

THE ÆTNA

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The poor, oppressed, honest man
Had better not be born,
Unless there be some recompense
To comfort those that mourn.

A Good Exhibit.

THE members of the Ætna can read the Annual Report, which appears on the seventh page, with complacency. It tells of substantial growth in hard times. An increase of nearly a million dollars in assets, and a generous enlargement of the surplus fund is certainly healthy progress in a year of financial embarrassment. The issue of 4,730 new policies, insuring \$6,772,818.44, shows the continued confidence of the public; and the large number of policies in force, Jan. 1, 1879, insuring \$79,568,066.44, is a sure indication of the prosperity of the Company. The economy of the management appears in the reduced expenses, which during the past year have been only eight per cent. of its income. The Directors look carefully after the interests of the old policy holders instead of robbing them to bribe strangers.

Small Loans and Mortgages.

SOME insurance companies have adopted the policy of large loans on valuable city property, secured by mortgage. It saves much trouble in putting out money, and makes the clerical labor of collections easier, provided the interest be paid promptly. But in the rapid change of values in real estate, some of these investments have become insecure. The interest is unpaid, and the companies have been obliged to take the property, which may not bring at public sale the amount of the mortgages.

The policy of the Ætna Directors has been a different one. They have preferred small investments to large ones, and mortgages on farms to mortgages on city property, loaning only one-third of the value of the land, exclusive of buildings, and only on farms occupied and worked by the owners. The whole number of their loans is 7,474, with an average value of \$1,469. The wisdom of this course is apparent at the present crisis. Less than one per cent. of interest

for a single year is unpaid, and the Directors have been compelled to foreclose few mortgages. The entire real estate held by the Company is only \$427,249, which is less than the value of single buildings held by other companies. They have never failed to get their mortgages based on good and perfect titles.

Bonds and Endowment Policies.

THE whole country has been surprised by the rapid sale of the Government four-per-cent. bonds. They seem to be regarded as one of the safest and most profitable investments of these uncertain times. But the General Agents of the Ætna in Chicago have issued a card, which proves beyond all doubt that an Endowment policy in the Ætna is a better investment than Government four-per-cents. If one buys a Government bond for \$1,000, the principal and interest of the purchase will amount in thirty years to \$2,200. But the same sum, \$1,000, will buy an Ætna Life Bond, paying an annual dividend, and securing \$2,500 in thirty years to the purchaser, or his heirs, or assignees, and earlier in case of death. Even without dividends the amount of the Ætna bond will be \$2,500, or \$300 more than is received from the Government. In addition to this will be the amount of annual dividends, which, judging from present rates, would not be less than \$700.

In case of death before the expiration of the thirty years, the disproportion in favor of the Ætna bond will be much larger. At the end of the first year, if death ensues, the Government bond would yield \$1,040, the Ætna bond \$2,500.

The card is ingeniously prepared, and puts the contrast in a striking form. It ought to induce careful men, who wish to put their money to the most profitable use, to consider the Ætna endowment policy as well as Government bonds, when deciding upon investments.

"He Couldn't have Loved Me."

"HE couldn't have loved me, after all," was the bitter cry of a poor widow, when told that she must leave her pleasant home, and submit to separation from the children in whom her own life was bound up. "If he had really loved me, he would have insured his life, and saved me and the children from penury"

These were hard words, wrung from an aching heart, at the thought of losing all that made life pleasant. She reproached herself for uttering them, when she came to sober reflection; for the dead husband had loved her, and had given her many happy hours in life. But he was one of the thoughtless, easy-going men, who are absorbed in the present, and find it irksome to plan for the future. Full of gay humor, and pleasure-loving, he had been content to make his income equal to expenses, and to all sober admonitions on the duty of making provision for a rainy day, had been accustomed to say in a mocking vein, "I bow to a higher authority. 'Take no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.'"

After the birth of each child, his wife had begged him to take out a policy of insurance, and guard against future contingencies. But his reply was always ready, "Don't worry; Providence is taking good care of us. We have all we need. What is the use of fretting about the future? That will come all right, no doubt."

And it had come at last, not all right, but all wrong. The easy-going man had left heavy burdens for wife and children. His wilful negligence had doomed them to separation and to weary struggles with poverty. It wrung from the heart-broken wife bitter doubts of the sincerity of his love. How can one love his family wisely, and leave them uncared for, when a little self-denial will guard them from penury.

Irrational Men.

IT is a hard charge to bring against men who neglect to insure their lives, that they are irrational. But it is unfortunately true, and they cannot deny it. An irrational man is one who deliberately acts against his best convictions, or neglects important interests for lesser matters. And in both these directions the uninsured man acts irrationally. He deliberately neglects providing for his family, in a way which he knows will secure their comfort when he is removed. He is convinced that insurance is a duty, but delays to avail himself of its benefits. The sum needed for the payment of premiums seemed, perhaps, large, and not easily saved from his earnings. And yet he may spend more than the amount on tobacco or liquor or other luxuries, which are harmful rather than helpful. Are any of our readers irrational?