

tude she acknowledged her thanks, calling down blessings on our then infant Institution. In the language of Inspiration she said—"The blessing of him that was ready to perish shall descend upon thee; for thou dost relieve the stranger, and cause the widow's heart to rejoice."

I need not cite to you the numerous instances on record, where the widowed mother has publicly blessed our Institution for its benefactions to herself and her offspring; many of them are known to the world, and they have secured for the Institution the blessings of the widows and orphans, and their prayers for its progress and future triumphs. Orphans are provided for, reared up and educated, in all sections of the country where Odd-Fellowship exerts her power. Thousands of children who have been left fatherless, on this continent, have found fathers and protectors in Odd-Fellows' Lodges. They came like those little ones who approached the Savior, when he took them in his arms and blessed them—they came, and are receiving the benefactions of the Order. The Lodge is a father to them. And not content with this, the Fraternity has the praise-worthy object in view, of raising and endowing a College for the reception and education of the orphans of Odd-Fellows.

I have told you of one instance where the widow of an Odd-Fellow received the benefits of our Order, and that among strangers. Thanks to the generosity of the Brotherhood, the wife or widow of a worthy Brother may now receive from the Lodge such evidence as will enable her in any land, to convince the Odd-Fellow that she is entitled to all the attention and support the Brother himself would be; and by that evidence she can secure respectful attention and relief, if need be, even among strangers; for she can appeal to Brothers, and wherever the banner of Odd-Fellowship is unfurled, her appeal will be responded to by those who will delight to counsel, relieve, protect and bless. I would suggest to ladies the propriety of urging their husbands to become Odd-Fellows, if they are not, that they may secure the privilege of a card to themselves. And to the parent, I would say, you can recommend to your son no better way of gaining friends, advisers, and good moral, temperate associates, than by joining an Odd-Fellow's Lodge. He will, by that means, obtain a passport to the best of society, and find brothers as parents and protectors in every land.

Odd-Fellowship exerts a moral, social and beneficial influence. It is a moral society—a life and trust association; and its praises are sung by happy voices throughout the land. While it does not claim to be a religious institution, only in the practice it requires, and in manifesting the fruits of "pure and undefiled religion," which is "to visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world"—yet, no Atheist can become an Odd-Fellow. If he refuse to acknowledge, while yet his foot is on the threshold of the Temple, that he believes in God the Supreme Governor of all, the door will not open to his view. It admits of no sectarian views; but, like the rainbow of heaven, while it circumscribes all mankind, it gathers into its symbolic chain men of every kind, creed, nation and faith, and inculcates *charity* to all men.—Charity, that heaven-born principle, which, like Mercy—

"Droppeth as the gentle dew from Heaven
Upon the earth beneath. It is twice blest—
Blessed in him that gives, and him that takes."