

in an age when the world was steeped in ignorance, and before the benign influence of education was felt. Rome had so persistently proclaimed her reformation in this respect that she almost deceived "the very elect," and many good people were fain to believe that Rome had indeed changed—forgetting that it has been and still is her proud boast that she is unchangeable. It needed a rude shock to awaken such people, and the dynamiters have effectually done so. They have proved that the Rome of to-day is the same as that which authorized the massacre of Saint Bartholomew, and kindled the fires of Smithfield, and those who believed that Rome had become tolerant find that although "the voice is Jacob's voice, the hands are the hands of Esau;" that although the hand is covered with velvet, the steel is beneath, and only the power and opportunity are wanting to make Rome to-day the hideous thing she was in the hey-day of her power. It is not to be wondered at, then, that Protestants of all denominations in the fatherland, discovering the insidious foe they have to fight, have sought eagerly the shelter of the old Orange tree, beneath whose sheltering foliage they can find that security the law cannot give.

ORANGE MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY.

It will be gratifying to you to hear that the Orange Mutual Benefit Society has been placed in good working order, and that the increase of membership during the past year has been unparalleled since its organization. At the close of last year the membership was only 183; and although there had been several deaths no calls had been made upon its members, and nothing of course had been paid to the representatives of deceased members. The Executive, at the beginning of the year just closed, decided to make a supreme effort to revive the society; and, in pursuance of this, agents were appointed in many parts of our jurisdiction, calls were made, and death-claims paid. The benefit of this will be apparent when I inform you that the membership is now 425, and steadily increasing; but your Grand Secretary will give you a more detailed account of the work done, and I shall pass on to consider other matters. Before doing so, however, I cannot but pay a tribute to your Grand Secretary, to whose anergy, ability, and capacity for organization, and to whose untiring work in the interests of the Insurance Scheme, is almost entirely due the success which has attended it. If greater success has not crowned his efforts, the fault is not his, but that of the members; and I may say that it is not creditable than an organization having such a large membership as ours should fail to support a purely Orange benefit society. I trust that during the current year there will be such an increase as will prove that our members have confidence in the scheme, that next year our Grand Secretary will, instead of reporting 425, be able to say that we have 4,000.

DISPENSATIONS.

I desire to call attention to the question of granting dispensations to confer degrees upon members without waiting the usual probationary period. During the past year I have had many such applications, and, relying upon the good faith of the Masters of the Lodges, have in every case granted them. I have lately, however, discovered that abuses of this privilege may creep in. In one instance I received

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