

ANOTHER EARNEST APPEAL.

We are about to do what it is exceedingly unpleasant to be obliged to do, namely, to make one more earnest appeal to the friends of the orphan work in the State for help, and that at once. There is one of three things inevitable—1st, we must have immediate help, or, 2nd, the children will suffer for food and clothing, or, 3rd, the organization of the Asylum must disband.

During the month of July the contributions to the Asylum were unusually good, and we began the month of August with a surplus of money and provisions. But these were exhausted and there was, during August, such a falling off in contributions, both in money and supplies that we reached the end of the month without means to meet the demands of the institution, either in procuring food or other supplies.

It is probable, the announcements through the paper of the very liberal contributions received during the month of July may have led many friends to suppose that there was no need of doing much in the way of sending help for some time to come. This, if the conjecture be correct, was a mistake. We have to provide, at Oxford and Mars Hill, for feeding and otherwise taking care of, about one hundred and fifty persons. It takes a good deal to do this, and though we may have a pretty large supply on hand at a time, it is soon exhausted unless constantly replenished.

It is a well known fact that the Orphan Asylum has no other dependence for its support than the voluntary contributions of the patriotic and christian people of the State, and if these fail, it must go down. We believe the latter alternative would cause grief to thousands of the good people who have always stood by it, and thousands of prayers are, no doubt, daily going up for its success and continuance. But, as the poor sister said to the Deacon, we must now have some potatoes in the prayers.

We have no fears but that bountiful supplies of all sorts will come in as soon as the crops are garnered, but that is some time off yet, and the children cannot live on air nor naked prayer for now till then.

We have stated the case fairly and squarely and leave it with God and the friends of the Orphans to decide what the result shall be. The demand for action is immediate and pressing.

Appropos to the foregoing we copy that portion of Grand Master Blount's circular, of last April which relates to the support of the Orphan Asylum:

"To the W. M., Wardens and Brethren of the several Lodges in North Carolina:

I feel it my duty to call upon you for more active effort in behalf of that noble charity, at once the pride and chief glory of Masonic enterprise in this State,

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM AT OXFORD. It must be sustained: and to the Lodges of the State it looks for support. Our honor as individual Masons, our character as a great benevolent Institution, our obligations to obey the resolutions of the Grand Lodge, all demand that you do not neglect to provide for the support of the poor helpless children committed to our care.

Resolution of the Grand Lodge on page 53, Proceedings of the Annual Communication, December, 1873, is still in force and legally and morally binding, and Masters of Lodges are obliged to see that they are obeyed. And I now call upon you not only to see to it that they are obeyed in letter, but in the true spirit of Masonic charity. The following is the res-

olution: Resolved, That the Master of each Subordinate Lodge appoint a Standing Committee upon raising funds for the Orphan Asylum, and require said Committee to report in writing each month, and that said reports and the funds received be forwarded monthly to the Superintendent of the Asylum, and that the support of the Orphan Asylum be a regular order of business in each Subordinate Lodge at each communication."

We ask the early and earnest attention and action of the Lodges in regard to the above. Out of the nearly two hundred and fifty working Lodges in the State, we have not had reports from more than fifty or sixty in answer to this resolution—and yet it has all the force of an "edict of the Grand Lodge."

GONE AGAIN.

With nine orphans we went from Oxford to Hickory. Very kindly met and hospitably entertained. The Master of the Lodge is a live Mason and a devoted minister. Kline's Hall was packed and many left for want of room. The people seemed to be gratified with the progress of the children.

Next day found us at Morganton. The Baptist church was kindly offered, and we arranged the new seats as well as we could and had a full house. The people complimented the performances of the children by undivided attention to a late hour.

Mr. Mallard of the Walton House was very kind and attentive and refused compensation for his trouble and expense. Next day found us at Old Fort. Capt. Whitty, Mr. Burgin, and Mr. Crawford kindly received us, and we gave our entertainment in Crawford's Hall. The people would make a collection, though the orphans of McDowell are not at Oxford, nor at Mars Hill. Where are they? Where are the orphans of Burke? The last question we asked in Morganton. One man answered that he had never before heard of any school for orphans. He considered servitude their normal condition.

Through rain we went to Asheville and announced an entertainment on Monday evening—but just at starting-time the rain poured down in torrents. The people were anxious and a number went through the water; but we thought best to postpone the entertainment till better weather. Next morning we measured the mud for miles and then stuck at Blackstock's Hill with the empty wagon. A friendly mule gave us a lift and we landed at Mars Hill in time for supper. We find that the friends have been taking (or rather mistaking) subscriptions for contributions. We are reminded of the preacher whose salary was about to be increased by the addition of a hundred dollars. He protested that it nearly killed him to collect four hundred dollars and that he would sooner starve at once than attempt to collect another hundred. Provisions are plentiful here and the climate is very bracing; but transportation is the trouble. But we are fixing our conveyances and, if the rains will go to Texas for a while we will try to make the mountain tops hear of the orphan work. But more hereafter.

J. H. MILLS.

THE ILLUSTRATED AGE, published by R. T. Fulghum, Raleigh, N. C., at \$2.00 per annum, improves upon acquaintance. It ought to have not only a sustaining but a remunerative patronage. It is time for our people to quit importing their literary pap from the North, and sustain home enterprises and home talent.

EDITORIAL.

We have not put this word at the head of this article to let the reader know that what is written under it is original, like the boy who wrote "this is a cow" under the picture. He had drawn on his slate lest it might be mistaken for the picture of some other animal; but we have taken "editorial" as a subject for an editorial, just as the school boy would take "the horse," or "the sheep," as the subject of his composition, because, having to write about something, he thought he had as well write about that as anything else. This subject, however, was suggested by a letter received, a few days ago, from a young friend asking our advice and assistance in procuring a situation as Associate editor of some newspaper, and asserting his belief that he is qualified for such a position. Yet we notice in his letter several grammatical errors, among which he spells "editor" with two d's.

And this is not a singular case. A great many persons seem to think that to edit a newspaper is a small matter and very easily done. A good many are so far convinced of this that they go into the business, and the result is, we have a great many very sorry newspapers in the country. (We don't mean yours, brother editor.)

Now, there are several things necessary to qualify a man for successfully conducting a newspaper, and making it instructive to the reader and profitable to the publisher, and we will mention some of them for the benefit of our young friend, and for others with similar aspirations.

And in the first place, we lay down the proposition that it takes more judgment and a higher order of talent to make proper and judicious selections for a paper than it does to write editorials, as they are called. Yet every edition of a newspaper is expected to contain something original, (and some of them do have very original articles) and many of those who read them think they could have written as well, if not better, and probably they could, but they must have the following prerequisites in order to succeed. Namely,

Ideas. No man can write a sensible article for a newspaper without ideas. We know that many try it, but their success is not remarkable. Ideas may be obtained by reading, conversation and observation, provided there be room enough in the brain to give them accommodation. Another necessary qualification is,

Language. We have met many men in our time who had very correct ideas of things, but who found great difficulty in shaping them into words. It is a right nice point to join and dove-tail words together so as to express just what we mean and nothing more. Of course, having the ideas, and then selecting the words to clothe them in, it adds something to the beauty and finish of the composition to spell them properly. One other qualification we shall mention at present is that of

Judgment. A man may have very correct ideas of his subject; he may exceed in descriptive powers, be very pathetic, so as to call up tears into the eyes of his readers at will, or so caustic as to make the subject of his satire wince, yet if he lack judgment and scratches away out of time and place, he will spoil everything and do more harm than

good by his writings.

We might go on and mention other things necessary to success in an editorial career, not the most unimportant among which is brevity, but as by so doing we should seem to traverse our own teachings under that head, we will leave our young friend to ponder what we have said and defer further remarks on the subject to some future occasion.

HOW TO SEND BOXES.

Boxes, sacks, barrels, bundles and packages, intended for the use of the Orphans at Oxford, should be marked ORPHAN ASYLUM, OXFORD, N. C., and there should be no other marks to mislead. Inside of the box or package should be a list of the articles with the names of the contributors. If sent by railroad or steamer, the receipt of the freight agent should be sent by mail. Light and valuable articles should be sent by Express.

Articles intended for the Orphans at Mars Hill should be marked ORPHAN ASYLUM, MARS HILL, N. C. If sent from the West, they can be easily forwarded from Asheville. If from the East, they should be sent by Salisbury and Old Fort, and in every case the receipt should be sent by mail.

These directions seem to be simple; but valuable contributions have been lost, because they have not been observed.

What to Learn Our Boys.

Not to tease girls or boys smaller than themselves.

When their play is over for the day to wash their faces and hands, brush their hair, spend the evening in the house.

Not to take the easiest chair in the room and put it directly in front of the fire, and forget to offer it to the mother when she comes to sit down.

To treat their mother as politely as if she were a strange lady who did not spend her life in their service.

To be as kind and helpful to their sisters as to other boys' sisters.

Not to grumble or refuse when asked to do some errand which must be done, and which will otherwise take the time of some one who has more to do than themselves.

To make their friends among boys.

To take pride in having their mothers and sisters for their best friends.

To try to find amusement for the evening that all the family can join in, large and small.

To take pride in being a gentleman at home.

To cultivate a cheerful temper.

To learn to sew on his own buttons.

If they do anything wrong to take their mothers into their confidence, and above all, never to lie about anything they have done.

To make up their minds not to learn to smoke, chew, or drink, remembering those things cannot be unlearned, and that they are terrible draw-backs to good men, necessities to bad ones.

To remember there never was a vagabond without these habits.

To learn to save their money and invest it from the first penny they earn, and they are sure to be rich men.

To observe all these rules and they are sure to be gentlemen.

The Critic Silenced.

On one occasion Tom Marshall heard R. J. Breckinridge preach, and falling in with him after the service, accompanied him home. "Why don't you preach better?" said Marshall. "I do as well as I can," answered Breckinridge. "Why don't you preach as the Saviour did?" continued Marshall. "That's hard to do," rejoined Breckinridge. "Preach in parables," said Marshall; "that is a very simple and easy thing to do; that's the way our Lord set forth the truth." "Well, Tom," said Breckinridge, "I have as high an opinion of your talents as any body else has, and I set a higher estimate on your reading and information than most people do. I defy you to make a parable, and I defy you to find one in all literature—outside of the New Testament." "Nonsense!" exclaimed Marshall; "I can make fifty, and I can find a hundred." "Well, try it, and let me know," replied Breckinridge. Shortly after, they met again. "Well, Bob," said Breckinridge, "What about those things—the parables? I have tried my best, and I can't make one; I've looked everywhere, and I can't find one. What does it all mean? I give it up."—"You see," replied Breckinridge, "why I don't preach in parables. I can't do that."

A use for Chimneys.

To the Editor of the Scientific American:

A correspondent in a recent number of your journal asks if there is any use for chimneys. This reminds me of an accidental experiment I once made and had almost forgotten.

If nice fat chickens are placed in saturated solution of nitrate of potash in water, and exposed to the air for several days in an open vessel, there will be no apparent change in the bugs; but there will be in the odor, for now it is as delicate and delicious as before it was rank and disgusting. No doubt the odoriferous principle could be easily separated, perhaps by digesting with alcohol or ether; and if neatly bottled and labeled, it would yield a large profit to practical perfumers.

The odor is unlike that of any other perfume I have ever smelt, and no one would suspect its low origin. This is one use for the chimneys; there may be others.

C. K.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

The total silver production in the world from the year 1850 to 1875 has been estimated to the \$1,025,000,000, the United States producing one tenth of the entire amount. The yield of Mexico is at the rate of \$20,000,000 annually. Peru is falling gradually behind, the yield for the year 1874 being but little over \$3,000,000. The mines of Chili and Bolivia are being rapidly developed, and will soon furnish a material item in the annual production.

In 1867, Nevada proudly pointed to a yield of \$12,500,000. In 1859, the production was hardly half as much. The production for the present year will probably exceed \$25,000,000. The annual production of the Idaho mines is about \$3,000,000, or as much as the famous mines of Peru. Colorado in 1874 is estimated to have produced bullion to the amount of \$1,000,000.

A weed destroyed before it ripens its seeds may save the labor of destroying a hundred next year.