

country, without distinction as to particular places of habitation, or any discrimination as to the people, other than the duration of life of each sex; and also, that those state annuitants may be regarded as a selection of the best lives from the common mass. (i) Nevertheless, these tables of *Finlaison's*, are now considered by many as the most comprehensive, accurate, and generally trustworthy tables extant for England. (j)

The only tables of the expectation of life which have been calculated from any observations in this country are those founded on the results furnished by the records of the Episcopal Church, and of the Board of Health of the city of Philadelphia, which, it is said, have been adopted by the Pennsylvania Company for insurance on lives and granting annuities. (k)

All these tables however, relate simply to the expectation of the life of individuals at various ages, and nothing more. But, in many instances, the annuity, or life interest, is made to depend upon two or more lives of the same or different ages; and, consequently the expectation of each life must be considered, and the case thus becomes more complex; but being deduced from the same known facts, as to each life, an estimate of their joint value is still nothing more than the result of a regular arithmetical calculation according to rules and tables to be found in the books which treat of such calculations.

There are instances, however, in which the annuity or estate is made to depend upon other contingencies, in connexion with that of the expectation of the life of the individual; as where an estate is given to a person to hold until he shall receive an appointment to some office of profit, or so long as he lives unmarried; in which case it is not only necessary to ascertain the expectation of life which may be allowed to the individual; but an additional estimate must be made of his expectation of receiving a profitable appointment, or of his marriage; and then, the value of the two contingencies taken together may be calculated in like manner as in the making of an estimate of the combined value of two or more lives; except, that in the case of two, or more lives, each life adds somewhat to the value of the expectancy, whereas a contingency annexed to a life diminishes its value. There may be very great difficulty in determining the

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(i) 2 Price Obser. 454.—(j) 9 Westm. Rev. 398, 403.—(k) Seybert Stat. Ann. 51; Trans. Philo. Soci. Philad. vol. 3, No. 7, p. 25; 2 Malth. Popu. 16.