

### THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The London and Lancashire Life Office would appear to be transacting a large and increasing business, and it is rapidly making its way under this heading to the front. 1310 policies for \$2,526,325 represents a very handsome new business for a period of twelve months, and is an increase of \$257,890 on capital sum assured, and new policies over the previous year. The time is speedily approaching when the London and Lancashire Life will be able to carry on a large and profitable business without the necessity for any special expenditure in connection therewith. Although 19 years old, it can hardly be considered to have finished its growth towards that point beyond which its progress would be on a table land. It is, of course, up-hill work to push the business of insurance, whether fire or life. It is satisfactory to observe, in the case of the London and Lancashire Life, that some return is made for the money spent. As we have before remarked, owing to the success which has attended the operations of the company so far, it will soon be able to offer to both policy and share holders a considerable increase on the present profits. Working in connexion with the Fire Insurance Association this should be at no very distant date, for by sharing the expenditure, augmented profit can be obtained at diminished cost. The Life Assurance fund now amounts to \$1,282,534.87 and a dividend at the rate of 6¾ per cent. on the original amount of share capital paid up has been declared.—*The Review, London.*

### THE FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

What may be considered as practically the first annual business meeting of the shareholders of the Fire Insurance Association took place last month. The full detailed report together with the insurance account and balance-sheet, will be found on another page in this issue. The first item which demands attention, in consideration of the financial position of this office, is the very large income which has been secured by the assiduous and unremitting energy of the management during the year 1881. It is obvious that for a new institution to secure such a large amount of new premium income, not merely an immense amount of personal labour must have been required, but also an expenditure on a scale commensurate with the results to be achieved. It is gratifying to note that the Association protects itself by extensive re-insurances. It has given away as much as \$107,363 in re-insurance premiums during the past year, leaving the sum of \$708,511 as the net fire premium income of the company. The chairman announced that the percentage of loss was very low, and the shareholders will be glad to learn that this is the case. Looking at the fact that the losses of fire insurance companies in general during the past year have been rather heavy, and even after considering and taking into account the fact that a large proportion of the premiums are for first year's payments, of which only a proportionate amount of the risk would mature during the year, it is satisfactory to think that the Association has avoided any special catastrophe in the first year of its existence.

With regard to the expenditure of the office it must be apparent to every business man that it is impossible to

launch a new concern without a heavy, and what, by comparison with older and more firmly established offices, may seem a large rate of expenditure. As it is useless, however, to commence business without opening a shop to transact it in, whether it be that of selling dry goods or policies of insurance; and, further, as it is impossible to make the name of a company known throughout the world without the aid of a large number of agents and the circulation of printed matter, it must be self-evident to commercial men that expenditure, to be judicious, should be on a liberal scale. The shareholders, through their managers, are, as is the case with all new joint-stock companies, prepared to run a certain amount of risk at the commencement on this point. This risk has been run, and the results, which are of a most gratifying character, are now before them. With a premium income of the magnitude of the Fire Insurance Association, and with cash assets in hand of \$1,412,498, excluding premiums in course of collection, agents' balances, &c., the Association stands in a position to continue that success which has already begun to attend its operations. Considering all things, and having regard to the exigencies of the case, we are of opinion that the position taken up to-day by the Fire Insurance Association is one which reflects the utmost credit on the energy of the management, and should command the consequent approbation of the shareholders. A company which only receives about 10 per cent. of its income for re-insurances, whilst giving off about 12½ per cent. thereof in the same way, and which has no re-insurance treaties with either French, Russian, German, or Austrian companies, stands free at present from those risks which have undoubtedly attended the operations of many of our best and oldest companies. No doubt this class of business has its advantages in the long run under skilful direction, but the Fire Insurance Association has shown wisdom in not allowing itself to be drawn into any foreign relations at the commencement of its existence until it has felt the ground secure beneath its feet in Anglo-Saxon communities.

We observe that the Fire Insurance Association is rapidly developing its agencies throughout Canada and the United States, where the administration of its affairs is entrusted to skilled hands. We cannot help thinking that the fact of this Association having invested no less a sum than \$549,380 in United States bonds, and \$104,020 in Canadian bonds, must command the unbounded confidence of its transatlantic clients. The directors have had a task of no ordinary magnitude to build up such a business as that revealed by the accounts in the report before us, and it is with much satisfaction that we have an opportunity of referring to these facts and figures to-day.—*The Review, London.*

### SUN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

On another page we have great pleasure in presenting the report of this well-managed Company, whose statement reflects great credit on the management and gives promise of future progress which must be very satisfactory to its policy-holders.

The bold step of making its policies to selected lives absolutely free from conditions and restrictions will, of course, lead to rigid care in their selection, but will cause the best lives to seek the policies of the Sun and so reflect the advantages conferred.