

whether he has bowed to idols with the Pagan—performed a pilgrimage to Mecca with a Mahometan—acknowledged no Divine laws but the Mosaic—or bows with the Christian in thankfulness to his Father, for the gift of his Son: If he believes in the Supreme Being, and presents the requisite testimony, he will be received at this Altar with outstretched arms, and every thrill of his heart will be met with a responsive throe of sympathy.

Our doors are guarded from the intrusion of the curious, the idle and immoral, as well as the malicious assaults of those who are ignorant of our tenets, or knowing them abhor them, because they are too pure for their corrupt hearts. Yet the most humble and destitute approaches the tabernacle with confidence, and the swift revolving door exhibits to his ravished eyes—friends and brothers, ready to extend the hand to receive him, and swift to minister to his every want.

It has been matter of astonishment to many individuals, that an associated body, or a society consisting of such apparently discordant materials as our Fraternity is composed of, has lived, prospered, and gives such undoubted evidence of continued existence and usefulness.

They have not yet fully learned all the peculiarities of our Institution. They have not yet learned that the passions engendered by the bickerings of party, and the more cruel denunciations of theological sects, find no door of entrance into our asylum. But when they have learned this, they will see that much of the fruitful source of discord and disunion is dried up and removed;—when they learn that the Odd-Fellow bows at an altar where Love and Truth reign—where Justice, Temperance and Charity are inculcated—where

“Friendship, on wing ethereal flying round,
Stretches her arm to bless the hallowed ground,
Humanity well pleased there takes her stand,
Holding her daughter Pity in her hand:
Here Charity, which soothes the Widow’s sigh,
And wipes the dew-drop from the Orphan’s eye;
Here stands Benevolence, whose large embrace,
Uncircumscribed, takes in the human race”—

there will be no more astonishment that Odd-Fellowship has succeeded in establishing its altars, and bound thousands together in harmony—that our Institution has prospered, and will go on acquiring numerical and moral strength, achieving new victories, until selfishness, and hatred, and base principles, shall dissolve and die.

There is nothing very surprising in seeing every nation, sect and caste, paying a deep regard and reverence to those principles which form the motto of our Order, and which are so universally admitted and admired. No! It is rather a matter of surprise that all who know our principles and our practices—who know the power of Odd-Fellowship to fraternize, moralize and bless—do not rush to our Lodges, and learn all the incentives to the performance of high moral duties. But there is a kind of scepticism in some minds respecting Odd-Fellowship. The Infidel is inclined to oppose Christianity, because its doctrines appear mysterious to him. The man who is not even acquainted with the machinery of the Lodge-Room, and yet imagines and pronounces and denounces as sin the very good he *must* and *does* see, utters from his heart the declaration of the

An eye can catch nothing

I
d
h
t
n
t
e
b
n
e
s
t
F
a
s
te
tu
p
fo
th
th
in
ra
w
th
p
Id
st
of
th
be
It
in
w
ac
isp
w
wh
me
bu
tor
ce