

who knowingly shield criminals from the punishment of the law, or who exert their talents to make the worse appear the better cause, contribute largely to augment crime. Merchants who begin to trade upon their good name alone—who soon exhibit the most profuse expense in their houses, and shortly by a bankruptcy—and show a flemish account of empty stores and bad debts,—do not shine well in the eyes of the vulgar; but if they come out immediately after with a pair of horses, and live better than ever, the notions of the common people regarding right and wrong, are apt to become exceedingly obscured. If a bank should be robbed by one of its employées, and the Directors should promise not to appear in a criminal prosecution, provided the securities made good the deficiency, and if the Attorney-General should neglect to prosecute them for compromising a felony, the poor must be thoroughly convinced that there is only one crime in the world, and that crime is *Poverty*.

I trust I have said enough to shew how the actions of the rich are appealed to by the poor, as an extenuation for their crimes and follies, and in how many ways the rich do influence the poor. The subject might be much extended; but as my object is merely to establish the leading points, I shall here close the consideration of this axiom.

(For the Odd Fellows' Record.)

CONDUCT IN LODGE.

WHEN one reflects that nightly in every Lodge of Odd Fellows is enounced "the philanthropic principle by which we hail each other as brothers—regarding our Lodge as our family," one cannot fail being surprised that it should ever be necessary to call a Brother to order for personality, or sarcasm, or hastiness of temper. The first lesson to be studied by an Odd Fellow is that of kindness, forbearance, and love, towards the members of his Lodge, in particular, and the Order, in general. Until perfect in that, he cannot be a true Odd Fellow. Of the many benefits to mankind that flow from the fountain of Odd Fellowship, the study of that lesson is one: the more it is studied, the better does a man become in all the relations of life, private or public:—once, got by heart, it is the rudder of good conduct.

It is enjoined on all Brothers, "that all their discussions be conducted in a spirit of candour, moderation, and generosity, and that all personalities and sarcastic language be carefully avoided." This injunction is sometimes disregarded: we are happy to say, not often, but yet too often to be creditable. It is chiefly disregarded by young members, who have had but little practice in the duties of Odd Fellowship. It would not be a bad rule to appoint new members to the Sick Committee: visiting the sick, comforting the afflicted, protecting the orphan, these are the particular duties of Odd Fellowship that try the spirit of the junior member of a Lodge:—these are the duties which are sure to separate the grain from the chaff. The Brother who has not got within him the real material for a good Odd Fellow, will soon get tired of such duties; he will soon

beg off; soon demand his "card of clearance."—Whereas, the Brother who is made of the genuine material, will become all the more and more devoted to his Lodge, the longer he performs them. The counterfeit will soon be detected. He will, in the first place, beg off from holding office in the Lodge, on account of the trouble it gives; and next, he will make the Lodge a theatre for the display of a contentious spirit. A Lodge that has many such members is doomed to a rapid decline. Those Brothers who are thoroughly imbued with the true spirit of Odd Fellowship, become, firstly, dissatisfied, and then disgusted, when such conduct is persevered in:—they retire from the Lodge, or are seldom seen in it: the field is left open to those who are merely Odd Fellows in name:—the sanctuary of Harmony, and Peace, Love and Benevolence, is defiled by Discord, Contention, Jealousy and Ambition, and the Lodge "totters to its fall."

This is a picture rather of what may occur, than of what has occurred, or will occur, if the Presiding Officers in Lodges.—the P. G.'s, N. G.'s, and V. G.'s, are not vigilant to check ebullitions of temper—assiduous to cultivate kindness in manner, word, and deed, and to protect from discourtesy and personality.

No Brother should think of converting his Lodge into a Debating Society. Wordy contention leads to collisions of temper, and these to noisy meetings. Almost every Lodge has one or more members sadly afflicted with the love of hearing themselves talk:—they speak on every subject, and speak a great deal. If in the multiplicity of councillors there be wisdom, the same cannot be said of multiplicity of words. Such persons are inflictions upon a Lodge. They are ever on the alert to discover a peg upon which to hang a speech,—or a hole in the panoply of a disputant wherein to plunge their weapon. Ambitious of victory in argument, they hesitate not to sacrifice the good and welfare of the Lodge. It is all very pleasant to them to pelt their opponents with rhetoric and flowers of speech,—or listen by the half hour to their own noisy eloquence and barren declamation, but it is exceedingly disagreeable to those most thoroughly imbued with the true spirit of Odd Fellowship. But, that is not all—the time of the Lodge is consumed. Brothers, willing to sacrifice any length of time in doing good, have none to spare for what is unprofitable. They are strongly opposed to any and all debate that is not useful.

We know of Lodges where this is not sufficiently attended to by the Presiding Officers. They should hold in with a taut rein, the discursive eloquence of the Brother labouring under that incurable disease known as the *furor loquendi*. If they neglect their duty in that respect, they must not be surprised to find the benches of the Lodge they preside over but thinly occupied during their term of office:—and this suggests to us the importance to a Lodge of selecting its officers with the utmost care and prudence. The Presiding Officer of a Lodge should have perfect command of his own temper, else how can he restrain that of others: he should be gentle yet firm;—vigilant but not exacting: to be too lenient is a fault. He should be a watchful