

LIFE INSURANCE, WITHOUT A PARALLEL.

In comparing the institution of life insurance with the various financial and benevolent enterprises of which we have any knowledge, we are forced to the conclusion that it is not paralleled by any other, and that the advantages claimed by any and all of the various schemes, for the accumulation of wealth, the conservation of the public interests, in the provisions made for the carrying on the business of the country by our chartered banks, the protection of the people from loss by fire and tempest, the accommodations provided by government and other savings banks, for the convenience and comfort of the people, as well as the organization and sustenance of charitable guilds, etc. are only secondary as compared with the benefits conferred upon mankind by life insurance.

Our banks have done and are doing grand work in their own way. But every dollar received from a bank in times of difficulty, must be paid back, and very properly so, as unless this is done, it would be impossible for the bank to continue in business. If death overtakes the borrower before his debt is paid his estate must pay the loan, even if the last dollar is needed for that purpose, and the family are compelled to seek shelter from the storm in the homes of strangers. How is it with life insurance? A single premium if paid in season, provides the policy which stands between the little ones, and want, when the funeral is over. The creditors may be as unfeeling as the most pronounced shylock, but the law protects a life insurance company in paying over to the bereaved ones, at the time they most need it, the amount secured them by the beneficence of a system as yet comparatively misunderstood. The Chronicle says "misunderstood", because with a proper understanding of its merits, there would be none uninsured.

Our orphanages, children's homes, houses of Providence, etc., are doing a good work, but the most they can do out is charity, and in this every day world of ours, while such homes are better than actual starvation, the comforts they furnish fall far short of what might have been in store for the inmates, if only the fathers of those little ones had protected them by life insurance. In many instances the presence of these waifs in those homes means, that a poor heart broken mother, being left utterly penniless by the loss of her protector has battled heroically with a cruel fate, until worn out at last with the hopelessness of her future, she has laid herself down to die, commending her little ones to the tender mercies of those about her. In how many cases would even a limited amount of insurance have changed all this?

Our fire, marine, accident and other branches of insurance are bulwarks of protection to the millions of business men scattered throughout Christendom. Fortunes are saved to the owners by the existence of these institutions, and without them an element of great danger to the interests of the nation would be abroad. But after all, buildings and ships may be insured for generations and no serious contingency arise, while man has but one life, and the culmination of that is terribly certain. He must die. No matter what special interests he represents, no matter how dependent on his efforts his family may be, no matter how he stands towards the community which has been benefitted by the wisdom of his counsels, he is taken away just as if his life was of no value. And even if property is lost, in most cases a

man's all is not taken, and if it is, he still has the world before him, and can have a living, even if not the living to which he has been accustomed. But the loss of the family hand is a different matter. If a man could choose the time of his taking off, or if he knew of a certainty, that at a given day in a certain year, he would be compelled to take leave of his surroundings, he might be able to arrange his affairs, that he would be missed but little. But the uncertainty of death admonishes all thoughtful men that the preparation should be present and continuous.

In the absence of accumulated fortune, the necessity for using capital, in case of the ordinary business man, makes it impossible for him to so arrange it that his family is always safe. Just here is where life insurance is needed, no matter how subtle the approach of disease, or how sudden the summons which hurries him away, a life insurance policy takes his place as a provider and not only so, but helps to save his estate from ruin. The savings banks of the country have their uses, and are of incalculable value, to any community. They encourage habits of thrift, and assist in training people to be self-reliant and helpful. They discourage extravagance by inducing people to husband their resources, and tempt them by payment of interest to allow their earnings, to accumulate. But side by side with a policy in a well selected, and carefully managed life company, the savings bank goes to the wall.

Let any man early in life place fifty dollars per annum in a savings bank, and a similar amount on a life policy, and even if he lives to a green old age, this life insurance premium will produce the best results, while all the time it possesses this enormous advantage. His fifty dollars in the saving banks will produce the amount deposited, plus the interest, should he die during the year, while the amount invested in life insurance, would produce at least a couple of thousand dollars.

The best men everywhere are insured lawyers, doctors, clergymen, bankers, statesmen and all men of prominence in every walk of life, have recognized the claim of life insurance, and have allied themselves with it.

For several years work has been in progress on a new mortality table for the use of American life insurance companies. This has been done under the auspices of the Actuarial Society of America, the American Institute of Actuaries, and a special committee of the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners. It has long been conceded that the American experience table did not conform closely enough to modern conditions and that a more up-to-date mortality table was desirable. The work has practically been completed and the results will be announced soon.

Secretary McAdoo estimates that insurance companies will pay over \$6,000,000 in war revenue taxes the present fiscal year. How much will state insurance funds pay?

Our right or wrong use of money is the utmost test of character as well as the root of happiness or misery throughout our whole life.—By the author "John Halifax Gentleman."