

THE ODD FELLOWS' RECORD.

MONTREAL, MAY, 1846.

PROGRESS OF THE ORDER.

In our last number, we had the pleasure of recording the establishment of ten new Lodges in the upper part of the Province, and one, "Mercantile Lodge", in Quebec. It now gives us unbounded satisfaction to note the steady increase in numbers they have made since our last publication.

We give below a few extracts from letters received, and hope that our Brethren at a distance will continue to inform us, occasionally, of their progress.

"Cornwall, 23rd April, 1846.

"I am happy to inform you that St. Francis Lodge is still going on increasing in prosperity; there were nine propositions for membership on the 15th; favorable reports were made by the different Committees last night, and two new proposals submitted; and if these are all accepted, we will number thirty-two, next Lodge night, when there are more proposals to be made—five or six at least. I fully expect, before the 1st of July, that the Lodge will number upwards of fifty members."

"Pictou, 27th April, 1846.

"In reply to your note of the 25th instant, inquiring how our Lodge succeeds, I have great pleasure in stating, that our most sanguine expectations are more than realised. It was only on the 9th of March last, we received our Charter and installed our Officers. On that evening we initiated eight members. Since that time we have only had six meetings, and we now number thirty-nine members, and at our next meeting will probably initiate ten or twelve more. Three months ago, the Society of Odd Fellows was hardly known among us, even by name. It now stands high among all classes of the community, and I have little doubt, that at the end of our first quarter, we will have nearly one hundred members on our books. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock."

"St. Catharines, 28th April, 1846.

"Yesterday we buried Bro. Duncan McPhail, who was one of the six you initiated on the night you were here; he fell from the pier at Port Stanley, and was drowned. We numbered twenty-six at last meeting, and have a very comfortable room, immediately over the office of Bro. John Moulson."

"Toronto, 2nd May, 1846.

"Tumcumsch Lodge, No. 15, I.O. O.F. exceeds my most sanguine expectations. We have now fifty-four members, all of them good men and true; the utmost harmony prevails, and is likely to continue. We have seven to initiate next Friday. We bid fair to be a prosperous body—our Lodge room is fifty feet by twenty, and we shall soon be obliged to furnish double rows of seats."

"Quebec, May 7, 1846.

"Our new Lodge, of which I am a member, is increasing rapidly. We now number upwards of fifty, with several to make."

"Brock Lodge, No. 9, Brockville, May 11, 1846.

"We get on delightfully. You can have no conception how much the Order is venerated by all who have joined it in our city. We will have Brothers Hardie and Dickson's names handed down to posterity, for having been the founders in this place of an Association, which appears to carry in its element the very essence of Friendship and good-will to all men. • • • • • Our Lodge numbers upwards of forty, all 'Honest Chieftains.'"

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We regret to announce that Brother Alexander Ferguson, a member of Commercial Lodge, No. 5, died in this city on the 1st instant. Brother Ferguson was much esteemed by all who knew him. He was, in the words of the Poet, "an honest man, the noblest work of God." His remains were accompanied to that sad "bourne from whence no traveller returns," by a number of his brother Odd Fellows, belonging to the different Lodges in the city.

We are also sorry to learn that Brother Duncan McPhail, of Union Lodge, St. Catharine's, C.W., was drowned on the 23th instant.

## HISTORY OF THE ORDER.\*

## II.—THE MANCHESTER UNITY.

At the meeting of the "Grand Committee," held at Manchester in the year 1814, as stated in our last number, the government of the "Independent Order of Odd Fellows" was entrusted to "a Committee of Grand Masters, Past Grands, Noble Grands, Vice Grands and Secretaries, of different Lodges," presided over by a Grand Master. This body was authorised to "exercise the power of enacting laws for the government and regulation of the Lodges subordinate to them, and of passing judgment upon grievances between brethren." At a subsequent meeting held in the month of May in the same year, the constituent members of this Committee were declared to be "the Officers of each Lodge in the District." and they were instructed to meet quarterly for the transaction of business. At the quarterly meeting in August following, it was decided that the "officers of each Lodge" should be held to mean the three principal officers merely; and in April, 1815, the Grand Committee was further altered by the admission of Past Grands of Lodges, in addition to the Noble Grands, Vice Grands and Secretaries.

In October 1814, we have the first record of the title of Grand Lodge, a body being then in existence in Manchester under the name of the "Abercrombie Grand Lodge." It seems uncertain whether the Grand Committee already mentioned, was for the time merged in this "Grand Lodge," allowing it to wield the power and authority delegated to the former in the month of January preceding, or whether this body was merely a subordinate Lodge, which had ambitiously assumed the above title. From the events which succeeded, the latter case seems the most probable; for at the meeting of the Grand Committee, in January, 1815, the Abercrombie Grand Lodge is recognised as a working Lodge under their jurisdiction, retaining the same title.

The first Grand Master chosen was James Christie, who filled that chair during the years 1814-15. He was succeeded by John Lloyd, who remained in office till the year 1819. During this period several districts had been formed, such as the Leeds, the Lancashire, &c., having separate local governments, but all subordinate to the Grand Committee; an extension of the organisation, which had been attended with the most beneficial effects. Efforts had also been made to consolidate in one body the various Orders of Odd Fellows throughout Great Britain, a scheme which was energetically supported by James Mansall, who was chosen Grand Master in 1819, and by William Armitt, who succeeded him in the following year. The negotiations entered into for that purpose, had for a time the very opposite effect. The governing body of the London or Union Order, which had assumed the title of the "Grand Lodge of England," now summoned the Lodges of the Manchester District to submit to their jurisdiction, threatening expulsion as the penalty