
BILL.

An Act for incorporating certain Charitable, Philanthropic and Provident Associations, and for the effectual protection from fraud and misappropriation of the funds of the same.

WHEREAS large and increasing numbers of all classes of the community have for some time past associated themselves together under the name and style of "Odd Fellows," for the purpose of making provision for themselves and families, by contributing subscriptions or otherwise, against sickness, misfortune and death, and for the relief of the widows and orphan children of deceased members, and whereas, the accumulated funds of such Associations (owing to the absence of legal protection,) have been subjected to great and serious losses from frauds and defalcations; and whereas, it is expedient to encourage habits of providence and forethought amongst all Her Majesty's subjects: Be it therefore enacted, &c.

Preamble.

And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for any number of persons to unite for the purpose of making provision, by means of contributions, subscriptions, donations or otherwise, against the several contingencies of sickness, unavoidable misfortune or death, and for relieving the widows and orphan children of members deceased; and it shall and may be lawful for the members and officers of such associated body or Society, from time to time, to establish and maintain branches thereof, for and at the convenience of the respective members, but for so long only as the business transacted at the Meet-

Any number of persons may associate for the purpose of mutual assistance in case of death, sickness, &c.