

With the Editor's compliments
Amicitia, Amor, et Veritas.

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THE AUSTRALASIAN

ODD FELLOWS'

QUARTERLY

MAGAZINE.

EDITED BY ODD FELLOWS.

JULY, 1845.

Tristis, quocumque potest, atque addi, non potest.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

✍ Much interesting matter, relating to Odd Fellowship, as well as other miscellaneous subjects, are, for want of space, postponed to No. 2, which will be issued early in October.

"STATISTICS OF ENGRAVING," (by Virbius,) has been received, is in type, and shall appear in our next issue.

Δ ON "MESMERISM IN AUSTRALIA," shall receive due attention at our hands.

✍ With No. 2—should sufficient encouragement be awarded the Introductory Number—will be given, a Portrait of the P. P. G. M.

Book
1874
[Signature]

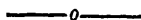
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M A G A Z I N E .

TO OUR READERS.



NOTWITHSTANDING the acrimony with which the authors of Opening Addresses to new publications, usually speak of those who have pre-occupied the ground on which they themselves seek to tread— notwithstanding that, any conciliatory attempt, can be at best but a hackneyed repetition of an oft told tale, still, to do without some slight prefatory introduction to our readers, would be yet more difficult than the task of writing on so trite a theme. There is a Persian fable of a flower whose bloom and freshness were invisible, save when it turned its face to the sun. Then, the vivifying Power gave life and richness to its beauties, and it reigned in loveliness, the Queen of Nature's Garden. The leaves and blossom were but the natural and material fabric, but the light was the soul which animated its being, and warmed it into glowing beauty.

The Persian flower is emblematical of the literature of this Colony. Like that sensitive blossom, it droops unheeded in the chilly atmosphere which is spread around it. Its hidden graces are passed by without notice; for the warmth of a genial and enlightened taste is wanting to develop the beauties with which it abounds. As the flower turns to its sun-god, for that secret energy which awakes its lustre, so literature, even Australian Literature, craves after the spirit of appreciation, in which alone it can live and flourish. Start not, gentle reader, if the sun to which it now turns its face, is the Sun of Odd Fellowship. The meteor

fires of wealth, and name, and station—which, at intervals, seemed to lend it a semblance of native beauty, have served but to cast a withering influence on its energies. Full soon it was found that their artificial rays possessed none of the natural light and warmth, which can alone animate it with life, and render it radiant with beauty.

Past efforts, in the field of periodical literature, have hitherto pined under the faithless promise of encouragement. Yet, we, for our part, would gladly attribute the many failures which crowd upon our recollection, rather to an indiscreet direction of the energies which were brought into play, than to any hostility, or indifference, to the advantages and pleasures with which that field abounds. We still entertain a strong and cheering hope, not only in the goodness of our cause, but also in the rock on which we have taken our refuge.

From the title which we have adopted for our undertaking, it may be deemed that this publication is designed to be merely the chronicle of the passing festivities and solemnities of Odd Fellowship—that it is intended as a mere compilation of statistics relative to that venerable and estimable Order, interesting, it is true, to the initiated, but interesting to them alone. Those who form this estimate of our intentions, are in error; and it is to them that we address our present observations. THE AUSTRALASIAN ODD FELLOWS' MAGAZINE will, we trust, be found a source of pleasant instruction and rational amusement to all parties. A large portion of its contents will have no bearing, direct or indirect, on the Institution from which it derives its title. Its character will be strictly that of a Literary Periodical. Its articles will comprise such papers, on Science, Art, Poetry, and the Belles Lettres, as a very promising list of contributors shall afford, and which will be selected, according to their merits only. There is one principle of Odd Fellowship, indeed, by which we shall be guided; and that principle is, the utter avoidance of any article of a *controversial* tendency, relating either to Religion or Politics. We affirm, *emphatically*, that we have not, in our undertaking, sought so much to promote the principles of the Order, high and ennobling as they are, as to secure the aid of a body of men, disposed, we believe, to a greater degree than any other, to the amenities of social life, and to rescue our Colonial Literature from the sterile waste in which it now exists. Odd Fellowship needs no high sounding promulgation of its benefits and its enjoyments, but Odd Fellowship does not think it

beneath it, to extend the sphere of its usefulness, by the encouragement of those meliorating and humanizing influences which cast a glory on our existence, and elevate and improve our kind.

The illustration of those great principles on which it is founded—the record of its ceremonies, its progress, and its advantages, which we are bound in gratitude to furnish, will be found to possess a general and exciting interest, and this will be fully consistent with the design of a literary publication. We believe that great benefits have already been achieved by this and other similarly constituted societies, in this remarkable country. Already we feel the force of their influence, in the gradual organization of our population. Already much that is good, much that ennobles the advanced civilization of the age, is discernible in the energies which they exert. The philanthropy, the public spirit of individuals, however exalted, have a limit, and a period; but these virtues in public bodies, are handed from generation to generation, and exercise a fraternising influence over all mankind, the result of which is too great for human calculation. That the Institution to which we are referring, is of this established and universal character, cannot now be denied, but it is with respect to its present efforts to work good, that we view it with veneration and esteem. It is sometimes advanced by members of this ancient Order, as well as by members of other Institutions, that Odd Fellowship must be good, *simply because it has been long established*. Now, this cannot fairly be inferred, for many evils are of long continuance, but that does not alter their character. We *may* conclude, however, that Odd Fellowship *has* been long established, and is extending its influences throughout the civilized world, *just because its objects ARE good*,—its tendencies are beneficent, and its practices virtuous. It is this tendency to good, this spirit of improving intelligence and increasing happiness, which direct its operations, which leads us to hope that it will be successfully instrumental in advancing the early literature of this young and interesting country. Many blessings have already flown from it. The spirit of a pure and Christian charity, of brotherly love, and of innocent and honorable intercourse between man and man, has been successfully fostered and encouraged by it. And if, in after years Australia should look back to the successful efforts of this Order to develop that taste for literary enjoyments by which our greatness and our happiness as a nation may be so powerfully effected,—more deeply, more impressively than ever will she feel the lesson, which a bond of unity so holy, so