

THE ORPHAN ASYLUMS.

As will be seen by a communication from Mr. Sams, Steward of the Asylum at Mars Hill, he has been visiting some of the towns of the mountains and has met with some degree of success in awakening an interest among the good people of that region in behalf of the Mars Hill institution, and in raising contributions for its support. But the people of the mountains are not yet sufficiently alive to the importance of the work they have undertaken to keep up that institution, and the necessity of prompt effort in furnishing it with the necessaries of subsistence. They need to be thoroughly informed in regard to it, and when this is done we have no doubt they will come up nobly to the discharge of their duty in the premises.

The health of the children at Mars Hill is represented as good—couldn't well be otherwise there, and the school is moving on pleasantly and prosperously.

AT OXFORD.

The health of the children is good. Two of them, who have been very sick, are nearly well and there are no new cases of a serious character. The Teachers are diligent in the discharge of their duties and the progress of the children in their studies satisfactory. Would that we could speak as hopefully of affairs in other respects, but we cannot. We stated some weeks ago that we were approaching the winter season very much unprepared in many respects for its wants. This state of things has not been improved. While the contributions for the last six or eight weeks have enabled us to provide for daily wants, they have not been sufficient to meet the necessities of winter. The cold evenings and mornings are upon us, and we may reasonably expect still more unpleasant and cold weather soon, yet many of the children are compelled to wear their summer clothing for want of means to procure for them more suitable wear, and a large number are entirely without shoes. It would make a benevolent heart sad to witness the spectacle of the little ones limping over the sharp gravels of the yard on these cold mornings to fetch water and in attending to other necessary duties.

The friends of the cause throughout the State are certainly not aware of the pressing wants of the institution. If they were we feel confident we should be spared the anxiety and perplexity now pressing upon the officers in charge. To bring the matter to their notice and to urge immediate action, is the object in writing this article. Friends, let us hear from you soon. We need help and we need it at once, and a good deal of it, or suffering among the children here will be the result. But we have hope in God and hope in the Christian people of the State that they will make an early and liberal response to this appeal.

John Bunyan was once asked a question about heaven and hereafter, which he was unable to answer, for the reason that the matter was not revealed in the Holy Scriptures; he therefore simply advised the inquirer to live a godly life, and thus go and see.

DR. G. W. LANDIS.

We feel that there is neither impropriety nor indelicacy in making an allusion in the ORPHANS' FRIEND to the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this paragraph, in a professional way, because of his unremitting, careful and successful professional services rendered to the Orphan Asylum. All the physicians of Oxford respond promptly to any call made upon them for their professional services, day or night, but because, perhaps, of the fact that Dr. Landis is younger than the others and can consequently stand more labor, it has devolved on him to attend to most of our sick during the past season. And this he has done cheerfully and very successfully. We feel it to be the more eminently due him to make this public acknowledgment of his invaluable services, because all his labor has been bestowed without compensation, and as this contribution does not come in a shape to be placed among our acknowledgments of "contributions in kind," we have thought it just and proper to make the acknowledgment in this way. He is destined to a successful career as a physician.

The Grand Master of North Carolina has recently issued the following circular to the Masters of subordinate Lodges in the State, to which we would direct their special and immediate attention:

OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER OF MASTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA.
WILSON, N. C., October, 1875.

To the W. M. of Lodge, No.
DEAR BRO:—The Grand Lodge has by a series of resolutions required you and every other Master in the State to appoint a special committee to raise funds for the support of the Orphan Asylum. Your attention has been heretofore pointedly called to the provisions of these resolutions. To fail to obey them in any particular is violative of the obligation you are under as a Master Mason and as a Master of the Lodge.

Many have obeyed nobly, promptly, generously—you perhaps among the number. To such all praise is awarded.
That I may know to what extent these resolutions have been obeyed, I now require that you answer by the 15th of November, 1875, the following questions:

1. Have you or have you not a Special Committee as provided for in resolutions above referred to?
2. Do you require that Committee to make a report at every regular meeting of your Lodge and forward the same with the funds and other contributions to the Superintendent of the Asylum?
3. State what amount in the aggregate, has been contributed through your Lodge since December, 1874?
4. What is the feeling of your Lodge toward the Orphan Asylum, cordial or lukewarm?

G. W. BLOUNT,
Grand Master.

OFF AGAIN.

The Superintendent left here last week with a chapter of nine orphans, on a concert tour of, perhaps, several weeks in the southern and eastern parts of the state, to bring the orphan work again to the notice of the good people in those sections and to raise means to provide for the immediate wants of the Asylum. We hope he will meet with such success as to obviate the necessity of repeating the trip for a long time to come.

OUT WITH THE CHILDREN.

Nine children left the Orphan Asylum at Mars Hill on the 4th of October, 1875, for the purpose of giving entertainments in behalf of said institution.

Marshall was the first point. We reached that place in the evening and were most kindly received. Gave an entertainment in the court house, which was

well near full of people. Gen. R. B. Vance being present spoke for the orphans, after which H. A. Gudger, Esq., called on the people for contributions. \$16.80 was immediately raised. Next morning Maj. R. S. Gage swelled the collection to \$30, \$1.50 of which was turned over by the Oriental Order of Humility of Marshall. Tuesday evening, the 5th of October, we reached Leicester. The people entertained the children very pleasantly. Gave an entertainment in the Academy. Collection amounted to \$4.15. Next morning several pairs of shoes, stockings, dress-patterns, &c. were presented to the children. Waynesville was approached on the evening of the 6th. The weather being very inclement not a great many people were out. The Baptist church was chosen as the place to give an entertainment. \$6.95 was collected by the committee of the Lodge. Webster was gained on the 7th, where the children again entertained a large audience. \$7.01 was the collection, (*parvum in multo*.) Though thanks to the people for their kind hospitality toward the children. Franklin, a lovely town and lovely people, was the next appointment. We were more than kindly received. The court house was crowded with people. All seemed to enjoy the presence of the children. Mr. Jones proposed a collection which amounted to \$15.60. Next morning before leaving over 100 yards of useful goods, shoes, &c., were sent to me. Mr. Wallace kindly offered to mend the springs of the vehicle which had been broken, and charged nothing. The people were all kind, and I will not forget the assistance rendered by Mr. James Robinson, on whom honor is conferred where honor is deserved, and a young friend, Mr. Hood, Holly Springs, 4 miles off, was visited on the 9th, where we rested with Mr. James Franks till Monday morning, and instead of charging us for lodging, he handed me \$2 when we left. On the 11th we passed back through Webster, and took lodging with Mr. Daniel Bryson, to whom I paid the first and only bill while out with the children.

On the evening of the 12th we again reached Waynesville, where we were most cordially received by Mr. McElroy, provision having been made by the Lodge for our entertainment there, and if people want to fare well when they visit this little town, give Mr. M. a trial. The children were again conducted to the Baptist church and gave an entertainment. \$17.55 was the amount of collection, which was taken at the close of an able address in behalf of the Orphan Asylum, by his Honor Judge Henry. On the morning of the 13th Mrs. Robert and Mrs. Welch each handed us \$5.00. A good deal of cloth and other useful articles were placed in the wagons as we passed out of town. All the western towns expressed a warm feeling for the institution, and pledged their hearty cooperation in its support. Hominy, in Buncombe, was reached on the evening of the 13th. We were kindly treated at Mr. Samuel Gudger's, Mr. Wolfe and other kind friends. An entertainment was given in the church near Mr. Gudgers. A large attendance. Lecture by Judge Henry. Collection \$6.20. The room was splendidly decorated by the ladies, the list of whom I have misplaced. I think from memory it was principally done by Miss Sallio Jones, Miss

Gudger, Mrs. Stakeleather and others. Handsome bouquets were presented the children as evidence of the appreciation of their performance.

We reached the Asylum the night of the 14th, being out 11 days with two mules, myself and nine children, and only paid \$2 for our trouble. This seemed like the people had hearts instead of gizzards. May God bless them is our closing sentiment.

JOHN R. SAMS,
Steward.

A Letter From Mr. Kingsbury Concerning the Proposed History of North Carolina—His Reasons for Not Including the War Period.

Mr. T. B. Kingsbury, of Oxford, in a recent letter to the Wilmington Star relative to his intention to prepare a "History of North Carolina for Schools and Families," says:

At the earliest practicable moment, I expect to begin to write an elaborate history of our State, covering the same period contemplated in the more compendious work, which I hope to complete in four or five years, if my life should be spared. We need a full, elaborate, reliable history covering the first three hundred years of our career as a people—a history that shall be in all respects adapted to the wants of the student, the man of learning, the intelligent and cultured reader—a history for the fireside and the library. In two compact volumes of 500 pages each, with illustrations, maps, index notes, such a work can be contained. It will be impossible to condense the history of North Carolina for three hundred years within compass, without making it too compendious. For my school history I have in mind the work of Green to which you referred—the very best work in our language. But we need a more extended work for libraries; not too voluminous, and yet full enough to allow a thorough treatment of those parts of history which are so replete with interest and worthy of study. Massachusetts has such a work in two volumes which is a model of its kind.

My reason for not including the war period in the plan of the work is that I do not think the time has come for a fair, truthful and thorough history of the State during those troublous times. However pains-taking, candid and conscientious, the historian would inevitably offend many persons who were active participants in the stirring scenes. It will not do to treat of historic events until the makers of history have passed away. Besides, the four years of the war of the States were so pregnant with great results and grand events, that an independent work would be required to fittingly tell the story. The magazine with which I am editorially connected, and which you have so often noticed favorably and earnestly, is doing a work that will be of much advantage to the writers who shall hereafter treat of our own times. Every war incident, every historical or biographical sketch, every personal anecdote, will furnish material for him who shall essay to tell future generations of the great deeds of North Carolinians in one of the most tremendous contests of the world.

I have the honor to remain,
Yours gratefully and truly,
T. B. KINGSBURY.

Truth is the shortest and nearest way to our end, carrying us thither in a straight line.

God's Love.

I can measure parental love—how broad, how long, and strong, and deep it is; it is a sea—a deep sea, which parents only can fathom. But the love displayed on yonder hill and bloody cross, where God's own son is perishing for us, no man nor angel has line to measure. The circumference of the earth, and altitude of the sun, the distances of the planets—these have been determined; but the height, breadth, and length of the love of God pass our knowledge. Such is the Father against whom all of us have sinned a thousand times! Walk the shore where the ocean sleeps in the summer calm, or, lashed into fury by the winter's tempest, is thundering on her sands; and when you have numbered the drops of her waves, the sand on her rounding beach, you have numbered God's mercies and your sins. Well, therefore, may we go to him with the contrition of the prodigal in our hearts, and his confession on our lips: Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight. The spirit of God helping us to go to God, be assured that the father who, seeing his son afar off, ran to meet him, full on his neck and kissed him, was but an image of him, who not sparing his own son, but giving him up to death that we might live, invites and now awaits our coming.

A characteristic story is told of the Grand Duke Alexis, who is in the naval service. A year or two ago, when holding the rank of midshipman, the flagship in which he was serving was wrecked on the coast of Denmark. The admiral ordered the life-boat to be lowered, and directed Alexis to take charge of the first boat. The royal midshipman declined to obey the order. It was peremptorily repeated: "I, your commanding officer, order you into the boat."

"Admiral, I will not obey you," said the young prince. "It would not become the son of the emperor to be the first to leave the ship. I shall remain with you to the last."

"But I shall put you under arrest for disobedience of orders as soon as circumstances will allow me to do so."

"I mean no disobedience, but I can not obey," was the reply.

Four or five of the crew perished in the transit from ship to shore, and the admiral and Alexis were the last to land. In hastily constructed tents the rigid discipline of ship-life was promptly resumed. The young prince was placed under arrest for disobedience of orders. The Russian minister at Copenhagen was informed of the facts, and telegraphed them to the emperor, from whom he received the following reply. "I approve the act of the admiral in placing the midshipman under arrest for disobedience of orders, and I bless and kiss my son for disobeying them."

Two persons were once disputing so loudly on the subject of religion that they awoke a big dog, which had been sleeping on the hearth before them, and forthwith barked most furiously. An old divine present, who had been quietly sipping his tea while the disputants were talking, gave the dog a kick, and exclaimed: "Hold your tongue, you silly brute! you know no more about it than they do!"