

It is with much gratification that I am able to intimate to you that an anxious desire to participate in the benefits of our Order, seems to exist in the Lower Provinces under this jurisdiction. This feeling has been expressed in Nova Scotia, by communications to the public prints, but not, as yet, in a shape sufficiently tangible to enable us to take action thereon. A letter, addressed to P. G. Dunkin, from the city of St. Johns, New Brunswick, requesting information as to the proper mode of establishing a Lodge of our Order in that place, was handed to me in the beginning of July by that worthy and esteemed Brother. I have caused a reply to be transmitted thereto, pointing out the steps necessary for the end in view, and promising every facility in aid thereof. To this letter no answer has yet been received; but I have little doubt that, when the period of our next Annual Session arrives, we shall be able to hail as Brethren the members of not a few Lodges in New Brunswick and the other Lower Provinces.

The disunited state of the Odd Fellow Brotherhood throughout the world, has been a matter of serious regret to all true Odd Fellows, and has, during the course of last year, engaged the attention of several zealous and efficient Lodges in this Province. The abrupt termination of the negotiations for a union entered into at Wigan, in the year 1842, between the Manchester Unity and the Grand Lodge of the United States, has been regarded with much concern by many members of the former Body itself; and you will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that steps have been taken by some of the Officers of that Fraternity to tender the olive branch of reconciliation to our Brethren of the United States. That this proposal, if carried out, would have been received by the Grand Lodge of the United States with the same friendship and conciliatory courtesy which we have ever experienced from that distinguished Body during our mutual intercourse, there is every reason to believe; and, should we succeed in arranging amicable terms of communion with any of the Associations of Odd Fellows in Great Britain, I have as little doubt that these terms will be cordially acceded to by our Brethren in the United States.

The charge of endeavouring to establish friendly relations in Great Britain having been entrusted—indirectly, it is true—by the Grand Lodge of the United States, at its last session, to “the newly established Canadian Sovereignty in Odd Fellowship,” I took advantage of the sojourn in that country, during the last winter, of a member of our Order, distinguished for the indefatigable zeal and ability with which he has, upon many occasions, promoted its best interests

—Brother H. E. Montgomerie, to entrust to him the duty of enquiring into the prospects of a reunion. The able and satisfactory Report of that much esteemed Brother, with the accompanying documents, will acquaint you with the particulars of his proceedings under that Commission.

Along with that Report, I was much pleased to receive copies of the Blank Diplomas, and other Forms in use by the Manchester Unity, together with several of the publications of that Body, which had been transmitted, through the hands of the Brother referred to for presentation to this Grand Lodge. I trust that you will be enabled to carry out the intercourse, thus begun, to a prosperous issue, with the aid and concurrence of our Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the United States, and I now commend the subject to your most earnest consideration, deeply impressed with the importance of using every endeavour towards the great end of a firm and lasting union of the whole Fraternity of Odd Fellows.

The duty of drafting a complete digest of such laws and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the government of the Order, having been assigned to the Prudential Committee, by the 21st article of the Legislative Provisions, I am relieved from the necessity of entering into any elaborate recommendations upon that head; I, however, deem the present a fitting occasion, when you are about deliberating upon the Constitutions to be granted to the District Grand and Subordinate Lodges, to offer for your consideration, some suggestions which have been dictated to me by experience in my official capacity.

I believe that a feeling very generally prevails, that the establishment of District Grand Lodges would be attended with great advantages to the Order, and that its early accomplishment is highly desirable; it has, no doubt, been retarded in consequence of the 2nd Article of the Legislative Provisions, requiring all the Subordinate Lodges situate within the District, to acquiesce in the erection of a Grand Lodge, before a Charter could be issued; which could not fail, sooner or later, to create dissatisfaction, the smallest minority being thus vested with the power of controlling the wishes of the majority. I recommend this matter to your deliberate consideration, that such legislation may be had, as will meet the wishes generally expressed in the respective Districts.

I invite your particular attention to the present constitution of Degree Lodges, as well as to the mode of conferring Degrees with the view of insuring more uniformity in practice than at present prevails, and a more regular attendance of members, much and very general dissatisfaction having been expressed at the thin attendance