

poem by Keats, and letters and verses in the handwritings of Dickens, Whittier, Bryant, Goldsmith, George Eliot, Tennyson, Owen Meredith, Goethe, Cowper, Macaulay, Longfellow, Bayard Taylor, Mme. de Staël, and a long list of other literary celebrities living and dead.

THE reported establishment of a new weekly literary journal by Mr. Julian Hawthorne and his brother-in-law, Mr. George Parsons Lathrop, has been, for the present at least, indefinitely postponed, the two authors having wisely concluded to devote their energies to the contribution of articles and poems for magazines other than of their own editorial management. "The report was entirely too premature," says Mr. Lathrop. "The whole idea had been merely casually considered by Mr. Hawthorne and myself, and a venture of such importance requires thorough consideration." The two *litterateurs* are engaged upon the completion of a dramatic composition which received a warm degree of praise from Mme. Modjeska, to whom it was read.

IN a few days the Scribners will publish "Letters to Dead Authors," a new book by Andrew Lang, the title of which, though it may sound irreverent, is evidently meant to be quite the reverse. Mr. Lang writes in an entirely respectful and pleasant spirit, each letter being a small essay on the dead author's work. He begins by addressing himself to William Makepeace Thackeray, and one finds no word of criticism, but the heartiest words of praise and veneration. Of Dickens he is less enthusiastic. Among the authors whom he addresses are Pierre de Rousard, whom he calls "Prince of Poets"; Herodotus, Pope, Chapelain, Mandeville, Dumas, Theocritus, Poe, Scott, and Shelley. The firm will publish it in a charmingly made little volume late in the month.

The numbers of the *Living Age* for February 13 and 20 contain The Country Banker, *Quarterly*; The Little Prophets of the Cevennes, and Life, Art, and Nature, in Bruges, *Contemporary*; Darwinism and Democracy, *Fortnightly*; Colonial Governors, and My Election Experiences, *National Review*; Jane Taylor, and Wild-boar Shooting near the Heathen Wall of the Vosges, *Blackwood*; Goethe as an Actor, *Gentleman's*; Two Evenings with Bismarck, *Chambers's*; Two Days with the Kachyens, In the Catacombs at Kiev, Thawing a Village, and the Crossbill, *St. James's Gazette*; London in the Snow, *All the Year Round*; Canvas-Backs, *Saturday Review*; Grasse, and the Manufacture of Scent, *Spectator*; with instalments of "The Grateful Ghosts," "A New Year's Gift, and "Miss Jollibert's Proposal," and poetry.

MR. FRANK R. STOCKTON is back again in New York, busily engaged in reading the proof of his first long novel, "The Late Mrs. Null." As may well be imagined, the author is extremely conscientious, and he gives every page of his book the most rigid scrutiny. Personally Mr. Stockton is little known in New York. He accepts few social invitations, and is thoroughly a home stayer. Mrs. Stockton is with him, and acts as his amanuensis, besides giving him the advantage of her acute literary judgment. "The Late Mrs. Null" is a story of life in Virginia, which in itself indicates the possibilities of local character drawing open to the author, in addition to his other types. Like most of the fiction Mr. Stockton writes, it is full of the element of unexpectedness, and its ending is as odd and unlooked-for as the finale of "The Lady or the Tiger?" or, in fact, any of his stories.

The February number of the *Library Magazine* presents the following unusually attractive array of contents: Hinduism, by a Hindu; The Interpreters of Genesis and the Interpreters of Nature, by T. H. Huxley; The New Star in Andromeda, *Cornhill Magazine*; Reason and Religion, by A. M. Fairbairn; Bulgaria and Servia, by Edward A. Freeman; Superfine English, *Cornhill Magazine*; The Story of the Báb, by Mary F. Wilson; Shakespeare's Love's Labours Lost, by Walter Pater; The Origin of the Alphabet, by A. H. Sayce; Insanity and Crime, by Baron Bramwell; Old Florence and Modern Tuscany, by Janet Ross; On Modern Chances for Chivalry, by Edward Garrett; The Elder Edda—the Bible of Germanic Paganism, by H. H. Boyesen; Suns and Meteors, by Richard A. Proctor; A Novelist's Favourite Theme, *Cornhill Magazine*; The Coming Contests of the World, *Fortnightly Review*; The Decay of the Central Park Obelisk, by Arnold Hague; Eskimo Building-Snow, by Frederick Schwatka.

THE life of the poet Longfellow, which the publishers, Messrs. Ticknor and Company, expect to issue on February 27, the poet's birthday, promises to be quite as important as readers have anticipated, if the advance proofs which lie before us may be taken as any indication. The full title page of the book reads as follows: "Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, with extracts from his journals and correspondence, edited by Samuel Longfellow." There are two volumes, the pages being duodecimo in size. Several portraits of the poet are given, as also are fac-similes of some of his manuscripts and a few woodcuts. A charming little vignette drawing of Longfellow's birthplace is one of the most interesting of the illustrations. The material for compiling the book has been more than abundant, and Mr. Longfellow has had to exercise much self-restraint to keep its size within reasonable limits. Many people will be surprised to learn that the author had pronounced artistic proclivities, and several sketches made by his own hand are reproduced for these pages.

MESSRS. SCRIBNER have put in the hands of an engraver a photograph of Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, taken by the author's friend, Sir Percy Shelley, a son of the poet. Mr. Stevenson, although he has so large a circle of readers in England and America, has somehow escaped the photographer until Sir Percy laid violent hands upon him, as it were. The picture shows a handsome dark face, large eyes, a prominent nose and a strong intellectual expression. The author is at present extremely ill at his home at Skerryvore, Bournemouth, in the South of England. He is, however, blessed with a strong vigorous vitality, which his friends hope will pull him through. Notwithstanding his illness, he has contrived to write a new book, "Kidnapped," which is said to be very stirring and striking, and will soon be published in England and America. The plot of "Dr. Jekyll" had a curious beginning; it was dreamed by the author ten years ago. When he told a friend of his vision he was laughed at, and it took ten years to get over his chagrin and the book was not written until last summer.

THE revival of the story concerning the alleged unfriendliness between the editor of the *Century* and Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, growing out of reported omissions and corrections made in one of the authoress's serials, reveals the interesting information that scarcely an article or serial of importance accepted by the *Century* fails of receiving some such suggested alterations as were made in the case of Mrs. Burnett. That this extends even to the most popular of writers finds substantial evidence in the fact that no work from the pen of Mr. George W. Cable has been published that has not been once and often twice revised by the author, at the editor's suggestion, and in one or two cases have works been entirely rewritten by Mr. Cable. Even Mr. Stockton's inimitable stories have frequently been materially altered before final publication. In the case of Mrs. Burnett, the offer to choose between two endings of the story in question was politely refused by Mr. Gilder, that gentleman preferring that a decision of such importance should be made by the lady herself. And in proof of the continued friendship between the editor and his contributor, it can be authoritatively stated that in addition to a complete novel soon to be printed, the *Century* has also in hand three poems by Mrs. Burnett, recently submitted, one of which will be printed in an early issue of the magazine, with the two remaining in close succession.

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE CO.

Annual Meeting of the Stockholders and Annual Report.

The Fifty-third Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company was held in the Company's Offices, Front Street, on Wednesday, the 17th inst., the Governor, Mr. John Morison, in the chair. Among those present were the following gentlemen:—Messrs. J. Kingshorn (Montreal), C. D. Warren, T. R. Wood, W. J. Macdonell, Henry PeMATT, W. A. Sims, Alex. Boyd, H. L. Hime, Robert Thompson, H. D. Gamble, C. C. Baines, A. Myers, John Turner, Rev. John Dansey, W. Adamson, Thomas Long, Dr. Hugh Robertson, John Sinclair, Alex. Wills, George Smith, R. L. Fraser, Thos. Lailey, Richard Dunbar, W. J. McColla, Fred. Stewart, Rev. James Gray, Edward Hobbes, M. W. Mills, W. J. Baines, Henry M. Pellatt, and Geo. Musson.

The Secretary, Mr. Silas P. Wood, read the following Annual Report, 1885:—
The Directors have the honour to submit their annual statement, giving the result of the business for the year ending 31st December, 1885.

They take pleasure to inform the Shareholders that the business done in marine shows a very handsome profit: and to state that the wisdom of the policy adopted by the Directors four years ago is thus manifestly proved.

They have also the satisfaction to state that the fire business, both in the United States and Canada, shows a profit, although a small loss has occurred from our European business. It is gratifying to know that the Company is now entirely free from further claims under the arrangements made some years ago, a settlement having been effected and the foreign business finally closed.

After paying all losses due and providing for all liabilities, the assets have been increased from \$1,041,319.95 to \$1,133,666.52: and the net surplus from \$106,646.62 to \$151,329.29. With the results these Directors believe the Shareholders will be satisfied.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SILAS P. WOOD, Secretary.

J. MORISON, Governor.

Statement of assets and liabilities at the 31st December, 1885:—

ASSETS.	
United States bonds	\$532,618 75
Bank and other dividend paying investments	327,284 40
Cash in hand and in banks	88,389 26
Real estate—Company's building	90,000 00
Mortgage on real estate	1,350 00
Bills receivable	20,658 76
Office furniture	15,955 40
Agents' balances	57,409 95
	\$1,133,666 52
LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock	\$500,000 00
Losses under adjustment	92,217 29
Dividend No. 83 (balance)	2,914 33
Dividend No. 84	20,000 00
Balance	518,534 90
	\$1,133,666 52
PROFIT AND LOSS.	
Fire losses, paid	\$405 145 08
unsettled	90,225 49
Marine losses, paid	\$495,370 57
unsettled	\$50,045 45
	1,991 80
Commissions and all other charges	52,037 25
Government and local taxes	236,328 11
Rent account (including taxes)	15,902 80
Balance	4,072 05
	121,542 29
Fire premiums	\$925,253 07
less re-insurance	\$823,908 55
	53 846 12
Marine premiums	\$709,462 43
less re-insurance	\$101,937 74
	3,364 65
Interest	98,573 09
Rent account	34,501 30
Increase in value of securities	6,945 00
	15,771 25
Dividend No. 83	\$925,253 07
No. 84	\$15,000 00
Balance	20,000 00
	518,534 90
Balance from last statement	\$553,534 90
Profit and loss	\$431,992 61
	121,542 29
	\$553,534 90
RE-INSURANCE LIABILITY.	
Balance at credit of Surplus Fund	\$518,534 90
Reserve to re-insure outstanding risks	367,205 61
Net surplus over all liabilities	\$151,329 29

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Governor and Directors of the British America Assurance Company:—

GENTLEMEN,—We beg to report that we have carefully audited the books, accounts and vouchers of the Company, up to the 31st December, 1885, and find the same to be correct. We have also examined the several securities and find the same to be in their possession as set forth in the statement and balance sheet hereto annexed.

ROBERT C. CATHRON,
HENRY MILL PELLATT, } Auditors.

On motion of Mr. MORISON, seconded by Mr. NORTHROP, the report was adopted.

It was moved by Alderman TURNER, seconded by THOS. LONG:—"That the thanks of the Shareholders are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Governor, Deputy-Governor and Directors for their attention to the interests of the Company for the past year." Carried unanimously.

Moved by J. Y. REID, seconded by GEORGE BOYD:—"That Messrs H. L. Hime, Henry Pellatt, and W. J. Macdonell be appointed scrutineers for taking the ballot for Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and that the poll be closed as soon as five minutes shall have elapsed without a vote being taken." Carried.

The vote resulted in the following gentlemen being elected Directors:—John Morison, John Leys, Hon. Wm. Cayley, Geo. Boyd, J. Y. Reid, C. D. Warren, G. M. Kingshorn, (Montreal) Henry Taylor (London), and Geo. H. Smith (New York).

The meeting then adjourned.

At a special meeting of the board, held immediately after, Mr. John Morison was unanimously elected Governor, and Mr. John Leys, Deputy-Governor.