



The Odd-Fellow.

LONDON, AUGUST 30, 1852.

Reciprocity.

Bound as we are by the pledge given in our first number, not to meddle with party politics, it must not be supposed that we choose the subject of Reciprocity for the present article in order to provoke political discussion. To the Free-trader and Protectionist we leave this quarrel, hoping and believing that their contentions and the experiments tried thereon, will eventually serve the purposes of truth, and bring men, at last, to a right understanding of a matter important to all.—The reciprocity we stand up for is one of a general and comprehensive kind—a principle, in fact, of universal application, not only affecting commerce and the intercourse of nations, but embracing the wide range of human enterprise and interests, in moral, social, political, and domestic life.

Odd-Fellowship is itself a well-trying specimen of social reciprocity—an embodiment of the great law of mutual benevolence; and lightly as the Order may be esteemed, it need only be adopted by the world at large to bring about a far better state of things than we see around us at present—a condition much less pregnant with envy, malice and crime, and far more productive of peace, harmony and happiness. It is at the same time no advocate for either socialism or communism. There is no sanction, that we can find, in reason or religion, for these volcanic disturbers of the social fabric. As long as the world stands there will be rich and poor, wise and ignorant, industrious and idle, careful and improvident. Let property be equalized to-morrow, according to the experiment of our French neighbors, and by what consistent law could it be kept so—by what rule of right could it be prevented from resuming the disproportion it held at first? Odd-Fellowship trespasses on no man's privileges—it invades no man's right—it envies no man's position—it takes things as they are, and on a fair principle of reciprocity—it makes provision for the reverses of fortune and the varied ills that flesh is heir to. The wealthy and the poor are found in its ranks, and men of all grades of mind; yet all are alike cared for—all are sought out in distress and relieved—all are visited in sickness, and consoled in misfortune; all, in fact, are bound together in one common bond of brotherhood, by the sacred and ennobling ties of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

Stepping out of our own Order, on to the broad arena of every day life, how little do we see of that reciprocity which, doubtless, should exert a large and powerful influence on the actions of social beings! What a vast amount of strife and confusion, of mischief, misery, and want, present themselves to our view, on every hand, which this same reciprocity might prevent or cure! It is a sad thing to see an old neighbor's property seized, his goods brought to the hammer, and himself and his family thrown on a cold and pit-

iless world; yet this is an affair of almost daily occurrence! The good man—it may be—was neither idle, nor dissipated, nor wasteful, nor wanting in business tact; his failure was not his fault; but he never thought it worth his while to reciprocate acts of kindness with others—he never lent his money or his name, or put himself out of the way to oblige a neighbor, or get a friend out of a difficulty; his rule was neither to lend nor borrow, neither to ask a favor nor to confer one; so that when the evil day came, and misfortune pressed too heavily on his shoulders, there was no aid he could call upon—no reciprocity available to save his credit, or carry him past the crisis.

There is, we fancy, a great lack of reciprocity in what is styled the literary world, through which much damage is done, not only to the parties themselves concerned, but to society at large. We see men in the learned professions, whose minds are expanded—or at least should be—by study and deep thinking, wasting their energies in the pitiful practice of mutual aggression, when they should cordially reciprocate deeds of noble-mindedness, and combine in some great, comprehensive plan, to benefit the age in which they live. We hardly know how to blame the worthy members of the long robe for the evil here complained of, or how to point out a way by which reciprocity can be made the child of their adoption. The turbulent passions of men perpetually plunge them in a vortex of strife; and as long as there are two sides to a question, the virtue we prize so highly will always be scarce in law. But while we resign our estates to this untoward fate, we surely have a right to expect better things from the delegated supervisors of our mortal bodies—the learned men of the potion and lancet. If we suffer them to deplete our veins and our pockets, we may certainly be permitted most respectfully to suggest that it be done in the spirit of reciprocity. It is unseemly, impolitic, and mischievous, and as prejudicial to their own interest as to that of the public, for the members of the healing art to live in strife and discord with each other. When a sick patient is trembling in the balances of mortality, vibrating between life and death, the most prompt and friendly co-operation is demanded from those whose province it is to administer relief, if relief can be had at all. To avert the pitying eye, to withhold the helping hand, to decline acting with a competitor from prejudice, envy, or pique, evinces a low state of feeling, a stoical disposition, and an ill-regulated mind. But undoubtedly the saddest of all, and the most to be blamed and regretted, of perverted reciprocity, is that which trifles with our best interests, under the mild name of denominational differences. We dare not say much on this grave part of our subject—it would be inconsistent both with our position and our plan; yet may we not venture, with becoming reverence, to record our disapproval of practices which good people, of all creeds, deeply deplore, and would be glad to see amended. All, we are fully aware, cannot think alike on points of doctrine or discipline; nor is it important they should do so. But there is abundance of room left still for the exercise of christian reciprocity. There is a wide field spread before us of common interests, common inducements, common duties, and common

pursuits. There is, too, a common enemy to encounter; and while in worldly warfare we learn the good of combined effort, let us at least not forget it when contending for better things.

A few words on the reciprocity of nations, and we have done. And when may the advent of reciprocity on this grand scale be looked for? In our humble opinion, just as soon as the individuals of which nations are composed shall have perfected the lesson themselves. The vast mountain of difficulties which now seems insurmountable, will then melt away, and it will be found quite as easy for nations to reciprocate acts of kindness then, as they now do deeds of aggression. But while we may have a long time to wait for the fulfilment of the prophecy, we cannot help noticing the fact, that countries heretofore estranged, have recently undergone no small degree of improvement in their friendly relations to each other. Among the many wonders displayed at the world's fair, were several rare and genuine specimens of national reciprocity. The exhibition brought the great men of many countries together; and while their intercourse passed off at the time with the ordinary interchange of civility and respect, it doubtless laid for the future a better understanding of each other's characters and worth, and a broader foundation for mutual benevolence to stand on.

NEW LODGE.—A new Lodge of the C. O. of O. F., M. U., was opened in St. Thomas on the 20th inst., by the London District Officers, Bros. HUGHES, ASKEW and SMITH. The following Brothers were duly installed in the three principal offices:

Bro. Wm. Ross,	N. G.
" Wm. H. Cameron,	V. G.
" John Campbell,	Sec'y.

After the business of the evening was concluded, the Brethren of St. Thomas gave a handsome entertainment to the District Officers, in the shape of a splendid spread of the "good things of this life." The evening passed off very agreeably to all parties.

RECEIPT OF MONEY.—From Bro. S. STEVENSON, Secretary Chatham Lodge, the sum of £1 15s., on account of subscriptions to *The Odd-Fellow*. Also, 5s. from Bro. C. NAHRENG, Post Master, New Hope, C. W.

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News.

Arrival of the Atlantic.

NEW YORK, August 23.

The steamer *Atlantic*, with four days later news from Europe, arrived at three o'clock yesterday morning. She made the passage in ten days and seven hours. She brings 150 passengers. The *Asia* arrived at Liverpool on the 7th inst.

ENGLAND.—The fishery question was still freely discussed, and has caused a slight depression in trade. It is believed, however, that the matter will be amicably settled.

Emigration to Australia still continues; fifty ships of 500 to 2000 tons, are to sail from Liverpool and London during the present month.

A note has been addressed by the English Government to the Austrian Cabinet, giving assurance that all measures of precaution will be taken to prevent the presence of Kossuth in London from disturbing the good relation established between England and Austria.

FRANCE.—Prince N. Bonaparte has declined the embassy to Washington. He will, however, make a short visit to the United States.

A decree has been published in the *Moniteur*, authorizing the return of a large number of distinguished exiles. Victor Hugo has been omitted in the decree.

Despatches have been received in Paris that the French fleet had not bombarded Tripoli, but was on the point of doing so, when the case was amicably settled.

Another conspiracy against the Government had been discovered.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Dates from the Cape of Good Hope to the 2nd July, have been received. The Kaffir war had broke out with great fierceness, and raged for 50 miles in length. Several battles had been fought, with only indifferent success.

MARKETS.—Cotton unchanged and quiet; sales of the day, 32,000 bales. Breadstuffs buoyant, with a further advance of 2d. @ 3d. in wheat, 6d. @ 1s. in flour—first quality, released, 20s. 9d. @ 21s. Indian corn fully maintained at previous prices.

At Manchester there was a good business doing both in yarns and cloth, at full prices. Provisions unchanged.

The weather has been unsettled, and large quantities of rain has fallen.

The potato disease continues to spread, and there was much complaint of blight in wheat crops.

Arrival of the Crescent City.

NEW YORK, Aug. 19.

The steamship *Crescent City* arrived here at 12 o'clock last night from Havana. Great excitement is reported to exist there. A great number of Creoles were daily thrown into prison, in which they remained without attention.

The most loathsome dungeons were put in requisition to accommodate those persons who were deemed the most refractory.

Proclamations continued to be issued from a quarter that baffled the ingenuity of the Police. A secret press continues to supply these exciting articles, and the consequence is, that the most rigorous measures are instituted by the Government, and many innocent persons made to suffer.

The *Crescent City*, from Havana, states the arrest of persons supposed to be concerned in the recent proclamation; that some twenty persons have been thrown into prison for having large quantities of powder and ammunition in their houses. One man had no less than 800 lbs. of lead in his house, besides a large quantity of cartridges already made up, and a number of demijohns.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—On the evening of Saturday, the 7th inst., a small house near Jones' Saw Mill, Port Burwell, was burned, and melancholly to relate, the occupants, Mrs. McMillan and her two children, were consumed in the fire.