

the plan of a common stock, were desirous fully of testing its validity. The Mormons, the Shakers, the Furrierites, the Owenites, &c. &c., have all located themselves with these views and feelings; but as they have been all connected, either with some land scheme, or some fanatical and irrational idea, they have failed to accomplish the benevolent results which might otherwise have been anticipated: and it remains yet to be tried, whether men can be associated together in communities for general advantage on a sound and rational basis, in which one will consent to forego the private advantages of aggrandizement and luxury, for the welfare of a community, and share with them patriotically the moderate enjoyment of all that can make life a scene of rational pleasure and social intercourse, or consent to remain in their present position of extremes—the very rich and the very poor. We are not disposed to think so ill of human nature as to consider the plan altogether impracticable, but fear it is surrounded by so many difficulties, that we must wait till the Golden Age of the World's History again appears, before it can be realized.

In the meantime, a number of private Associations have been called into existence, which are calculated, to a very large extent, to mitigate the contingent sufferings of humanity, and alleviate the woes of bereaved kindred. Some have been for a lengthened period of time in operation, but others are of recent date, and rapidly multiplying.—The Association of Free Masons long stood almost alone, and was universally celebrated. Its field was the world; but being of too aristocratic and exclusive a character, it did not meet the wants, or suit the tastes, of the bulk of mankind. Associations of a similar character, but more confined in their operation, are now taking its place, while it is also more circumscribed within its limits, and now embraces a very small portion beyond the circle of the aristocracy. These are generally on the footing of subscriptions for their support, an internal government and administration of their affairs, and an allowance to the sick and aged; funeral expenses on the decease of a member, and sometimes allowance and assistance to widows and orphans. Where economically conducted, and judiciously managed, it will be seen at once that they are eminently calculated to accomplish a benevolent end, in alleviating the sufferings and meeting the wants of mankind, arising from accident, sickness, and death; and therefore no prudent man should neglect the opportunity thus afforded him, for providing against "a rainy day," to which, indeed, such societies act as a powerful stimulus. The example, order, and prosperity of their members, are well calculated to make a powerful and beneficial impression, and their unity to soften down those unhappy asperities, which arise from political and sectional prejudices.

Amongst these I am happy to see the Society of Odd Fellows take so conspicuous a place, and to witness its ramifications directing their tendency to the utmost verge of the green earth. This

vigorous tree will doubtless take the place of the Parent Stock, and throw out its mighty branches so as to overshadow the whole family of man, and exhibit its fruit for the "healing of the nations," which, when bound by such social and benevolent ties, can never consent to their being severed by the rude arm of war, or allow their repose to be disturbed by the shrill note of the war bugle. Surely if any thing is calculated to make the strife of my passions cease, it is the consideration that my neighbor is my brother, who contributes to assist me when I am sick, to wait upon and console me when on my dying couch, to bear me to the tomb, and to comfort and relieve my widow and my bereaved little ones, and wipe the bitter tears of sorrow from their pale cheeks when I am in the grave.

Who then can withhold his hand and name from Societies, so well calculated to benefit him personally, relatively and socially? J. J. D.

(For the Odd Fellows' Record.)

THE SPRING.

THIS buoyant, revivifying season has returned. All nature rejoices, and not the least, he, the Monarch of all he surveys, that usually noblest, though sometimes meanest, of creation—Man. Leaves have come forth on the trees,—the songsters of the grove are again amongst us, discoursing in notes harmonious to the swelling gladness of our hearts, at sight of the many brilliant evidences of the season, and under the sensations which the removal of the icy fetters of a Canadian winter permits us to feel.

What a contrast does one short month, in these latitudes of America, present! In the early part of April, ice bound the huge St. Lawrence firmly; snow covered hill and savanne, and frigid was the atmosphere to the extent of compelling almost furnace heat in our mansions to command comfort. In the early part of May, steamers and ships from *outré-mer*, fill the harbour of Montreal, the fields and the trees are clad in their vestments of green, and the soft heat of a southern sun steals over us, causing the warm current that visiteth the heart, to act upon every feeling and sentiment as delightfully, as reputed of the fabulous waters that restore to the old the buoyancy and strength of youth.

In England, the first of May is a gala day for lads and lasses. They sally forth to the green fields, and amuse themselves with forming *bouquets* of the early offerings of vegetation—the cowslip and the daisy. Here, we cannot celebrate the good old English practice, for the reason that it is seldom, on the first of May, one cannot perceive the congealed prints of the footsteps of winter. It is a pity our climate should be so cold, in comparison with that of England. It is a pity that, in respect of climate, we could not introduce into our fair province, a little of that "British practice," of which we hear the Provincial politician talk so glibly. However, there is sweetness, if there be bitterness, in our cup;—if we be somewhat overmuch frost-