

When It Is Too Late.

Agent—I want to see your husband.

Mrs. Smith—He is too ill to see anyone.

Agent—I wanted to see him about assuring his life, but if he's ill—

Mrs. Smith—Oh, he *wants* to assure his life! He's been worrying about that. Last night he reproached himself over and over again because he had kept putting off taking out a policy; now he says his children will starve.

Agent—In his delirium, I dare say he exaggerated—

Mrs. Smith—No; I'm afraid it's all true. So, if you'd help him, *get* the assurance right off.

Agent—When he gets well, of course—

Mrs. Smith—But he's dying!

Agent—Then, it's too late.

Mrs. Smith—But he isn't dead yet!

Agent—I want to help you, my dear madam, and I will if I can; but it must be in some other way. Assurance is as far beyond the reach of a dying man as it is beyond the reach of a man that is dead.—Equitable Record.

**Books Wise Men Enjoyed.**

Chopin rarely read anything heavier than a French novel.

Lord Clive said that "Robinson Crusoe" beat any book he ever read.

St. John Chrysostom never tired of reading or of praising the works of the Apostle John.

James I. of England was a lover of the classics, and very familiar with most of the Latin writers.

Bunyan read little besides his Bible, and often said that Christians would do well to read no other book.

Salvator Rosa liked any kind of poetry, but more especially that relating to the country or to country scenes.

Hume said that Tacitus was the ablest writer that ever lived, and himself tried

to model his style on that of the Roman historian.

Locke gave most of his attention to works of philosophy. He said: "I stand amazed at the profundity of thought shown by Aristotle."

The elder Pitt liked Shakespeare, but not the labor of reading plays. He enjoyed hearing them, and once said that he had learned more English history at the theatre than at the university.

Shelley read with close attention all the works he could find antagonizing Christianity. He thought he was an atheist, but was mistaken, as there is not a more spiritual writer in our language than he. He read the Bible with great care, and some of his finest imagery is borrowed from its pages.

Tennyson would not talk about his poetry, but once intimated that he regarded the "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" as containing more inspiration than some of the others. He once said that he did not expect much of the "Charge of the Light Brigade," and was agreeably surprised at its reception.

Scott believed that "Waverly" was his best novel, and "The Lady of the Lake" his best poem. He and the Balaclava had more than one lively discussion on the subject, but he would never admit a change of opinion. He knew "The Lady of the Lake" by heart and once repeated the whole to prove the fact.—Literary Life.



It is ever true that he who does nothing for others does nothing for himself.—Goethe.

Fruitless is sorrow for having done amiss, if it issue not in a resolution to do so no more.—Bishop Horne.

Sin is never at a stay; if we do not retreat from it, we shall advance in it, and the farther on we go the more we have to come back.—Barrow.