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but the compliment was well deserved. Executive ability and judgment of the highest order were required of him during the whole time he occupied the office, as it covered the trying years of the most stupendous war that has ever disturbed the affairs of a civilized nation. The records of the company show what he accomplished. The *Ætna* was a large company even then, having agencies in nearly every city and town in the Union, and its movements were watched with the keenest interest. Competitors who followed where it led did well, for the new secretary was a masterful man, in every way equal to the needs of the hour. His growth, as well as that of the company, was remarkable during these years.

On the death of Mr. Thomas A. Alexander in 1866, Mr. Hendee was very naturally elevated to the presidency. To have chosen any one else would simply have been madness on the part of the directors. This office he held by successive elections until his death in 1888. Besides a thorough knowledge of accounts and of financial matters generally, Mr. Hendee brought to the service of the *Ætna* a practical acquaintance with what was then, and is still, a prominent feature of its business, country risks. What was of still greater value in the management of an insurance company, he brought a clear head and a wonderful faculty for keeping his own counsel. The *Ætna* had assets of about two and a quarter millions when he became its secretary, and at his death it had nearly ten millions. Its income in the first named year was \$1,850,000, and in the last year of his life it was \$3,043,000. Under his efficient management the *Ætna* became the largest fire insurance company in the United States. Its name was ever the synonym of impregnable strength, unvaried fair dealing and wise progressiveness.

Every officer of a successful insurance company works his business life into that success. The condition of the *Ætna* at the time of his decease is a monument to Mr. Hendee's life work. There was never a suspicion that in the dealings of the *Ætna* under his administration, either with the policy holders or with his associates in business, that there was aught but the fullest measure of justice. He was a man, who, in the words of the psalmist, "swareth to his own hurt and changeth not." By his genial disposition and many acts of kindly consideration he endeared himself to all his associates, whether in the executive department or in the large force of employees in the office. He was regarded by all as a friend.

Energetic, and seemingly concentrated as Mr. Hendee's efforts were to make the *Ætna* a magnificent success, let it not be supposed that it engrossed all his attention. Soon after succeeding to the business of his uncle in 1852, his active mind grappled with other problems. The condition of the country was then in a state of effervescence. Whigs, Democrats, Republicans, Abolitionists and Free Soilers were striving for the ascendancy in the councils of the nation. A lover of liberty and equality, Mr. Hendee espoused the principles of the Republican party. In 1856, he was elected to the state Senate and was reelected the following year. He was elected state treasurer on the ticket with Governor Buckingham in 1859, and with him was reelected the two following years. During these five years of service at the State House he had not lost his hold upon his insurance interests. While he probably had no thought of ever occupying the presidential chair of the *Ætna*, somebody else was thinking for him, and in 1861, after completing his third term as state treasurer, he was chosen secretary of the *Ætna*.

The positions of trust which he might have held in Hartford were simply limited by his time and strength. Mr. Hendee was interested in the subject of insurance in all legitimate forms. He was a charter member and until his death a director in the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company, and by his wise counsel assisted materially in the success attained by that flourishing institution. He was for several years vice-president of the Charter Oak Bank, and also a director in the Security Company. Mr. Hendee's religious affiliations were with the Protestant Episcopal church, and his religious home was in St. John's, Hartford. Almost from the time of his coming to the city he held the office of vestryman, and for many years he served as treasurer of the church. Into his work for his Master he put the same energy and ability he used in building up the Aetna; and the parish was greatly benefitted by his labors.

Many kind and complimentary allusions were made to Mr. Hendee by the various journals of the day at the time of his decease. His memory can be honored in no better way than by showing the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries. The *Hartford Courant* said editorially:

The death of Mr. E. J. Hendee, president of the Aetna Insurance Company, takes from social and business circles in Hartford a familiar figure. Mr. Hendee has been for nearly a quarter of a century identified with one of the largest financial institutions of Hartford, and his integrity and foresight have done much to maintain and add to the Aetna's splendid reputation for soundness and fair dealing. Mr. Hendee leaves behind him a good name without spot of any sort. He was universally respected and esteemed—a quiet, useful, wise and honorable man. In all respects he was a good citizen and a good man.

A paragraph from an article in the *Hartford Times* says:

Mr. Hendee's record as a business man is one of unimpeachable integrity. He was scrupulously honest even in the merest trifles. In character he was sincere and upright, a man of the finest moral sensibilities and of almost womanly gentleness of disposition. Though peculiarly modest, his was a character of noble manliness. He was one of the best of story tellers. His manner was deliberate, but every word counted, and his yarns had always a point of application, as well as of contagious jollity.

At the opening of this sketch a suggestive quotation was made from the *Insurance Journal*. All the papers devoted to this subject contained feeling allusions to the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Hendee in the fire underwriting world. Speaking of his appearance the *Standard* said:

Mr. Hendee was a man of commanding appearance, and his massive head, clear cut features, and expressive eyes, are well portrayed in the likeness that heads these lines. There was something in his physical and mental make up that suggested the broad gauge statesman of a former generation. If he appeared somewhat stern to strangers, it was a sternness which applied only to his high sense of rectitude, justice and honor, which were coupled with a peculiarly kind and gentle disposition, and an unvarying considerateness, to which all his associates of the Aetna Insurance Company will bear sorrowing testimony, not less than his many friends and neighbors.

The closing scene of his life is beautifully told by the *Argus*:

At home, not many miles from his birthplace, amid the scenes of his successful labors, within sight of their beauties and within sound of their music, surrounded by friends who had known him long and loved him well, he died as he would have wished to die—calmly and peacefully—ripe in years and riper still in manly and generous deeds. Toward the last, the fine old face, always reflecting peace and good-will to his fellows, shone with a new and more perfect light, which came direct from Him whose servant he was, and in whose vineyard he had long been a faithful worker.

Excellent and appropriate resolutions were passed by the various companies and the

church to which Mr. Hendee belonged. Lack of space prevents the insertion of even the tribute of his associates of the Aetna Company, though it was the best of them all.

Nov. 23, 1852, Mr. Hendee was married to Adeline E. Whitmore of Middle Haddam. His worthy wife passed on to her reward in 1884. Of their five children all are yet living. Abner, who is successor to Crittenden & Co., New Haven; Richard, now in business in Birmingham; Lucius, and two daughters, Hetta E., and Sarah J., who live at the old home in Hartford.

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