

A Reception was given on 3rd inst., to Hon. T. B. Reed, by the leading officers of New York life assurance companies, on his appointment as referee of the Anti-Rebate Compact. Mr. Hegeman, the chief speaker, said, "although Mr. Reed had a high reputation for integrity, he hadn't an honest hair on the top of his head." The joke took the Company by storm, as Mr. Reed's pate is as bare as a billiard ball.

The citizens of Thorold recently discussed the question of a local water works, but came to no decision. Mr. Greenville, ex mayor, said he could not understand why the town wanted water works when the town wells were so good. If Thorold could be certain of never needing such aid in extinguishing a fire as only can be got by water supply under pressure, it would be needless to have water works, but wells afford poor assistance in such an emergency, as was shown by many a burnt out village and town.

Colonel Clifford Thomson, editor of our valued contemporary *The Spectator*, has been granted a medal of honor for distinguished gallantry at the battle of Chancellorsville, Va., on 2nd May, 1863. Colonel, then Ensign, Thomson undertook to ascertain the nature of troops approaching the body he was attached to, he accomplished this, and by his heroic act averted a terrible disaster. On turning to rejoin his regiment he was in the midst of a musketry fire from both sides, but happily escaped being made food for powder. This recognition comes very late, but not too late, we trust, for the medal to be worn with pride for at least as many years as it has been deserved.

The case of the Demill claim against the Economical Insurance Company, like most other affairs, has two sides. Having given one aspect of the case in our last issue, we may say that the Economical claims to have been fully justified in contesting the demand for full indemnity, because the property insured was declared to be worth \$50,000, whereas they had evidence furnished after the fire of its value not being half that amount. The Court, however, was of opinion that Mr Demill did not knowingly misrepresent its value. The Economical produced witnesses, who testified that a better building could be erected for \$16,000 than the one burnt, which was insured for \$20,000. The decision of the Court was, as we have already stated, in favor of Mr. Demill, and there it must rest. We are obliged to Messrs. Miller & Sims for a letter giving above particulars of a case which seems somewhat "mixed."

**Acknowledgments.**—The catalogue of stock electroscut sent us by the J. L. Jones Engraving Co., Toronto, gives 430 specimens of their work, the great variety and artistic design and finish of which are highly creditable not to firm only but to the country. We are much obliged to Mr. Albert C. Landers, Insurance Commissioner of Rhode Island, for a bound copy of Part II of his Report for 1896. Copies of Part II and III of the Inland Revenue Department are to hand. Notes on Copyright, by Mr. Lancelfield, published by the Canadian Literary Bureau, Hamilton, is an excellent compilation of the facts of a legal and business nature, which are requisite for a complete understanding of the position of Canada in regard to copyright. The pamphlet is highly creditable to Mr. Lancelfield. The price is 30 cents. The Non Heredity of Inebriety comes with the compliments of the author, Dr Leslie E. Keeley. The work is published by Scott, Foresman & Co. of Chicago. The author holds that inebriety is a curable disease and is not hereditary.

The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association offers a reward of \$250 for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the person who set fire to the Haynes Ave church in St. Catharines.

#### PERSONALS.

Mr. Dugby Johnson, Manager of the Lancashire who has recently visited New York is reported not to have yet made the appointment of sub-manager.

AMONGST those who favored us with a call last week were Mr. Hendershott, of the Sun Life of Canada, St. John N. B., Mr. R. Junkin, of the Manufacturers' Life.

MR. A. T. PATERSON, General Manager for Canada of the Phoenix Assurance Co. of London, England, accompanied by Mrs. Paterson and family, together with Mr. J. B. Paterson left last night on the "Majestic" for England.

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