

was practised in this jurisdiction with strict fidelity until the year 1826, when it became necessary, in consequence of a change in the very *first principle* in England, that an effort should be made to produce uniformity in the Order. Thomas Wildey, the Grand Sire of the United States, visited Manchester, by appointment, for that express object. Whilst in England he was instructed in this change, and in the entire work; upon his return he submitted an official report to the Grand Lodge of the United States, and at his urgent solicitation it was resolved by that body to conform to the change, not however, without the most earnest and continued remonstrance against the measure by the State of Pennsylvania, then the most influential jurisdiction in the Order in the United States. The language of Odd Fellowship was thus again made uniform, and has continued unchanged from that time in this country; and the Lodges in America, "as now constituted," are precisely the same as they ever have been. How then does it happen "that English brethren arriving in the United States, labor under great disadvantages, and can seldom, if ever, avail themselves of the benefits of Odd Fellowship in American Lodges as now constituted?" The answer is at hand. They know not the ancient language of the Order, and speak a tongue unintelligible to this jurisdiction. Is it not therefore apparent that the failure on your part to consult the Order in the United States, and the exercise of independent authority to mould its features at pleasure, in England, have produced this much to be deplored result? It has been the anxious desire, for many years, of the Grand Lodge of the United States to preserve a regular and full correspondence with the proper authority in the Board of Directors of England, in relation to the general concerns of the Order, and especially in reference to the momentous subject of the work or *language* of Odd-Fellowship: this wish has been heightened, by circumstances which have brought to its knowledge the necessity which has compelled many Lodges in America to distrust, if not to turn away members from your jurisdiction, in consequence of their inability to converse in the language of the Order, as we received it from England, and as we now know it, and desire to preserve it. The great solicitude of the Grand Lodge of the United States on this subject, has from year to year impelled it, earnestly and affectionately, to expostulate with the Manchester Unity upon the propriety and justice of maintaining the original institutes of the Order, and although it may have subjected itself to the imputation of impotency, by the number and frequency of its appeals to the mother country, yet it has ever been influenced by a sincere desire to preserve unimpaired the work of Odd-Fellowship, and has not yet abandoned the hope of closing securely the doors of its Lodge-rooms against that spirit of change and innovation, which in its all-pervading influence, now-a-days, is making fearful inroads upon the ancient teachings of the temple. Hitherto its remonstrances, if they have not been received with positive displeasure, certainly have produced no congenial response, and have awakened no interest indicative of a regard for the subject, corresponding to the great importance which has ever been attached to it in this country. It is true that in the "official correspondence" of 1838 with that department, the sentiment which we expressed "that next to Religion Odd-Fellowship was the best institution which Providence had given to man, for the amelioration of his moral and social relations," is cordially reciprocated, \* \* \* and assurance is added "that no definite action would ever be made without our knowledge;" yet the most important changes in, and departures from, the *ancient language*, have been made in your jurisdiction, and propositions further materially to change the structure of Odd-Fellowship are now pending before the Order in England. We do not venture to deny, or doubt the authority of the Man-

chester Unity in the premises, but having been educated in the principles and teachings of the ancient school, we venerate the early simplicity of the language of Odd-Fellowship, and earnestly, but respectfully, once more invite your calm and dispassionate consideration of the subject. If the principles of the Order are worthy of preservation—if they are destined to be spread throughout the civilized earth, wherever the enterprising and daring spirit of Englishmen and Americans may lead them, the *language* by which they are to be understood, and made practically operative, should be one, consistent, identical; otherwise in the *confusion of tongues* the fate of the Order, in another quarter of a century, may be read in the history of the *ancient tower*. It may be that in the strength and power of the Order under your jurisdiction, in the volume of its details, and the scattered location of its subordinates, great difficulties may be found to lie in the way of re-producing uniformity; but these obstacles, although great, have not deterred us from again pressing the subject upon your attention, nor has the unwelcome reception of the repeated suggestions hitherto respectfully offered, forbid the hope, still ardently indulged by the Grand Lodge of the United States, that this important concern will cease to be of no regard to the Manchester Unity. If the protection due to the thousands of Odd Fellows, whom necessity or inclination brings to our happy land, in quest of employment and gain, now unprotected by reason of the confusion in the language of the Order, will not admonish the Manchester Unity of the error already committed in the change which has been made, and of the necessity of a return to first principles, it may still be hoped, that the welfare of the institution itself, as essentially interwoven with its identity wherever practiced, may not be longer disregarded. The Grand Lodge of the United States, influenced alone by an anxious desire to preserve the most affectionate communion with the Manchester Unity, and regarding the wider difference in the work of the Order between the two jurisdictions, so likely to flow from independent and distinct modifications of it from time to time, without mutual consultation and agreement, as certain in the end to lead to entire estrangement in their relations, at its last session gave to this subject its most serious consideration. The undersigned has the honor herewith to submit "official" copies of the several resolutions adopted by that body.

R. W. GRAND LODGE OF THE UNITED STATES, I.O.O.F.,  
September Session, 1841.

"Resolved,—That the difficulties existing in the Order by a want of uniformity in the work, is deeply deplored by this Grand Lodge.

"Resolved,—That so soon as sufficient funds can be procured to defray the expense, one or more members of the Order shall be appointed to visit England—with instructions to confer with the Manchester Unity, on the subject of the difference in the work of the Order, and to use their best endeavours to procure a return to the ancient work.

"Resolved,—That the Corresponding Secretary address a communication to each Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment, working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the United States, stating the importance of the object to be attained by a deputation to England, and asking a contribution of at least ten dollars from each Subordinate Lodge or Encampment under their jurisdiction, to be applied to defraying the expenses of one or more members to be appointed to visit England, authorized to use their best endeavours to obtain uniformity in the work of the Order."

These proceedings furnish an earnest of the deep interest which is felt in this country for the prosperity and preservation of the institution of Odd Fellowship—the unanimity with which they were adopted may serve to show the all pervading character of that interest throughout our whole jurisdiction.

The Grand Lodge of the United States being exclusively a legislative body, exerting a general supervisory care and protection over the various State governments in Odd Fellowship, possesses a very limited revenue—hence the necessity of the appeal made to the