

## Our Young Folks.

### A LITTLE SONG FOR BED-TIME.

A little song for bed time  
When robed in gowns of white,  
All sleepy little children  
Set sail across the night  
For that pleasant, pleasant country  
Where the pretty dream-flowers blow,  
'Twixt the sunset and the sunrise,  
For the Slumber Islands, oh!

When the little ones get drowsy  
And the heavy lids droop down  
To hide blue eyes and black eyes,  
Grey eyes and eyes of brown,  
A thousand boats for dreamland  
Are waiting in a row,  
And the ferry-men are calling  
For the Slumber Islands, oh!

Then the sleepy little children  
Fill the boats along the shore,  
And go sailing off to Dreamland,  
And the dipping of the oar  
In the sea of sleep makes music  
That the children only know,  
When they answer to the boatman's  
For the Slumber Islands, oh!

Oh, take a kiss, my darlings,  
Ere you sail away from me,  
In the boat of dreams that's waiting,  
To bear you o'er the sea;  
Take a kiss and give one,  
And then away you go,  
A-sailing into Dreamland  
For the Slumber Islands, oh!

### MAKE ROOM.

A sweet, fair face, with glad soft eyes, crowned with a radiance of golden hair, belonged to Minnie Mowbray. Everyone loved her, for who was so gentle in manner, so kind in trouble, so sympathetic in sorrow, so happy in everyone's joy, as Minnie? As her school-fellows were starting for a picnic to the New Forest, there was a cry of welcome as Minnie appeared, and an instant closing-in of the girls in the brake.

"Plenty of room, plenty of room!" they all cried, and crushing one another in their eager attempts to give her space, they managed to squeeze their friend in amongst the party.

"I am sure I am one too many," said Minnie's gentle voice, but cries of "No! no!" silenced her, and one girl, speaking for the rest, said affectionately:

"We could not be happy without you; everybody likes to make room for you." And in spite of the squeezing that resulted, all declared that they had enjoyed the day twice as much as if Minnie had been left behind for want of room.

"That's right, girls; spread out your dresses. Marion, cover that chair with our cloaks and hats. Don't leave any room for her, nasty, spiteful creature!"

So spoke a party of girls as they caught sight of another coming up the lecture-room, looking from side to side for a vacant seat. As Ellen paused for a brief moment before their row, some averted their faces, while Marion West, catching her school-fellow's eye, said coolly, "There is no room in this row; you had better try further on."

The girls laughed together, as Ellen took the hint, and angrily tossing her head, walked on. They cared little for her displeasure, and only congratulated themselves on having got rid of an unwelcome companion.

Only two everyday scenes in a school-girl's life; yet they rise up before me as illustrations of two grand truths, and you who have looked with me at the word-pictures above, read with me the parables they teach.

"Make room," first, for the Saviour, your best, truest, most sympathising Friend. His companionship will sweeten life's pleasures and halve life's care.

Make room, at any cost, for every good thought and feeling that seeks admission into your heart and life. Welcome with a glad smile each holy impression, bright opportunity, or sweet, pure desire.

But "give no place to the devil." When he comes, seeking a resting-place by your side for himself, his vile promptings, and his evil imaginations, cry out, "No room! no room!" Tell him to leave you. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Have "no room" for evil companions in your daily life; "no room" for bad books in your daily reading; "no room" for unkind words in your daily conversation. "no room" in heart, life, or love for anything that is not sweet, pure, and Christ-like.

"Yet there is room!" Where? In the Saviour's heart of love, in the good Shepherd's safe, safe fold. For whom? For the wandering sheep of earth, or the lost lambs of the wilderness. Plenty of room? Why not enter in? See, the Saviour's arms are open wide, and his tender voice welcomes you, poor, tired child. You may come to-day and find room and rest, and pardon for all sin in His blessed enfolding.

The door of the fold is not yet closed; thousands have passed through, and yet there is room.

Weary limb! leave the wilderness and the long wandering, and find shelter in the fold.

O the joy of knowing that we are safe, safe forever; for "My sheep shall never perish," says the Good Shepherd, "neither shall anyone pluck them out of my hand." Will you take heart to-day, and seek to enter in while yet there is room?—*The Christian (London).*

### A STORY ABOUT VENICE.

Let me tell you a story about the pigeons of Venice. If you were there you could see, at two o'clock every afternoon, flocks and flocks of pigeons lighting on the pavement near the great church of St. Mark's. No one ever thinks of disturbing them; no boy or girl in Venice would dare to throw a stone at them. But the people, young and old, like to go at that hour to see the tame, beautiful birds.

What do they come for? To be fed. A great many years ago, in the early days of Venice, the people used to keep what they called movable stores in the great square. They were something like the fruit-stands at our corners, only they were dotted about in the square, and a large umbrella was spread over each. One man had four of these and was quite rich. He was a good, kind-hearted man, and liked to have the pigeons come down from their cots away up in the high buildings and pick up the crumbs around his stores. The magistrates, seeing him so interested in the birds, allowed him a sum of money to buy food for them, and he was to feed them every day at a certain hour.

Why this was done we do not know, unless it was for the pleasure of having the birds around. For Venice is a strange city, built on a great many little islands; the streets are all water, and the people go about in boats. They never ride, and there are many persons there, who never saw a horse or even a cow. They have a few dogs, and the government are so kind that they have water carried every morning to fill the vessels all over the city where the dogs may drink. Perhaps it was this same kindness that led them to provide for the pigeons.

After awhile there was a change in the government and the birds were neglected. But they still had a friend. A kind woman, who lived near the great church, began to miss the birds. He name was Signora Polcastro. She made up her mind that if there was no one else to feed them she would. She did this as long as she lived, and when she died it was found that she had left money enough in her will to feed the pigeons always.

So now, strangers who go to Venice can go out in the square any day at two o'clock and see the pigeons fed. They come by hundreds, and seem to enjoy their food and company very much.

All my little readers, I am sure, would like to go to see them; and would want to help feed them, too.—*M. S. in The Angelus.*

## A Year of Great and Unprecedented Success.

The annual meeting of the North American Life was held at its Head Office, Toronto, on Tuesday, January 29th. The President, John L. Blaikie, Esq., was in the chair, and surrounded by a goodly number of prominent policy holders and guarantors. The Managing Director, Mr. Wm. McCabe, acted as secretary.

The Annual Report submitted, after advertising to the intensity of the financial stringency which had characterized the year 1894, presented the following successful results: Applications were received for new insurances and restorations for over \$3,000,000, the amount exceeding that of any former year.

Entire satisfaction had been expressed by the holders of investment policies which had matured in 1894, and the report of the consulting actuary allocating the profits of those maturing in 1895 had been approved by the Directors.

### SUMMARY OF THE FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1894.

Cash income	\$ 558,394 93
Expenditure (including death claims, endowments, profits, and all payments to policy-holders)	286,193 40
Assets	1,987,446 30
Reserve Fund	1,564,020 00
Net surplus for policy-holders	338,216 75

WILLIAM McCABE,  
Managing Director.

Audited and found correct.

JAMES CARLILE, M.D.,  
Auditor.

Auditing Committee of the Board,

EDWARD GALLEY,  
JAMES SCOTT.

The report of Mr. W. T. Standen, of New York, the Company's consulting actuary, was very full.

Referring to the very careful investigation which he had made of the Company's methods and systems of business, he declared that that investigation has conclusively proven to him the very great degree of executive and administrative capacity brought to bear by the Officers of the Company. The secret of the Company's prosperity must be found by looking back to 1881, the success achieved since, being the logical result of the strong and enduring foundation then laid. He further said:

"In view of the serious depression in business circles during the past two years; your increase in premium income is very noteworthy, and will be found to be very unusual. The increase of \$63,859.65 in premium income for 1894 evidences the adaptability of your agency staff, and proves that it consists of men of vigor and intelligence, who know how to apply their energies with the best effect.

"Your gain in interest receipts speaks well for the judiciousness of your investments. The comparatively high rates of interest obtainable is something for which the holders of your deferred dividend policies may be profoundly grateful.

"The valuation of your assets and the determination of your liabilities have been conducted conservatively, and they show a clear surplus of \$338,216.75. This surplus fund shows beyond any question the absolute security you are enabled to offer to policy holders during even the severest of monetary depression. The profits you are in a position to earn are very largely in excess of what can be earned by companies debarred from privileges of being able to invest their assets in Canadian securities.

"Policy holders are often carried away by the size or age of a life company. The crucial test is the ratio of assets to total liabilities. Next in order of importance, probably, stands the surplus and surplus-earning power of a company.

"With assets held down to a rigid gold basis, you nevertheless cover every liability and have a large margin of safety over and above every requirement.

"Undoubtedly the North American Life Assurance Company has attained that degree of solidity which can best be understood by comparison with any of the large companies. In all essentials—especially those of acquired surplus and surplus-earning power—it is not excelled to-day by any other company.

"Insurers are too apt to overlook these requisites and give undue importance to mere age and size, which, unsupported by other valuable considerations, really count for nothing. Illustrations of this can be seen to-day in the United States, where many of the smaller companies, although forced into competition with their larger rivals, are giving much better and more satisfactory returns to their policy-holders than many of the largest companies.

"Stupendous assets are offset by correspondingly large liabilities. In the balance sheet they do not add strength, the test of which, in well-established companies, is the true

ratio of resources of assets to liabilities, which is absolutely independent of the question of size."

The adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet was moved by Mr. John L. Blaikie, President, who had no doubt that they would be heartily approved, as, in all the vital particulars which indicate solid success, they marked gratifying progress, as shown by the following figures:

Total cash income for 1894	\$558,394 93
" " " 1893	482,514 08

Increase (16 per cent.)	\$75,880 85
Total assets, December 31, 1894	1,987,446 30
" " " 1893	1,703,453 39

Increase (17 per cent.)	\$283,992 91
Total reserve and surplus funds, December 31, 1894	1,902,236 75

Total reserve and surplus funds, December 31, 1893	1,616,572 26
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Increase (18 per cent.)	\$285,664 49
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These large increases are all the more gratifying when we consider the dull times experienced by so many, and the keenness of competition for business. They cannot fail to convince any thoughtful and intelligent student that not only is ample provision being made by the Company for every contract, but that a large surplus is being built up of, out of which alone profits for policy-holders can come.

A comparison of the business of the Company at the close of 1894 with what it was five years ago showed an increase in payments to policy holders of 123 per cent.; in insurance in force, of 60 per cent.; in cash income, of 91 per cent.; in assets, of 143 per cent.; and in surplus of 374 per cent. Thus, while the assets have increased about one and a-half fold, the surplus has increased fourfold.

The more closely any person scrutinizes the figures of all the life insurance companies doing business in the Dominion of Canada, with a view to ascertain which can do the best for insurers, the more he will be convinced that the North American Life stands in the very front rank.

During the past fourteen years the Company has disbursed for death losses endowments, profits on investment policies, etc., over three-quarters of a million of dollars, and at the present time holds as security for its policy-holders' assets, as per balance sheet, \$1,907,446.30, and in addition uncalled guarantee fund of \$240,000, or in all the large sum of \$2,227,446.30, thus giving a relative security doubtless unsurpassed by any other company.

The Vice-President, Hon. G. W. Allan, seconding the resolution, said that he fully endorsed every remark of the Chairman as to the progress of the Company and the solid position it had attained, and as a Canadian institution we could all look forward with perfect confidence to its increased growth and future prosperity. The motion was unanimously carried.

Owing to the absence, through illness, of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, his able and comprehensive report on the satisfactory position of the investments of the Company was read by the Hon. G. W. Allan, who further said:—"I should like to be permitted to add to what has been said with regard to our mortgage investments. Perhaps I may claim to speak with the advantage of experience, having been connected as a director and President with loan companies for over thirty years. I have taken a good deal of interest in the subject as a member of the Board of Directors of this Company; and I can say without hesitation to our policy-holders and others that I doubt very much if there is any other company in the country whose securities are of so high a character as those held by the North American Life. They have been selected with great judgment, and we have the advantage of a man of very large experience in Mr. Galley, who exercises great care in reporting on all properties offered to us for loans.

James Thorburn, M.D., presented his full and interesting annual report on the mortality experience of the company, after which Mr. J. K. Kerr, Q.C., moved a vote of thanks to the medical director for the able manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the medical department. This was seconded by Sir Frank Smith, who expressed confidence in the future of the Company and his satisfaction at the excellent financial result of the past year's work.

Hearty votes of thanks were tendered the Board, Officers and Agents of the Company, and at a subsequent meeting of the newly elected Board, Mr. John L. Blaikie was unanimously re-elected President, and Hon. G. W. Allan, J. K. Kerr, Q.C., Vice-President.

A remarkable controversy has been in progress in India between a Mohammedan, Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, and a Christian, Abdullah Alhine. The Mohammedan champion, finding himself worsted in the argument, declared that he had received a revelation, and prophesied that his Christian opponent would die from a snake-bite within fifteen months. This would be direct evidence from God that Islam was the Truth. The Christians fear that the Mohammedans may make the prophecy come to pass without waiting for any supernatural agency, for already a cobra in an earthen pot has been found at the door of the Christian's dwelling.