

G. Howard Shaw
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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
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THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
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MAGAZINE.

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VOL. I.

Ibimus, O socii comitesque:
Nil desperandum—

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ADELAIDE:
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P R E F A C E .

It is rather in compliance with established custom than from any conviction of its necessity, that a preface is allowed to introduce this volume. In truth, such an introduction comes at the wrong end; the volume has already appeared in separate numbers, each of which has introduced itself, and the preface (albeit the binder may place it before the first page) is well known to have been written after the completion of the last. A preface, indeed, to the second volume, it might be; but, on the first, it could be nothing but a commentary, a work which it can scarcely fall within the Editor's province to undertake.

But, as established custom may be thought to require a few words of some kind, those few shall be about Odd Fellowship, and shall be confined to an evidence of its antiquity, which is believed to have been hitherto overlooked. HORACE, undoubtedly an Odd Fellow himself, speaks of TEUCER, who lived about twelve hundred years before the Christian era, as having belonged to the Order, and as having used, when founding a new Lodge, of which he was the "Noble Grand," the remarkable words on the title page, they cannot be misunderstood—"O," being clearly an abbreviation of some Latin word, the loss of which is to be regretted, though its meaning is

evident. A school-boy would translate the passage thus—

“ We shall advance, Odd Fellows and Committee-men—

“ Let nothing be despaired of.”*

Also, in the tenth ode of his third book, our late brother speaks of some members of his Lodge who had taken the *white* and the *blue* degrees. This is the only translation of which the words

“ — tinctus viola pallor — ”

seem susceptible, unless indeed “ *viola* ” be rendered “ *purple*,” and the poet supposed to have spoken of the whole Order figuratively, mentioning only the highest and the lowest degrees.

What office he himself held in his Lodge is not clear. Some parts of this ode might lead posterity to fancy him the outside guardian; if so, he would appear to have been dissatisfied with his situation, and to have thought of resigning it.† How little, in the days of HORACE or of TEUCER, could Lodges have been anticipated in these deserts, the want of which our own COWPER, another Odd Fellow, so feelingly regrets in those beautiful lines, commencing—

“ Oh, for a Lodge in some vast wilderness!”

The Editor will not take leave of his brothers and friends till January, without wishing them meanwhile, in the hearty words of dear old England, “ A merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.”

ADELAIDE,

15th October, 1844.

* The idea that “ O ” stands for OBBÆ, which would convey the false notion of “ Bottle Companions,” is of course rejected.

† Two translations of this Ode are inserted in page 187.

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