

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Boyesen, Hjalmar, Hjorth. Social Struggles, \$1.25. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
 Elliott, Sarah, Barnwell. John Paget, \$1.25. New York: Henry Holt & Co.
 Finck, Henry, T. Wagner and His Works, 2 Vols., \$4.00. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
 Homes in City and Country, \$2.00. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

NORTHWIND AT NIGHT.

Good it is when Northern winds come
 blowing from the ice and bear,
 shouting round the shaking steeples
 till the opal stars can hear;
 Good it is in shifting dusks to
 feel the polar thunder-flail
 lashing at the weary forehead
 with its knots of biting hail!
 Hurricanes that blow the foxes
 over leagues towards their prey,
 Roaring sagas of the icebergs,
 songs of baby seals at play!
 Hurricanes with ghostly chorus
 of the Norsemen grim and stark
 harling oaths at giant foemen
 lacking furious in the dark!
 In the lulls between the wrangle
 of the tempest and the floe
 Sweet it is to fancy love-songs
 of the patient Esquimaux;
 Speeding, warm at heart, across the
 level purity of plain,
 Love beneath his furs as constant
 as beneath the ice, the main!
 O, I joy to hear the sinews,
 of the god of Northern blast
 crackle as his fingers fasten
 on the icy hilt and vast!
 Rushing over wold and valley,
 dusky-dells and uplands bleak,
 How he flings his frozen gauntlet
 at the challenge of my cheek!
 Tho' he dash the dew about me
 from the blooms of other stars;
 Pansies from the lap of Venus,
 speary rushes down from Mars;
 More I love his gusty onset
 than the woman-breeze that brings
 scent of harems and the radiant
 Persian roses on his wings!
 Northland god, your tears of fury
 drive upon my fresher'd cheeks,
 While the roadside branch above me
 writhes in agony and creaks!
 As we wrestle at the midnight,
 breast to breast, and hand to hand,
 Care and pain depart like swallows
 lifting to a friendly land!
 Norman Gale, in London Literary World.

COMPARATIVE POLITENESS.

Politeness is the result of different motives, and manifests itself in different ways, according to the individual and his nationality. The Englishman is generally accredited, in his own country at least, with cultivating a genuine and sincere kind of politeness, which is inspired as much by good feeling as by good breeding. It is further alleged that the true Briton scorns the idea of allowing his inward principles on this subject to be influenced by outward appearances or circumstances, and that consequently he is not less polite, or very little less so at all events, to his uncouth, unamiable, and poor neighbour, than he would be to his renowned rich one. French politeness is pleasant enough, as far as it goes; but it is often difficult to decide how far it does go. The Italians are of the opinion that they excel as a nation in true knightly gallantry. To have a good opinion of one's self is next to possessing that of others; but in truth we believe that it is only the Spaniard who can contest this honour with the Italian. The pretty, flattering speech flourished nowhere more in former times, on the European continent, than in Spain

and Italy. In Venice, for instance, some fifty years ago, a graceful or pretty woman was complimented by the passer-by in the streets on her beauty as openly as one might now compliment on a pretty child or portrait. Noble and peasant were equally susceptible to beauty's charms; and when the exclamation, "Che bella donna," was heard, one turned, not to look in astonishment at the speaker, but in quest of the object of his admiration. At this date, the Venetian restaurants were likewise the scene of such and similar compliments. Little or no heed was paid, however, to these business banalities. It might have started a foreigner then, as it would now, to hear the waiter say, "There is room for the pretty signora at this table," or, addressing a male customer, ask, according to circumstances, "Would the signor with the beautiful eyes, hair, or beard, like to sit here?" But the Venetians who frequented the second and third-rate restaurants were only too much accustomed to this self-interested adulation, and were doubtless thankful when at last it gave place to a more reasonable form of dialogue. Had such compliments been anything more than formalities, it would have required all the waiter's or the proprietor's ingenuity to avoid creating jealousies, amongst the ladies of the company at least.—Evening Standard.

PROMPT PAYMENT.

In accordance with the custom established at its organization, the North American Life Assurance Company still adheres to the principle of settling claims immediately upon the satisfactory completion of proofs of claim, as will be seen by a perusal of the following letter.

Toronto, May 8th, 1893.

Wm. McCabe, Esq., Managing Director N. A. Life, Toronto:

Dear Sir,—I acknowledge receipt of the Company's cheque in favor of Mrs. Farley for the full amount payable under the policy on the life of her late husband, and on her behalf thank you very kindly for the prompt manner in which the Company has paid the claim; the cheque for the same being at my office one hour after the receipt of the proofs of the claim by you.

Your promptness and satisfactory dealing are but characteristic of the general conduct of the business of the North American, and to which no doubt can be attributed the success of the Company, and the popular estimation in which it is held by the Canadian insuring public.

Yours truly,
 (Sd.) H. A. E. Kent,
 Solicitor for Mrs. Farley.

Very satisfactory—are the words which properly express the feeling of all interested in the report of that strong Canadian company, The Confederation Life Association, just presented at the annual meeting. After all, there is a great deal in a name. The "Confederation" is a purely Canadian company doing a Canadian business, and is a splendid representative of legitimate Canadian enterprise, and assured Canadian success. What more could be desired than the report of the directors discloses: During last year there were 2,388 applications for \$3,815,050. Of these 2,258 for \$33,596,550 were approved, and the balance declined or withdrawn. Adding to the new issues the revived policies of previous years and bonus additions, the total new business was 2,291 policies for \$3,672,591 of insurances. The total insurance in force at the close of the year was \$22,565,752, under 14,674 policies on 12,914 lives. The death claims which arose during the year aggregated the sum of \$173,751, under 105 policies on 86 lives. The mortality continues favourable, and the amount of the death claim conforms very closely to that of the previous year. As its building is one of the chief ornaments of our city, so the staunch and progressive company it so well represents, is one of the soundest and most trustworthy of the financial institutions of our country.

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