

Shakespeare. IV. POPULAR ACQUIREMENTS. (Continued from July Number.)

Turning to the more serious aspect of life, we find that a great change came over the language and literature of the period. After the discovery of printing an immense mass of work was given to the people. Scholars no longer had to keep the result of their researches and studies in manuscript, and it became possible for those who were inclined to share in the knowledge of the day. There is a touch of truth, applicable to his own time, in the remark of one of Shakespeare's characters: "Our forefathers had no other books but the score and the tally." When the monasteries were closed in England it was supposed that ignorance would be supreme throughout the land. As a matter of fact it was a great impetus to the acquirement and diffusion of knowledge. The reputation of learning which the clergy had enjoyed was, except in particular cases, undeserved. The condition of the universities under the rule of the church became deteriorated to the worst degree. In the fifteenth century Cambridge had to hire an Italian scholar to write the public orations in good Latin, none of her scholars being able to produce more than the monk's Latin. When Erasmus came to teach Greek at the same University he spoke to rows of empty benches; but Greek was a love of contention for many years with the clergy. It was denounced as heathenish and Henry VIII was forced to use his authority to have the Greek Testament taught at Oxford. The study of Greek branded a scholar as a heretic.

But the age of Elizabeth saw a different state of affairs. The barriers to classical study had been removed. The previous translations of the Bible fostered the study of Hebrew, Greek and Latin and the old classical writers were soon translated and made known to the people. It became fashionable to learn the dead languages not only for reading, but for purposes of public conversation. Need it be said that ladies declined to remain out of the conversation and acquired the tongues. It became fashionable to know Latin and Greek at Court. Royal examples paved the way. Queen Elizabeth herself was a scholar of no mean accomplishment in this respect. When she visited the University of Cambridge in 1564 she is said to have addressed the faculty in Latin and two years later at Oxford, she spoke in Greek without any preparation. Her tutor, Roger Ascham, once said that she read more Greek in a day than a Canon of the Chapel Royal read Latin in a week. Translations appeared rapidly and, by the time Shakespeare was born, all the greatest classical authors were to be read in the vernacular. Scholars like Scaliger and Casanbon lent the weight of great authority to the critical study of the classics. Thus were the dead languages galvanized into life for awhile in England. The process had been gone through long before in Italy and France owing to the dispersion of the Greeks by the Turks. Not only were the classical tongues revived but, what was of far more importance to the development of English poetry especially, the literatures of Europe became known. Travel and translation made known, the wealth of French, Italian and Spanish libraries and German legends became Anglicized, also materials for new works and models for new styles were abundant. The universities flourished, some of the great English public schools—notably Westminster and Rugby—were founded and grammar schools sprang up in every county.

Such was part of the working of the wild spirit of the Renaissance. It had taken hold of Italy a couple of centuries before and was also stirring Spain as that land was never moved before or since. All Europe became infected with new thought; manners and customs were exchanged; new words and styles flooded the languages; wits were sharpened and emotions intensified. There was an ordered wisdom in the process of thought. Out of the chaos of the Dark Ages came a storm of elements, producing a strange melange of learning, adventure, art, wit, dress and display, which amounted to nothing at first but a national dilettanteism, but from which evolved the most glorious era of European literature, the great central luminary of which was the son of an English shop-keeper.

Communications intended for publication should reach us not later than the last Thursday of each month, to ensure insertion. Address, ANGLO-SAXON, Box 296, Ottawa.

SONS OF ENGLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Objects, Aims, and Benefits, of the Order.

ORGANIZED IN TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1874

To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen:

GENTLEMEN AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:—As the question is so often being asked: "What are the objects of the Sons of England Society?" we have been led to present this Circular with the view of giving the desired information:

The objects are to unite all honorable and true Englishmen, who are in good bodily health and between the ages of 18 and 60 years, in an Association for mutual aid; to educate our members in the true principles of manhood, whereby they learn to be charitable, to practice true benevolence; and to keep alive those dear old memories of our native land; to care for each other in sickness and adversity, and when death strikes down one of our number, to follow his remains to their last resting place.

The government of the Order is vested in a Supreme Grand Lodge, and in Subordinate Lodges. The Grand Lodge is composed of delegates elected by the Subordinate Lodges to represent them. The Grand Lodge is supported financially by a per capita tax of 10 cents per member per quarter. The Grand Lodge Officers are elected annually.

Subordinate Lodges are supported by initiation fees, and weekly dues; they have control of their own moneys, elect their own officers, make their own by-laws, (subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge), and in every way conduct their business to suit the majority of the members. We meet in our lodge rooms at stated times in fraternal intercourse, learning each other's wants giving words of encouragement and good cheer, and to those in trouble and distress, substantial assistance. The moment we enter the Lodge room all distinctions are left sight of, and we meet on one common level, and by this constant association and intercourse, an amount of love and interest is created for each other, which is made manifest by the good work accomplished.

The rapid growth of the Order has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its founders, and it is steadily extending itself into the hearts of our countrymen, and we are confident that when the objects and aims are more generally understood, it will become one of the grandest and most useful of Benevolent Societies.

The Order has branches as follows:—In Toronto 20, South Africa 8, London 5, Ottawa 4, Montreal 4, Hamilton 2, St. Thomas 2, Orillia 2, Peterboro 2, Kingston 2, and one in each of the following places:—Oshawa, Whitby, Port Perry, Cornwall, Port Hope, Belleville, Bowmanville, Lindsay, Woodstock, Galt, Barrie, Collingwood, Bracebridge, Brantford, Almonte, Dovercourt, Newcastle, West Toronto Junction, Weston, Little York, Aylmer, Exeter, Eglinton, Gravenhurst, Guelph, Aurora, Hensall, Vancouver, Stratford, Clinton, Brockville, and we hope by bringing this Circular to the notice of our fellow-countrymen, to imbue them with our enthusiasm and to swell our thousands into tens of thousands.

Though our Society is a secret Society, there is nothing in that secrecy except to enable us to protect each other and prevent imposition; our language of signs and grips enables our members to travel to places where we have lodges, make themselves known as members of the Order, when they will find a brotherly influence surrounding them, receive advice, and if needed pecuniary assistance.

In your initiatory ceremony and conferring of degrees, there is nothing but what will raise a man's self respect and kindle his patriotism and inspire him with benevolence; and the Order only requires you to live up to its teachings, honor your obligations, be true to the country and its laws, faithful to your families, and true to the brotherhood and to God.

We recognize the teachings of the Holy Bible.

The Sons of England Society offer advantages peculiarly suited to your nationality, and is second to none, and whatever benefits you receive are not charity but right, and paid to you by the proper officers without explanations or apologies; and all that is required of you is a small initiation fee, and prompt payment of your dues. Nearly one hundred thousand dollars have already been paid out for benefits.

The Beneficiary Department enables its members to insure their lives for \$500 or \$1,000, and has already proved a great source of strength to the Order. By the payment of a small graded assessment at the death of a member, substantial aid is secured to the surviving relatives, which will assist them in being independent of the cold charity of the world. Members becoming totally disabled and unable to follow any occupation, receive half the amount insured for, if required; the other half is paid at the time of death.

The benefits are medical attendance and medicine, on joining; full sick and funeral benefits after being 12 months a member; in case of sickness the benefits are \$3.00 per week for 13 weeks, and \$1.50 for the next 26 weeks; \$30.00 on the death of a member's wife; \$7.00 on the death of any of his children between the age of 5 and 15 years; \$100.00 on the death of a

member. New members are entitled to half funeral and sick benefits at the expiration of six months.

The Initiation Fees are— 18 to 30.....\$3 00 30 " 45.....4 00 45 " 50.....7 00 50 " 55.....10 00 55 " 60.....15 00

The Subscriptions are weekly, from 18 to 30.....10 cents 30 " 45.....13 " 45 " 50.....15 " 50 " 55.....20 " 55 " 60.....25 "

On the formation of a Lodge, charter members are received on the first scale of payments, as regards initiation fees. In conclusion we ask you take this matter into your earnest consideration, and if there is not a lodge near you, agitate among your fellow countrymen, and as soon as you can get 12 good men together notify the undersigned, and all the assistance required will be given to organize you into a lodge. You will then be astonished how your membership will increase, and will wonder how it was so many Englishmen were living all around you without being known. Any information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER, Supreme Grand Secretary, Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto. April, 1880.

Wake Up, John Bull!

Englishmen! awake! tis time Treason stalks and struts about you In every land, in every clime Jealous hatred longs to rout you. Hold firm your place, tis yours to lead As down the centuries you have done, 'Twas by your sense fair laws were made 'Twas by your valor Rights were won. Lead on, till better men arise Who purer, juster ethics bring; More Christlike men, more gentle, wise, Who own industry for their king. Till then keep watch, for foes abound. The price of safety,—strength and skill In union, faithful ever found Your worldwide duties to fulfil. Waste not your strength in faction fights For you have other fish to fry; 'Tis yours to stand for human rights As did your sires in days gone by. Grit and Tory,—to the devil— To the devil party strife, Politicians rant and drivel, Points the dagger, whets the knife— Warps the judgement, blinds the eyes, Gives your foes the hole they seek, Lurking, waiting to surprise By any specious wily trick. Look back the road three hundred years, The dread Armada looms in view, We know the gear the galleons bear, Bull, interdict, rack, stake, thumscrow. Your English fathers waited not In mandarin hope the storm would pass, But met them prompt with prov and shot And sent them back to mumble mass. There's danger now, and you asleep: Awake! the snares are laid around you, Let not your foes your watch towers keep, Who watch for chances to confound you. Say,—shall a thousand years of strife For level rights and liberty, For honest laws, for upward life, The seed of peace and equity, Shall countless lists of noble deeds The freemen's thoughts ennobling life, Hewing, smoothing, paths that leads To sweet content where peace is rife. Shall these be lost and we return To old time bigotry and lies, To see again the stake fires burn, Again hear martyr'd maidens cries, Again to wade through streams of blood, Again to bear a hateful yoke. See "Fabrique" where your free Church stood, See gee-gaws where your teachers spoke. Scoochmen! Welchmen! Orangemen! Let go dead Gaelic, put by clan, Small pride, small sores, forget,—and then Pull strong together every man. Britons all, arouse! tis time, Thankless treason stalks around you In every land, in every clime, Barbarous hatred would confound you. RICH'D GRIGG. Ingersoll, Ont., July 1st, 1889.

Acknowledgements.

- The following subscribers remitted subscriptions to the ANGLO-SAXON during the past few weeks:— Belleville, July.—S. J. Hill, Rev. A. L. Geen, J. W. London, J. Hind. Hamilton, July.—W. Hunt. Mimico, Ont., July.—Geo. Millet. Ottawa, July.—Robt. Hasty, J. C. Cawthray. Okotoks, Alberta, N. W. T.—G. F. Austin. Quebec, July.—Miss Machin. Woodstock, July.—Wm. Portlock, W. E. Dilkinson. Toronto, July.—John Taylor, C. E. Smith. Victoria, B.C., August.—E. T. Fletcher, Alex. Wilson (A. & W. Wilson & Co.) Brockville, Ont., August.—Arthur C. Bacon, Robert Bowie, Charles Bate, Edwin Bagg, Fred. Bate, Harry Bramley, Wm. Crossley, George Clark, Wm. Cater, N. B. Colcock, John Clough, Wm. Dowell, Joseph Dukesbery, Harry Dodds, sen., Jessie Etherington, Chas. C. Fulford, L. Fox, Thos. Guest, Jonathan Green, Wm. H. Grace, Dr. Horton, James C. Jacks, Fred. Jackson, H. E. Jefferson, Thos. Nappy, John Osmond, F. G. Pollard, Joseph Pratt, Wm. Page, Chas. Steeper, E. W. Summerskill, Ed. Stapley, John Sutton, John Stagg, Geo. W. Turner, Wm. White, John Woodward, Joseph M. West, William Woods, John R. Wright.

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