

for initiation of the several obligations which his connection with the society will entail upon him or her, and the investigating committee as a further check, to see that these very necessary and very essential conditions have been complied with, so that none can afterwards plead ignorance as an excuse. Again, while we profess to believe that union is strength, does not our practice belie our profession? Sometimes we see two, three, or four lodges, where one would be sufficient, each lodge having the same number of officers, of committees, &c., so that the time, and patience, and zeal of its members are sorely tried, and with all this, in order to compete with each other and attract new members, the fees and dues are cut down to a sum which, even with a moderate increase of membership is barely sufficient to pay current expenses, and the usefulness of the whole Order, so far as any public united effort is concerned, is entirely destroyed, until even those who would otherwise be good members get thoroughly disheartened; while others, whose entrance into the lodge has been of the most easy and accommodating description, and, mayhap, after admission, the discipline and order of the same stamp, return the compliment in kind by leaving the lodge with little ceremony, and treating the call for dues with (as they suppose) merited contempt. We would name yet another class who enter our lodge rooms with an honest desire to overcome an appetite which, like the horse-leech, is continually crying "give, give," who need to be strengthened against the ever recurring temptations to which on all sides they are exposed. Circumstances often arise to prevent them attending the lodge, and when they do attend they are not benefitted as they expect to be: at last their resolution gives way, and they are lost to the lodge, for though their failing may be suspected it may be impossible to prove it, and thus, no charge being brought against them, they go to swell the number of the expelled. It is unnecessary to further particularize the various causes which result in the evil complained of. What remedy can we propose? We would say, first—let each lodge have a number of small printed cards headed '—— Dr. to ——,' (naming lodge or division); let each member on initiation be required to give his or her address, and let it be the duty of the finance officer to send each member's account and request payment. Again, let the lodge, in a spirit of patriotism and for the good of the Order, lay aside their minor differences, if they have any, and unite, or if that is not practicable, let them raise their dues and form a lecture

fund. If we ever expect our principles to become universal we must use means to spread them. Whether by the living voice or the printed page, both require money. While each lodge is steeped to the lips in poverty, our enemies only view us with contempt, especially when they see such a shameless and wholesale desertion from our ranks. In brief, if we would effect a remedy we must set to work with renewed earnestness. See to it that every member before joining is fully aware of the nature of the step they are about to take. Let us hear no more of the after vows. Make enquiry system. Let the business of the lodge be conducted on business principles and in a business manner. Let us have more open meetings, and let us show our faith in our principles, by contributing for their dissemination. We believe that a little money judiciously spent can effect great good, and until we adopt some such means of propagating our principles we can never expect to be permanently successful.

Begging pardon for trespassing so much on your patience,

I am yours, &c.,

ONE OF THE I. O. G. T.

## Flower Basket.

This week we present our readers with a Boquet from our Flower Basket. This we trust we shall be able to do henceforth every week, thereby embellishing our paper and giving it a greater value in every home. The flowers will be golden thoughts, proverbs, and aphorisms, of all kinds, and from all lands. They will be ever worthy of attention and thought. They will be fragrant with love, good will, and heavenly-mindedness, such as will fill the soul with noble aspirations, the imagination with finest fancies, and thus bend the will to determine high endeavours. We trust they will be at all times reasonable "words fitly spoken."

**ON PRAYER.**—They pray in vain to have sin pardoned which seek not also to prevent sin by prayer—even every particular sin by prayer against all sin.—*Hooker.*

**FRIENDSHIP.**—False friends are like our shadow, keeping close to us while we walk in the sunshine, but leaving us the instant we cross into the shade.

**SIMPLICITY.**—A child's faith in his mother

is illustrated by the following incident. A little boy disputing with his sister on some subject, exclaimed "It is true, for no other says so, and if she says so, it is so, 'if it ain't so."

**AWFUL ANNOUNCEMENT.**—"The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God."—*David the Psalmist.*

**WHAT IS IT?**—A firm faith is the best theology, a good life the best philosophy, a clear conscience the best law, honesty the best policy, and temperance the best physic.

**LIFE.**—No man takes care to live well, but long, when yet it is in every man's power to do the former and in no man's to do the latter.—*Seneca.*

**PLEASURE.**—Whenever we drink too deep of pleasure, we are sure to find a sediment at the bottom of the cup, which embitters the draught we have quaffed with so much avidity.

**GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY.**—Whenever you find a great deal of gratitude in a poor man, take it for granted that there would be as much generosity if he were a rich one.

"He that walketh uprightly walketh surely."—*Solomon.*

For the Weekly Visitor.

A VOICE FROM THE ENGLISH BUN HOUSE,  
Corner of York and Adelaide Streets, Toronto.

A fig for all your Lager Beer,  
And Brandy Sling, for Christmas cheer,  
Or Whiskey Toddy,—  
Which tend but to impair the health  
Of mind and body.

Give me a draught of fragrant Tea,  
Fine Hyson, Soucheong, or Bhea,  
With English Buns,  
Coupled with Pound Cake, rich and rare,  
Or Sally Luns.

Now little prattlers—bless their hearts—  
Exulting, seize the proffered Tarts  
And Candy Sweets;  
The long expected time has come  
For Christmas treats.

Since Christmas comes but once a year,  
Give freely what thou hast to spare,  
To those in need;  
Thus shalt thou prove thyself a friend—  
A friend in need.