

tions, we are sorry to say that they have dropped in slowly since the commencement of the Magazine. We have in our fraternity, not only in Montreal, but in Quebec, Toronto and other places throughout the Province, men whose writings would adorn the pages of any Magazine; yet, few have done anything for us in the shape of contributing. It is, for the present, to such men we look for support, and to them we appeal—we trust our appeal will not be in vain.

We thank our worthy brother Montgomery for his "History of the Order" which our readers will find concluded in this number of the *Record*. Brother Montgomery left for Glasgow last month, where he will establish a Lodge in connexion with our Body here, from whom he carries a dispensation with authority to that effect.—Ed. ODD FELLOWS' RECORD.]

**PATRIARCHAL ORDER.**—Since the publication of our last number two applications to open Encampments have been received by the Grand Encampment;—one from Stanstead, and the other from Brothers at Peterboro.

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We are happy to learn that the recently established Lodge at Bytown numbers about fifty members. We commend the Brothers at the head of that Lodge for their assiduity.

#### THE SECRETS OF ODD-FELLOWSHIP.

The subjoined extract is from an address delivered before Crescent Lodge, No. 8, at the dedication of their new Hall on the 27th January last, by P. G. J. Randolph Burns. It contains much argument, and is very beautiful.

There is an objection to the Order, which we very commonly hear expressed in the shape of an interrogation. Why, it is asked, if Odd Fellowship is the admirable institution it is represented to be—and as is conceded, if its objects are as asserted—why, if the diffusion of charity, the greatest and most acceptable of the virtues, be the chief end of the society, is there so much secrecy about the matter? What need is there of it? Ah! this is the identical question which is so continually recurring, as well on the lip of the unreflecting, as of those who fain would be Odd Fellows, but for the apprehension of a "Black Ball." We will reply to it in a manner its importance seems to demand. And first, as Odd Fellows, we scorn to imitate the example of the hypocrites in the distribution of our alms. We see nothing in their rebuked conduct either to dare admire, or imitate. We aim to stifle the promptings of that frail humanity which clamours for the bestowal of alms in the sunshine, that the world may look on and applaud. Oh yes! and it constitutes the glory of the Order, that it distinctly eschews all ostentation and publicity in the performance of its duties. Well do we know, that it would much redound to the credit of the Order, in the opinion of those who know it not, if, instead of veiling the asperities of misfortune, we blazoned them forth in pompous commiseration, and exhibited the hand that relieves them. But knowing that our glorious Order rests on a better than such sandy foundation, we will still adhere to our secrecy, and instead of the laudations of men, strive to win that higher reward and purer satisfaction—the attestations of an approving conscience. What! is it sought to denounce Odd-Fellowship, because of its secrecy? Tell me, ye who venture this, any one secret of the ten thousand mysteries in which "we move, and

live, and have our being." Art thou a philosopher? reveal the secret of the seasons—or the process of reproduction. Art thou a chemist? resolve for me any one of the simple substances—or measure the tenuity of that invisible cement which binds atom to atom, and extending through the infinitude of space, holds the whirling systems in their paths. Art thou an anatomist? explain the secret of any one of the phenomena of thy science. And when thou hast resolved all, or any one of these things, then turn upon thyself, and be confounded in the mystery of mysteries. The poet but too truthfully speaks when he represents man as now being incapable of comprehending "his actions, passions, being, use, and end." A secret veil shrouds all nature in mystery. The rumbling of the awful thunder—the ceaseless noise of the resounding deep—the whisperings of the streamlet's breath—are mysteries. Mysterious alike the whirlwind and the zephyr nestling amid summer leaves. Mysterious are yon beautiful heavens, that shine with a pale light, but to conceal their secrets. Darkness is a mystery; and the last lingering sunbeam that gilds earth's highest projection, proclaims itself mysterious ere it vanishes into mystery.

From the humblest thing in the scale of existence, through every degree of being, from finite to infinite—from the meanest reptile that crawls the earth to man—from man to him that "dwelleth in secret,"—all is mystery.

We desire to silence forever this denunciation of our Order on account of its secrecy. It should be remembered that human happiness was supereminently provided for, by hiding the future amid the folds of secrecy. And what should this teach us? Why, surely, this much, at least, that a thing may be good, even though shrouded in mystery. This is the only concession we would ask. And now let us inquire whether this secret thing that may be good, is not so in fact. We shrink not from the examination, but advance to it in a spirit confident of success. Our glorious Order invites and courts investigation. It shrinks not from the light, but rather loves to bask in it, like a beautiful maiden, conscious of no imperfection.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE R. W. GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF CANADA.

Montreal, Sept. 11, 1846,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7, P. M.

The R. W. Grand Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—M. W. G. P. Matthews, R. W. G. S. W. Hamilton, R. W. G. Scribe Hilton, R. W. G. Treasurer Whitney, R. W. G. Rep. Dunkin, P. C. P. Hardie, Rep. Sache.

Roll called.

Minutes of the Sessions of the 3rd instant read and approved.

P. H. P. Gilbert, Rep. Dyde and Rep. Edmonstone, of Hochelaga Encampment, No. 1, were introduced and took their seats as members of this Body.

G. Rep. Dunkin, as Chairman of the Committee on the Independence of the Order, presented the following Report and Resolutions:—\*

On motion of G. Rep. Dunkin, the Grand Encampment went into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the above Resolutions.

Some time having been spent in Committee, the M. W. G. P. resumed the Chair, and G. T. Whitney, as Chairman of said Committee, reported as follows:—

The Committee of the Whole, to whom was referred certain Resolutions relating to the Independence of the Order in this Province, do report that they have carefully considered the same, and would recommend their adoption by this R. W. Grand Encampment.

On motion of G. Rep. Dunkin, seconded by P. C. P. Hardie, the Report of the Committee was received, and the recommendation adopted.

\* See Report and Resolutions at page 157.