



PRETTY SMALL BUSINESS FOR A BIG NATION.

UNCLE SAM (to type writing girl from Canada)—“Come now you'll have to get out; no foreign contract labor allowed in this country!”

[Vide Newsome case at Buffalo.]

ODD FELLOWSHIP ELUCIDATED.

IT is a well-known fact that since the late Mr. Morgan issued his masterly *expose* of Free Masonry, that Order has not increased a single lodge—at Don Mount. The Masons deserved this fate, for a wickedder lot of men never built a brick chimney. Several attempts have been made to put down the Odd Fellows in the same way, but from the rapidity with which their numbers increase it may be surmised that these attempts have thus far been comparatively ineffectual. What the outside public call for is not so much the extinction of this order as a popular elucidation of some matters concerning it, and it is the object of the present brief article to fill this long-felt want. Being ourselves outsiders we feel specially qualified for the task, and set about it as cheerfully as human nature at the age of five sets about doing the family washing. It may be said that writers should not attempt to deal with subjects which they do not understand, but if this pestilent rule were practically enforced what would be the fate of the editors of the *Globe* and *Mail* and other persons we could mention? 'Tis too horrible to contemplate, so we will proceed to our mutton, as the French say.

I. The name, Odd Fellow, is the first thing that strikes an inquiring stranger on contemplating the subject. The members of the Order are most peacefully disposed men, and if they could prevent this name from striking strangers we feel sure they would. But so it is.

It is a popular mistake to suppose Odd Fellows are so

called because they get home at odd hours on lod, e nights, and often have an odd smell of cloves clinging to their moustachios.

II. The second point we would touch upon is the insignia of the Order. Like other secret societies, the Odd Fellows do business under certain trade marks. The chief sign of the Odd Fellows is the three links. This emblem is intended to typify the extreme ancientness of the Order, and has no connection whatever with the sausage business as some erroneously assert, for the original founder of the Society was not a dealer in that kind of goods. Neither are the three links emblematic of any sympathy with the committees of the City Council, and whenever a crooked alderman is found wearing a similar symbol, it is not a sign of odd-fellowship. On close examination it will be found that the ornament is brassy, and in such cases it is intended to convey the entirely superfluous information that these committee men are bound together in rings. The Odd Fellows' links, as we have said, symbolize the age of the Order. They are intended to carry the mind back to that remote and misty period of the past in which man evolved into his present species; in other words, they are the missing links which Darwin has hunted for in vain all over the house.

III. Another very beautiful and expressive emblem has been as greatly misunderstood. We refer to the hand and heart, which, it will be remembered, is always represented as a seat of life reposing upon the palm of a hand. The butcher theory has trailed its slimy tail over this expressive symbol as well as over that of the Links. It is held by the advocates of this theory that the hand and heart is an additional proof of the butcherly origin of Odd Fellowship, and that it was borrowed from a sign which hung in the Founder's shop-window, bearing the words “Heart always on Hand.” Another far-fetched theory has sprung up, which refers the origin of this emblem to the fact that when the Odd Fellows Uniformed Encampment assembled on the cliffs of Dover to repel the invading army of Julius Caesar, they were awfully scared, and, as the phrase has it, “carried their hearts in their hands.” This is absurdly untrue, historically, as Mr. Goldwin Smith has proved. The fact is the Odd Fellow troops fought nobly on that



INCONSOLABLE.

[It is reported that Gen. Herbert is likely to be recalled to England to join his regiment.]

Distress of the Canadian Government and Militia on hearing this announcement.