

now numbers twenty six Members, besides about the same number of accepted candidates.

We have been favoured with the following extracts from private letters, since the above was written :—

"Hamilton, 25th March, 1846.

"We had a meeting here on Saturday evening, and I am happy to say that we got on much better than I expected. Our prospects are still increasing, and there is no doubt that our Lodge, 'Burlington Lodge, No. 17,' will number eighty or one hundred members ere long. There were seven proposed at our last meeting, and I have had several applications since."

"Cornwall, 7th April, 1846.

"I am happy to inform you that St. Francis Lodge, No. 18, bids fair to be soon in a flourishing condition. This is the sixth day since the opening of the Lodge, and there are proposals to admit seven new candidates, to be read to-morrow evening. The Committee appointed to procure a Lodge Room have succeeded in renting a very good one at a cheap rate. All our members are, individually and collectively, exerting themselves for the advancement and prosperity of the Lodge."

"Brockville, 6th April, 1846.

"Our new Lodge room is full of plasterers, carpenters, &c., in active operation, and we expect to have admission into it within a fortnight. Gentlemen of high respectability are joining our ranks unsolicited, which shows evidently that the Order requires no forcing."

"Port Hope, 8th April, 1846.

"Our Lodge is fast flourishing. We will number thirty seven next Monday Evening."

We have great pleasure in announcing, that, on Wednesday last, the House of Assembly granted leave to Dr. Foster, to introduce a Bill to give power to the Society of Odd Fellows to hold real property. The only member who spoke against the bill was Mr. Cauchon, who, while he gave full credit to the members of these Societies for worthy motives, objected to giving them any privileges by legislative enactment, while the House was in ignorance of the constitution and operations of the Society. The motion for the first reading was carried by a division of 50 to 8.

MUSIC.—"OLD ENGLAND WE'LL DEFEND."—We have been favoured with a copy of a Song under the above title, printed in this city by Brother Becket. The poetry is by our esteemed correspondent "Y-LE," and the music, we believe, by an amateur friend, who has arranged the words to a very pleasing melody.

We have been highly gratified by the inspection of a very neat and handsome set of Odd Fellows' Regalia, made in this city, by Br. Mills, for "Canada Lodge." It is much superior, and costs far less, than the Regalia hitherto imported from the United States. We would strongly recommend all new Lodges to entrust their orders to Brother Mills, as it will not only be a saving to them in the first cost, but also in duty, &c. &c.—See advertisement.

In answer to our correspondent "Upper Bytown," we are authorized to state that a Lodge will be opened at Bytown in a short time. We hope to have the pleasure of recording in our next number the installation of their officers, &c.

HISTORY OF THE ORDER.

I. TRADITIONAL HISTORY.—ESTABLISHMENT IN ENGLAND.

In the series of papers, of which this forms the first, it is intended to present a condensed sketch of the history of Odd Fellowship, the materials of which have been extracted from authentic and trustworthy records. So short a time has elapsed since the establishment of the Order in this Province, that little opportunity has been afforded for the dissemination of authoritative information on this subject; and it is therefore by no means surprising to find many, even of those who are enrolled in our ranks, almost entirely ignorant of the events which have attended its onward progress in other lands. The establishment of the *Odd Fellows' Record*, however, supplies efficient means for the spread of such information; at the very time, too, when the rapid extension of our Order, especially in the western portion of this Province, renders its publication the more imperative. We, therefore, proceed to our task, trusting that, from the authorities at our command, (which, though trustworthy, as we have said, are by no means numerous,) we may be able to compile a narrative of the wonderful progress of our beloved Order, such as will fill the heart of every true Odd Fellow with gratitude.

We shall not enter at length into the traditions which exist regarding the origin and early progress of our Institution. Suffice it to say, that they agree in placing its first establishment at Rome, during the reign of the Emperor Nero, A. D. 55, when its members were known as Fellow-Citizens. This title was changed in the year 79, when one, nearly resembling that by which they are now known, was given them by the Emperor Titus; who at the same time presented to them a warrant of the Imperial protection, engraved on a plate of gold, and accompanied by a number of emblems, many of which closely resemble those in use in the Order at the present day. It seems to have had then no feature of pecuniary aid, but to have been an Association for mutual protection and defence against physical danger. This Order appears to have been successively introduced into Spain in the fifth century, into Portugal in the sixth century, and into France and England in the twelfth century, of our era.

Such, in substance, is the account communicated by the authorities of the Manchester Unity, in reply to a request from the Grand Lodge of the United States, for information as to the early history of our Order.* It comes before us, however, like most traditions, unsupported by evidence, and we therefore merely present it as a *morceau* for the antiquarian Odd Fellow, waiving the claim, such as it is, that might be raised upon it, of the high antiquity of the Order. We claim for our Institution due reverence, it is true; but it is a reverence founded on the truth and virtue of its innate principles—not on the doubtful evidence of tradition.

We meet for the first time with an authentic record