

ion and the States, so stoutly contends. Another recommendation by this Committee, that each State require of its home and agency Companies an implicit annual statement of uniform character to be made in the month of January, is important. The time is not far distant when all the States must follow the example of Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, California and Iowa, especially if they hope to decentralize the insurance business, and keep premiums at home.

The broker war, like *Etna* and *Vesuvius*, has its periodic eruptions, and is just now in full flame. Twenty-four offices, including several of such A 1 corporations as the Home, Continental, Royal, Manhattan, Washington and Republic, have united in a league, and after the manner of the fathers in 1776, have issued a declaration of independence. They will no longer pay brokerage, and will, without charge, place risks for their customers. You will not care to have me discuss this vexed question in your columns. There are some hundred and twenty brokers on the Brokers' Board, beside scores of semi-occasional fellows. This eager crowd of middlemen strive to skin 15 to 25 per cent. from the office premiums, though the statistics show that the New York offices, as a whole, have made no money for the past five years. Dividends have been merely interest dividends, and generally made at the expense of needed reserve. Allow me to express my conviction that if the New York fire brokers ever were a useful "institution," they have survived that usefulness. Many efforts have been made during the last 15 years to strike them off, but there has always been enough young and sturdy offices not "in combination," to keep them in countenance. Any movement to be effectual must be unanimous or nearly so.

The rapidity with which "Co-operative" Life Insurance Companies are springing up in different parts of the Union, revives the reflection that there is very little new under the sun. New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, Enfaula, (Ala.), and other cities, are supplied with one or more. New York has three and may soon have ten or twenty. They are substantially like the insurance "little goes" that infested London at the commencement of the eighteenth century, and which were suppressed by a penal statute in Queen Anne's reign.

For a mere trifle, say \$3 to \$6 initiation fee, and \$1 on the death of a member, the insured's family is to get \$5000 at his demise. Such highly benevolent concerns need and have no charter, or authority for doing business. There is no guarantee or any possibility that the obscure and impetuous "promoters" will be able or likely to continue them, *nem con* the fact, that the obligations which they propose to assume are expected to run from one to thirty years. No notice is taken of the decrement or deterioration of life, or rate of interest, and there is no provision or assurance that the accumulated fund, if one is ever got, will be accessible to the family of a deceased member. The Insurance Monitor has been handling the Manhattan National Union, United States, and others of this ilk, without gloves, and I notice that these swindles are receiving attention in Chicago, Baltimore, and other quarters. If our Superintendent of the Insurance Department at Albany, has no power under existing laws to suppress them, an "enabling" statute will be passed when the Legislature meets in January. Meantime some hundreds of mechanics and labourers may be cheated out of hard earnings. Of course the business classes are not to be caught by the contemptible "shysters" who are pushing these "little goes" redivivus.

Prominent among the causes which have secured for life insurance such great popularity, and unprecedented growth in the American Union, is the general application of the mutual principle, and the half premium note. You, on the other side of Jordan have seen enough of the irrepressible and acquisitive "Yank" to know that he is pretty shrewd. When he had got sufficiently

well planted in business to give some attention to life insurance (about twenty years ago), he quickly saw that its "mission" was with the sentiments and affections in co-operation with the advancing spirit of a high Christian civilization, and that it could not live in the atmosphere of sordid gain. Hence the "proprietary" or English system has never been favoured by our people, and of forty-three companies doing business in this State last year, but four, strictly, were stock companies, having 4,975 policies in force, with \$380,983 premium receipts in 1867, as against thirty-nine companies, mutual, with 396,165 policies, and \$50,002,846 premium receipts in 1867, and total assets of \$123,025,818, as compared with \$2,523,137 in stock companies. There should be no such word as gain or profit in life insurance, commercially speaking.

The recent organization of a proprietary company with \$1,000,000 capital, and all the profits or return premiums to be paid to the stockholders, has brought the question of the mutual vs. the stock plan, sharply before the public. The mutuals have combined in some liberal expenditures for discussing this question. I know of one publication 25,000 copies of which are going into the hands of merchants, bankers, brokers, and other professional and tradespeople. As the readers of the *Monetary Times* do not require its publishers to be responsible for the views of correspondents, I will take the liberty of "guessing" that the stock plan never will be popular in the future, as it has always been unpopular in the past. The million dollar company deducts about 25 per cent off ordinary premium rates, in consideration of the policies being non-participating, but as most of the well established mutuals return 50 per cent of premiums to policy holders, besides in many cases paying six and seven for it on small capitals, it is obvious that Mr. Million-dollar expects to make about 25 net profit on the premium receipts, which will be a decidedly good thing for the stockholders, but not so funny for the insured. The introduction of capital into life insurance for merely speculative purposes, is not only not necessary, but is to be regretted as it will tend to unsettle and demoralize the system devised for a purely benevolent and unselfish purpose.

M. A. C.

INSURANCE MATTERS IN MONTREAL.

(From a Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, NOV. 10th, 1868.

The recent judgement by Mr. Justice MacKay in re Henry Chapman & Co., vs. the Lancashire Insurance Company, is exciting a good deal of attention and not a little indignation from business men here. The claim is for a loss by fire that occurred in 1864. The judgement was given upon the following pleas, filed in opposition to the claim:—1st. Some informality in the award of arbitrators appointed to assess the damage caused by the fire. 2nd. Neglect on the part of the assured to notify the office of the occupation by a tenant of part of the premises in which the risk was covered, and also a failure to notify a further insurance on the same property. All of which was held to invalidate the claim.

Incendiarism is still rampant here. On Wednesday night some sheds in rear of a house on Radegonde Street were fired, but put out with but little damage.

On Thursday night the stable in rear of the dwelling occupied by Mr. Edward Hilton, in St. Genevieve Street, was fired, and in consequence of delay in the supply of water was totally destroyed, two horses and a cow were destroyed in the stable.

On Saturday night about 10.30 a fire broke out in a stable in rear of Bonaventure Street, it was about three-quarters of an hour before the water was let on, and then with so little force that the brigade had to use engines to force a stream, consequently

a whole nest of wooden outbuildings were totally destroyed.

It is somewhat curious to note the epidemic form of these acts of incendiarism; within a week we have had four fires within a stone-throw of each other, in the western section of the city, whilst some three or four weeks ago we had some seven or eight fires within the same space of ground in the eastern part of the city. Would it not be well if some of our scientific men here would (say after the style of DeQuincy's essay on "Murder as one of the Fine Arts,") treat us to an essay on the causes of this curious but evident fact, let him go into the subject in all its possible bearings, ascertain whether it may be owing to malarious influences, or, if not, what?

I would suggest that one-half of our ornamental double-barrelled fire-marshal should undertake this literary task, and thus earn the gratitude of the scientifically inclined, as well as the now easily earned fees of the office.

CANADA LIFE.—The business of this Company for the past half year, shows an increase over the same period of last year of 59.23 per cent. in the number of new policies issued; an increase of 54.01 per cent. in the new premiums, and 65.60 per cent. in the sum assured.

FIRES AND ALARMS IN QUEBEC.—Mr. J. S. Ferguson, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, furnishes the following statement of the number of fires and alarms of fire in that city during the six months ending the 31st October, 1868, and the corresponding period of 1867, viz: 1868—Fires, 37, alarms, 36; 1867—fires, 35, alarms, 28.

—The Union Mutual Life Assurance Co., of Maine, has received license to transact business in Canada, on depositing U.S. 6's of \$1—\$50,000. B. B. Corwin, general agent, St. John, N. B.

—A petition has been introduced into the Ontario Legislature praying for an act of incorporation for the "Ontario Mutual Life Insurance Company."

FIRE RECORD.—St. John, N. B., Nov. 6.—Harrington's saw mill at the Shédiac has been totally destroyed by fire. Bateman's grist mill alongside also burnt; loss \$4,000; no insurance.

Wyoming, Ont., Oct. 30.—Clark & Son's grist, saw, barding and fulling mill, and shingle-machine, all totally destroyed; loss estimated at \$7,000; no insurance. A barn belonging to Jas. Convey, across the road from the mills, caught the flames and was consumed with its contents; loss \$1,000; no insurance.

Windham Township, Ont., Oct. 18.—Barn of James Cosey, and contents; took fire while the family were at church and believed to be the work of an incendiary; no insurance.

Quebec, Oct.—Mr. Hayes' grocery, corner Amoth and D'Artigny street; origin a mystery; no insurance on building; stock insured for \$1,000 in the British America.

Also, grocery store of Mr. Le Bel, corner of Notre Dame street; caused by a lighted candle falling into some highwines; the fire was extinguished with little damage; stock insured in the Quebec Fire and Home Insurance Companies.

Hamilton Township, Ont., Oct. 25.—Barn of B. Harris and contents totally destroyed; cause unknown; no information as to insurance.

Kingston Road, Ont.—Stacked straw burnt; insured in the Provincial for \$600.

MARINE DISASTERS ON THE LAKES.—A sailer named Jas. Blessington was lost off the brig *S. F. Gale*, near Point Pelée, a few days since.

The scow, *A. P. Waite*, which sank off Port Colborne recently, was washed ashore at that place by the recent heavy gale.

The schooner *Tom Martin* arrived at Port Colborne on Saturday, the 30th Oct., in a damaged condition. Both mast-heads were carried away and some of her sails gone.

The schooner *Fred. L. Wells*, of Buffalo, was wrecked on the 2nd inst., off Port Bruce, on the