

## READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

### THE FINEST STAIRCASE IN THE WORLD.

The finest staircase in the world is in the palace of the Vatican in Rome. The Scala Regia (Royal Staircase), with its two flights of stairs, the lower decorated with Ionic columns and the upper pilasters, leads to the Sala Regia, built in the reign of Paul III., and used as a hall of audience for Ambassadors. The Palace of the Vatican has eight grand staircases and 200 smaller ones, with 11,000 chambers of various sizes. In the palatial residence of Baron Hirsch, at a Paris, at the corner of the Rue de l'Elysee and the Avenue Gabriel, is a magnificent staircase. That in Mrs. James Mackay's house in Carleton House Terrace, London, cost £20,000. It is made of the purest marbles from all the quarries of the world, carved by the first sculptors of the day. Magnificent statues ornament every landing, and in panels along the bannisters are most chastely designed specimens of metal work after the Old Masters. The standards for gasaliers and electric lights are of pure silver, in the richest designs; in fact, all that money and the efforts of men of fine taste could do has been done to make it one of the finest staircases in the world.—Belfast Witness.

### THE RESULT OF FORESIGHT.

A responsible life insurance company, such as the North American Life, of Toronto, Ont., gives the insurer every legitimate advantage, coupled with first-class security.

The following letter expressive of one of its policy holders' satisfaction at the results achieved under one of its investment endowment policies is well worth perusing:

Carleton Place, Ont.,  
Sept. 13th, 1893.

To the North American Life Assurance Co., Toronto.

Gentlemen,—Your favour is received advising me that my 15 year endowment, 10 year investment policy has matured, and that I have the choice of any one of the following four options:

(1) Receive the entire cash value of the policy, or (2) the equivalent of this is paid up insurance, or (3) withdraw the cash surplus and continue policy for next five years and then withdraw its full face value with profits, or (4) take the equivalent of the cash surplus to reduce the remaining five payments due under the policy, when it becomes payable in full with profits.

The variety of ways which I have of dealing with my policy, the result in each case being in excess of what I anticipated, enables me to say unhesitatingly that I regard the settlement offered as most satisfactory.

After due consideration, I conclude that the fourth choice will best meet my circumstances, and therefore desire that you shall apply the surplus now in hand to reduce my remaining premiums, so that at the end of five years from the present time I shall receive the full face value of my policy with additional five years' profits.

Yours truly,

A. H. MEARS.

In the last twenty-five years, so says Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, \$11,000,000 have been given in this country to women's colleges alone.

After the recent big storms, says the New York Sun, it was found that many oyster beds in the Great South Bay had been shifted shoreward and piled on beds belonging to other owners. In consequence oyster planters who figured on a good crop have found their beds bare since the storm, while others, who only looked forward to a modest yield, have been made suddenly rich.

## PUBLIC OPINION.

Ottawa Citizen: Canadians may rest contented that no stronger upholders of Canadian autonomy and independence will be found in the future, and none will more determinedly resist closer connections with the United States, than Americans who may experience the blessings of a well-governed community.

Vancouver World: The visit of the two Ministers who are coming to the Coast for the express purpose of dealing with trade matters, especially the tariff question, should be made the occasion for some plain talk concerning the disadvantages under which this Province labors in consequence of the pressure of the N.P.

Halifax Chronicle: In the light of the opinions quoted, the treatment accorded Mr. Ellis by the supreme court of New Brunswick is as outrageous as it is tyrannical, and it is not matter of surprise that almost the entire press of Canada, regardless of party distinctions, should denounce it in language so plain and vigorous that it cannot be misunderstood.

Manitoba Free Press: Canadian flour carried off the gold medal at the World's Fair. This is no small glory in view of the fact that all the great mills of the United States were competing. The dispatch conveying the intelligence of Canada's proud victory does not say so, but it is highly probable that the gold medal flour was made from Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat. Good for Canada.

Quebec Chronicle: Again it is a Cunard steamer which has beaten the record. The "Lucania" has made the eastward trip from New York to Ireland, in the almost incredibly short space of five days, thirteen hours and a half, beating the previous record by one hour and twenty-five minutes. The daily runs, as reported by the log book of the great steamer, are thus set down: 508, 468, 492, 501, 486 and 353 miles. The "Lucania" may be described, certainly, as the fastest steamer afloat.

Montreal Star: At the coming session the Government will bring down the tariff bill, upon which it will fight the elections. If the Opposition could tell us—even with some avoidance of detail—something about the schedule they would like to substitute for this Government measure, the air would be considerably the clearer for it. The country is exceedingly anxious to know just what the smooth phrases of the Liberal platform mean in items and figures. And it must not be forgotten that frankness pays.

Regina Leader: Canada is a little slow. Her population has increased only seven-fold, while that of the United States has increased six-fold. Her railway mileage is only a little greater in proportion to population than that of the United States. Her foreign trade is only 50 per cent greater than that of the United States. Her shipping is only three times as great in proportion to population as that of the United States. The Canadian farmer only gets 20 bushels of wheat to the acre, while the United States farmer gets 13 bushels.

St. John Globe: Naturally enough the manufacturers are not willing to give up a system which benefits them, which puts the money of the country into their pockets. A favorite reference of the Conservative orators and speakers is to the Mackenzie period, when the country, according to their views, was in distress and in a miserable condition generally, and this they contrast with the present prosperous and flourishing time. But Mr. McCarthy's theory is that, while protection does not prevent the country from becoming rich, it prevents the fair distribution of wealth. "If," says he, "you protect a manufacturer and enable him to charge just as high as he pleases, the result will be that the money will be in his pocket and not in ours."

Minard's Liniment for Rheumatism.

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