

dren. So the young mechanic or merchant ought to provide, for this money, unlike any other, comes when it is most needed, and will do the most good. When a farmer or a mechanic is out of debt, and properly situated in life, he may have some excuse for not insuring, but so long as he has a chance against him he has no right to neglect it. What such men as Stewart, Greeley and Claffin do in the way of business, can be very safely imitated by lesser men.—*Toledo Blade.*

The New York Trade-Journal on the Ætina Life Ins. Co.

IT is within the memory of the present generation that life insurance was almost universally regarded as an offence against good morals, and many good people believed it to be a high crime against the all-wise Creator and Dispenser of life and death. Notwithstanding this popular prejudice, the pioneers in this branch of insurance persevered and gradually its practical benefits became more and more apparent, dispelling the ignorance and superstition with which the system was originally regarded; and now, after fifty years of trial, it is universally conceded that life insurance is as much a necessity of civilization as banks are.

One of the first life insurance companies organized in the United States was the "Ætina," of Hartford, Conn., which opened its doors for business in 1850. It successfully breasted the storm of opposition, and year after year increased in the confidence of the public, and now, after an existence of twenty-seven years, it appears by their official statement that the Company has received since its organization a total amount of more than sixty-four millions of dollars; that it has returned to policy holders nearly thirty-two millions, and still has in its possession upwards of twenty-three millions with which to provide for future claims. During the last year the Company issued more than 6,000 policies, insuring \$10,000,000. The whole number of policies in force on the first day of January, 1877, was about 57,000, insuring \$87,385,555.

"HANDSOME is that handsome does," quoted a Chicago man to his wife the other day. "Yes," replied she, in a winning tone, as she held out her hand. "For instance, a husband who is always ready to handsome money to his wife."

The Security of Life Insurance.

From the Episcopal Register.

IT was about thirty years ago that Life Insurance Companies were inaugurated in the United States, and from that period until the present time no other line of business has been so uniformly successful. We have studied the subject of life insurance with some degree of attention, and have carefully taken note of the financial standing of the companies during the present business crisis; we have always thought that the insurance system embodied one of the easiest and surest methods of laying up money for the protection of wife and children after the death of him upon whom they depended for support; and hence, we would not willingly, as public journalists, join in the unwise outcry that has been raised in some quarters against life insurance companies. The money invested in years past in premiums, for insurance, as a rule has been subtracted from the expenses of each individual—in other words, had it not been used for insurance, it would have been spent for some purpose of present enjoyment, and been lost in the using. As it is, it has been laid in store against the day when death shall enter the household, and remove him who, while alive, is himself the insurer of the easy circumstances, if not the affluence of his family.

We have endeavored to arrive at some reliable results, in figures, of the present comparative condition of life insurance and other business interests in this country. During the last four years (1873 to 1876, inclusive) the general mercantile failures have numbered 27,845, with liabilities amounting to \$775,916,000. During the same period the life insurance failures have reached less than \$10,000,000 in amount. The total disparity of these sums is apparent, and is an exceedingly forcible practical argument in favor of the safety of life insurance. One is far surer of getting his money in this way, than by any other business venture. In a single year (1876) thirty railroads, with 3,846 mileage, and representing an invested capital of over \$217,000,000, were sold under foreclosure; forty-six others had receivers appointed; and ten others have made default in payment of interest. One-fifth of the entire railway mileage of the country is thus financially wrecked, while almost the entire number of life insurance companies are securely upon their feet, and have triumphantly endured the ordeal of an official and critical examination of their

assets and liabilities. During the five years from 1871 to 1875 inclusive, years all of them of great financial depression, thirty-eight companies have paid policy claims amounting to \$113,494,902, to 40,000 families, that is over twenty-two and a half million dollars a year—an immense sum, and dispensed, too, during the "hard times," when money has been of the most worth, and given to families that most needed it. This is a forcible exhibit of the present value and reliability of life insurance.

Those who are led by false views not to insure now, or have insured, to permit their policies to lapse through non-payment of premiums, would do well to impartially consider these facts.

The Ashtabula Disaster.

"GOOD morning, neighbor, this is awful; I have about concluded never to cross another bridge, if I go twenty miles around; no safety in bridges."

"Well, I have decided to go along about as usual, and be careful to keep away from those which are insecure, if possible."

"But 'tisn't possible always to know."

"All the bridges of importance to me, as a rule, I can be sure of; and I don't know of anything in this world which has no margin of risk. It is just so in life insurance. I heard a man say yesterday, he would have nothing to do with it, because every company had not proved sound. I told him I had \$10,000 in the Ætina, and I knew that bridge would stand any pressure."

"Neighbor, I guess you are about right; but such a smash up is apt to shake the needle of a man's judgment from its true line, due north. Good-day!"

THE annual statements of the life insurance companies and those of savings banks, appearing about the same time, may provoke comparisons between the two systems of laying up money. But there is no antagonism between them; they are radically different. The savings bank takes your earnings and gives them back with interest; but the life insurance company provides against poverty to one's family in case of his own death during the time in which he would be earning money to put into the bank. This is the period of danger, and for this insurance alone can provide.—*N. Y. News-Letter.*

TIM says the "Ætina Chestnut" suggests a big Canadian railroad—G. T. and branches.