

of disobedience. The Officers of that District, not much alarmed at the prospect of expulsion from a body to which they did not belong, remonstrated against this assumption of authority, and appealed for support to the subordinate Lodges of the London Order. The result of this step was, that many of these Lodges, together with others which had hitherto been working separately, joined themselves to the Manchester District, which from this time was *facile princeps* of the Order of Odd Fellows throughout the kingdom.

About this time, the Abercrombie Grand Lodge seems to have renewed its pretensions to legislative powers over the other Lodges of the Order, and an enquiry was entered into in the year 1821, by the Grand Committee, on the call of twenty-eight Past Grands and Past Grand Masters. This investigation resulted, first in the suspension, and ultimately in the expulsion, of the aspiring Lodge, which united itself, shortly afterwards, to the London or Union Order.

At the quarterly meeting of the Grand Committee in December 1821, a re-organisation of that body, under the title of "Grand Annual Moveable Committee," was determined on, to take effect in the following year, if approved of by the subordinate Lodges. The project was favorably received, and in May, 1822, the first Grand Annual Moveable Committee, having assembled in Manchester, proceeded to enact a Constitution for its government. By this it was provided that the Committee should consist of the present and past Officers of the various Districts, in good standing; that its sessions should be held annually during Whitsun week; and that the place of meeting should be changed every year—the next locality to be fixed on by ballot at each annual session. William Armit was elected Grand Master, and Hanley in Staffordshire, was decided on as the next place of meeting.

On the 29th May, 1823, the Committee accordingly met at the above-mentioned place, to the number of ninety-three deputies. The Constitution previously discussed was now finally adopted, and the title of "Manchester Unity" for the first time assumed, as distinctive of this branch of the Order.

Under this organisation the Manchester Unity continued its rapid increase. In the year 1825, the "Patriarchal Order," was first introduced; and the "Odd Fellows' Magazine," which had been set on foot by P. G. Wardle, was recognised as the official organ of the Order. During the years 1826-27, principally through the exertions of P. G. M. Thomas Armit, a reconciliation was effected with the Abercrombie Grand Lodge, and with the Lodges in Liverpool previously in connection with the London Order, and negotiations for a union with that Order were commenced, though without any successful issue.

At the Annual Moveable Communication, (as the meetings of the Grand Committee were now termed,) held at Nottingham, in June 1827, a Board of Directors was established, for the management of the affairs of the Order during the intervals between the annual sessions; and more than 300 Lodges were reported as

under the jurisdiction of the Manchester Unity. At this Session, G. M. Thomas Wildey, the founder of Odd-Fellowship in America, was present as a Deputy from the Grand Lodge of the United States, and was welcomed with much cordiality. The Degrees of the Covenant and Remembrance, together with the P. G.'s Degree, which had originated in America, were communicated by him, and adopted by the Committee.

At the Communication of 1830, held at Leeds, upwards of 500 Subordinate Lodges were reported, constituting 65 Districts, and in consequence of the establishment of several Lodges in the Principality of Wales, instructions were given to translate the Work of the Order into Welsh. The next few years exhibited a steady onward progress, and in 1834 the number of Lodges had increased to upwards of 700. At the Annual Communication held this year at Bury, the Laws and Work of the Order were thoroughly revised; not only was the verbal Work much changed, but a complete alteration was made in the various signs, passwords, grips, &c. In consequence of this change, a misunderstanding unfortunately arose between the Manchester Unity and the Grand Lodge of the United States, which ultimately led to the severance of intercourse between the two bodies.

Having brought our history to this point, we shall, in our next number, revert to the establishment and progress of the American branch of the Order, with which we are ourselves more immediately connected.

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(For the Odd Fellows' Record.)

### THE PRINCIPLE OF ASSOCIATION.

THE necessity of association for mutual help and support, appears to have been experienced at a very early age of the world; for we find the Postdiluvians uniting their counsels to devise a plan by which they might be prevented from dispersion; and, after the confounding of their language, associating in tribes and nations, and thus forming the foundation of the present nomadic and national distinctions. Nor is it surprising, when a view is taken of the various contingencies of human life, and the accidents to which families are continually exposed, which no human foresight can prevent, or legislation provide for, bitter experience has led at various times, and under various modes, to the institution of plans for meeting such emergencies, which have been crowned with greater or less success. Some have been of a more public character, and received the sanction and support of different governments—some have been established by private individuals, and some by communities—some with the view to the promulgation of peculiar tenets in religion or politics, and others for the promotion of individual security and the welfare of posterity.

Of late, this subject has been regarded with more peculiar interest, especially since the population of the older countries of Europe have become too dense, and the prairies of the United States have offered such inviting fields for the location of those Associations, which, on