

position in North America, in having a great sea frontage caused by many far-reaching inlets of the sea, penetrating its mountain fissures. Norway has about 18 per cent. of her population employed in fishing and shipping business. Her annual export of pickled herring is about 600,000 barrels, besides salted and dried cod, which, if fresh, would bulk 375,000 tons. It is supposed that Norway's fish products, cod especially, packed in ice, will soon be sent by rail and steamer fresh to the inland markets of Europe. Scotland, another country similar to our own in sea-board configuration, although operating in seas far more stormy than most of ours, sells about \$11,000,000 worth of fish in a year, salting some years for exportation over 1,000,000 barrels of herring, "the poor man's fish." Time to begin with our yet "untouched and vast sea fisheries." Australia will take our herring now. The foregoing facts are, with many others of great practical interest to this community, to be found in an article on the Fisheries Exhibition, by Barham Zincke, in *Macmillan* for August, 1883.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF HONOR.

This friendly and beneficial Order was instituted in the city of Boston, Mass., December the 18th, 1878, and was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March the 11th, 1879. Its objects are to unite all white persons of good moral character who are congenial to one another, and, if for beneficial membership, of sound bodily health and between the age of eighteen and fifty-five years. To give moral and material aid, and to educate its members socially and intellectually, as well as the establishment of a fund for the relief of sick and distressed beneficial members. Also, a fund from which, on the death of a beneficial member, an amount ranging from \$500 to \$5000, according to the Degree taken, to be paid to the family, orphans or dependents as the member shall have directed. The following are the names of the persons mentioned in connection with its organization: Darius Wilson, Ezra M. Crawford, George W. Blish, William Bradley, Nettie F. Mosher, Charles K. Darling, W. P. Gamnett, George E. Goodwin, Thos. McKenzie and H. A. Eager, ten in all.

Although not quite five years have elapsed since the date of its organization, the society now numbers between 50,000 and 60,000 members. During 1882, the magnificent sum of \$1,000,000 was paid in death benefits. Only those between the age of eighteen and fifty-five years, are admitted as beneficial members, but all acceptable persons, who on account of age, unsound health, or other causes, are not eligible to beneficial membership, may be admitted as honorary members, and as such, while they are not entitled to monied benefits in case of sickness or death, may in all other respects, participate in the rights and privileges of the Order. A sort of sliding scale system in regard to assessments has been adopted by which it is claimed that a more equitable method for determining the amount proper to be paid by individual members, according to age, than the one in vogue with some of the other mutual benefit societies which have a uniform scale of assessment

without regard to age, has been found. Assessments range from ten cents to five dollars, according to age of applicant and the degree applied for. Members who are admitted below the age of eighteen and nineteen years, whenever an assessment is made, are taxed from ten cents for First Degree to \$1.00 for the Sixth Degree, and these rates are never after increased. Those admitted to membership between the age of fifty-four and fifty-five are taxed for each assessment from fifty-six cents for the First Degree to \$5.60 for the Sixth Degree. The following amounts are paid as benefits at the death of each member: First Degree, \$500; Second Degree, \$1,000; Third Degree, \$2,000; Fourth Degree, \$3,000; Fifth Degree, \$4,000; and Sixth Degree \$5,000. It will thus be seen that assessments and death benefits are regulated upon a sliding scale according to the age of applicant and the Degree taken, which system, it is claimed, is found to be equitable and just. Only those are admitted as beneficial members who are of good moral character and of sound bodily health. To such the chances of life, excepting accidents and epidemics, which, of course, are more likely to occur between the age of eighteen and seventy years than between the age of fifty-four and seventy years, the usual time allotted to the life of man, are thought to be about equal. But it cannot be denied that people are more exposed to accidents and epidemics during a period of fifty-two years than they are for a period of eighteen years. Again, it is only fair to assume that a person having escaped accident and dangerous diseases, or recovered therefrom, possessing a good constitution and being free from injurious habits, is admitted to the Order at the age of fifty-four years, is more likely to live to the age of seventy than one who is admitted at the age of eighteen years and who, of course, will have to run the gauntlet of temptation, accident, and disease for the long term of fifty-two years. Indeed it is morally certain that not more than one third of those possessing sound bodily health at eighteen would be able to undergo a satisfactory medical examination at the age of fifty-four. In this respect the advantage appears to be in favor of those who become members at eighteen, or at any time before arriving at the age of fifty-four years. The sliding scale system of assessments may be partially illustrated by the following calculation. Putting the average rate at fifteen assessments annually, which is perhaps as near correct as can be determined upon, a person taking the Fourth Degree at eighteen and living to the age of seventy years, will have paid, in assessments and quarterly dues, the sum of \$780, while a person taking the same degree at fifty-four years and living to the age of seventy will have paid \$902.40, or \$122.40 in excess of the former, and allowing \$3.40 a year for incidental expenses, the sum paid by each during membership will be equal to one another. But whenever the death rate, during seasons of unusual sickness, or of sweeping epidemics, renders it necessary to increase yearly assessments, it will be found that the burden of taxation will fall heavier upon those admitted to membership at the age of fifty-four than upon those who are admitted at the age of eighteen. It would, however, be utterly impossible to conceive a system that would insure equal justice to all, or to provide fully for exceptional circumstances; still there can be no doubt that the principle of increasing assessments, based upon scientific calculation, according to the age of intending applicants for membership, other