

## THE ÆTNA

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The poor, oppressed, honest man  
Had better ne'er been born,  
Unless there be some recompense  
To comfort those that mourn.

*The Annual Report.*

THE full particulars of the Annual Report cannot be obtained for this number of the Ætina. It will be given in our next issue. Enough is known, however, to assure all the friends of the Company, that the year has added to its prosperity. In spite of the hardness of the times, and the universal depression of all branches of business, the Ætina has gone on its prosperous way, enlarging its constituency, and adding to its assets and its surplus. Six thousand policies have been issued during the year, and the Assets are now \$27,000,000. The Surplus, by the most rigid tests of the Mass. Insurance Department is \$2,250,000, which furnishes a good basis for the dividend of the next year.

The economy of administration, and the safety of invested funds show the wisdom of the Directors. They have shunned the folly of putting up massive buildings, at large expense; and the prostration of real estate is the best comment on their policy. Their prudence has averted heavy losses. They have avoided, also, the rashness of younger companies, in making large outlays to create business. Caution and safety, united with enterprise, have marked their course from the beginning, and the Company deserves the reputation it has won. When business revives in the country, it will be in a condition to push forward its work with new vigor.

*Eighteen Hundred Seventy-Six.*

WITH the close of this eventful year, we send forth our thirty-fourth number of *The Ætina*. It is over eight years since our unpretending paper was first given to our policy holders and the public.

On the last page of Vol. I, bearing date October, 1868, we read,

"ASSETS NEARLY \$10,000,000.00."

We turn the leaves of sixteen numbers, and find, four years later,

"ACCUMULATED ASSETS, \$16,000,000.00."

In the issue of the April following, we pause over the mourning border of an obituary, and under the name of Judge E. A. Buckley, its honored President, we find the following sentence: "He has passed away, but the institution, to whose growth he contributed, remains, a monument of enduring strength." As the best possible illustration of the truth of this simple statement, we take up the record four years later, and see there these words and figures: "The Company has paid in twenty-five years, to policy-holders, over \$28,000,000.00, and had remaining, January 1, 1876, for the protection of existing policies, \$22,092,734.32!

Good progress has been made during the year 1876, adding a million dollars to its assets. With such a history, we begin the year 1877.

In common with all departments of business, we have felt the effect of the prolonged and extraordinary stagnation, upon the cultivation of occupied fields and the opening of new ones. But in the solid security of the Ætina, lifting it above the occasion for anxiety respecting its future, there has been no change. We have only words of cheer for many thousands, who have been able, thus far, to keep in force the last thing with which to part in the material kingdom, A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY IN THE ÆTNA.

*Long Payment of Premiums.*

ALL men recognize the worth of insurance in case of an early death. But many imagine it involves an unwise expenditure, if the premiums are paid a score of years or more. So many payments outweigh, they think, the value of the policy. But they talk without book. A single case is in point. Among the recent deaths of policy holders is one of the earliest insurers in the Ætina. His first premium was paid in 1851, and has been paid regularly from that time forward, making twenty-six payments in all. He died recently, and the amount of his payments is less than two-thirds of the value of the policy. If this is the result of an insurance for twenty-six years, one need have little fear of paying out more than his family will receive. This case has the greater force, because the premium was larger than is now exacted, experience having taught the safety of lower rates.

*A Large Stream.*

OVER fifty millions of dollars have been paid out for death and endowment claims by 26 life insurance companies in the last thirty months; an average of over a million seven hundred thousand dollars a month.

This constant distribution is going on so quietly and silently that the mass of people know nothing of it. Not a day passes but thousands of dollars go out from these companies to benefit widows, relieve orphans, and pay creditors, which are not recorded by the press, and are unknown by the people.

It is an immense stream, constantly flowing, and of untold value to thousands of families.

AN INTELLIGENT FAITH.—A merchant, who had \$10,000 insurance on his life in the Ætina, was overtaken by commercial disasters, and felt compelled to exchange his policy for a paid-up insurance of \$1,565. He did it with great regret, and in November last, having received many favors from a son, took out a policy of \$1,000 for the benefit of that son. It was a wise step, and the single payment made was the only one needed. On the day after Thanksgiving, without warning or struggle, he fell dead on the floor, and the help received from the son will be returned with more than compound interest.

DID THEY DO BETTER.—Two men came to an agent of the Ætina in Vermont, and gave up their policies, saying, "I know I can do better with my money."

In less than two years the men were both dead. The widows received less than \$200, each, in place of the \$1,000 they might have had but for the short-sightedness of their husbands.

ONE of the death claims paid by the Ætina, in November last, was on the life of Mr. Samuel A. Andrews, of Buckley, Ill., who was killed by a stroke of lightning. Only one premium had been paid.

THE death losses paid by the company in 1876, average a trifle more than \$100,000 a month. The largest payments were made in the summer months. Six \$10,000 policies were paid in August.