

THESE LETTERS TELL THE TALE.

Banker Castetter of Blair Writes to Hon. Edward Rosewater of the Bee for Information Regarding the

Bankers Reserve Life Association

Mr. Rosewater's Unqualified Endorsement of the Home Company, After a Personal Inspection, Quoted in Full.

A. CASTETTER, President.
F. M. CASTETTER, Vice-President.
F. H. CLARIDGE, Cashier.

Established 1899.
Incorporated 1898.
Capital Stock, \$100,000.

THE BANKING HOUSE OF A. CASTETTER

BLAIR, Neb., Sept. 5th, 1901.

HON. E. ROSEWATER, Omaha, Neb.

Dear Sir: Can you ascertain for me whether the Bankers Reserve Life Association of Omaha is financially sound and whether its condition would justify me in taking out another policy?

Have you any means of looking into its affairs and business methods?

Do you carry a policy in this company, and if so how much? If not, would you feel safe in doing so?

I ask these questions because you are reputed to be the heaviest insured man in this state and are considered well informed about life insurance companies.

Trusting I am not intruding too much on your time, I am,

Yours truly,

F. M. CASTETTER, Vice-Prest.

THE OMAHA BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor

OMAHA, Neb., September 10, 1901.

Mr. F. M. CASTETTER, Blair, Neb.

Dear Sir: I hope you will pardon delay of my response to yours of September 5th occasioned by business pressure and professional work.

While heavily insured I do not profess to be an insurance expert, and would not venture to proffer advice as to the propriety of your insuring in any particular company.

I do not carry a policy in the Bankers Reserve, first, because I already have more than \$275,000, which is all I can afford, and, second, because I have reached the age limit fixed by the insurance companies.

On the main points of your inquiry I would say that from the best obtainable information the Bankers Reserve Life is financially sound. Within the past six weeks Insurance Commissioner Babcock made an investigation into the business methods, resources and liabilities of that company, and after a protracted examination pronounced its management and condition satisfactory. Two weeks ago Mr. Robison, its president, urged me to examine the books and records of his company, and after spending about two hours in their inspection, I became satisfied that the system of accounting was as perfect as any that I have seen in any business establishment. The list of policy holders is made up very largely of the most active and progressive class of business men in every section of the state.

Incidentally I learned that the company issues no policy above \$5,000 and has reinsured every policy above \$2,000 in an Iowa company that is represented as sound and safe. This reduces the risk of the Bankers Reserve Life very materially and affords additional protection to its policy holders.

Very truly yours,
E. ROSEWATER.

Breezy Gossip About Prominent People

PARIS newspaper gives a retort of the late Italian prime minister. He was receiving a French journalist, who was also a deputy. Suddenly M. Crispi said to his visitor: "I seem to recollect that your government put you in prison some years ago?" "Yes, I was in prison for a political offense, like everyone else in France." "That's right!" replied Crispi. "Begin by being in prison and you will finish by being able to send others there—like me."

General John H. Littlefield, who studied under Abraham Lincoln, gives this anecdote of him in success: "All clients knew that, with 'Old Abe' as their lawyer, they would win their case, if it was fair; if it was not, that it was a waste of time to take it to him. After listening some time one day to a would-be client's statement, with his eyes on the ceiling, he swung around in his chair and exclaimed: 'Well, you have a pretty good case in technical law, but a pretty bad one in equity and justice. You'll have to get some other fellow to win this case for you. I couldn't do it. All the time while talking to that jury I'd be thinking, 'Lincoln, you're a liar,' and I believe I should forget myself and say it out loud."

Sometimes of a sunny afternoon Mark Twain strolls up and down that part of Fifth avenue above Twenty-third street, New York City, where art and book stores are frequent. While there a few days ago his eye was caught by what seemed to be an etching of himself in a shop window. The humorist was staring blankly at his likeness when he was joined at the window by one of those chatty individuals always ready for a street corner exchange of opinion.

"Pretty good likeness of the old man, isn't it?" said the chatterer, without seeing the writer's full face, which was partly in shadow.

Mark said it was.

"Say, what do you think of that fellow's work, anyway?" went on the chatterer.

"I think," said Mark, still without turning his head, "that he is the greatest imposter the American people ever refused to take seriously."

"How so?"

"Well, because he really is serious and because nobody'll believe him; he passes for being humorous." With that Mr. Clemens faced his questioner.

"Well, I'll be switched!" ejaculated the chatterer.

The face of the humorist became deeply concerned. "For heaven's sake, don't tell any one I told you. It would ruin me with my publishers," he said, starting up the avenue. But the chatterer went home and told his friends.

In a recent article Count Tolstoi draws a portrait of his father. He was a large and handsome man, who always wore

clothes of a fashion different from that of others. He had a great contempt for the younger generation. He won millions and lost them again. Moral principles he seemed to have none. He had his sentimental moods and when he read aloud from a book his voice would tremble and his eyes moisten at a pathetic passage. He was fond of ordinary music—romances, Gypsy melodies, operatic tunes—but frankly confessed that Beethoven put him to sleep.

Episodes and Incidents

(Continued from Second Page.)

"Then I thought I would question him a bit and asked: 'Barney, how long have you kept hotel?'"

"'Fifty years,' he replied.

"'During that time you must have asked a great many men that punch question on cold and bitter nights.'

"'That I have,' came back the answer.

"'And during those fifty years with their bleak winters how many men ever felt insulted at being asked if they would take some punch on nights like these?'"

"'Only two.'

"'Who were they, Barney?'"

"'Judge Peters and Senator Hale!'"

The following plea for judicial mercy, sent to Law Notes by a correspondent, will be found brimful of pathos: Ex parte Samuel Rice.

"To the Hon. H. A. Sharpe, Judge of the city court of Birmingham, in equity: Your petitioner, Samuel Rice of Mobile, Ala., would deferentially represent that on January 10, in the year of grace, 1891, your honor dissolved the conjugal ties theretofore existing between petitioner and his consort, Annie Rice, granting her a divorce a vinculo et matrimonii, with the beatific privilege thereunto annexed of marrying again, a privilege it goes without saying she availed herself with an alacrity of spirit and a fastidiousness levity disdainful pursuit; but on this vital point your honor extended to petitioner only the charity of silence.

"Petitioner has found in his own experience a truthful exemplification of holy scripture, 'that it is not well for man to be alone,' and seeing an inviting opportunity to superbly ameliorate his forlorn condition by a second nuptial venture, he finds himself circumvented by an Ossa Pellon obstacle which your honor alone has power to remove.

"His days rapidly verging on the sere and yellow leaf, the fruits and flowers of love all going, the worm, the canker and the grief in eight, with no one to love and none to care him, petitioner feels an indescribable yearning, longing and heaving to plunge his adventurous prow once more into the vexed waters of the sea of conubiality. Wherefore, other refuge having none and wholly trusting to the tender benignity and sovereign discretion of your

honor, petitioner humbly prays that in view of the accompanying flats of a great cloud of reputable citizens, giving him a phenomenally good name and fair fame, you will have compassion on him and relieve him of the hymeneal disability under which his existence has become a burden, by awarding him the like privilege of marrying again; thus granting him a happy issue out of the Red sea of troubles into which a pitiless fate has whelmed him. For, comforting as the velvety touch of an angel's palm to the fever-racked brow, and soothing as the strains of an Aeolian harp when swept by the fingers of the night wind, and dear as those ruddy drops that visit these sad hearts of ours, and sweet as sacramental wine to dying lips, it is when life's fitful fever is ebbing to its close to pillow one's aching head on some fond wifely bosom and breathe his life out gently there.

"And in duty bound to attain the possibility of compassing such a measureless benediction, petitioner will pray without ceasing in accents as loud and earnest as ever issued from celibatary lips.

"SAMUEL RICE, Petitioner."

Learning the Business

Chicago News: Strong—I was sorry to hear that you had lost your job. What are you doing now?

Weeks—Taking lessons in wood carving. Strong—Have you a position in view after learning the art?

Weeks—Yes. My wife is going to open a boarding house.

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