

JUDGE KOWN'S OPINION OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

As man is the highest attainable form of life, the finished product in the evolution of the life germ, or principle, so assurance, as applied to the lives of human beings, is the highest type of development attainable in the evolution of the principle of assurance. Other assurance has to do only with property, the product, the creation of man, which, injured, may be repaired; lost, may be restored; destroyed, may be recreated. Life assurance has to do with man himself, the creator, the maker of much of the property insured, and whose brain or hand is necessary to render any form of property useful or profitable. Life assurance provides for the care or support of man when old age has impaired his physical strength, and benumbed his mental faculties. It indemnifies those who are entitled to the services of the life assured, to the results of the brain and hand, for the loss occasioned by death. Other insurance undertakes to indemnify against risks and hazards which may never occasion loss; against loss or damage which may never be sustained.

Life assurance indemnifies for a loss sure to come, and undertakes to provide, so far as money is capable of doing it, a substitute for the earning power gone. It cannot and does not undertake to compensate for all the loss. The love, the affectionate regard, the tender and sweet caress, the holy communion of mind and thought, are not, cannot, be the subject of life assurance, or of compensation in any degree. But the support, the physical comfort and care, the avails in a pecuniary sense of labor and thought may be continued after death, and are so continued and made available and useful to one's family or dependents by life assurance; and in no other way can the value of one's life to his family and to those dependent upon

him be so safely or surely secured and perpetuated.

Making money and successfully caring for it are two things rarely combined in the same individual. How often it occurs that the brightest business intellect in one direction has no capacity whatever in another, and that the man who can make money easily loses it quite as easily, by reason of the lack of the proper judgment and ability in caring for it. The history of the business men of the world discloses the fact that a very large proportion of them, after years of successful business operations, after having acquired a competency, if not a fortune, meet with reverses, lose the fortune acquired, are unable to carry on the business through which it was earned, or any other, successfully, and are without means of support for themselves or their families, and are often objects of public charity.

The causes which bring about these results we need not discuss; the facts are clearly apparent to every one who has investigated the matter. The intelligent, thoughtful and prudent business man has considered these causes, recognizes these facts, is no longer possessed of overweening confidence in his own ability to prove the exception, but guards his own declining years and insures a comfortable competency for his family in case these misfortunes overtake him, or in case of death which must ultimately overtake him, by some proper form and adequate amount of life assurance.

I confess to as strong a disinclination to the adoption of the views just expressed, to as bitter a prejudice against life assurance and life assurance solicitors for many years, and to as sublime and perfect confidence in my own ability to acquire and manage and invest my acquirements in my own way, and according to my own judgment, and to