

AMONG THE SOCIETIES.

THE GROWTH OF ODDFELLOWSHIP IN THIS PROVINCE.

An interesting incident, connected with the foundation of the Oddfellows in the Province, was the opening of the Society House in the Province.

Oddfellowship bears the prestige of a history covering a period of two centuries and a half. Its birth took place early in the seventeenth century, in a coffee house, or ale house in Manchester, England.

From this small beginning arose the great order of Oddfellows, its tentacles of fellowship stretching over all the world, and enrolling within its warm embrace of brotherly love nearly two million members.

There is in Halifax a lodge of the Manchester Unity and a few in Upper Canada, but almost the whole body of Canadian Oddfellows have united their fortunes with the American order.

The order of Oddfellows entered the Maritime Provinces less than a century ago, but they have grown rapidly. In the year 1857 the Grand Lodge No. 26, was organized at Halifax under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of British North America.

Oddfellowship in St. John is just 28 years old. On August 28th, 1869 Phoenix Lodge No. 9 was organized here, the charter members being Messrs. R. Rufford Barnes (N. G.), Alexander Robertson (V. G.), S. T. Knolton (Secretary), John V. Ellis, Christopher Armstrong, William Kennedy, William Hillman, and W. J. Whiting.

From the loins of the present lodge have sprung the other St. John lodges and naturally it could not help but impair the foster mother's strength somewhat, so that it has not the strength numerically that it erstwhile held, but it has just as much influence and prestige.

Beacon Lodge No. 12, was instituted at St. John December 31st, 1873 by Alex-

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ander Robertson, D. D. S. H. The petition was signed by R. Rufford Barnes, Christopher Armstrong, James Byers, Elias H. Brown, Alfred Pendlebury, William Farrow, and others. At the close of 1877 this lodge had 124 members but it is since defunct.

The greatest event probably in the history of Oddfellowship in this city was the laying of the corner stone of Oddfellows Hall on June 20th, 1878. The ceremony was attended with a grand fest, the procession being viewed by thousands and in front of the proposed building were three triumphal arches.

Feetless, No. 19, was established in the North End on September 23rd, 1874, by Alexander Robertson, then Grand Master. The petitioners were: H. A. Austin, Dr. William Christie, Henry Elyard, J. T. Carpenter, Joseph Court, W. C. Black, John Wilson, Robert Wisely, H. A. Vandeberg, Benjamin T. Logan, Alexander Duff, W. A. Moore, Robert A. Courney, A. N. Shaw, J. A. Price, Daniel Purdy, Frederick Roberts.

Silvan, No. 29, was instituted in this city on September 28th, 1876, by the late Gilbert Murdoch, D. G. M. The charter members were Franklin Barnes, W. B. Smith, James McClure, A. G. Smith, William Tait, John R. Hamilton, William M. McLean, Jr., John Thomson, William Carr and E. C. Ansley.

The last lodge to be organized was Golden Rule, No. 46, of Carleton, which was organized April 12th, 1883, by Dr. James Christie, D. G. M., though of course Jewel Rebekah Lodge, No. 6, is later than this.

Millets Encampment, No. 11, of St. John, of the military order was instituted July 8th, 1874 by Warren E. Presley, G. P., of Maine, special Deputy Grand Sir.

At least five St. John brothers have filled the honorable position of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the lower provinces, the late Gilbert Murdoch, the late Andre Cushing, the late R. R. Barnes, Mr. J. L. Wilson and Mr. B. A. Stammers. Among other leading Oddfellows are Dr. James Christie, Mr. R. B. Emerson, Hon. C. N. Skinner, C. B. Allan, J. E. Smith, H. E. Colner and W. J. Fraser.

The Oddfellows have now in St. John a District Lodge, four subordinate lodges the Rebekah Lodge and one encampment and the total membership is 474. The assets and receipts of the four St. John lodges are as follows:

Table with columns: Receipts, Assets. Rows: Phoenix, Feetless, Silvan, Golden Rule.

The receipts are taken from the abstract from the semi-annual reports for the year ending 30th June, 1896.

Table with columns: Date, Name, Amount. Rows: Aug. 28, 1869, Phoenix, No. 9; Sep. 13, 1874, Feetless, No. 19; Sep. 28, 1876, Silvan, No. 29; Dec. 14, 1884, Jewel Rebekah.

THE DRUNKARD'S SERMON.

Response to a Request That He Pay for His Drink With a Speech.

It was growing late. The tide of humanity that earlier in the evening had ebbed and flowed through the streets of the great city had swept onward, leaving the strange and almost appalling sense of desolation that comes when the noises of the town are hushed.

in evening dress who were coming down the street toward him. They had been drinking deeply, and they stopped before the saloon door and looked curiously at him.

"By Jove," said one, "think of having a thirst like that, and not the price of an extinguisher in your pocket! Beats old Tantalus all to pieces, eh? Liquor, liquor, everywhere, and not a drop to drink."

He ran his hand in his pocket and proffered the tramp a dime, but before it could be accepted the other young fellow interposed.

"Say, he said, 'let's do the good Samaritan and set Hobo up to a good drink.'"

The other hilariously consented, and the tramp slouched into the saloon at the heels of the two glided youths. The barkeeper set before them glasses and liquors, and with a hand that shook the tramp poured out a brimming glass and raised it to his lips.

"Stop," cried one of the young men drunkenly, "make us a speech. It is poor liquor that doesn't loosen a man's tongue."

The tramp hastily swallowed down the drink, and as the rich liquor coursed through his blood he straightened himself and stood before them with a grace and dignity that all his rage and dirt could not obscure.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I look tonight at you and at myself, and it seems to me I look upon the picture of my lost manhood. This bloated face was once as young and handsome as yours. This shuffling gait once walked as proudly as yours, a man in a world of men. I, too, once had home and friends and position. I had a wife as beautiful as an artist's dream, and I dropped the priceless pearl of her honor and respect in the wine cup, and Cleopatra-like saw it dissolve, and quaffed it down in the brimming draught. I had children as sweet and lovely as the flowers of spring, and I saw them fade and die under the blighting curse of a drunkard father. I had home where love lit the flame upon the altar and smothered before it, and I put out the holy fire, and darkness and desolation reigned in its stead. I had aspirations and ambitions that soared as high as the morning star, and I broke and hurled their beautiful wings, and at last, strangled them that I might be tortured with their cries no more. Today I am a husband without a wife, a father without a child, a tramp with no home to call his own, a man in whom every good impulse is dead. All, all swallowed up in the maelstrom of drink."

The tramp ceased speaking. The glass fell from his nerveless fingers and shivered into a thousand fragments on the floor. The swinging doors plucked open and shut too rigid, and when the little group about the bar looked up the tramp was gone.

In The Looking-Glass. The world is a looking-glass. Whosoever you see shows his kindness for kindness, cheer for cheer, coldness for gloom, sorrow for fear. To every soul is given. We cannot change the world's a while, Only ourselves which look in it.

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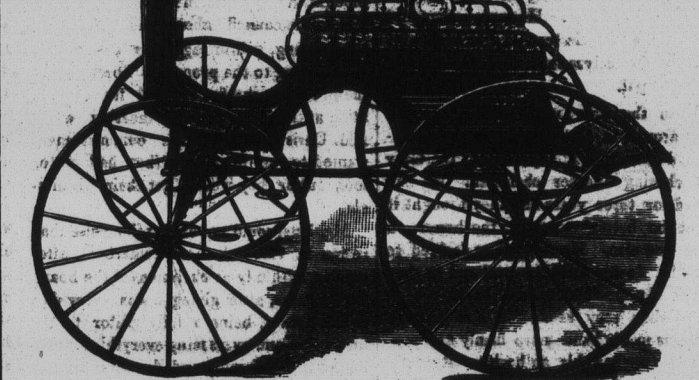
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