

of each other, my opinion has changed. There is something in our manner of greeting, in the very name of brother, which brings us nearer to each other, and does away with that frigid coldness, which too often characterises the intercourse between mankind.

Brothers, let us cultivate and cherish these kindly feelings in all our intercourse, let us not forget that we are brothers and members of one great family, let us show to each other and to the world, that if our climate is cold, our hearts are as warm as if we had been reared under a tropical sun. Odd Fellowship is no gloomy structure, reared by the hand of fanaticism and bigotry, nor is it indebted for its rapid and growing influence, to ignorance and superstition, it is founded upon the broad basis of Friendship, Love and Truth, and there it will stand.

Yes, brothers, this proud structure will withstand the rudest shocks of time, and towering above the puny shafts, which canting hypocrites may hurl at it, it will remain as firm and unchanging as its principles are pure and elevated.

There is one subject brothers, which I wish particularly to call your attention to, viz., "The subject of admitting members into our Order." I find it a very generally received opinion, that according to our laws the only qualifications necessary for membership is, a good moral character, and possessing visible means of support, and that a man possessing these qualifications shall be admitted within the sacred precincts of our family. Now, although, these virtues are essentially important and imperative, yet, I do not consider that these alone should entitle him to membership. I think we should ask this question, "Is he a man of sufficient capacity, and stability of character, to make a good Odd Fellow? Is there length and breadth enough to him, to make him a safe depository of our family secrets?"

There are many men upon whom the breath of scandal never rested: perhaps, from their very insignificance in point of intelligence and character, they escaped the scrutiny of the public eye; yet, they are not men I would wish to have become members of our Order.

It does not palliate the injury done to our Order, because a man had honestly, though indiscreetly, exposed its secrets. If the injury is done to the same extent, it matters not whether it be done through weak or base motives.

Far be it from my wish to deprive any honest intelligent man, of the benefit of becoming an Odd Fellow; but I want him to be not only a man in whose integrity I can rely, but also in whose capacity for fulfilling the requirements of our Order, we can depend upon. In my humble opinion, we have more to fear from this class of honest, though weak-minded persons than any other, and I bring this subject before the Lodge, that brothers may be cautious in proposing men of this character.

Brothers, as I have before said, it is now more than eighteen months since the institution of this Lodge. Under the protecting care of a kind Providence, the members of this Lodge, have been shielded from the

shafts of the fell destroyer, death; and, although disease has been prevalent and fatal around us, yet in no instance have we been called to perform the last sad rites of our institution, over the remains of a brother, or been called upon to perform the mournful, yet pleasing duty of wiping from the eyes of the widow and orphan the tear-drops of sorrow.

Brethren, I feel that I have much to thank you for. You have admitted me to membership in this Lodge. You have conferred the highest honors upon me, which a Subordinate Lodge can confer on its members. You have borne with my imperfections and hasty decisions, while occupying the Chair of Noble Grand, and I am fully aware that I am much indebted to your kindness and courtesy in overlooking so much, for all which I beg of you, both collectively and individually, to accept of my sincere and warmest thanks. I cannot permit the present opportunity to pass, without paying a slight tribute to the services performed for this Lodge by the gentleman occupying the Chair of Permanent Secretary, P. G. J. C. Chase. I for one, brethren, feel that he has not only relieved us from much anxiety and annoyance, in performing the thousand and one duties, which have been imposed upon him, but that he has performed those duties more to the credit of himself and the Lodge, than, perhaps, any other member could have done.

He has been appointed on almost every laborious Committee, since the Lodge was instituted, he has drafted our By-Laws and written most of the communications which have passed between this Lodge and the Grand Lodge, as well as Subordinate Lodges and private individuals; in short, he has taken upon himself nearly all the labour of the Lodge, all of which duties, he has performed with zeal and integrity, and I take this opportunity to thank him, in my own behalf, for the relief he afforded me, while occupying the Chair of Secretary. And now, brethren, in conclusion, permit me to thank you for your kind and gentlemanly attention to my brief address, and to express my regret that the subject had not been confided to more able hands.

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SELECT GOOD OFFICERS.

As almost the entire success and character of a Lodge depends upon its officers, the greatest possible caution should be observed in their selection. Let them be not only qualified, but faithful. One of the best qualifications is promptitude. Select no man, however brilliant his mental attainments, unless he be regular in his attendance upon the lodge meetings. Give not your vote for him who finds no time during the whole term to serve on committees of investigation, to visit and "sit up" with the sick, or to "turn out" at funerals—but who on the night before the election comes to the lodge for a nomination. He feels no interest in any of your operations, beyond his own aggrandizement. He wants whatever honor you may be able to confer, and after he gets it, will never darken your door, except it be to pay his dues, that he may not forfeit his benefits. Confer your honors on those, who, by their faithfulness, prove that they are Odd Fellows from higher motives than the mere *good of self*.—*Iris*.