

A HANDSOME NEW OFFICE.—The Ontario Bank branch office, which has been for many years situated at 500 Queen street west, was moved across the road on Wednesday to the premises at 577 Queen street, west at the corner of Portland street. The building has just been completed, and it now presents a handsome and substantial exterior, while inside are the most complete and well-appointed arrangements possible for a banking office. In nearly every respect the office is similar to the splendid branch in the Confederation Life building. The interior fixings are the same, and the office itself is a trifle larger and more commodious than the Yonge street branch. The bank is to be congratulated on having obtained another office so well appointed and on such a good site.

BORN IN AMERICA.

The power or capacity of absorption inherent in some Americans leads them to claim, draw in, and assimilate nearly every notability the world produces. When Stanley discovered Livingston, the celebrated African explorer was at once claimed as a native of the United States, and, but for the production of a family bible, and the evidence of a wet-nurse, the British Isles would have been deprived of the pride and pleasure of having been the birth-place of the celebrated traveller. When Geo. Dixon, the pugilist, fought his way to the top of a loquacious and pugnacious profession, he was hailed everywhere as a citizen of the United States of America, until a timid Haligonian ventured to identify the dusky fighter as a native of Nova Scotia. There are dozens of similar cases. We remember an estimable Englishman reading in Philadelphia who told us that during the celebrated exhibition in the city, dozens of people in search of that free food and shelter arrived at his home and claimed him as a distant relative. He possessed a singularly strong feeling of affection for his kith and kin, and cheerfully abandoned his bed and larder to these unknown marauders. He only remonstrated when driven from the last room in his house to take shelter on the roof.

Now we have an American newspaper attempting to create an international complication by the statement that President Kruger, whose burghers are be-

ing hammered by our "absent-minded beggars" in South Africa, was "born in America." Why are these notabilities less easily identified than merchandise "made in Germany?" Where is Oom Paul's family bible, his wet-nurse, his certificate of birth?

However, the claim is not lacking in details. On the contrary, the story is almost complete enough to warrant our sceptical doubt of the future salvation of the author of such a delicious yarn. The people now claiming the wily Boer as a relative live in Ohio, and this is their narrative.

"Walter Haywood and N. E. Haywood are his nephews. Their aunt, Mrs. Joseph Haywood, who died here in 1892, a widow, was a sister of President Kruger. Another nephew, Albert Haywood, a brother of the Haywoods here, and a fourth nephew, Paul Kruger, lives in Indianapolis.

"Oom Paul was born, so these relatives say, at Rocksborough, near Philadelphia. He left home when he was 12 years old. His father had given him a good whipping and Paul swore that he would never take another. He walked to Philadelphia and there embarked as a sailor. He soon became master, mate, and then captain of the ship he was on. Later he owned and managed a line of vessels of his own between India, Germany and America.

"He found a wife in Germany, related to the imperial family. His wife is a cousin of General August Willich, a commander of the 1848 revolution in Germany, who fled to America, became a Brigadier General in the civil war, and was buried at St. Mary's this country. Years ago some one wrote to President Kruger, asking him if these statements were not true. He at first denied them, but finally admitted that he was the boy who had run off."

His admission that he was the boy who ran away from home after being whipped by his father, interests us much more than adventures equalling those of Baron Munchausen or the more modern exponent of mendacity, De Rougemont. The latter only stamps Oom Paul as a humorist. But when he swore he would never take another whipping, he knew nothing of Field Marshall Lord Roberts. The plea of kinship is made too late in the campaign to excite our sympathy for this old gentleman who says he was "born in America."

Royal Insurance Co.

... Queen Insurance Co.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY

GEORGE SIMPSON, Manager

WM. MACKAY, Asst. Manager.