

A shoe manufacturer writes to the *New York Shoe and Leather Reporter*, properly extolling the constancy of Smith, Blasland & Co., of St. Joseph, Missouri, as an example to his fellows: "Owing to complications in which one of the partners was involved, Smith, Blasland & Co., always in good credit, were placed in great peril. Mr. Blasland was equal to the emergency. He stood by the wreck until he could be of no further use to the receiver, steadily refusing to consider a compromise, faithfully fighting against unnecessary expense, bravely working with little hope of saving for himself a dollar, but demanding that every creditor of his firm should be paid one hundred cents on a dollar. The first of October found his object fully attained and the creditors all paid in full. Nothing can surpass the unselfish action of a man who willingly delivers all his possessions in order that his creditors shall receive one hundred cents and interest."

There is every promise of a steady, legitimate business of unprecedented magnitude for an indefinite period. The popular wants are large, the facilities for accommodating them abundant, and the means of gratifying them ample. Prices are low, profits small, indebtedness moderate. There is no occasion to force business. This from the *S. & L. Reporter*, which continues: The people are not in a speculative mood. They buy what they like, and as much of it as they like, of their own free will; they will not buy any more if they are urged. They do not buy for a rise. They have got over looking for that, for they have been accustomed so long to see prices drop. So producers are exerting themselves to the utmost to lower the cost and improve the quality of their products, and in that way they are rendering substantial service to their fellow men.

A shoemaker in Chicago displays the following legend: "Boots and shoes in the rear." It is presumed that this is peculiarly applicable to his daughter's young man when he lingers until an unseemly hour.

BOOK AND STATIONERY NOTES.

A copy of their pamphlet describing food-stuffs, bearing the title, "Health, Wealth, and Happiness," will be sent by Francis H. Leggett & Co., New York, free to anyone who writes for it.

A Christmas Number, containing stories and poems by various Canadian writers, is announced by the proprietors of the *Dominion Illustrated Monthly*. It is a very creditable issue.

The *London Athenaeum* says of "Through Pain to Peace," by Sarah Doudney, that the author has increased her reputation by this story. We observe that the New York firm of John A. Taylor & Co., whose senior was a Toronto boy, for some twenty years in the employ of A. S. Irving, are publishing this book in *The Broadway Series* of copyrighted novels. Also, "The Last Sigurd," by Dora Russell, and "Asenath of the Ford," by "Rita." Forthcoming volumes will be: "Bob Martin's Little Girl," by David Christie Murray; and "Inscrutable," by Esme Stuart, the latter being No. 8 of the *Mayflower Library*. Recent issues in these two popular series are: "The Old Mill Mystery," by A. W. Marchmont, and "Mayflower Tales," by Julian Hawthorne and others.

The position of the body during literary composition has always been a matter of great concern to authors. Charles Kingsley and numerous other writers of distinction found

that their ideas flowed most freely when they stood on their feet slowly pacing the room; while one eminent composer did his best work sitting bolt upright in a gilded drawing-room chair, attired in his finest clothing. An American poet of note rests on his spine, his feet high in air, to write his most enjoying verse. On this point Dr. Lander Brunton has made some investigations. He found that his mental activity was greatest when he lay flat on a table. Then ideas bubbled up in his mind.—*Philadelphia Telegraph*.

Ignatius Donnelly, of "Atlantis" fame, has published, under a queer pseudonym which reminds one of Ivanhoe, a book called *The Golden Bottle*. In this book Ephraim Benezet is described as a Kansas farmer ground down with mortgage and debt. His son has a dream in which he is directed to a golden bottle containing fluid that changes iron to gold. They become immensely wealthy, and use all the gold for the improvement of their fellow-men. The writer's object, says the *Literary News*, is to show that every wrong under which the human race is groaning can be cured by capital rightly used, hard work and a true fraternal spirit.

The *Adventures of John Pas-Plus* is the title of a novel by the Marquis of Lorne, announced as ready for the market by Lovell, Coryell & Co.

Horace Traubel, Thomas B. Harned and Dr. R. M. Bucke are the editors of a volume to be issued by David McKay, entitled "*In re Walt Whitman*." The last named of the editors is the Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane at London, Ont., who was an intimate friend of Walt Whitman in his lifetime.

Respecting Professor Henry Drummond's remarkably successful book, "*Natural Law in the Spiritual World*," *The Bookman* says, "two leading London publishers were offered the book and declined it, so the author put the doomed sheets back in their pigeon-holes. Mr. M. H. Hodder, however, had read the papers in their serial form, and proposed their publication to the author, who re-wrote his pages in much haste, corrected his proofs, and started for a tour in Africa. He heard nothing of his fate for five months, during which, engrossed with a geological and botanical survey, he forgot his venture completely. One night, an hour after midnight, three black messengers from the north end of Lake Nyassa disturbed his camp, and delivered the hollow skin of a tiger-cat with a small package of letters and papers. Among them he found a copy of *The Spectator* containing a review of his book."

Said Charles Dudley Warner about the late George William Curtis: "We all loved him. That is about the sum and substance of it all. I feel a great emotion at having known him as a friend. Mr. Curtis was something of a dreamer. He was fond of going down on Providence Wharf, and there amid the sights and the sounds and the smells of molasses and of rum dream out his ideals. A conversation with Mr. Curtis was a benediction. One felt afterward that he had been refreshed and cleansed as after a baptism." Theodore Roosevelt said Curtis had refused high political rewards in order that he might stand to his post, from which he never shrank, and fight that brutal wrong, that hideous and disgraceful spirit in American politics, "To the victor belongs the spoils."

A correspondent sends the following Guelph item, and suggests that it may properly come under "Literary Notes": G. T. R. vestibule trains passed through Sunday and this morning

on the fast express. "Scott" and "Burns" they were called. "Dickens" comes through to-morrow, while "Longfellow" and "Tennyson" are building. They are handsome trains.

Howard Lockwood, founder of the Lockwood Press in New York, and of various journals, notably the *American Stationer* and the *American Bookmaker*, died suddenly of heart disease on November 4th, aged only 46. His early death is deservedly mourned.

One of the articles of this season in London is Bell's patent ruler, which consists of a bone roller having parallel lines upon it at unequal distances apart; these are confined in a tiny metal frame fitted to an ivory handle, and revolving upon the surface of the paper; in so revolving they press against a pad of felt which has been previously wetted with ink of any color desired. This is used either for ruling cash columns in the ledger or for ruling music staves.

Inkstands are concealed in World's Fair souvenir coins.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

Messrs. Freygang & Donovan, Montreal, liquidators to the Glasgow & London Insurance Company, in liquidation, petitioned to have their salaries fixed. Judge Mathieu made an order granting them \$2,500 and \$1,500 respectively, per annum, up to January 1st, 1893.

The saw mill and factory buildings of the Union Furniture Co. at Bass River, N.S., were burned on Thursday of last week. This is the second fire from which the company has suffered, the last being in March, 1885, when factory, mill and a lot of stock burned up. The factory built in 1886 was a four-storied building 40x100 feet, in one end of which was the paint shop, occupying the third and fourth stories. The saw mill was connected with the factory by overhead platforms. The store was saved. It is stated in a telegram to the *Truro News* that the loss is \$12,000 and insurance \$4,000, but a later communication by mail indicates that the loss will be greater.

It is announced by the Standard Life Assurance Company that participating policies effected with them during the current year will secure four years' bonus at the next division of profits, which we believe takes place in 1895.

The late Duke of Marlborough, whose funeral took place on Monday last, was insured, it is said, for a quarter million sterling, all in English companies, chief among them the Crown.

A branch office of the New York Life Insurance Company has been opened at 72 Cornhill, London, Eng., to do every kind of life insurance and annuity business.

The New Zealand Government having abandoned the bill originally drafted, providing for compulsory deposits in cash from British and foreign insurance companies doing business in New Zealand, have now brought forward an amended scheme whereby companies can make their own investments for the amount to be deposited, and lodge the securities thereof with the Government.

It is stated by the *Insurance Times*, which mentions the return of Mr. Tatley, Canadian manager of the Royal Insurance Company (after nearly six months' absence in Europe for his health, which is much improved), that Mr. George Simpson, lately secretary to the Caledonian Insurance Company at Dundee, Scotland, is expected in Montreal shortly to