

## NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of this Company was held at its head office, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 28th of January, 1890. There was a large attendance of those interested in the institution. The Directors' report showed that the new business for the past year was the largest in the history of the Company; also that large increases had been made in every branch of the Company's business, tending to its continued progress and prosperity. It was also pointed out that the greater part of the Company's business was on the semi-annual investment plan, and further, that nearly all the home companies were now issuing policies on this plan under one name or another, clearly indicating that the insuring public prefer this form of insurance. The financial statement, together with the auditors' report thereon, was duly submitted to the meeting.

## Abstract of Financial Statement for the year ending December 31, 1889.

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|--|---------------|
| Cash income for year 1889  | \$ 302,680 53 |
| Expenditure (including payments to policy holders of \$52,000 94)      | 161,687 23    |
| Assets (including uncalled guarantee fund)                             | 1,063,250 47  |
| Reserve fund (including claims under policies awaiting proofs \$5,500) | 682,870 00    |
| Surplus for security of policy holders                                 | 380,380 40    |

WILLIAM MCCABE, Managing Director.

We have examined the books, documents and vouchers representing the foregoing revenue account, and also each of the securities for the property in the balance sheet, and certify to their correctness.

JAMES CARLYLE, M.D.,  
W. G. CASSE'S,

Auditors.

TORONTO, January 14, 1890.

We concur in the foregoing certificate, and have personally made an independent examination of said books, quarterly, and also of each of the securities representing said property.

E. A. MEREDITH, LL.D.,  
B. B. HUGHES,

Auditing Committee of the Board.

Mr. John L. Blaikie, Vice-President of the Company, took the chair in the absence of the President, Hon. A. Mackenzie, M.P., who was attending to his duties at Ottawa. The honourable gentleman, however, did not forget the company with which he had been connected since its inception, and addressed a letter to the policy-holders and guarantors, which was read at the meeting. He expressed his regret at not being present, and especially so as the year 1889 was the most successful in the history of the Company, and the statement showed the greatest advance of any year. He also dwelt on the fact that the assets had in every instance been brought down to a cash basis, thereby continuing in the same course that had been adopted at the outset, viz., to build the Company up on a solid foundation.

The letter from the President was received with loud applause.

Mr. Blaikie, the Vice-President, then addressed the meeting and dealt very fully with the main features of the report. He also referred in feeling terms to the loss sustained by the death of the late Vice-President, Hon. Alexander Morris, which had occurred since the last annual meeting of the company. By comparisons with other leading companies, he demonstrated to the satisfaction of all present that the security offered to policy holders by the North American can truly be said to be "unsurpassed on this continent."

In referring to the competition experienced from the large American companies, he showed in a very clear manner, taking the figures from an official statement published in the United States, that the percentage surplus to assets of the largest companies was much less than those of many of the smaller companies. Dwelling on this point, and also on the low mortality that the companies doing business in Canada had so far experienced, and further on the higher rate of interest obtainable in Canada as compared with other countries for safe investments, he showed very clearly that it was certainly to the advantage of Canadian insurers to patronize their own companies. He stated that the company's solid investments in mortgages and debentures constituted a relative security for policy holders never before attained by any Canadian life insurance company at the same period of its history.

The agents expressed great satisfaction with the reference made to them by Vice-President Blaikie. He commended them for the good work they had been doing, and illustrated in glowing terms the advantage to many widows and orphans that had accrued through life insurance, which, however, would never have reached them but for the work of the agent.

The motion to adopt the report was seconded by the Hon. Frank Smith, who expressed his opinion that the report was a splendid one, and further, that he should say that it would be almost impossible to beat this company's record in any part of the world.

The usual votes of thanks were then passed. The following gentlemen were elected as directors: Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, M.P., John L. Blaikie, Hon. G. W. Allan, Hon. D. A. Macdonald, Hugh McLennan, Dr. L. W. Smith, J. K. Kerr, Q.C., John Morison, E. A. Meredith, LL.D., A. H. Campbell, D. Macrae, E. Gurney, Hon. Edward Blake, John N. Lake, Edward Galley, Hon. O. Mowat, B. B. Hughes, James Thorburn, M.D., James Scott, William Gordon, H. H. Cook, M.P., Robert Jaffray, Edward F. Clarke, Hon. Frank Smith, and William McCabe, the addition to the directorate for this year being the Hon. Edward Blake, Q.C., M.P., the Hon. Frank Smith and Hon. Oliver Mowat, Q.C., M.P.P.

Subsequently the new Board met and unanimously re-elected Hon. A. Mackenzie, M.P., President, and John L. Blaikie and the Hon. G. W. Allan, Vice-Presidents, and the usual standing committees with the addition of the Hon. Edward Blake, Q.C., to the company's most important committee, viz.: that on insurance.

HON. A. MACKENZIE, M.P.,  
President.J. L. BLAIE,  
HON. G. W. ALLAN,  
Vice-Presidents.WILLIAM MCCABE,  
Managing Director.

## Our Young Folks.

## WHEN I WAS A GIRL.

"When I was a girl," said grandmamma,  
Who stooped with her weight of years,  
"My step was as light as your steps are,  
My form was as straight, my dears!  
With laughter and song my youth was gay,  
I had more bright days than sad,  
And so, little maids, to you I say,  
And bear it in mind—Be glad!"

"When I was a girl"—she sweetly smiled  
On each fair young face upturned,  
"I kept the love and faith of a child,  
And in all things God discerned!  
His constant blessing my spirit knew,  
His guidance I understood;  
And so, my children, I say to you,  
And lay it to heart—be good!"

## TEN YEARS OLD.

To be ten years old has always seemed to me a very serious thing ever since the day when I became so. It was a Sabbath day, my tenth birthday. I think that I had about as good a mother as any boy ever had—very loving very wise, and very faithful. She did not worry me with too many talks and lectures, though she kept her kind, watchful eye on me always, and she had a firm as well as gentle hand. When she did sit down to have a regular talk with me she was apt to say things worth remembering—things which I could not forget. On that Sabbath day, my tenth birthday she said, "My son, if you live as much longer as you have lived now—ten years—you will be a man, as tall and large as you are ever going to be. Then you will not be taken care of and guided by your father and me. You must learn how to govern and guide yourself before that time."

She made me see that it was a great thing to get ready to be a man, and to do a man's part, and bear a man's responsibilities in this world. She made me feel that it would make a great difference to me, and that it might make a great difference to others, what kind of a man I should be. She had not waited till then to teach me the lesson which King David taught to Solomon. "My son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind. . . . if thou seek Him He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him He will cast thee off forever." She was always teaching me that—she and my father—even more by their honest, godly, kind lives than by their wise and faithful kind words. But I remember no one day in which that good lesson sunk deeper into my heart than on that Sabbath day which was my tenth birthday.

When the next ten years had gone and my twentieth birthday had come, sure enough, I had gone through college and was teaching a school, in which were some scholars as old as I was. I remembered that talk with my mother, and wrote to her about it on that day. Ten more years and I was a father and a pastor. And so the end of each ten years has found me with serious responsibilities, in which at all times it has helped me to recollect what my mother taught me when I sat on her lap, and how she advised me when I was taller than she. I do not remember ever being sorry for having done as I thought my mother would wish. This was so quite as much after she had gone from this world as when I could write letters to her and get letters from her.

A good many little readers of these pages are about ten years old, I suspect. Some have had their tenth birthday, and some will have it soon. Do not wait for that particular day to come before you seek the Lord. "If thou seek him now, he will be found of thee." But still I cannot help thinking it is a very serious thing to be ten years old; and there is only one way to make it a happy and safe thing to be more than ten years old. Has not what I have been saying made it pretty plain what that way is? Think it over, my little Presbyterians, and talk it over with your mothers on any Sabbath day, whether it is your birthday or not.

## LITTLE THINGS AGAIN.

You will be almost tired of hearing about everyday "trifles," I am afraid, but I do want to repeat one more anecdote in that line. Here is a little confession taken from the lips of a school-girl, and set down in her own words:

"I've begun to find such little mean streaks in myself that I'm quite frightened. Guess what I was tempted to do the other day! I was washing the dishes for mamma, and when I got to the tins and kettles I was discouraged, they looked so greasy and black, and I've always been a little vain of my hands.

"I'm going to Kitty Merrill's party to-night, and I want to keep my hands nice for that. I'll leave this for mamma; it won't make any difference with her hands, because she can't keep them nice, anyway."

"Then something seemed to say to me: 'Oh, you coward! oh, you sneak! To be willing to have whiter hands than your mother! Aren't you ashamed?'"

"I was ashamed, and I washed the kettles pretty humbly, I can tell you. I felt as if they weren't half as black as I. Since then I've watched all my thoughts, for fear I shall grow so wicked mamma won't know me. I've learned pretty thoroughly what the minister means when he talks about the 'little foxes that spoil the grapes of a fine character.'"

## YOUTH CALLED TO PURITY.

The young are the strength of the present and the inheritors of the future; theirs is the accumulated wisdom of the ages which are ended and the endless hopes of the ages which are to come. They bring the vigour of undiminished energy into the struggle where older men are weary, and are the perpetual reserve force which Nature marches up to reinforce the baffled armies of to-day. That which aged hearts have longed in vain to see they will behold; the broken promises of the past it will be theirs to possess and redeem. The old man catches at his few remaining years of life as a miser at his lessening gold, but the young man has a sense of infinite wealth in the unsquandered future which is his. To be young is to be a millionaire in hope, to feel young is very bliss. A nation's future is with her young men for what the man of twenty thinks the nation will soon think. I address you, then, as the only truly wealthy people in the world—rich in strength, in resolve, in ambition, in time, in opportunity; you, who stand in the golden gateways of the dawn, and see the years before you like a fruitful country at your feet ripe for conquest; and with no nobler word can I salute you, as you go down to your battle and your inheritance, than this word of Paul's to Timothy: "Keep thyself pure." We want that virile, manly purity which keeps itself unspotted from the world, even amid its worst debasements, just as the lily lifts its slender chalice of white and gold to heaven, untainted by the soil in which it grows, though that soil be the reservoir of putrefaction and decay.

## TREASURE AT BOTH ENDS.

A Western paper relates the following suggestive incident: When the late Dr. Hodge was drawing near the close of his life he spent two or three days at my house. He discovered in my study a piece of furniture he greatly admired and asked me to buy for him, if I could, a duplicate. Upon receiving it from my hand he pulled out of his pocket a purse in order to reimburse me, but there was nothing in it. I playfully remarked that his treasures were all laid up in heaven. He bade me pause to see if he did not still have all he needed for earth. He soon found the change he was in search of and handed it to pay for the furniture, saying: "I have from boyhood taken the precaution to have some treasure at both ends of the journey." This simple expression contains the sum and substance of his masterly tomes on didactic theology.

## TO BREAK OFF BAD HABITS.

Understand the reasons, and all the reasons, why the habit is injurious. Study the subject until there is no lingering doubt in your mind. Avoid the places, the persons and the thoughts that lead to the temptation. Frequent the places, associate with the persons, indulge the thoughts that lead away from temptation. Keep busy; idleness is the strength of bad habits. Do not give up the struggle when you have broken your resolution one, twice, or a thousand times. That only shows how much need there is for you to strive. When you have broken your resolution, just think the matter over, and endeavour to understand why it was you failed, so that you may be on your guard against a recurrence of the same circumstances. Do not think it an easy thing that you have undertaken. It is folly to expect to break off a habit in a day which may have been gathering strength in you for years.

## DO YOUR BEST.

There is a fable told about a king's garden, in which the trees and all the flowers began to make complaint. The oak was sad because it did not bear flowers; the rose-bush was sad because it could not bear fruit; the vine was sad because it had to cling to the wall and could cast no shadow. "I am not the least use in the world," said the oak. "I might as well die, since I yield no fruit," said the rose-bush. "What good can I do?" said the vine.

Then the king saw a little pansy, which held up its glad, fresh face, while all the rest were sad. And the king said: "What makes you so glad, when all the rest pine and are so sad?" "I thought," said the pansy, "that you wanted me here, because here you planted me, and so I made up my mind that I would try and be the best little pansy that could be."

Let us all try to do our best in the little spot where God has placed us.

## A BIG NURSE FOR BABY.

In India, where the elephant is treated by his mahout almost as one of the family, the grateful animal makes a return for the kindness shown it by a voluntary taking care of the baby. It will patiently permit itself to be mauled by its little charge, and will show great solicitude when the child cries. Sometimes the elephant will become so attached to its baby-friend as to insist upon its constant presence. A case is known where the elephant went so far as to refuse to eat except in the presence of its little friend. Its attachment was so genuine that the child's parents would not hesitate to leave the baby in the elephant's care, knowing that it could have no more faithful nurse. And the kindly monster never belied the trust reposed in him.