

presented, but they saw an example in antagonism with that theory, and they could not trust it as an agent of good, till they saw it separated from evil practices, and its members, in their associated capacity, throwing off the burdens; leading out the institution into the field of promise and of hope, and presenting it in its purity, redeemed from hurtful custom, unmarred by evil practices, gained for it a favorable public sentiment, and restored health, and life, and vigor to its native principles.

The Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, to which we look as our Parent, had its origin in Manchester, Great Britain, in the year 1819. Odd-Fellowship, in some form, had doubtless existed independent of the name, and so had the name existed, and the form in part, without much of the spirit, as early as the middle of the 18th century.

In 1788, the poet Montgomery composed an Ode for a society in London, which had for their motto, "Friendship, Love and Truth," and our own Ridgely says, "from the perfect agreement between the language used,* and the practice of the ancient Odd-Fellows, we are justified in believing that was a society of Odd-Fellows." We are not enough interested in those ancient organizations, to trace their history further; they had the name, it is true, but the similitude between their clubs and the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows now existing, is discernible only in name.

There are different communities, distinct from each other, which proceeded from the parent stock in England,—all professing to labor in the cause of humanity; and among them is the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, Manchester Unity, from which we derive our authority. The Manchester Unity numbers more than 400,000. The Grand United Order of Odd-Fellows, Sheffield Unity; Ancient Order; Bolton Unity; Imperial Order, Nottingham Unity; United Order, Leeds Unity; Imperial Order, Paddock Unity; and the Independent Reformed Order of Odd-Fellows. We sincerely hope the last will prove what its name indicates, a Reformed order of Odd-Fellows in England, and gathering health and power from a conformity to our customs and practices, it may exert a salutary influence which shall be felt, and help to regenerate and reform the others who are Odd-Fellows in name.

The Supreme Head of the Order on the Western Continent has recognized the year 1819, as the period of the introduction of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows into this Western Hemisphere. The formation of Washington Lodge No. 1, at Baltimore, Md., under the superintendence, and by the efforts of the venerable Past Grand Sire Thomas Wildey. He loved the Institution from his initiation into it in England—he saw the wholesome influence it might exert in the land of his adoption,—he labored to plant and nourish it there, and how well he succeeded in his labors of love, can be told you in almost any part of the Hemisphere,—for all abroad, throughout its length and breadth, floats the banner of Odd Fellowship, and under it are marshalled the countless hosts who delight to look to Wildey as the Father and Founder of Odd-Fel-

* "When Friendship, Love and Truth abound
Among a band of brothers,
The cup of joy goes gaily round
Each shares the bliss of others."