

this principle in our hearts, and made the culture of it an agreeable and useful labor.

If the unity of humanity is desirable, then is Friendship important, for it has a tendency to unite men, and to strengthen the bond of union; for it arouses to duty and to sympathy—it unlocks the store-house of benevolence, and, Howard-like, the individual goes forth blessing and blessed.

Lord Bacon has well said, that “a crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a cymbal where there is no love.”—It is a mere and miserable solitude to want true friends; without a friend the world is but a wilderness. A “faithful friend is the medicine of life”—a panacea for many of the ills of existence. One reason of the petty jealousies and wranglings of men, is their want of knowledge of each other. One chief reason why men are alienated from each other, and refuse the kind offices of life, is their ignorance of each other. Our Institution brings them together on a common level—the high and the low, the rich and the poor meet together, and feel that the Lord is the maker of them all. Their discordant opinions on church and state—their prejudices and uncharitableness, is here laid aside—they meet at an Altar, dedicated to Friendship, Love and Truth—they meet as Brothers—they cultivate an acquaintance, they come to see that which is good and praiseworthy in each other; their animosity and coldness is removed; they become inspired with the principle of Love, and the truth of man’s relation; Friendship exerts her power to unite, and they are bound in fraternal bonds by the mystic chain.

True Friendship hath no sting, no shade of gloom;
A lovely blossom ’tis of fadeless bloom,
Whose witching perfume scents alike the air
Breath’d ’neath the cottage roof, or palace fair;
A gem emitting rays resplendent, bright,
Alike in day-light’s glare, or darkness night—
A brilliant lamp whose oil, like her’s of old,
Is unconsumed—a flame that ne’er grows cold:
A sparkling stream that gurgles sweet along,
Brightening the flowery groves it flows among,
Till sinking with a low and gentle sigh
Upon some ocean-billow mounting high,
It mingles with its waves—thenceforth to be
A PART, a portion of the boundless sea.
Such is the friendship that, unchanging, throws
A halo round life’s scenes until they close,
And such the mystic tie that links each band
Of truthful “Odd-Fellows” throughout our land.

Nor does the influence affect only those who bow at the altar; they go forth to the world, to make known the truth that “men ought to be united;” to show that men can fraternize, and, leading the way, they exert an influence that shall tell on generation after generation, until the Millennium come.

The principles and inculcations of our Order exert an influence over its members, and that influence extends to their associates, and again to the beholder; and increases the moral order, the social feeling, the friendship and purity, and consequent happiness of the whole community. The Lodge prevents many from running into temptation. We are naturally social beings, and when provision is made for the cultivation and satisfaction of our social nature in the Lodge-Room, the avenues to criminal