

*Obituary.*

VICE-PRES. DUNHAM of the Ætina Life Ins. Co. died in Hartford, Me., 15th, in the seventy-second year of his age. Of the numerous appreciative notices of the press, none seems more fitting than the following extract from the *Hartford Courant*.

"He appears to us as a conspicuous example of the best type of New England character. His life has been altogether that of a business man, and his uncommonly clear judgment, sagacity as to ways and means and outlook, and power of will, have assured to him success and made him the master in whatever he undertook. It is rare to find such a union as there was in him of shrewdness and caution with hopeful buoyancy; he always looked upon the bright side of things as well as the good side of people; he expected the best while he was never or rarely betrayed.

But it needs to be said further than this, that as a man of wealth he kept it all actively employed in giving work to his fellow men; that his wealth was not idle in his hands for the purpose of accumulation. No man, perhaps, of all the men who have lived in Hartford, ever contributed more to the activity and the wholesome activity of business. Up to the very last he was interested in affairs in this spirit—in putting his large wealth to the best use wealth can be applied to in this age, the helping of other men to thrifty living. Mr. Dunham was a charitable man; he gave liberally to good causes; he had a tender heart; he helped men directly when that was necessary, and he did it without parade, but we know that he deliberately chose to help men by furnishing employment, and that he took some praiseworthy satisfaction that the money he had been so fortunate as to make was kept actively engaged and productively engaged for the benefit of others as well as of himself."

From the various resolutions of respect offered by organizations with which he was connected, we have room only for that passed by the Ætina Life Insurance Co.:

ÆTINA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,  
HARTFORD, March 16, 1877.

At a meeting held this day the directors of the Ætina Life Insurance Company passed the following resolution, a copy of which was ordered placed upon the records of the Company, also to be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and to the daily papers for publication.—

*Resolved*, That in the death of Austin Dunham, who has been a director of this company since its organization, and for the greater part of the time vice-president, the company loses a firm friend, an able and cautious adviser, and one whose deep interest in, and hearty sympathy with its progress and development has been manifested upon all occasions; that we have recognized in him a man of sterling integrity

and true worth, whose cheerfulness and amiability have made his companionship most agreeable and the remembrance of our associations with him enduring.

J. L. ENGLISH, Secretary.

*Knights of Honor.*

THESE are one of the latest, and perhaps one of the best of the many co-operative societies for mutual benefit. But granting that a nobler set of men were never banded together in any similar organization, there are some things they cannot do. They cannot change first principles in practical life insurance. They have no new method for the selection of risks, and the death claims must increase with the passing years, and consequently, the calls upon the surviving members for payments.

They cannot alter the law, that the risk increases with advancing age, and to be *sound and safe*, payments upon them *must* also.

They cannot consistently deny, that those only who die within comparatively a few years, will, even if the organization prosper, have cheap insurance; nor, that when those who begin to realize this by their high assessments, will walk out of the old association into something new. This is history.

Legitimate life insurance is worth all it costs; and no essential change in that direction can be made without *weakening* somewhere the machinery, and so imperil its smooth, safe running for that long future, which should not be ignored or trifled with, in such vital concerns.

*A Double Calamity.*

A PROMINENT citizen of Columbia County, Pa., Mr. J. P. Connor, lost his life at Bloomsburg, a few weeks ago, by a sad accident. While returning from church with his wife, a spirited horse he was driving became frightened and unmanageable, and overturned the buggy into a canal, where Mr. Connor and his wife were drowned before help could reach them. No foresight, perhaps, could have averted the peril or the sudden death.

But the other calamity was self-inflicted, and might have been easily avoided. Both the husband and wife were once insured in the Ætina, each holding a policy of \$10,000. They suffered these policies to lapse—and have left four young children to suffer by their unwise neglect. If times are hard, the need of life insurance is the more urgent.

*An Unwise Economy.*

A PENNY saved is not always a penny earned, though Dr. Franklin endorses it as one of Poor Richard's wise proverbs. A wiser than Franklin has said "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." A penny saved in life insurance is often a pound lost.

In 1874 a merchant of Boston made application for a policy of \$5,000. The examination was satisfactory, and the policy was filled, and waited only the payment of the premium, a little over \$100. The merchant suddenly felt poor, and thought he could not spare so much money from his business. The agent therefore returned the policy to the Company, and it was put aside and entered on the list of "Not taken." A few weeks ago the agent called at the merchant's place of business to persuade him to take a policy. To his great surprise he found the man was dead, and had left a wife and two young children in want. The father said the premium of \$100 could have been paid without difficulty, and it was only a sudden notion on the part of the son that led him to decline payment.

It was a most unwise economy, for had the policy been taken, the wife and children might have remained together in a comfortable home. Saving in the wrong way may lead to penury. In these pinching times, the merchant is likely to have imitators, who save for the moment only to involve a heavy loss to their families.

*Help in Need.*

INSURANCE agents know better than any other class of persons, how timely is the help afforded to bereaved families by policies paid at the death of the husband and father. The agent writes: "We received notice of the death of a person whose life has been insured for a long time in our Company. A request was sent to our general agent at Harrisburg to visit the place and adjust the matter. We have just received a letter from him dated the 19th, saying, 'Mr. — was well known. The claim is a good one, and his three children are left almost destitute. The wife died about two weeks ago, and they will gladly accept payment at once.'" How comforting to the father in his dying hour, that the orphans left to struggle through a hard world were provided for by his wise forethought and self-denial.