

JAMES TASKER, Esquire.

Mr. Tasker was born at Deen, Forfarshire, Scotland, on September 19th, 1834. He received the greater part of his early education at the Grammar School of Brechin. Like many others who have become prominent in business circles in Canada, he started his business career in connection with the press, being for over seven years in the office of the *Brechin Advertiser*, and before leaving there to cross the Atlantic he occupied a prominent position in the management of that paper. In 1855 he came to Canada, settling in Ontario, and taking the complete course of study and training in the Provincial Normal School. At the end of two sessions he obtained a first-class teacher's certificate of the highest grade. After teaching for several years in Ontario he went to Chicago and remained there for about a year. In 1866 he came to this city as principal and proprietor of the Montreal Business College, retiring from this position in 1881. Since that time Mr. Tasker has been actively engaged in business, devoting at the same time a goodly portion of his time and means to charitable and benevolent work in connection with St. Andrew's Society, Presbyterian Missions, &c.

He was elected to the Board of the SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA in 1887, and has been for a number of years on the Temporalities Board of Management of the Presbyterian Church, and also on the Widows' and Orphans' Board. He is a member of the Board of Trade, of the Mount Royal Cemetery Trust, and a Governor of the General Hospital and of the Protestant Hospital for the Insane. In all of these corporations he takes an active interest. He has been fortunate in financial matters both for himself and others, and his long and varied experience and good judgment in connection with investments in real estate, bonds, and

other securities, render his services of much value not only to the Sun Life Company of Canada, but to all the other interests with which he is so very closely identified.

THE END OF THE PLAY.

The play is done, the curtain drops,
Slow falling to the prompter's bell.
A moment yet the actor stops
And looks around to say farewell.
It is an irksome word and task ;
And, when he's laughed and said his say,
He shows, as he removes the mask,
A face that's anything but gay.

One word ere yet the evening ends ;
Let's close it with a parting rhyme,
And pledge a hand, to all young friends,
As fits the merry Christmas-time.
On life's wild scene you too have parts
That Fate ere long shall bid you play ;
Good night ! with honest, gentle hearts
A kindly greeting go away.

Come wealth or want, come good or ill,
Let young and old accept their part,
And bow before the Awful Will,
And bear it with an honest heart.
Who misses or who wins the prize,
Go, lose or conquer as you can ;
But if you fail, or if you rise,
Be each, pray God, a gentleman.

A gentleman, or old or young !
(Bear kindly with my humble lays.)
The sacred chorus first was sung
Upon the first of Christmas days ;
The shepherds heard it overhead,
The joyful angels heard it then ;
Glory to heaven on high it said,
And peace on earth to gentle men.

My song save this, is little worth ;
I lay the weary pen aside,
And wish you health and love and mirth,
As fits the solemn Christmas-tide.
As fits the holy Christmas birth,
Be this good friends our carol still—
Be peace on earth, be peace on earth,
To men of gentle will.

Taskeray.

“What must a man do, doctor, to attain a ripe old age?” “Live.”