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LA GRIPPE.

By WILLIAM McHARRIE, M.E.

From somewhere near to where the waters of the Baltic Sea wash the shores of the land of Czars, bears and suggestions for a general disarmament of the armies of the world and kindred other equally interesting topics, there came to the shores of the new world in 1889 a visitor, or rather, I should say, an immigrant, for unlike the usual coming of distinguished visitors from the lands of crowns and coronets, its coming was unheralded and unsung. As subsequent history shows, however, this apparent lack of courtesy was more than made up for by the prolonged visit of our stranger from the east, and the way in which things in general were made to hum during its stay. Just why this emigration took place has not yet been made quite clear. Could it have been that an autocratic form of Government had become distasteful to it, and that a longing desire to take the freedom that democracy offers shaped its flight to the land of free thought and new-born expansion theories, or was it because, even as far back as 1889, it had a premonition of this general disarmament business, and becoming alarmed that its mode of warfare would also be included

in the discussion of a treaty for general peace, it at once made up its mind that new fields had to be sought, and that a country with a Munroe Doctrine of various interpretations, was its mecca. Be this as it may, it might be said with a considerable degree of certainty that "It came, it saw, and it conquered." At least, I think those who were unfortunate enough to become entangled in its embraces in 1889-90 will so testify. Manifestly pleased with its reception during a former visit, and undoubtedly with a view of showing its due appreciation of the same, it comes amongst us once more, and we are told that "La Grippe" is raging, but its wrath is of a more subdued form. If we were to believe all the stories we hear and the literature we read of its appalling nature and dire effects, truly the night of sickness would seem very long, and the daylight of health afar off indeed. Suicide clubs would have an excuse for existence and melancholia tea parties become the order of afternoon enjoyments for the fair sex. Fortunately, however, for the future of our fair country, the utter extermination of the race, by grip or any other equally familiar visitor, is a long way off, and the public are paying very little attention to the cries of medical alarmists and their co-workers—the patent medicine vendors. It is not in the grip itself that lies the great danger to life and future good health, but rather is it due to the bad treatment the individual unfortunate enough to be its host, receives at the hands of many so-called doctors. A passing glance at its personal character will reveal its good traits. It is not insidious in its approach on the individual, but, on the contrary, gives fair warning of its coming, in the little chilliness, languid feeling, slight temperature, etc., that is experienced by all who make its acquaintance, and right here, at the door, so to speak, is the