

lows: and what is more, they give their contributions to a fund, for the relief of brothers in want, or of their widows and orphans.

These observations remind us of what has frequently occupied our thoughts, namely, the very questionable wisdom and prudence of a certain rule which obtains in the Order, rendering it compulsory on Brothers reported sick, to receive what is called the "Sick Benefit." It is true, they are not compelled to keep the "benefit," and often return it to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; but frequently brothers accept it whose circumstances do not require it. It is most respectfully suggested, with due submission and deference to the "assembled wisdom" of the Order, that this obligatory rule might be advantageously, creditably and honorably, departed from. No brother should permit himself, even for a moment, or for any consideration, to forget, that benevolence is the one grand aim and object of Odd-Fellowship; and that a wise benevolence is an honor, a crown, a glory, a blessing,—whilst an improvident benevolence often encourages to deceit, hypocrisy, fraud, idleness, and profligacy. There is no benevolence in giving where there is no need. The Funds of each Lodge should be under the strict *surveillance* of a wise, a provident, benevolence. An improvident benevolence must lead to bankruptcy; particularly if it be accompanied by what are usually locked arm-in-arm with it,—(hail-fellows well met)—wasteful generosity and vain display. Now, although bankruptcy does sometimes overtake even the most prudent and provident in private life, it can never overtake a provident Lodge: a truly prudent and provident Lodge will never come under "promises to pay," which may lead to bankruptcy.

It is the opinion of the writer,—(it may be an erroneous one.)—that each case of a sick brother, or brother in distress, or of the widows and orphans of brothers, should be dealt with upon its own merits, and with a most watchful eye, not only to present but to prospective usefulness.

The writer is convinced this matter is of the very highest importance to the welfare and honor of the Order, and he ventures, with due deference, to submit these observations to the "sober, second-thought" of the "Heads of Departments" and the "people" in general; in the belief that, if they be pronounced to be the creation of an over-anxious solicitude, they will not even be suspected of being the production of obtrusiveness, or any unworthy motive. H.

LIBERALITY OF ODD FELLOWS.—The Odd Fellows of Massachusetts have contributed above ten thousand dollars for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire, at Nantucket. Six thousand were contributed by them as Odd Fellows, and the residue as citizens. One Lodge, in the county of Barnstable, gave three hundred dollars more than all the rest of the county together!

RELIEF.—Nearly \$2000 have been contributed by the citizens and Odd Fellows' Lodges of Marblehead, Mass., to assist in relieving the numerous widows and orphan children, whose husband and fathers were lost in the eleven Grand Bank Schooners which were overwhelmed in the gale of the 19th September.

THE ODD FELLOWS' RECORD.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1847.

TO THE ODD FELLOWS IN CANADA.

FEARFUL sounds of wailing are heard proceeding from the Old Countries,—from the Countries we love so dearly,—from the lands we endearingly and affectionately call by that talismanic, that heart-stirring, that soul-awakening word—HOME!

We hear the horrid cry of gaunt Famine,—we hear tell of crowds of skeletons stalking over the roads of Ireland, and in the streets of her cities, and in the isles and on the hills of Scotland, appealing for food in tones (usually, it is true,) of sanity, though sanity rendered desperate by approaching death, and by the yawning grave; but oftentimes in the yells and the wolfish howlings of the horrible Insanity, that results from absolute starvation. Oh! think of it, Odd Fellows,—think of it.

We do not fear, you will not subscribe to the Fund for the Relief of the Famishing Irish and Highland Scotch,—we have no apprehensions on that score,—none whatever;—but, Christian Readers, when you do give, call up before you the terrible picture exhibited by the news of the last steamer! Oh, God! mysterious are thy ways! We can no more,—description fails,—speech is wanting.

ODD FELLOWSHIP vs. PROFANITY.

WE find the following resolutions in the Symbol, adopted by the Pilgrim Lodge, Abington, Mass. July 8, 1846. It indicates the high tone of Odd Fellowship, and the moral influence it exerts over those who come within its borders. The vote was *unanimous*.

"Believing that the cause of true benevolence cannot prosper, or even find a place in the heart of him who takes the name of the Holy God in vain—and that those who thus indulge in the vile and degrading practice display a total disregard of those principles which warm and cheer the heart of every honorable and high minded Odd Fellow—therefore,

"Resolved, That we will strive to drive out from our Lodge this evil, by a firm and unwavering effort, by reprimand, fine, or suspension.

"Resolved, That for the first offence we will strive, in the true spirit of our Order, to restore such a Brother, by plain dealing, and by warning him of his dangers.

"Resolved, That after having labored with such unfortunate and reckless brothers as will not refrain from profanity, and still continue to grieve their brethren and disgrace the Order, we will enforce the rule laid down in our By-Laws for improper conduct in or out of the Lodge."

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

Mercantile Lodge, Quebec, intend celebrating their anniversary some time next month. Albion Lodge celebration takes place shortly. We have not been informed of the precise date. We hope our friends in both Lodges will not omit sending us a report of their proceedings, speeches, &c.