

consonance with public law, it is careful to shroud its proceedings in the mysteries of a secret conclave, it merely adopts that principle of reticence which prudence imposes on the affairs of individual persons, and which has been found to be of the utmost efficacy for the highest purposes of existence. The secret society has performed an important part in the history of the world, and is coeval with the earliest period of recorded time. Before the "inspired shepherd first taught the chosen seed how the heavens and earth rose out of chaos," the secret society had given to a still older people a glimpse of the deeper meanings which pervade the universe. By means of similar organizations, liberty has been defended, oppression resisted, justice administered, and the votaries of religion protected from persecution; and, although in regard to those societies where secrecy has not been essential to their existence, this element has often served but to attract the curiosity of the vulgar, its general use has been perfectly in keeping with the noblest and most solemn purposes. Descending now to a lower, but by no means the lowest plane of the subject, it cannot fail to be perceived how much the prosperity of the body politic has been promoted by the encouragement of Odd-Fellowship. Thrift, temperance, and tolerance, which are among its teachings, and without the practice of which no one could be permitted or retained in membership, have trained hundreds of thousands in the duties of economical and tranquil citizens; and, although some members may have occasionally fallen under the temptations which beset and waylay the life of man, it is rare to find an Odd-Fellow respected in the Order who is not equally esteemed in his relations with the world at large. Among the strange and wonderful

things which belong to life, its contrasts are the strangest and most wonderful, and these accordingly have been universally relied upon by the poet and novelist to evoke the deepest sympathies and to appeal most forcibly to the heart and the imagination. It is very touching to look at the achievements and triumphs of our Order, and the vast amount of beneficence it has bestowed upon the race, and to reflect on the lowly means which were at the disposal of those who gave it the first impetus and direction.

So obscure is its origin that even the name of its founder has already perished. Who it was that in some mode of semi-conscious benevolence turned the course of this little rill from the great stream of humanity to assuage the pains of sorrow and suffering has passed forever from the minds and memories of men.

"A little spring has lost its way amid the grass  
and fern;  
A passing stranger scooped a well to which the  
stream might turn.  
He dug it out and hung with care a ladle on the  
brink;  
He judged not of the deed he did, but thought  
that toil might drink.  
He passed again, and lo! the fount by summer  
never dried,  
Had cooled a thousand parched tongues, and  
saved a life beside."

In all probability the germ of this great Order was laid by some incident of humble life which led to a deed of practical benevolence, and we are prouder of our origin in this humble guise than if it had been inaugurated amid the splendors of worldly power and the glories of intellectual distinction. By virtue, not by words, was the fabric reared; it is founded on truth, and will last as long as the "great globe" itself.—*Pacific Odd-Fellow.*

A combination collar, P.G. and P.C.P., which can be worn either in Lodge or Encampment, will be sent to anyone who will procure twenty subscribers for the JOURNAL.

Does any Brother want a P.G.'s Jewel? Let him procure us twelve subscribers for the JOURNAL, and we will send it to him by mail at once. Or does he want a P.G.'s collar? Send us twenty-five subscribers.