

SPECIAL BOYS' AND GIRLS' COLUMN.

Below we give a well written letter from "E. A.," the first in answer to our proposition in a recent number of the "Friend." We hope he will continue to write for this column, on any subject his mind may suggest. Who will follow next? We want the boys and girls all over the State to respond, and if they wish to write on other subjects than the one suggested in our proposition, let them do so. Girls and boys, let us hear from you.

NEAR LITTLETON, N. C., }  
Nov. 15th 1875, }

EDITOR ORPHANS' FRIEND:—Having seen your request in the ORPHANS' FRIEND that the boys and girls of the different counties of the State would write you a description of the different sections in which they live I now attempt to comply.

I live in the county of Halifax, in the central part of the State, or that part which is first reached after getting into the hill country on coming up from the coast. It is bounded on the north and east by the Roanoke River, on the south by the counties of Martin, Edgecomb and Nash, and on the west by the county of Warren.

There are no rivers immediately in the county, but, as I stated above, the Roanoke is on its northern and Eastern boundary. It is formed by the junction of the Dan, which rises in North Carolina, and the Staunton, which rises in Virginia, flows in a southeasterly and easterly course, and empties into Albemarle Sound. It is navigable for steamboats as far up as the town of Weldon, and but for the rocks and rapids, would be navigable much farther.

There are no Mountains in the county; the surface is hilly in the western part and level in the eastern.

The principal agricultural productions of the county are corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, peas, beans, potatoes and all of the garden vegetables.

In many sections fruit raising has been attended with great success, and some miles below here Garret & Bros. have a hundred or more acres in grapes, and there are vineyards in other sections.

The principal towns are Halifax, the county-seat, situated on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad and on the Roanoke. Weldon, also on the Roanoke, is a considerable railroad center, and is the head of navigation. It has water power sufficient to make it the Manchester of America if there was only capital to utilize it. I know of but few schools in the county. The most prominent are Vine Hill Academy, at Scotland Neck, and Bethel Collegiate Institute, near Littleton; to the latter I have been going all this year and I like it very much.

Gold and iron ore are found, and the gold is mined to some extent, though I think the iron is not at all.

The Raleigh & Gaston, one of the oldest Railroads in the State, runs directly through Halifax. Gaston was originally intended to be the terminus of this road, but it was subsequently extended to Weldon.

E. A.

The defects of the understanding like those of the face, grow worse as they grow old.

HOLD YOUR HEAD UP LIKE A MAN.

If the stormy winds should rustle,  
While you tread the world's highway.  
Still against them bravely tussle,  
Hope and labor day by day;  
Falter not, no matter whether,  
There is sunshine, storm or calm,  
And in every kind of weather,  
Hold your head up like a man.

If a brother should deceive you,  
And should act a traitor's part,  
Never let his treason grieve you,  
Jog along with lightsome heart:  
Fortune seldom follows fawning,  
Boldness is the better plan,  
Hoping for a better dawning,  
Hold your head up like a man.

Earth though ever so rich and mellow  
Yields not for the worthless drone,  
But the bold and honest fellow,  
He can shift and stand alone:  
Spurn the knave of every nation,  
Always do the best you can,  
And no matter what your station,  
Hold your head up like a man.

Lost a Dip.

"I am sorry you were not at recitation yesterday," said the college professor to one of his students, as the young man rose to recite; "you lost a dip by your absence." "Lost a dip, sir? I don't quite understand you," said the student. "Did you never see tallow candles made by dipping?" asked the professor. "The cotton wicking for the candles is strung on rods, a dozen pieces on a rod. One by one the rods are held over a vessel of melted tallow, and the wicks are dipped into the grease. Then the rods are set aside for the tallow to cool on the wicks. When all have been once dipped the process is commenced anew. At each successive dipping the candles are a little larger than before, and so they grow to completion. We are doing a similar work in this class, day by day. Yesterday the others of the class were dipped again, and I trust their minus took on something, more of our subject or study, and are the larger in consequence. You lost one dip by your absence, and I fear you will not easily overtake your class-mates who were here. If you want your mind to grow you must be careful not to lose a single dip which would expand it." The student never forgot that illustration. It may be suggestive to people of all professions.

My Privilege.

"A man has the right to do what he pleases with his own so he don't hurt anybody else." This idea is pretty wide spread and popular: but to our certain knowledge it has spoiled a number of good people. Many a man has been carried to the dogs by what he is pleased to call his "privilege." "That's my privilege" is the stock in trade of the fool who sets his stupid opinion up against the reason of a wise man. Why the man never was more mistaken in all the days of his life. It is not his privilege at all; it is no more nor less than a shabby excuse for being a fool and is so regarded by all men of sense. And so with the idler, the drunkard, the spend thrift all have their privilege; and they generally have nothing else.

PATIENCE THE CROWN.—People are always talking of perseverance and courage and fortitude; but patience is the finest and worthiest part of fortitude, and the rarest too. I have known twenty persevering girls to one patient one; but it is only the twenty-first one who can do her work, out and out, and enjoy it. For patience lies at the root of all pleasures as well as of all powers.

Moral Courage in Daily Life.

"Moral Courage," was printed in large letters as the caption of the following items, and placed in a conspicuous place on the door of a systematic merchant in New York, for constant reference, and furnished by him for publication: Have the courage to discharge a debt while you have the money in your possession.

Have the courage to do without that which you do not need, however much your eyes may covet it.

Have the courage to speak to a friend in a seedy coat, even though you are in company with a rich one, and richly attired.

Have the courage to speak your mind when it is necessary that you should do so, and hold your tongue when it is prudent that you should do so.

Have the courage to own that you are poor, and thus disarm poverty of its sting.

Have the courage to tell a man why you refuse to credit him.

Have the courage to cut the most agreeable acquaintance you have when you are convinced that he lacks principle—a friend should bear with a friend's infirmities, but not with his vices.

Have the courage to show your respect for honesty, in whatever guise it appears, and your contempt for dishonesty and duplicity, by whomsoever exhibited.

Have the courage to prefer comfort and propriety to fashion in all things.

Have the courage to acknowledge your ignorance, rather than to seek for knowledge under false pretenses.

Have the courage in providing ad entertainment for your friends not to exceed your means.

Fun as a Profession.

The business of making people laugh is no joke. Punssters and wits, whose specialty it is to set the table in a roar, are generally, when off duty, a chafffallen tribe. Writers who produce largely in the humorous style, are, in at least three cases out of five, gloomy and taciturn. Comic actors, as a class have always been notorious for their melancholy bearing behind the scenes. Listen, the comedian, the expression of whose face, even in repose, was so ludicrous that it provoked shouts of laughter, was one of the most confirmed hypochondriacs of his day; and Williams, for years the leading representative of broad farce in America, used to cry like a whipped schoolboy whenever anything went wrong with him. When Dominique, the French comedian, was convulsing all Paris with his drolleries, a physician of that city was one day visited by a miserable-looking man, who asked what he should do to get rid of a horrid desire to commit suicide which continually haunted him. "Go and see Dominique," said the doctor. "Alas!" replied the unfortunate wretch, "I am Dominique." Forced humor is indeed a sorry business. There is a reactionary principal in human nature which renders depression the inevitable consequent of over-strained merriment. The philosophy of all this is, that although wit and humor are cheerful faculties when suffered to develop themselves spontaneously, they are quite the reverse when compelled to drudge. In fact, no one faculty can be overworked except at the expense of all the others. To keep the body in a healthy, vigorous, elastic condition, its attributes must be properly exercised. It is the same with the mind.—Selected.

Say So.

Nillie was four years old. He had been my favorite playfellow all summer. But one day he sat by my side for a long time, unusually thoughtful. At last he turned and said, 'A——, do you love me?'

'Why, Nillie,' said I, 'of course I love you. What made you think I did not?'

He answered: 'Well, I didn't know; I never heard you say much about it.'

Moral: Neighbor, if you love your neighbor; citizen, if you love your country; parents, if you love your children; brothers, if you love your sisters; husband, if you love your wife; Christian, if you love your Savior; Bible or church; anybody if you love anybody else or anything you are not an ashamed of, do say so sometimes.—Christian at Work,

Things you will not be sorry for.—

For hearing before judging.  
For thinking before speaking.  
For holding an angry tongue.  
For stopping the ear to a tattler.  
For refusing to kick a fallen man.

For being kind to the distressed.  
For being patient to all men.  
For doing good to all men.  
For walking uprightly before God.

For lending to the Lord.  
For laying up treasures in heaven.

For asking pardon for wrongs.  
For speaking evil of no man.  
For being courteous to all.

A GRATEFUL ELEPHANT.—A troop of elephants were accustomed to pass a green stall on their way to water. The woman who kept the stall took a fancy to one of the elephants, and frequently regaled her favorite with refuse greens and fruit, which produced a corresponding attachment on the part of the elephant towards the woman.

One day the troop of elephants unfortunately overturned the poor woman's stall, and, in her haste to preserve the goods, she forgot her little son, who was in danger of being tramped to death. The favorite elephant perceived the child's danger, and, taking him up gently with his trunk, carefully placed him on the roof of a shed close at hand.

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All the net profits go to the benefit of the Asylum.

We ask every present subscriber to get us at least one additional name before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, but one need not be considered the limit.

August 25th, 1875.

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