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Letter from Italy.

One of our most highly respected citizens, who is now travelling in Europe has favoured us with a letter giving his impressions of Italian cities, which we have much pleasure in publishing in this number. We draw special attention to this letter, as it is not only highly interesting, as the experiences and observations of an intelligent traveller usually are, but it is also very suggestive and instructive as to the improvements needed in this and other cities in Canada. We are apt to regard ourselves on this continent as foremost in all matters relating to city management and the provision of attractions to visitors. To those who hold this conceited view, the letter of "Tourist" will be a revelation. In connection with this, we may mention the care given in Paris, France, to the trees on the boulevards, a provision being made for their roots being supplied with water and protected from injury. Here, scores of beautiful trees that adorn our streets and afford grateful shade in the summer, are gradually dying down owing to the perverse treatment given to their roots which are so tightly covered over, that they are prevented from being refreshed by the rain.

The Mutual Reserve says "Ditto" to the Three Giants.

After one of Burke's magnificent orations in the House of Commons, a member rose to speak, but could say no more than, "I say ditto to Mr. Burke." Following the example set by the Equitable, the Mutual, of New York, and the New York Life, the Mutual Reserve has issued a circular to its managers and agents, informing them that, "we have decided not to publish hereafter, directly or indirectly, nor to permit our representatives to publish directly or indirectly, or to circulate, any literature or advertisements referring in any way to any other American Life Insurance Company." An exception is made by allowing the publication of comparisons of not less

than ten companies, and the company does not debar itself from defending itself if unjustly attacked by another company or its agents. We note again that the self-denying ordinance to abstain from circulating references to other life companies includes "any other American Life Insurance Company," which leaves the Canadian companies still open to attack.

A Royal Defaulter.

The King of Servia is stated to have allowed his life policy to lapse, owing to inability to pay the premium. His Majesty of Servia lacks the advertising faculty, or he would get his life insurance gratis, or at a merely nominal premium, by giving some company the privilege of using his royal name in its ads. as its President. The entire revenue of the Kingdom of Servia is less than half that of the city of Montreal, but small as are its resources, it might have kept the royal policy alive to avoid scandal.

Depth of Credulity.

No plummet has ever been found long enough to reach the bottom of the abyss of human credulity. It takes a very lengthy one to reach the point where confidence in assessment life assurance originates, but even this profound depth has been shown to be shallow, compared to the belief in the genuineness of some alleged ancient documents. A Mr. Charles has recently purchased an alleged curiosity from a manufacturer of antiquities, a branch of industry that has some famous records, as Ossian's poems, Chatterton's forgeries, etc., etc. The fakir sold this marvel of credulity a letter from Adam to Eve! This missive, says the Scottish critic, consisted of a few lines in ancient characters on an antique-looking scrap of the bark of a tree. What language the letter of Adam was written in is not stated, but, of course, if genuine, it was in Gaelic, for we all know that Gaelic was spoken in the garden of Eden.