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*Life Associa of Scotland 95 175 None None 1674 3 195 191 23 50,312 67,125 28.	655 None	April
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*United States 1,723 None. None. 27 44,665 None. None None. N	one. Non	e. Dec.
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LIFE.

No returns have been received from the following Companies: Confederation, Mutual of Cauada, Royal, Star, Ætna, Travelers, Union Mutual, 'Reliance, 'Scottish Amicable, 'Scottish Provident, 'Scottish Provincial, 'Connecticut Mutual, 'National, 'New York, 'Phœnix of Hartford.

*These Companies have ceased doing new business in Canada.

SOCIAL INFLUENCE AS A BUSINESS POWER.

This was the subject of the annual address delivered before the Underwriters' Association of the South at Atlanta, Georgia, on 24th March last by Mr. M. Bennett, jun., of Hartford, Conn.

Our space will not permit the insertion of the whole speech, though it well deserves careful reading, re-reading and acting upon by every member of "Insurance Society."

The following "extracts" must not be considered as a synopsis, or even as the best parts of a speech that was all good, and may be read in full in the New York Insurance journals.

"Many years' observation in our particular profession has constantly increased the inspiration of my belief that less mischief emanates from an empty head than an empty stomach—for even an anaconda when filled and fed is harmless. Give me folly in preference to dyspepsia, a whetted appetite rather than a whetted tongue, whist to solitaire, even idiocy to bile, and a carving knife to a drawn dagger. Between Diogenes and his dog, give me the dog. Though in justice to the lantern of this distinguished philosopher, had he struck the insurance fraternity, he would more readily have found the man he was looking for.

A man may sign your constitution, join your association, qualify by his verbal or written pledges, become disgruntled and withdraw.

But he must indeed be a remarkable specimen of God's noblest work if, when he takes you by the hand and looks you in the eye across the festive board, he goes out to cut your rate or abuse your friendship. Who ever knew a war to start at a banquet? Ink is mightier than gunpowder and carries its missive farther, and the pen is more powerful than the sword, but an ink eraser applied to the right spot is greater than either.

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Hence we are a firm disciple of the sociality of consociation, in which ennity gives way to friendship, discord yields to amity, alienation to sodality and good friendship, estrangement to fraternization and harmony. These social gatherings remove asperities and heal differences. Disorganization comes from the separation of men, but association is the promoter of union and strength. As a rule prejudices between men are inspired by lack of knowledge of each other, and prejudice begets disunion, for an idea founded upon ignorance is ever the hardest to dispel. Apart we may differ, but when we come together we find our respect for each other increased, friendships are begotten and regard inspired; the sharp corners are rounded off, rough surfaces smoothed down; prejudices give way to esteem, as ignorance yields to light.

I believe from such meetings we always go away wiser, better and broader men, and in a mood for mutual concession, by which alone can our business ever reach its highest and easiest success; for in these mutual yieldings must each member of our association seek and find in the end his own highest average prosperity.

Friendship should not be sacrificed to interest, even from a solely business and selfish standpoint. I do not believe in the should be false and most damnable of proverbs, "There is no friendship in trade." And as everything in nature finds its level, so everything in our profession must find its average, by a law just as inevitable as that which brings the falling apple to the ground. Do we decry our