

## The DOMINION ODD FELLOW.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND LODGES OF ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

A weekly journal, double royal size, sixteen pages, devoted to the promotion of brotherhood and principles embodied in its motto: "Friendship, Love and Truth."

Having a large and rapidly increasing circulation, it offers special inducements to advertisers, circulating as it does among the most intelligent class of the community. No advertisements inserted offensive to pure taste or good morals.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—One Dollar and Fifty Cents per annum, in advance.

Address—THE DOMINION ODD FELLOW,  
5 Jordan St., Toronto, Canada.

## The Dominion Odd Fellow.

Editor: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, P.G., P.C.P.

Special Contributors:

J. B. KING, G. SEC., ONTARIO, and F. C. WILLSON, P.G.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 26, 1895

General Smith, of Illinois—in respect of whom we published an article last week by Past Grand Sire Campbell—has filled his responsible position as Grand Scribe for twenty-one consecutive years.

First-class fraternal papers always give credit for copied articles, second-class papers mark them "Ex." and the others—well, they steal, brothers, steal, steal with care, steal the brain work of the other editaire. They use, no doubt, steel scissors.

It is a curious fact that, although it is easy enough to get the brothers to join the auxiliary organizations, where the sisters are in control, they can not be induced—only a few of them—to attend the meetings regularly. Perhaps if the officers would wear bloom—well, of course, the costume might be attractive.

The annual election of officers in our fraternal lodges is one of the most important happenings of the entire year. See to it that capable brothers are placed in the chairs and your lodges will prosper. Put incompetent brothers in and the excuse for not attending, "there is nothing going on," will become "one grand sweet song."

"My good brother," said a Rebekah, "have you ever stopped to think how much money is wasted each year for tobacco and rum?" "Well, really," replied the brother, "I have't, for it's been taking all my time to figure out how many poor families could be supported off the price of the extra cloth women put in their sleeves."

Brothers, send us the news. Have you had an ice cream social lately, an oyster supper, have you painted the cemetery fence, or has your Noble Grand "done and gone" and got married? You surely can find something to write about, and we have to depend upon you to furnish the items. Try your hand at it, even if you don't write but three lines.

The members of every lodge should do all in their power to keep down and discourage gossip. A highly respectable citizen and grand man of this community in years gone by, who was a leading Odd Fellow and Mason, whenever he heard anyone censuring another was wont to remark: "If you cannot say anything good about a person, don't say anything at all."

We regret to learn that Mrs. Ross, wife of the Grand Secretary of the S.G.L., who was injured by a fall at Atlantic City last September, has not yet fully recovered from the accident. In response to an enquiry from this office, Bro. Ross writes: "Am glad to say that Mrs. Ross is improving, though her progress to complete recovery is slow. She walks a little on crutches, but cannot leave her room."

The *Fraternal News* remarks: "We are sad and dejected. We have made a mistake, but we acknowledge it. We sent a kind-hearted brother a bill, and he became real mad and ordered his paper stopped. He only owed us for four years, and now we know that he would sooner owe us all his life than to cheat us out of the amount due. He was so mad that he forgot to send a check with the order to stop, and we do not know what to do. If we stop his paper the *News* will go up, and if we do not stop it he will keep mad and forget to settle."

We have received, from Bro. M. D. Dawson, Grand Scribe, a neatly-bound copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the Grand Encampment, Session of 1895. Bro. Dawson has embellished the Journal with photogravures of some sixteen Past Grand Patriarchs, which, together with the general well gotten-up appearance of the Journal, makes it a valuable record, more particularly to Patriarchs who enjoyed the personal friendship of those who in years past beld sway over that Grand body, many of whose acts will be pleasantly recalled by a look at their shadows. We congratulate Bro. Dawson on the completeness of his Journal.

Before our next issue the great New Year's Day concert in Massey Hall will have been held. The excellence of the talent—every artist being a star—demands that there should be a crowded house on each occasion, and from the appearance of the plan, as we go to press, there is every indication that such will be the case. The popular price of twenty-five cents has been maintained throughout the entire hall, with no extra charge for reserving seats. The efforts of the committee should be rewarded for the enterprise they have shown. This is one of the best means of giving publicity to our Order. Let every Odd Fellow lend a hand.

## ELECTIONS.

Again are the members of the various lodges required to select the officers who shall guide the destinies of the lodge for the next term. Again we urge brothers to exercise care and sound judgment in making that selection. A mistake now in placing the helm in incompetent or careless hands, cannot, except in the case of flagrant abuse, be rectified until the end of the term.

The honor of passing through the chairs of a lodge should be not only the reward of service—a recognition of earnest and continuous work on behalf of the Order—but should also testify to the ability and acquirements of the brother so honored. The position of presiding officer in an Odd Fellows' lodge is too important a one to be given to any brother whose attainments do not qualify him to fully comprehend and properly discharge the duties pertaining to that office. There are many in our vast brotherhood who unfortunately have not had the opportunity of acquiring the education and business training that are essential qualifications (or at least ought to be) for such a position. There are brothers, too, who may be even scholarly in their attainments, who nevertheless possess no executive abilities whatever. Such a brother in the principal chair is practically powerless in any emergency, and his floundering when attempting to stem the current of a warm discussion are positively painful.

It is difficult sometimes, indeed often, to decide between two candidates—both seem to be equal in ability and merit—in such cases personal popularity decides the matter. There is a danger, however, of this same personal popularity causing too much weight in the matter of votes. The less popular brother may be, and very often is, the best fitted for the position. Firmness of purpose, and a certain amount of positiveness, are essential to success in a presiding officer. These qualities, however, do not always lead to popularity; not infrequently, it is quite the reverse. We need not point out, however, the folly of voting against a candidate simply because his views are not always in accord with yours, or the worse than folly, of opposing a brother's election because he may have previously defeated you in a discussion, or some plan of your own which you wished the lodge to adopt.

The struggle is nearly always for the V.G. chair. This is as it should be. The reasons should be grave and potent beyond question, that would justify a lodge in defeating a V.G. for the principal chair by electing a P.G. No question of personal likes and dislikes, merely, will do in such a case. If, however, the V.G. has been found to be unfit for the position, so that the standing and progress of the lodge will be materially affected and retarded by