A PLEASING STORY.

In a village in Norway there is a figure of a stork carved on the church, and over many of the houses. This is the beautiful story they tell of it:—"In that village once there lived a little lad named Conrad, and his widowed mother. Every summer a stork came near the house, and built its nest close by.

Little Conrad and his mother were very kind to the stork. They fed it and petted it, so that it got to know them, and would come whenever Conrad whistled, to feed out of his hand. Every spring they watched for it, and when it came it seemed as glad to see them as they were to welcome it.

Spring and summer chased each other, until Conrad had grown up to be quite a young man. Then he said he would go to sea and make money enough to come back and keep his mother in her old age. So he went as a sailor, and set out for a distant land.

All went well for many weeks; but one day when they were near to the coast of Africa, a number of cruel pirates swarmed around in their boats, and climbed up the ship's sides. They took possession of the ship, and put the sailors in chains, and afterwards sold them as slaves.

Weeks went by. The widow began to be afraid about her boy, it was so long since she had heard of him. Ships had come and gone, and brought no tidings of him. At last she gave up all hopes of seeing him again, and mourned for him as drowned, and all the village pitied the lonely mother in her grief. As for her, the only thing that seemed to interest her at all was the stork as it came each year. For Conrad's sake she welcomed it and fed it, until the autumn came, and it flew away into the sunny South. Now it happened that one day as poor Conrad toiled away at his dreary work in some lonely place, a stork came flying close to him, wheeling about him in great delight. In a moment the scene flashed on him of his home and his mother and their yearly visitor.

Scarcely knowing what he did, he whispered as he used to do to call the bird long ago.

To his delight the stork came at once close to him, as if to be fed.

Conrad lifted up his heart to God, and with tears gave thanks that so dear an old friend should have found him there.

Day after day he saved what he could from his wretched meal, for the joy of calling the bird to feed at his hand.

But Conrad's heart grew sad again as the time came for the bird to fly away to the North. Was it going to his mother's cottage? Was the nest there still that he remembered so well? Was there anyone to welcome it now, and anyone to feed it? Then it occurred to him, "why this bird may help me to get away from this vile place."

He managed to write on a scrap of paper a line or two, telling where he was, and that he was a slave, and then he tied it firmly around the bird's leg.

The spring came again and with it the stork, and the old widow's eyes lit up as it came, reminding her of her lost boy, and tenderly she welcomed it and fed it. And as it took the food from her hand, she caught sight of this strange letter tied at its leg. Curiously removing it, think of her joy when she found that it was from her son!

Forth with the tidings she ran to the minister of the little parish to tell him of the news. It quickly spread through the village, they must send and redeem Conrad, was what everybody said.

The next Sunday morning the people brought their money to the Church, and each gave what he could for the widow's son.

Then one sent to the king to lay the case before him, and to get a ship of war from him, that the pirates would not dare to touch.

It took a long time in those days to send to Africa, and there to recover Conrad from his slavery.

Before the stork had flown, the bells of the church had rung and all the people rejoiced with great joy for the widow's son was redeemed, and was safely at home again in his mother's cottage.

Such is the story they tell of the stork in the Norway village.

Unselfish Meg.

Meg had a lovely dolly that Santa Claus brought her, and she loved it dearly. She kept it nicely laid away and played with it now and then. One day baby was left in Meg's care while mamma was out, and she began to fret, and at last to cry very hard. Meg tried to amuse her with books and toys, but she could not please her. At last she thought of her dolly. She knew baby would like that, but how could she give it to her? At last she made up her mind to be unselfish and make her little sister happy, and so Meg brought the dolly to her and let her kiss it. She threw up her little arms and laughed, and her little face was as bright as if a tear had never been on it. So Meg sat beside the cradle and let baby look at the dear dolly until mamma came, and then the dolly, not one bit harmed, was laid away again, after mamma had kissed her unselfish little girl.

Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer imparts a fine gloss and freshness to the hair, and is highly recommended by physicians, clergymen, and scientists. It removes dandruff, makes the scalp white and clean, and restores gray hair to its youthful color.

Joyful News.

It is certainly glad tidings to the poor invalid to be informed of a remedy that will give prompt and sure relief in case of painful suffering. Such a remedy is Hagyard's Yellow Oil, adapted for internal and external use in all aches, pains, lameness and soreness. It cures rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat, croup and all inflammatory pains.

A Fair Proposition.

There could be no offer more fair than that of the proprietor of Hagyard's Yellow Oil, who have long offered to refund every cent expended for that remedy if it fails to give satisfaction on fair trial for rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat and all painful complaints.

THE PREMIER COMPANY.

Annual Meeting of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

EXHAUSTIVE REPORT OF THE BOARD—THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT—REPRESENTATION TO THE MANAGER—THE NEW DIRECTORS, ETC.

The annual general meeting of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company was held in the rooms of St. George's Society yesterday afternoon, the President, James Armstrong, Esq., M. P., in the chair, and the following persons being present:—D. Macmillan, M. P., City; Stephen White, Chatham; Daniel Black, City; C. G. Cody, City; James Armstrong, Union; C. G. Cook, Ingersoll; Jno. F. Tribe, Tilsonburg; J. B. Lane, Dorchester; John Hodgson, Tilsonburg; John Burnett, Ponson; J. Shoebottom, Kilmough; Joseph Fellows, E. R. Cameron, Hugh Vallance, City; Angus Campbell, Mayfair; Thomas Trebilcock, T. C. Hewitt, City; T. E. Robson, London Township; D. S. Butterfield, Norwick; Wm. Patrick, Telfer; A. J. B. Macdonald, Ald. Vining, Capt. Williams, David Rutherford, City; James Grant, Joseph H. Marshall, London township.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting, and the minutes of last session having been read and adopted, the annual report was presented as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Canada.

The Board of Directors beg leave to submit for your consideration the 27th annual report of the Company, and have reason to congratulate the members on the continued substantial progress of the Company during the past year, notwithstanding certain circumstances hereinafter alluded to tender to reduce the aggregate of the business, but the action taken by the Board it is more than certain will eventually have the effect of placing the Company in a stronger position than ever.

In the year 1886 13,953 policies were issued, and of these 6,489 were on the cash system, and 7,494 on the premium note system, being an increase of 1,131 policies over the issue of the year 1883, of which last year was the renewal. This continued increase in the business of the "London Mutual," in the face of the chronic and determined opposition on the part of many of the outside stock companies is the most practical evidence that can be adduced to show that our Company hold the fort they have occupied now for over 28 years past; the same steady improvement in the class of business done is the fact that the average of each policy is now $1,633 80, and the total amount at risk $42,612,366.

LOSSES.—The sum of $83,868,68 has been paid for losses. Of this $77,841.18 were for claims that happened during the year, and $6,047.50 for claims that have occurred previously, but which had either not been reported or adjusted at the end of the year, and also including a claim which had been in litigation, and the justice of your Board in resisting it was evidenced by the fact that a jury gave a verdict for a little more than one-half the sum claimed, and the costs were borne by each party. Although the losses somewhat exceeded the average, the excess has not in the slightest affected the cost of insurance, for we only assessed at the same rate for the previous three years. This, of itself, shows the advantage of insuring with a company that can more than maintain its own and not be affected by an extra draft on its resources, besides which it shows the wisdom of the Directors in steadily adhering to their tariff of rates adopted upon long practical experience, and which are as moderate as can be afforded with safety.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—A full account of the financial standing of the Company is shown in the statements annexed. Owing to the sum of $17,312,43 having been written off the premium note account and $6 590.46 returned as unearned premium on the closing of the Maritime agencies, the total assets have been slightly reduced from $4 1,068 72 to $394,950.20, but yet the net reserve over all liabilities, according to the Dominion Government standard, has increased from $1 1,816.94 to $115,955,32.

INVESTMENTS.—The invested funds of the Company are shown in the statement annexed. A further sum of $7 483 12 was invested in municipal debentures, and this amount was added to our deposit with the Government for the security of the members. In this connection it may be mentioned that the amount of the assessment made against us by the city of London was paid under protest, and the question as to our liabilities is before the Court of Appeal at present.

OFFICIAL INSPECTION.—The books and affairs of the Company were inspected during the year by William Fitzgerald, Esq B. A., the Supt. of Insurance, who expressed himself as highly pleased at the satisfactory manner in which the accounts were kept and the business conducted.

MARITIME AGENCIES.—As was shown in the report for last year the business in the Maritime Provinces was of an uncompromising character, and the horizon not becoming clearer but very much the reverse, the Board determined to take the bull by the horns, and after cancelling all the policies, returning all unearned premiums and premium notes, despatched our accountant, Mr. J. B. Vining, to visit the Provinces and close the agencies, which has been done, and now we do not carry any risk outside the Province of Ontario. The failure of our experiment in the Maritime Provinces may be attributed to a lack of knowledge of the true fire waste, which is much greater in proportion to population than in Ontario, and we erred in fixing our rates at much too low a figure, the distance of the field of operations from the home office entailed a heavy expense in looking after the business, and added to which, after opening and establishing the agencies, a wave of commercial depression swept over the country, and experience has demonstrated that in such times insurance companies must pay the piper. The reasons, if not obvious, are suggestive. Closing these agencies made a diminution of our assets, as before shown, but left us with so much less at risk, so that with our increasing business at home the deficiency will soon be more than overcome.

PURELY FARM AND RESIDENCE.—At the urgent request of many of our members the Directors in the year 1884 agreed to accept first class risks for a year at a time on buildings of a superior class, and we took a limited number of risks. This business was highly remunerative to the Company, but was distasteful to many of our agents and members, and our opponents through their subsidised organ and agents endeavoring to make a handle of the same, were issued all such risks, and now confine the business to that class represented at the head of this paragraph, which we trust will afford satisfaction to all.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.—The report of the inspector attached hereto will be found interesting, as showing the cause of fire and suggestions as to preventatives.

LEGISLATION.—The Association of Mutual Fire Underwriters having invited us to cooperate with them in urging upon the Government the necessity of making needed alterations in the insurance laws of the Province, your Manager attended a Committee of the Association in Guelph in December last, and matters of interest to the public and to insurance companies were discussed and amendments proposed. Amongst other matters it was decided that the conditions of insurance policies should be made uniform as far as possible, variations done away with, and all made so clear that those who run may read; the present statutory conditions being so varied in the mist of legal phraseology and contradictions that gentlemen of the profession, and even judges themselves, find it difficult to unravel the mysteries concealed behind them. A better and more economical method of investigating the causes and origin of suspicious fires and a plan for the registration of all losses, showing the correct "fire waste," were also suggested, and it is hoped that the Legislature will consider it their duty to give attention to these suggestions—a duty which the public have a right to expect. J. Howard Hunter, Esq., the Inspector of Insurance for the Province, has kindly promised his advice and assistance in our endeavors towards better legislation.

OUR STAFF OF AGENTS.—The especial thanks of the Board are due to the agents for their untiring and loyal efforts on behalf of the Company. A full list of agents is appended—the names of each are given in order, according to the amount of work done by them.

DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING.—It having been found inconvenient to hold the annual meeting during the last week in January owing to the date conflicting with the meeting of the County Council the Board have passed a by-law changing the date in future to the first Wednesday in February in each year.

RETIRING DIRECTORS.—According to rotation three Directors now retire. They are James Armstrong, M. P., Mr. Sheriff Springer and Stephen White. They are eligible for re-election. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. ARMSTRONG, Pres.

CASH ACCOUNT.

Receipts.

Balance from 1885		$ 63 963 09
Commission to Agents		20,448 74
Received from Agents		29,331 97
" " Assessment No. 24	$10,295 16	
Received from Assessment No. 1	577 21	
Received from Assessment No. 25	59,656 76	
		70 529 13
Received from Interest		5,189 39
" " Division Court		4 00
" " Transfer fees		303 18
" " Extra premiums		76 48
Received from Policies cancelled before assessed		841 74
Received from Steam Thresher licenses		105 00
Received from assessments in advance		485 63
Received from Bills receivable		684 97
Received from Mortgages		500 00
" " Re-insurance on loss		38 66
Received from Rent		23 00
		$190,494 99

Disbursements.

Losses	$83,868 68	
Bank Commission	53 79	
Fire Inspection	2,838 46	
		$ 86,760 93
Commission to Agents		20,438 74
Salaries, Officials, Auditors and Clerks	7,599 68	
Salaries-Directors' Fees	1,148 40	
		$ 9.148 08
Inspecting and Opening New Agencies		224 91
Postage—Annual Reports	$ 397 16	
" Assessments No 25.	217 47	
" General [Policies, etc]	730 49	
		$ 1,345 12
Printing and Advertising		1,024 38
Stationary		434 84
Solicitor's Fees and Law Expenses		1,448 77
Annual Reports and Assessments		238 36
Re-insurance	$ 805 65	
Returned Premiums on Maritime Policies	6,513 02	
		$ 7,318 67
Rent and Taxes		1,358 97
Office Furniture		24 00
Rewards and Gratuities		25 00
Discount on Postage Stamps Sold	$ 105 65	
Discount on Maritime Money, etc	19 67	
		$ 125 32
Petty Expenses [Telegrams, Water, Gas, etc]		372 06
Government Inspection		124 28
Paid Agents, in Settlement of Accounts		1,909 45
Interest		3 00
Premiums on Debentures Purchased		983 12
Municipal Debentures		6,500,00
Cash in Federal Bank	$49,310 19	
Cash in Treasurer's Hands [Postage Stamps]	1,376 80	
		$50,686 99
		$190,494 99

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct, as set forth in the above statement.

[Signed] J. HAMILTON, J. B. LAIDLAW, } Auditors.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Assets 31st December, 1886.

Amount available on premium notes		$271,467 17
Amount due on assessment No. 24	$ 2,241 13	
Amount due on assessment No. 25	13,581 62	
		$15,822 75
Balances due by agents [secured by agents' bonds and members' due bills]		9,779 36
Bills receivable		629 95
Mortgages		400,00
Office Furniture		787 66
Municipal debentures deposited with Receiver-General for security of Policy-holders, city of Hamilton, par value $10,920; market value	12,558 00	
City of St. Thomas, par value, $22 600; market value	24,860 00	
Town of Tilsonburg, par value, $6,500; market value	7,483 12	
		$44,901 12
Accrued interest on debentures		358 80
Cash in Federal Bank of Canada	49,310 19	
Cash in Treasurer's hands [postage stamps]	$1,376 80	$50,686 99
		$394,783 80

Liabilities.

Losses adjusted during 1886, not falling due until 1887		833 60
		$393,950 20

Audited and found correct, as above set forth.

[Sd.] J. HAMILTON, J. B. LAIDLAW, } Auditors.

Policies Issued.

Policies in force 31st December, 1885		42,980
Policies issued in 1886, cash system	6,489	
Policies issued in 1886, premium note system	7,494	13,983
		56,963
Deduct lapsed and cancelled		15,744
Policies remaining in force 31st December, 1886		41,219
Amount at risk 31st December, 1886		$42,612,366 00
Average amount insured under each policy		1,033 80

Horsford's Acid Phosphate

IN BILIOUS DISEASES.

Dr. D. SCHAUB, Muncie, Ind., says: "I have used it in cases of bilious disease, and the results were all that could be desired. It is valuable.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired, from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary, the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 149 *Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.*

Catarrh, Catarrhal Deafness, and Hay Fever.

A NEW TREATMENT.

Sufferers are not generally aware that these diseases are contagious, or that they are due to the presence of living parasites in the lining membrane of the nose and eustachian tubes. Microscopic research, however, has proved this to be a fact, and the result is that a simple remedy has been formulated whereby catarrh, catarrhal deafness, and hay fever, are cured in from one to three simple applications made at home. Out of two thousand patients treated during the past six months fully ninety per cent. have been cured. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefited, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. In fact this is the only treatment which can possibly effect a permanent cure, and sufferers from catarrh, catarrhal deafness, and hay fever should at once correspond with Messrs. A. H. Dixon & Son, 303 West King street, Toronto, Canada, who have the sole control of this new remedy, and who send a pamphlet explaining this new treatment, free on receipt of stamp.—*Scientific American.*

Golden Medical Discovery.

Thoroughly cleanse the blood, which is the fountain of health, by using Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and good digestion, a fair skin, buoyant spirits, vital strength, and soundness of constitution will be established.

Golden Medical Discovery cures all humors, from the common pimple, blotch, or eruption, to the worst Scrofula, or blood-poison. Especially has it proven its efficacy in curing Salt-rheum or Tetter, Fever-sores, Hip-joint Disease, Scrofulous Sores and Swellings, Enlarged Glands, and Eating Ulcers.

Golden Medical Discovery cures Consumption (which is Scrofula of the Lungs), by its wonderful blood-purifying, invigorating, and nutritive properties. For Weak Lungs, Spitting of Blood, Shortness of Breath, Bronchitis, Severe Coughs, Asthma, and kindred affections, it is a sovereign remedy. It promptly cures the severest Coughs.

For Torpid Liver, Biliousness, or "Liver Complaint," Dyspepsia, and Indigestion, it is an unequalled remedy. Sold by druggists.

DR. PIERCE'S PELLETS—Anti-Bilious and Cathartic. 25c. a vial, by druggists.

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FOR SORE SHOULDERS, SORE BACKS
FOR FOOT ROT, AND SORE MOUTHS IN SHEEP AND LAMBS.
FOR SPRAINS, CUTS, BRUISES IN DOGS.

SPECIMEN TESTIMONIALS.

From His Grace The Duke of Rutland.
Belvoir, Grantham, Dec. 1, 1879.
"Mrs.—Elliman's Royal Embrocation is used in my stables. I think it very useful. Rutland, Master of Belvoir Hunt."

Castle Weir, Kingston, Herefordshire, Dec 3, 1878.
"Gentlemen,—I use the Royal Embrocation in my stables & kennels, and have found it very serviceable. I have also used the Universal Embrocation for lumbago and rheumatism for the last two years, and have suffered very little since using it. R. H. PRICE, Lieut Col., Master of Radnorshire Hunt."

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The Bennett Furnishing Co., of London, Ont., make a specialty of manufacturing the latest designs in Church and School Furniture. The Catholic Clergy of Canada are respectfully invited to send for catalogue and prices before awarding contracts. We have lately put in a complete set of Pews in the Brantford Catholic Church, and for many years past have been favored with contracts from a number of the Clergy in other parts of Ontario, in all cases the most entire satisfaction having been expressed in regard to quality of work, lowness of price, and quickness of execution. Such has been the increase of business in this special line that we found it necessary some time since to establish a branch office in Glasgow, Scotland, and we are now engaged manufacturing Pews for new Churches in that country and Ireland. Address—

Bennett Furnishing Company,

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References: Rev. Father Bayard, Sarnia; Lennon, Brantford; Molphy, Ingersoll; Corcoran, Parkhill, Twohy, Kingston; and Rev. Bro. Arnold, Montreal.

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TO THE CLERGY

The Clergy of Western Ontario will, we feel assured, be glad to learn that WILSON BROS., General Grocers, of London, have now in stock a large quantity of Sicilian Wine, whose purity and genuineness for Sacramental use is attested by a certificate signed by the Rector and Prefect of Studies of the Diocesan Seminary of Marsala. We have ourselves seen the original of the certificate, and can testify to its authenticity. The Clergy of Western Ontario are cordially invited to send for samples of this truly superior wine for altar use.

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Locality unrivalled for healthiness offering peculiar advantages to pupils even of delicate constitutions. Air bracing, water pure and food wholesome. Extensive grounds afford every facility for the enjoyment of invigorating exercise. System of education thorough and practical. Educational advantages unsurpassed.

French is taught, free of charge, not only in class, but practically by conversation.

The Library contains choice and standard works. Literary reunions are held monthly. Vocal and Instrumental Music form a prominent feature. Musical Soirees take place weekly, elevating taste, testing improvement and ensuring self-possession. Strict attention is paid to promote physical and intellectual development, habits of neatness and economy, with refinement of manner.

TERMS TO SUIT THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TIMES, without impairing the select character of the Institution.

For further particulars apply to the Superior, or any Priest of the Diocese.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF Lake Huron, Sarnia, Ont.—This institution offers every advantage to young ladies who wish to receive a solid, useful and refined education. Particular attention is paid to vocal and instrumental music. Studies will be resumed on Monday, Sept. 13. Board and tuition per annum, $100. For further particulars apply to MOTHER SUPERIOR, Box 803.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY, WINDSOR, ONTARIO.—This Institution is pleasantly located in the town of Windsor, opposite Detroit, and combines in its system of education, great facilities for acquiring the French language, with thoroughness in the rudimental as well as the higher English branches. Terms (payable per session in advance) in Canadian currency: Board and tuition in French and English, per annum, $100; German free of charge; Music and use of Piano, $40; Drawing and painting, $15; Bed and bedding, $10; Washing, $20; Private room, $30. For further particulars address:—MOTHER SUPERIOR. 48.1y

URSULINE ACADEMY, CHATHAM, ONT.—Under the care of the Ursuline Ladies. This institution is pleasantly situated on the Great Western Railway, 3 miles from Detroit. This spacious and commodious building has been supplied with all the modern improvements. The hot water system of heating has been introduced with success. The grounds are extensive, including groves, gardens, orchards, etc., etc. The system of education embraces every branch of polite and useful information, including the French language. Plain sewing, fancy work, embroidery in gold and chenille, wax-flowers, etc., are taught free of charge. Board and tuition per annum, paid semi-annually in advance, $100. Music, Drawing and Painting, form extra charges. For further particulars address, MOTHER SUPERIOR.

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, SANDWICH, ONT.—The Studies embrace the Classical and Commercial Courses. Terms (including all ordinary expenses), Canada money, $150 per annum. For full particulars apply to REV. DENIS O'CONNOR, President. 46-1y

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Meetings.

CATHOLIC MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION—The regular meetings of London Branch No. 4 of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, will be held on the first and third Thursday of every month, at the hour of 8 o'clock, in our rooms, Castle Hall, Albion Block, Richmond St. Members are requested to attend punctually. MARTIN O'MEARA, Pres., JAS. CORCOREN, Sec.

THE LONDON MUTUAL

The only Mutual Fire Insurance Company licensed by the Government of Canada. Head offices, 428 Richmond street.

This Company insures private residences and the contents thereof, and farm property; and by the last Government returns it will be seen that it has, with exception of one other company, and whose business in Ontario it doubles, more property at risk than any other company in the whole Dominion, the business of 1886 has exceeded that of any previous year, and still increasing, thus making this company the largest, most successful and best mutual fire office in the world, result of reasonable rates, good management and fair, honest dealing. For insurance apply to J. A. Hutton, city agent; Arch. McBrayne, 714 Dundas street, for East London; John Ferguson Campbell and Wm. Stanley, county agents, or at the office, Richmond street, between 9 and 4 daily.

D. O. MACDONALD, MANAGER.