of July. The proposal is to raise a guarantee fund of £1,000, by means of subscriptions among the Members of Parliament, and, in consideration of this, to send to every subscriber by breakfast-time each morning a verbatim report of the previous day's proceedings.

A GENTLEMAN has just died in Paris who owed most of his celebrity to the quaint manner in which he managed to disembarrass himself of his creditors. No sooner did a dun present himself than he was ushered into a room hung round with a variety of mirrors, some convex, others concave, &c. In one the unfortunate creditor beheld himself, with a head as flat as a flounder; in another his features were nearly as sharp as a knife; in a third he had several heads; in a fourth he was upside-down. Here he had the broad grin of a clown, there the long-drawn visage of an undertaker. On one side of the room he saw himself all head and no body, on the other side it seemed as if a dwarf had put on the boots of a giant. No applicant, however pressing, was known to resist this chamber of horrors for more than a quarter of an hour.

VARIETIES.

THEY were sitting on the front porch, enjoying the evening air, and gazing at the canopy of heaven, thickly studded with glittering stars. "How incomprehensible," exclaimed Mr. Posonby, "is the vastness of nature! Each glittering orb of the myriads we now behold is a sun more glorious than our own, and the centre of a grand planetary system, and their centres in their turn revolve around other centres still more magnificent. How wonderful are the

eternal laws which hold this universe of worlds in their unchanging orbits, and—"Yes," said Mrs. Posonby, "and the man didn't bring us half enough ice to-day, and I'm just certain that salt beef will spoil before morning. Did you order those mackerel?"

WHAT is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days. I believe some great poet has said the same thing. But, bless you! the birds have sung it every summer morning since the world began; so it is doubly true and doubly new—for the very truest and newest thing in the universe is the glad note of a bird when summer comes.

There is something that your Jack loves nearly as well, though, and that is the laugh of a happy young heart.

So laugh out, my children—laugh and be happy, in these sweet, warm days; and when the flowers nod brightly to you, as they will, and the grass whispers brightly, and the whole earth seems to smile and sing, remember Jack's words: Be glad, glad, glad—and keep your hearts in tune!

MANAGING YOUNG GIRLS.—Why is it that gentlemen have such a poor opinion of young girls? As a rule, they think them very pleasant to pass an hour with, provided the girls let them make as many foolish speeches as they like, and repay them with interest. And who is to blame for that? Surely not the girls. Their great ambition in life is to be loved by and become the wife of some good man, and, say what you will, it is a noble one. With this end in view, it is, of course, natural that a desire to please the lords of creation should be uppermost in a girl's mind. If men will not be interested when you talk sense, what can you do but talk nonsense? Men complain that girls have nothing to talk about except their last flirtation, balls, and parties, yet, if they converse with them for an hour upon philosophy, metaphysics, or even the last new book, you are bored, called a poor girl who has worried her brains for your entertainment. Women were made to please, not to lecture one like a trained professor, and you wonder what she did it for. No, no. What is it you want? If you were to lay down your rules, there is not one girl in a thousand but would gladly obey them, ridiculous as they would surely be. Try it, and see. If you have a lady friend, whom you could like so much if it were not for this or that little fault, tell her so, and if she cares anything for you she will correct it. Treat women more like human beings; then prophecy a speedy change for the better.

THE STANDARD OF THE PROPHET.—The Standard of the Prophet, of which there has been so much talk recently, is about 9ft. long by 7ft. broad, and is dark green in colour. It is formed of a portion of the curtain which hung before the door of the Sultana Aicha, the favourite wife of Mahomet, and which has been preserved under peculiar circumstances. The Prophet was on his deathbed, and the leaders of his army came to receive his dying orders. The sultana tore down the curtain, threw it to them, and called on them to preserve it as a rallying point in the combats for the faith of Islam. When after the death of Solomon II. the power of the Osmanlis began to decline, the standard of the Prophet was often carried in front of the Ottoman armies, and in 1683 the historic banner floated over the walls of Vienna. It is thought that in the present war the Holy standard will again be raised, and in that case the ceremony will take place in Constantinople, and be accompanied by extraordinary pomp. It will be unfurled by Abdul Hamid, who will then hand it to the Scheik-ul-Islam. That functionary, mounted on a richly-equiparisoned horse, and having at his side the Sultan, also on horseback, and with bared swords, and surrounded by an escort of *oulemas* charged with the proclamation of the holy war, will go in procession through the streets of Constantinople. The standard will then be sent to the headquarters of the army of the Danube, whither it will be borne by the Scheik-ul-Islam. What its effect will be in stimulating the exertions of the Mahomedan soldiers remains to be seen.

THE NUMBER THREE.—When the world was created, we find land, and water, and sky; sun, moon, and stars. Hoah had but three sons; Jonah was but three days in the whale's belly; our Saviour passed three days in the tomb. Peter denied his Saviour thrice. There were three Patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Abraham entertained three angels. Samuel was called three times. "Simon, lovest thou me?" was repeated three times. Daniel was thrown into a den with three lions, for praying three times a day. Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego were rescued from the flames of the oven. The Ten Commandments were delivered on the third day. Job had three friends. St. Paul spake of faith, hope, and charity—these three. Those famous dreams of the baker were to come to pass in three days; and Elijah prostrated himself three times on the body of the dead child. Samson deceived Delilah three times before she discovered the source of his strength. The sacred letters on the cross are I.H.S.; so also the Roman motto was composed of three words, "In Hoc Signo." There are three conditions for man—the earth, heaven, and hell; there is also the Holy Trinity. In mythology there were the three Graces; Cerberus, with his three heads; Neptune, holding his three-toothed staff; the oracle of Delphi cherished with veneration the talpod; and the nine

muses sprang from three. In nature we have male, female, and offspring; morning noon and night. Trees group their leaves in threes; there is the three leaved clover. We have fish, flesh, and fowl. What could be done in mathematics without the aid of the triangle? Witness the power of the wedge; and in logic three premises are indispensable. It is a common phrase that "three is a lucky number."

TWO PICTURES OF DISRAELI.—It is very interesting in looking over the periodic literature of any time to mark the growth of the fame of men. The changes in the tone of the newspapers and magazines from year to year are very noticeable in Mr. Disraeli's case. The number of "Fraser's Magazine," May, 1833, from which our first picture is taken, contains also a little essay upon him, which opens as follows: "O reader dear! do pray look here, and you will spy the curly hair and forehead fair, and nose so high and gleaming eye of Benjamin D'Is-ra-el-i, the wondrous boy who wrote 'Alroy,' etc., etc. This was supposed to be in the style of "Alroy." But in 1847, after Disraeli had become a member of the House of Commons, and his attacks upon Peel had turned the eyes of the country upon him, we find a writer in the same magazine speaking of him in a very different strain. Contrasting the keenness of the man to all going on about him, which is evident in his speeches, his writings, and his acts, with the torpor of his appearance, he says: "See him when you will, he glides past you noiselessly, without being apparently conscious of the existence of externals, and more like the shadow than the substance of a man. When he is speaking he equally shrouds himself in his own intellectual atmosphere. You would think he paid no regard to the thought of whom he was addressing, but only to the ideas he was enunciating in words. Still with downcast eyes, still with what may almost be called a torpor of the physical powers, he seems more than an intellectual abstraction—a living man of passions and sympathies. If some one of his friends interrupts him to offer a friendly suggestion, or to correct a misstatement of facts, the chances are that he will not notice him at all, or if he does, that it will be with a gesture of impatience, or with something like a snarl. This singular self-absorption betrays itself even when he is in a sitting posture. You never see him gazing around him, or lolling back in his seat, or seeking to take his ease as other men do in the intervals of political excitement."

THE GREAT WAGERY.—An officer, Verdier, was celebrated in his garrison for winning every bet. None of his comrades could ever boast of having been victorious, and at last no one cared to enter a bet with him. One day Verdier was transferred to another regiment, but the fame of his peculiar luck had already spread before him. After a supper tendered him by his new comrades on the evening of his arrival, and when champagne made its appearance, General B. called out:—"Is it really true, Verdier, that you win every bet?"—"So it is, general."—"But how the deuce do you do it?"—"Oh, very simple. I am a physiognomist, and bet only when I am quite sure."—"You are a physiognomist. Well, then, what can you read now in my face?"—"I can see," said Verdier, promptly, "that your old wound on the back is broken out again."—"Nonsense," thundered out the general, "but—"—"No 'but' after I assure you, sir. Perhaps you do not like to speak of it; perhaps a duel."—"Le Diable!—you won't believe me. What will you bet?"—"Anything you please, general."—"Five hundred francs?"—"All right, 500 francs."—"The gentlemen present are witnesses." With these words the general at once proceeded to divest himself of his coat, waistcoat and shirt, and a scrutiny by all present revealed the fact that there was no trace of a wound by sword or ball. "You've lost the bet, Verdier!" shouted the general, packing himself up again. "I have lost indeed this once. Men may err sometimes. Here are your 500 francs." The general put the money with a chuckle into his pocket, and after he arrived home he at once wrote to his old chum, the general commandant of Verdier's former regiment:—"Dear Friend,—The story about Verdier's luck is all humbug! He just made a bet that I had a wound on my back, for 500 fr. and of course lost it." The answer came back:—"Your *raireté* is truly charming! Your winning of the 500 francs cost me 2,000, which Verdier bet me on the day of his leaving that he would make you, on the first evening of meeting, take off your shirt in the presence of your officers, and that you yourself would inform me of it."

"No need of having a gray hair in your head," as those who use *Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer* say, for it is without doubt the most appropriate hair dressing that can be used, and an indispensable article for the toilet table. When using this preparation you require neither oil nor pomatum, and from the balsamic properties it contains, it strengthens the growth of the hair, removes all dandruff and leaves the scalp clean and healthy. It can be had at the Medical Hall and from all chemists in large bottles 50 cents each. DEVINS & BOLTON, Druggists, Montreal, have been appointed sole agents for Canada.