

**ON THE ROAD; OR, A
FAMILIAR TALK WITH MY
BROTHERS AND FRIENDS**

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On the road; or, A familiar talk with my brothers and friends by Cyrus Hamlin Kilby

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CYRUS HAMLIN KILBY

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BY

CYRUS HAMLIN KILBY

Author of "Binding of the Links"



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PREFACE.

KIND BROTHER AND FRIEND: In March I crossed the threshold of Riverside Lodge, in the thriving village of Merrimac, Mass., the last one of my long journey of several months. During these months of frosts and chilly winds of winter and autumn I have visited over three hundred lodges of the I.O.O.F., and exchanged fraternal greetings with many thousands of brothers of our Order.

It is with emotions of joy that I now turn my face homeward to mingle with family and friends after an absence of seven months, again to enjoy the comforts of home, — a name which charms the soul.

At the end of such a long journey, and at the close of so great an undertaking as I have been engaged in, it is wise and profitable to take a retrospective view of the ground travelled over, and carefully note the result of the effort put forth.

When I started, July 18, 1889, with the first

instalment of my little book, entitled "Binding of the Links: a Story of Forty Years in Odd Fellowship," it was on a venture. But my first years of experience in the Order had given me large confidence in my fellow-men. I did not belong to that class which believes that all men are selfish. My experience had taught me that there is a divinity in man which inspires him to lofty purposes and honorable action. I had learned from observation that the good have an affinity for each other, and that such associations as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows strengthen this affinity. With such views I had courage to start on my mission.

The success with which my efforts have been crowned has begotten within me a desire to engage in a similar work, that I may again meet and greet many of the thousands of kind brothers and friends with whom I had walked and held pleasant intercourse along the way.

Some of them I shall never meet in this life. They have joined their brothers and friends on the other shore. There will be others, whose faces and names are unknown to me, to take their places. The title of the book now introduced to your notice implies its true character, and the

narrative sets forth in a familiar way some things which will awaken in your memory scenes of the past and events which transpired under your own eye, and in distant lodges and communities where you have kind brothers and true friends.

I am not a stranger to you, and you need not be informed as to the object and fitness of my visit at this time. With these few lines I invite your attention to what appears in the subsequent pages.

C. H. K.

PEAK'S ISLAND, July, 1891.

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