

ry. The upper story is to be used as the Lodge-room of "Neptune Lodge, No. 152, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows."

In the basement, our youth will receive their early education.

In the first or principle story, the more advanced in age may receive such mental improvements as will render them distinguished ornaments of our community.

In the upper story or lodge-room, the members of the Order, by exercising a mutual good will, and by cultivating the Christian virtues and charities, may, through redemption, receive admission into the "Celestial Lodge above."

May it be so—

And now

"Brothers let's onward, proclaim to the world,
On the ramparts of Reason our banner's unfurl'd,
By Friendship and Love, are our weapons supplied,
'In God is our trust,' we have Truth for our guide."

ADDRESS

*Delivered before "ORIENTAL LODGE," No. 7, I. O. O. F.,
on the Evening of 24th February, 1847,*

BY BROTHER SOLOMON STEELE.

NOBLE GRAND, OFFICERS AND BROTHERS,—It is with no ordinary feeling that I appear before this honored and respected Body to fulfil the duty you have invited me to perform. The call upon me was unexpected, and I am fully aware that nothing short of vanity could have prompted me to accept the invitation. But had I duly considered the talents and eloquence displayed by those respected Brothers who have addressed you on former occasions, and the high intelligence of those persons I am to address, I should have despaired of being able to offer any thing which might be interesting to you or an honor to myself.

But, relying on that kind indulgence and charity which is peculiar to our beloved Order, I shall attempt to make a few brief remarks, which are sincerely intended to promote the prosperity and happiness of Oriental Lodge, of which I have the honor of being a member.

The institution of an Odd Fellows Lodge in this section of country is of recent date, and although the general principles of our Order have been published to the world, yet many men seem to possess the most vague ideas of its objects, while others are constrained to acknowledge its high moral character, yet are unwilling to admit its utility in a Christian land. And true it is, that our country is highly distinguished for its laws, both civil and religious, and also for its institutions of learning; and for all this, we may be proud, and should be truly grateful to the Great Author of our being. And yet I would appeal to the heart and conscience of every true Odd Fellow, if it is not equally true, that even in this Land of distinguished privileges, Friendship and Love, the most noble principles of man, have had only a name to live. It is not my present purpose to enumerate and bring to your view, the amount of good which has been, or may hereafter be done, by the institution of Oriental Lodge. But I take pleasure in saying, that I know not where to look for that association of men of an equal number, who have done as much, in the space of less than two years, to

ameliorate the condition of the distressed and afflicted; and I take great pleasure in knowing, that we still have in store the handsome sum of about £50, to comfort the hearts of the bereaved widow and mourning orphan, when occasion may require it.

And I take pride in congratulating you, my respected Brothers, for that benign influence which has shone forth from our Lodge, and for that success which has crowned our efforts, to promote peace and goodwill among men.

In view of these facts we readily see, that it becomes the imperative duty of every Brother of our Order, to cultivate a spirit of kindness and forbearance, and a love of harmony, keeping ever in view that important truth, that all associations of men—the Christian Church not excepted—have suffered more from intestine divisions, than from outward enemies. If we would, then, perpetuate that Institution which has done so much to relieve suffering humanity, and to elevate the moral character of our fellow-men; in short, if we would put to silence our last enemy, let us obey that injunction which fell from the lips of Him who spake as never man spake, "See that ye love one another."

But perhaps some Brother may say, "I do love every true Odd Fellow, but I cannot love those who are only such in name."

This leads me to say, that in my humble opinion, no subject stands so directly connected with the future prosperity of our beloved Order, and is so likely to effect its vital interest—yea, more, its very existence—as that of the admission of new members. The subject has been ably handled by those who have addressed us on former occasions, and its great importance must be my apology for calling your attention to it again; and I would beg leave to say, that in my opinion the Constitution and By-Laws of our Order are defective. I maintain, that it is not enough for us to believe, and from report, that the Candidate possesses a fair moral character, is in sound health, &c., to grant him admission to our Order. The whole Fraternity, to a great extent, stands as surety for every member, for the faithful performance of his obligations; and since ours is styled a secret society, most men take the liberty of judging upon its claims to merit and respectability from the character and conduct of any one of its members; consequently a fair amount of talent, both physical and acquired, should be held as indispensable qualifications. Every member of our Order should not only be willing to obey our laws, but should be competent to make such laws, as may prove salutary in their effects. Past experience and history informs us, wherever there has been mental and moral light, there has been peace, harmony, and prosperity. But when ignorance abounds, then anarchy and confusion prevails.

Ignorance is one principal cause of the immoralities which abound in the world. The History of Nations affords abundant proof of the truth of this remark. And if we turn our eyes to the state of society around us, we shall find that the same cause has produced the same effects.