

chandelier being surrounded by colored paper in her hurry lighted the paper, and in a moment the green branches caught and the fire spread all over the roof, which being slanting and covered with shingles, was one mass of fire; before assistance could be got the roof was completely burnt off, and the division walls of the second story burnt through and destroyed. The furniture was all saved, but slightly damaged. Loss about \$3,000; no insurance.

April 17th.—The Ontario Starch works, owned by T. S. Wills, situated a short distance from the city, was burnt down yesterday morning early. The building being all frame except the drying room, it was quickly consumed with all its contents. It is not known, how the fire originated, but is supposed in the drying room near the furnace from which a spark must have been escaped, a large number of hogs were kept on the premises, and many unable to escape were severely burnt. The building and contents were valued at about \$10,000, and were insured for \$6,500; Building, \$5,000; Stock, \$1,500; Royal, \$2,500, and Western, \$2,500. On Building and Machinery. Commercial Union \$1,500 on Stock.

Elgin Township Ont. April.—The barns, sheds &c., of Thomas Wiggins, were destroyed by fire loss \$800 partially covered by insurance in the Agricultural of London. The fire is supposed to have originated from the wad of a gun.

Arthur, March 30.—A fire broke out in the bakery in rear of the store belonging to Goodall & Ross. The building was completely consumed in a short time; loss small, no insurance.

Greenwood, April 10.—The dwelling house, stables, etc., occupied by John Gleeson, farmer, 5th concession of Pickering were totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon; cause a defect in the stove pipe, loss about \$500. No insurance.

Bethany, April 4.—A fire broke out in J. Davey's harness shop, and with great rapidity spread to the adjoining houses, and before it could be stopped it consumed three shops and two dwellings—John Davey's harness shop and dwelling, William Smith's tailor's shop, and Wrightman's cooper's shop and dwelling house. There was only a very light insurance.

Smithville, April.—Residence of Mr. Telfer. Very little furniture was saved, and there was only a small insurance in the Waterloo company.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE.—The directors have resolved upon a dividend of 107 per cent. free of income tax (making, with the interim dividend paid last September, 12½ per cent. for the year), and an addition of 30,000 to reserve fund, leaving 12,952 to be carried forward to this year's profit and loss account.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.—The new life policies of the year were stated at 841, for 426,410, yielding in new premiums 16,099. The reserve fund for that department being 2,296,177, showing an increase of 112,000. The fire premiums of the year were 931,727, and losses 508,384. The general profit and loss account showed an available balance of 317,578, out of which a dividend of 30 per cent. was declared, leaving 200,053. The funds of the company, including 391,752 capital, amount to 3,859,392.

BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY.—From the report for 1870 it appeared that although there had been a trifling diminution in the sale of land as compared with the previous year, a larger average price had been realized. A portion of the lands have been sold to persons in the lumber and bark trades, and 10,765 acres of land have been sold to settlers for agricultural purposes. The sales during the year amounted to 11,912 acres, of which 8,162 were resold, and 3,750 acres had reverted to that Company. The real estate at present comprised 388,263 acres, at a cost price, with subsequent outlay, of £93,895 18s. 1d. sterling, being an average of 4s. 11d per acre. In Sherbrooke Town sales had been effected during the past year to the value of £2,509 5s. 5d. sterling, being the largest that had taken place for

several years, and the same applied to the sales generally. The balance of cash in London at December 31 last, after deducting £6,000 in payment of bills, amounted to £8,108.

ATTEMPT TO EVADE PAYMENT OF A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.—N. Y. Court of Common Pleas—Trial Term—Before Judge Loew and a Jury.—*Rebecca L. Foot vs The Aetna Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn.*—This interesting case, after a trial of three days, was brought to a conclusion on March 13th. The following are the facts of the case: Mrs. Rebecca L. Foot, widow of Major Foot, of the United States Army, sued the defendants to recover \$2,500 on a policy of insurance effected by her deceased husband about two years previous to his death. The facts in connection with the plaintiffs case have already appeared. The defence mainly rested on alleged misrepresentations by the insurer as to his state of health and the sobriety of his habits. The insurance company sought to prove that at the time he insured his life he was afflicted with a pulmonary disease, that it was hereditary in his family, and that he was addicted to habits of intemperance. His father, however, ex-Judge Foot, his widow, the plaintiff, and one of his brothers gave positive testimony as to the sober habits of the major, and as to his being free from symptoms of consumption up to the time when he received a wound in the right shoulder on one of the battlefields of our late war, which caused him to have hemorrhage of the lungs, of which he entirely recovered, weighing at the time the policy was taken out 175 pounds, his weight for years previous being about 145 pounds. Major Foot, it was proved enjoyed good health till about two years after the policy was taken out, when he had a severe hemorrhage and rapidly declined in health until he died. The defendants, however mainly replied upon a supposed warranty of the accuracy of the answers in the application. The case was submitted to the jury and they returned a verdict of the plaintiff for \$2,500.—*Wall Street Journal.*

—The National Life, of the United States exhibited, December 31, assets amounting to \$1,755,597.13. Of this handsome sum, all above \$1,000,000 has been the accumulation of only twenty-nine months. The company has two dollars assets for every dollar of liability and thus presents itself as fully entitled to public confidence and patronage. The gentlemen who have made the success of this company a matter of personal pride, (Messrs. Jay Cooke, C. H. Clark, E. A. Rollins and E. W. Peet,) are men of the very highest repute in financial and business circles, and if there is a company in the country where business principles are made the motive power in life management, the National is that company. In New York, Mr. George B. Lincoln, a most popular and competent manager, as every one knows, has charge of the company business. There can be no question as to the undoubted security afforded by this company to its policyholders.—*The Spectator.*

LIFE INSURANCE.

Though life insurance has received in later years much more attention than formerly, still there is a degree of prejudice coming from want of information, that does great discredit to the general intelligence of many. There is a sort of negative moral delinquency involved in the neglect to investigate the system, especially upon the part of those who have dependants whose assured welfare hang upon their forethought and provision. A study of the plans and a thorough understanding of their workings, incurs of itself inevitably and immediately a positive moral obligation to act. There can in reason be no occasion for refusal without violence to an enlightened conscience. This institution is the only means devised by which a man may perpetuate his life or its value for the support and protection of his family. Can a man afford to take the

chances of sudden death in the multifarious ways in which it comes, or incur the liability to disease that will impair his health and destroy his usefulness? Common sense says no. Comparing the chances of a man's life to the security of his house, we find them eight to one against life. Both are property to your family, and to your family should be dedicated all you have and are. Think of how many of your acquaintances and friends in advanced years, with broken or impaired fortunes, are resting in comparative contentment because of a wise provision in the shape of a life policy that will in the event of their taking off, sustain their families in their proper positions in society with all the comforts of home, and free from the distress of pinching poverty, who otherwise would have been constantly annoyed with evil foreboding that could only culminate in the terrible realities of an overshadowed and miserable existence, when the husband, and father should be called hence. Let no one call this fiction. These facts are being constantly illustrated and confirmed to the most casual observer. A duty discharged, is a burden lifted from the mind and heart. A life policy is a very balm to the anxious solicitude of an affectionate nature. Life insurance is day by day diffusing its light and comfort through the dark clouds of bereavement and sorrow, warming the sympathies of society and strengthening its bonds of brotherhood. The principles of life insurance are sound, and a fair and just appreciation of the scheme depends only upon a correct understanding of it. Let not the importunity of some pertinacious, canvasser make life insurance so offensive as to induce you to forego its consideration and repudiate its claims. Take a book and quietly investigate its merits. Some men undoubtedly are in this as in other matters, injudicious in their action and by overloading themselves, become embarrassed. Treat it in a cool, business-like manner, and no reproaches will succeed, but rather a hearty commendation. Changed circumstances in life have often suddenly made enthusiastic converts, who have deeply regretted and severely chided their delay in this important matter. Act in the living present.

"Be wise to-day
Tis madness to defer

—*Western Insurance Review.*

—The rates of insurance on hulls established this year are about a cent lower than last year, and companies are offering to take risks on hulls at 5c. for A 1; 5½c. for A 2, and 6½c. for B 1. The season has also been extended to Dec. 5, instead of Nov. 30, as in former years. One company has been taking first-class tugs at 4c., without wrecking privileges, but the others are generally asking 5c.—*Chicago Chronicle.*

Financial.

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

Reported by Blaikie & Alexander, Brokers.

TORONTO, April, 19, 1871.

During the past week, the market has ruled very active for all classes of securities. A degree of excitement prevailed under which the favorite stocks showed a still further advance. The market closes rather quieter, but steady and firm at the advanced rates.

Banks.—In early part of the week. Commerce advanced from 135 to 140, then fell off a little to 138, but recovered again closing with buyers at 140, 140½ being asked. 180 up to 187 was given for Toronto, but is now rather weaker with offerings at 183, but no buyers at that figure. Large transactions were made in Royal at rates from 103 up to 108, the demand continuing strong with no sellers under 110. For buyers of Ontario 120 is the closing rate without offerings under 121. A further advance is noted in Montreal from 249½ to 266½, with large sales between these figures.