

each subsequent celebration may be more numerous than the last. God speed them on their good way and

—“May the seasons thus,
As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll,
Still find them happy, and contenting Spring
Shed her own rosy garland on their heads:
Till evening comes at last serene and mild;
When, after the long vernal day of life,
Enamoured more, as more remembrance swells
With many a proof of recollected love,
Together down they sink in social sleep:
Together freed, their gentle spirits fly
To realms where love and bliss immortal reign.”

—Cobourg Star, May 26.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the ODD FELLOWS' RECORD.

SIR,—Much has been said, and written, in relation to our ancient and honorable Order, both in its favour and against it. It has been presented to the public in almost every point of view; its principles have been extolled; the moral lessons which it teaches have been expatiated upon by its advocates; and the laws by which it is governed have been explained, and are within the reach of all. On the other hand, Slander, with its thousand tongues, has thrown out its venom; and every epithet that ignorance and wickedness could invent, has been used to lower it in the estimation of the community.

In the midst of this conflict of opinion, our standard has been raised, and is hoisted in almost every District of United Canada,—nor is it designed to be confined within its limits. The time cannot be far distant when our altars will be erected through the length and breadth of the British North American Provinces; and the mystic charm of Friendship, Love and Truth, encircle as one body, the great family inhabiting this vast Continent.

That such must be the result, there can be no doubt; for in proportion as our principles are understood, so they must be valued; and as they are valued, so must they tend to bring about in the world that state of feeling between man and his fellow, which a system of morals, the most pure and the most exalted, is calculated to produce.

That the principles of our beloved Order are not here over-rated, must be admitted by every unprejudiced observer. Let one but suppose a stranger visiting our Lodge Rooms, and let him behold the various devices by which he is surrounded—“Justice”, “Honour”, “Friendship, Love, and Truth”, “Universal Brotherhood”, as well as the following precepts:—“Support the Widow”, “Visit the Sick”, “Educate the Orphan”,—with others of the same tendency;—and I apprehend that the candid mind must be struck with something beside the idea that the Fraternity is merely a Society where meetings are held in secret, for purposes known alone to its members. Let him turn to the code of laws by which the Lodge is governed—let him there see for himself what must be the character of every man who finds admission there:—what the conduct expected of every one who has

found admission there,—what the benefits to be derived by the individual who is associated with the men who, from time to time, assemble there. And I have yet to be convinced that these enquiries, if made in a right and in a proper spirit, will lead to any other conclusion than that the Institution is one calculated to promote the good and welfare of all its members. Indeed the impression must be powerful upon his mind, that if the Lodge does what it professes, no fear need be entertained by its members how they will fare in the day of sickness and of death, so far as the supply of their temporal necessities is concerned,—what the state in which the widow will be left, or how the fatherless children will be brought up and instructed.

These, however, are not matters of mere supposition or idle speculation; the Records of the Lodge show what it *has done*, and its members *know* what it is able to accomplish; and they are also satisfied that the more extensively understood the nature and objects of the Order become, the sooner will the time arrive when strife and dissensions shall cease in the world, and when man shall know in his fellow man but a friend and a brother.

That such are the feelings which *must* and *do* actuate every Odd Fellow, who is one in Spirit and in Truth, I maintain; and, ere I conclude, would ask the question—what must the effect be upon a community, were such a state of feeling to exist? The answer need not be long sought for. Poverty and distress must cease; our alm-houses and our fever-houses must remain tenantless: the *chanters* of the well disposed will not be *taxed*; and the way will be paved for every member to travel through life in peace, and finish his days in comfort.

ALBION.

Quebec, 24th May, 1847.

SOCIAL EQUALITY THE AIM OF ODD FELLOWSHIP.

Odd-Fellowship aspires to restore equality, and bring man to a clearer recognition of his duty to his fellow men. In the world without, there are innumerable artificial distinctions and arrangements, which most painfully constrain the soul. There are barriers in the most democratic societies, which separate man from man, and tend to erase entirely the sense of fraternal obligations. Odd-Fellowship aims to introduce another order of Life, where there shall be no honors nor distinctions, but such as are based on *MEARIT*. All the arrangements of the outward life—our social organizations, to which we owe allegiance as citizens, have a materializing tendency, are the result of selfish calculation, and give to the more earthly portion of human nature, a most fearful predominance; whereas our association, and all similar institutions, are calculated to develope, and make active, the social sympathies and affections, and thus make men feel that the sacred terms of Friendship, Love, and Truth, are something more than illusions—empty names, invented only to amuse or deceive!

Standing in the midst of the world, we do not see men as they are. Life is but a vast *manquerade*, where, each one seeking a personal interest, veils his real purpose, and appears what he is not; and where no one is certain of meeting a look, or of grasping a hand, which responds in sympathy to his own. Around us, all is Show, Illusion, Appearance! We wander among