

They greatly over-do this matter in certain parts of the States which adjoin Canada. Male Reform, and Female Reform, and Adult Reform, and Young Men's Reform—Societies, are not unfrequent, but it is yet to be ascertained, whether "a little blindness and much kindness," extended to he erring, would not be a great deal better, and reform more, than the stern severity of judgment, or the cruel proscription, which follows crime, or even error. Many an Outcast—many a hapless, abandoned, female,—curses the severity that prevented return to virtue,—and they are not wrong (in a majority of cases) in attributing their degradation and obduracy, to those well-meaning (doubtless) yet erring, brothers or sisters, who brand with hot iron, whatever the offence.

There are Brothers in our ranks, far less inclined to be "a little blind and over-kind," to error, than to brand with the hot-iron. They do injury, instead of good. Punishment reclaims not.

Intemperance is a vice, but does it follow that expulsion from the Order must be the consequence of occasional indulgence in the glass that sparkles on the board? There are Brothers who will loudly say, Aye! Now, there is no vice more degrading than that of intemperance, yet an occasional transgression beyond the limit of temperance (though improper) is not an offence so serious as to justify a proposition to expel the offender from the Order. To rule it such, will be to make a Lodge of Odd-Fellows, a Temperance Society; whereas, it is an Association for Benevolence, and Charity, and Brotherly-kindness, and Mutual-relief, under the pressure of want, or misfortune, and mutual consolation in the dark hour of grief or sickness.

In the same way, the practice of fighting duels is a detestable one: it is repugnant to humanity: inconsistent with Christianity, incompatible with the possession of lofty intellectual powers, and the conscious dignity such powers inspire; it is moreover an absurdity. Yet, to rule that the being concerned in a duel, either as principal or second, shall be cause of expulsion from the Order of Odd-Fellows, would be most injurious to the Order.

A common opinion among Odd-Fellows is, that the attempts to introduce such rules into the Order are Inquisitorial, and should be resisted. The grand and vital principle of the Order, is Benevolence. Christian Charity and Brotherly Love are inculcated as duties. The cultivation of such sentiments and feelings is quite sufficient to insure to the Order public respect and private happiness. To beat about in quest of vices; to rule that an Odd-Fellow shall not be "the worse of wine," or that he shall not be engaged in a duel,—under pain of expulsion;—and to endeavour, thereby, and by other such rules, to make an Odd-Fellow a paragon of virtue and morality, is injudicious, to say the least of it. Let us be truly, and sincerely, and practically, Odd-Fellows;—Benevolence our polar-star,—Christian Charity our compass, Brotherly Love our Pilot, and our good and noble ship will never be wrecked. But once hoist the flag of "all the virtues,"

and the crew will desert in such numbers, there will soon be too few hands to work the ship.

H.

FIRE AT QUEBEC.

IN our June number we adverted to the distressing accident at Quebec, wherein several Brothers of the Order unfortunately suffered. Since then we have received the following communications on the subject from Albion Lodge, No. 4. The ready sympathy which immediately followed the unfortunate calamity, affords bright evidence of the beneficial tendency of Odd-Fellowship.

To the Editor of the ODD FELLOWS' RECORD.

I AM instructed by Albion Lodge, No. 4, to transmit for publication in the July number of the *Record*, the accompanying Resolutions. The melancholy end of the three Brothers, which this Lodge has to deplore, will long be felt, and I sincerely trust that the Almighty, in his Providence, may never again visit us with a similar calamity.

I am,

Yours in F. L. and T.,

P. SINCLAIR,

Secretary.

Resolutions passed at a Meeting of Albion Lodge, No. 4, on 13th June, 1846.

"Resolved,—That the N. G. be authorised to make such arrangements as he may deem necessary, respecting the interment of those Brothers who perished in the conflagration of the Theatre last night, and to render such assistance to their families, as their circumstances may require.

"Resolved,—That the Members of this Lodge do attend in a body the funeral of those Brothers, who perished in the fire of the 12th instant, and that they assemble in the Lodge Room for that purpose, at the call of the N. G.

"Resolved,—That each Brother attend the funeral of the deceased Brothers, with crape on the right arm, a sprig in the left breast, and white gloves.

"Resolved,—That as a token of respect to the memory of those Brothers who have fallen victims to the conflagration of the 12th instant, the Members of this Lodge do wear the customary mourning for the space of thirty days, and that the Lodge Room be hung with black, under the direction of the N. G., for the same period.

"Resolved,—That we, the Members of Albion Lodge, deeply feeling the loss we have sustained, in the sudden removal, by the hand of Divine Providence, of our worthy and lamented Brothers, Stewart Scott, Horatio Carwell, and Richard Atkins, desire to express our deep sympathy with their bereaved widows and families, and our readiness to render them such assistance as circumstances may require.

"Resolved,—That the N. G. be requested to forward in the name of the Lodge, a letter of condolence to the widows of our lamented Brothers, enclosing copies of the Resolutions passed by this Lodge at the present Meeting, and at the Special Meeting of the 13th instant."

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF ALBION LODGE, NO. 4.

The Special Committee, to whom it was referred to draw up an authentic account of the late awful calamity, for publication in the *Odd Fellows' Record*, beg leave to report:—

That they have taken up the subject of reference, and although they have found it difficult, if not wholly impracticable, to obtain any authentic statement of the