

The X.—We adopt the usual custom of notifying subscribers of the expiration of their subscription, by placing a cross mark (X) on their papers. So, if you find the mark on your paper you may know that the time you paid for has expired, and that, unless you renew the paper will be discontinued.

We hope none will be offended at having the paper stopped when they fail to pay up, as we couldn't publish it on credit if we would; and wouldn't if we could, and we can make no exceptions. When, therefore, you see the X on your paper, send the money for renewal right along.

EXTRACT.—“Notwithstanding brother Mills failed to call to see us when he was in this part of the State last, we can show him by a liberal contribution that his humane efforts in behalf of the orphans are not entirely unappreciated by our community.”—*Toisnot Transcript.*

Good for you, brother Ellis, and for the good people of Toisnot and vicinity. Mr. Mills is not here to speak for himself through the FRIEND, in regard to not calling on you in his recent trip, but we know enough of the circumstances of his trip to say that, owing to the limited time at his command in which to fill a previously arranged programme before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, he was obliged to pass places that he would otherwise have taken pleasure in visiting.

We hope the good people around Toisnot will carry out the suggestion in the article from which we take the above extract, and that we shall get those peas and other things yet; but they will pleasantly vary the monotony of turnips during the winter.

In the acknowledgment of cash contributions last week, is one of \$37.83, thanksgiving collection, M. E. Church at Greensboro. This, though taken up at the M. E. Church, we are informed by a friend, was the joint contribution of members of all the churches of Greensboro, and citizens generally, who attended the M. E. Church on that day, in accordance with a custom prevailing there of holding thanksgiving services alternately in the different churches, by agreement among the pastors, on alternate years.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Our exchanges in the sections of the State traversed by the Superintendent and his singing band during their recent concert tour, have spoken most kindly of the performances of the children and of the orphan cause they represented, for which we wish to tender thanks to one and all. It would afford us pleasure to copy the various notices, but they would be too voluminous for our columns.

We have received two communications for publication in the FRIEND, one from ‘Junior’ of Castalia, Nash county, the other from ‘E. M. W.’ of Durham, but as we have not been favored with the names of the writers, the communications will not be published. This is a universal rule among newspapers, and as there are good reasons for the rule, we shall not depart from it. We would have published both communications if the writers had given us their names, and will do so yet if the names of the writers are furnished in time for our next issue.

The Books of the Asylum being in Raleigh for the inspection of the committee of the Grand Lodge on the Orphan Asylum, we can not give a list of contributions for this week. They will be given in next issue.

THE ORPHAN'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

An orphan boy, with weary feet,  
On Christmas eve, alone, benighted,  
Went through the town from street to street,  
To see the clustering candles lighted  
In homes where happy children meet.

Before each house he stood to mark  
The pleasant rooms that shone so fairly;  
The tapers lighted, spark by spark,  
Till all the trees were blazing merrily;  
And sad his heart was, in the dark.

He wept; he clasped his hands and cried—  
‘Ah, every child to-night rejoices;  
Their Christmas presents all abide,  
Around their trees, with merry voices;  
But Christmas is to me denied.’

‘Once with my sister, hand in hand,  
At home, how did my tree delight me!  
No other tapers shown so grand;  
But all forgot me, none invite me,  
Here, loudly, in the stranger's land:

‘Will no one let me in, to share  
The light—to take some corner niche?  
In all these houses can't they spare  
A spot where I may sit in quiet—  
A little seat among them there?’

‘Will not one let me in to-night?  
I will not beg for gift or token;  
I only ask to see the light  
And hear the thanks of others spoken,  
And that will be my own delight!’

He knocked at every door and gate,  
He rapped at window-pane and shutter;  
But no one heard and bade him wait,  
Or come the ‘Welcome in!’ to utter;  
Their case were dull to enter late.

Each father looked with child that smiled  
Upon his happy children only;  
Their girls their mother's heart beguiled  
To think of them; none saw the lonely,  
Forgotten boy, the orphan child.

‘O, Christ child, holy, kind and dear!  
I have no father and no mother,  
No friend save Thee, to give me cheer,  
Be Thou my help, there is no other,  
Since all forgot me wandering here!’

The poor boy rubbed his hands so blue,  
His little hands the frost made chilly;  
His tattered clothes he closer drew  
And crouched within a corner slyly,  
And prayed, and knew not what to do.  
Then suddenly, there shone a light;  
Along the street, approaching near,  
Another child in garments white,  
Spoke as he came—and clearer, dearer,  
His voice made music in the night:

‘I am the Christ; have thou no fear!  
I was a child in my probation,  
And children unto me are near,  
I hear and heed thy supplication,  
Though all the rest forget thee here.’

‘My saving word to all I bare,  
And equally to each thy given,  
I bring the promise of thy care,  
Here in the street beneath the heavens,  
As well as in the chambers there.’

‘And here, poor boy, thy Christmas-tree  
Will I adorn, and so make glimmer  
Through all this open space, far thee,  
That those within shall twinkle dimmer,  
For bright as thine they cannot be!’

The Christ-child, with his shining hand,  
Thou pointed up, and lo! the lustres  
That sparkled there! He saw it stand,  
A tree of shining with starry clusters  
On all its branches, wide and grand.

So far, and yet so near! the night  
Was blazing with the tapers' splendor;  
What was the orphan boy's delight!  
How beat his bosom, warm and tender,  
To see his Christmas-tree so bright!

It seemed to him a happy dream;  
Then, from the starry branches bending,  
The angels stooped, and through the gleam  
They lighted him to peace unending,  
They folded him in love supreme.

The orphan child is now at rest,  
No father's care he needs, nor mother's,  
Upon the Christ-child's holy breast,  
All that is here bestowed on others  
He there forgets where all is best.

Afraid to Swear Alone.

The wicked practice of swearing, which is so common as to offend the ear in every hotel, and almost in every street is often mere bravado. Boys think it sounds manly to be profane and men think it gives force and character to their sayings. Unlike most other vices, it is done openly, and it is intended by the swearer for other people's ears.

‘I will give you ten dollars,’ said a man to a profane swearer, ‘if you will go in the village graveyard at twelve o'clock to-night and swear the same oaths you have just uttered when you are alone with God.’

‘Agreed,’ said the man, ‘an easy way to make ten dollars.’

‘Well, come to-morrow and say you have done it, and you shall have the money.’

Midnight came. The man went into the graveyard. It was a night of great darkness. As he entered the cemetery not a sound was heard; all was still as death. Then came the gentleman's words to his mind. ‘Alone with God!’ rang in his ears. He did not dare to utter an oath, but fled from the place crying: ‘God be merciful to me a sinner!’

A Singular River.

A New York Herald correspondent, writing from the Black Hills, says:

A most remarkable stream was discovered, and appropriately named Amphibious Creek. Its waters sink into and rise from the earth many times in their journey from their original spring to the south fork of the Cheyenne. A well-known bed extends all the way, showing that in the wet season a torrent flows on the surface; but at the present time not a vestige of the current may be seen for miles after it disappears, until it suddenly bubbles up again from the rocks and rolls onward to the next point of descent into its subterranean channel. Several of this character are so common on the great plains that they are not thought remarkable; but they are rarely found among mountains, for the reason that the substrata is usually composed of solid rock lying not far below the surface, and affording no room for a sub-passage though the sand, if that should happen to compose the soil.

Contributions to Mare Hill from Nov. 1st to Nov. 30th, 1875.  
IN CASH.  
Paid \$23.51, Collection at Asheville.  
“ 22.85, Committee of Dumas Rock Lodge, No. 267.  
“ 5.00, Collection at Mills River.  
“ 4.00, Vance Lodge, No. 293.  
“ 1.00, O. P. Barcott.

IN KIND.  
W C Ramsey, 2 bushels wheat,  
John E Same, 1 “ “  
Miss Theresa Parris, 1 pair socks,  
Miss Mollie Parris, 1 “ “  
Mrs M M Graves, 1 blanket.  
Mrs A E Peay, 1 blanket.  
Mrs M A Gash, 2 blankets, 24 yds jeans.  
Mrs B C Barkford, 4 yds jeans and 5 pairs gloves.  
Miss E E Lyon, 1 blanket and 1 pr stockings.  
W T Robertson, 64 yds jeans.  
C H Miller, 34 yds jeans.  
G Wild, 2 gallons molasses.  
Mrs McDaris, 4 gallons molasses.  
A Bookhart, 2 “ “  
T B Dooly, 2 “ “ and 1 bu wheat.  
Miss M Rovia, 1 pair socks,  
E Barclay, 2 bushels wheat.  
J B Roberts, 2 bushels wheat.  
H C Roberts, 1 gal molasses and 1 pr shoes.  
W B Wild, 2 gal molasses.  
Mrs T B Dooly, 16 lbs soap.  
Mrs Polly McDaris, 1 pair pants.  
Mrs John Garrison, 1 bushel wheat.  
I A Harris, 5 pairs shoes.  
I V Coffee, 1 bushel wheat.  
W J M Garrison, 2 bushels wheat,  
R K Pickens, 1 gallon molasses.  
J Roberts, 5 bu corn and 2 gal molasses,  
Mrs Newton Gentry, 16 lbs soap.  
M F Clinton, 1 bu wheat.  
J T Morgan, 2 gallons molasses.  
Silas Williams, 2 gallons molasses.  
M S Roberts, 1 bushel wheat.  
Miss R A Morgan, 2 gallons molasses,  
Miss S E Williams, 3 gallon molasses,  
T C Morgan, 2 gallons molasses.  
E M Williams, 2 gallons molasses,  
J N Morgan, 2 gallons molasses,  
A N Roberson, 1 gallon molasses.  
Hiram Phillips, 64 gallons molasses,  
Tonic Clinton, 1 pair stockings,

Mrs T O Roberts, 1 pair stockings.  
A L Logan, 44 bushels wheat.  
Thos Wood, 84 yds jeans, 2 hams pork and 1 bag Irish potatoes.  
E M Allison, 1 jug of vinegar, 1 bag of dried fruit and 1 stocking yarn.  
Capt Leonard, 1 bag of apples and 1 bag of turnips.  
Unknown friend, 1 wash stand.  
Mrs J R Sams, 3 bu potatoes, 3 bu turnips and 1 dozen cabbage heads.  
JOHN R. SAMS,  
Steward M. H. O. A.

The following persons have paid for THE ORPHANS' FRIEND for one year from this date:  
J. A Perry—H. B. Keatingham—P. H. Gower—Thomas J. Gill—Thomas T. Housants—John H. Breddlove—L. W. Rowe—W. J. Pulliam—Miss Lettie Lou—Thomas M. Warren—S. V. House.

RESUME OF RESPECT.

Proceedings of Zion Lodge, No. 31, upon the death of their W. M., Bro. SIMON F. KOONCE, who departed this life Oct. 21st, 1875.

Witnesses, Death has established his empire, and the decree has gone forth that all are to become subjects thereof, and whereas the everlasting God in the execution of that decree hath taken from us our respected and esteemed W. M., Bro. SIMON F. KOONCE, and with His mace hand stricken from our astonished vision, him, who, as the light of the east, has for many years shed his genial rays upon the masonic pavement, traced designs upon the bosom board, set the craft to work and given them proper instructions for their labor. But death sought a subject, the gave a victim, openly a spirit, and our Master has been taken. We are bereft of a friend, councillor and guide, and left in gloom and sorrow to travel on; yet not without hope, for death hath been deprived of its sting, the grave shorn of its victory, and the bow of promise aimed the heavens, upon which we hang our hope, and meekly bowing, cry with reverential awe, ‘Thy will, O God, be done.’

Resolved, That in the death of brother Koonce the Lodge has lost a faithful and efficient officer, one that held the gavel with an impartial hand, ever striving to make the labor of the craft harmonious and pleasant, thus causing them to realize how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.  
2. That society has lost one of its best members, the only a pure and faithful magistrate, his relatives a true friend, and the orphaned son a kind and intelligent father.  
3. That while we deplore and mourn the loss of our brother, we would not forget the child that was so dear to him, but tender to the bereaved our love most sympathetically and that care and protection known to Masons, and commend him to the care of that Being, who says, ‘I will be a father to the fatherless.’  
4. That these proceedings be spread upon the minutes of the Lodge, a copy furnished the son of the deceased, and in token of our respect we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.  
5. That they be sent to the ORPHANS' FRIEND for publication.  
BENJ. BROCK, JR.,  
CALVIN KOONCE,  
THOS. J. WHITAKER, } Com.

Resolutions of the Grand Lodge.

Adopted Dec 3d, 1875.  
Resolved, 1. That St. John's College shall be made an asylum for the protection, training and education of indigent orphan children.  
2. That this Grand Lodge will appropriate \$—annually for the support of the institution; but will not assume any additional pecuniary responsibility.  
3. That this Grand Lodge elect a Superintendent who shall control the institution and solicit contributions for its support from all classes of our people.  
4. That orphan children in the said Asylum shall be fed and clothed, and shall receive such preparatory training and education as will prepare them for useful occupations and for the usual business transactions of life.

Adopted Dec 5th 1872:  
Resolved, That the Superintendent of the said Orphan Asylum shall report at each Annual Communication an account of his official acts, receipts, disbursements, number of pupils, &c, together with such suggestions as he may see fit to offer.

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.

4. All churches and benevolent organizations are requested to cooperate with us in the orphan work and to collect and forward contributions through their own proper officers. Here are the resolutions:

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to many benevolent ladies and gentlemen, to the ministers of the gospel, to churches of various denominations, to Old Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Good Templars, Friends of Temperance, and other benevolent societies, whose hearty cooperation and liberal contributions have rendered timely and valuable assistance in the great work of ameliorating the condition of the orphan children of the State.

Resolved, That all benevolent societies and individuals are hereby cordially invited and requested to cooperate with us in providing funds and supplies for feeding clothing, and educating indigent and promising orphan children, at the Asylum in Oxford.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

POETRY.  
Augustus Landis  
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And I ask all who buy,  
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And I think they will speak for themselves.  
A. LANDIS, JR.

November, 1875.

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