

THE MARS HILL ASYLUM.

Most of our readers have heard of Mr. Pease, the famous Reformer of Children at Five Points, New York. Several years ago, being in feeble health, he moved to Asheville and purchased valuable property; but he has been so modest and quiet that very few of our citizens knew that he lived in the State.

Recently he has taken an interest in the orphan work, and desired to see the Mars Hill Asylum moved to Asheville. To this end he has offered the tract of land whereon he now resides, reserving the use of the house and garden during his life. Not knowing exactly what turn affairs might take, the Grand Lodge, at its late Communication, covered the ground with the following resolution:

Resolved, That if any eligible property should, before the next Annual Communication, be offered to the Grand Lodge for the more efficient conduct of the orphan work, the Grand Master is hereby requested to accept the same and instruct the Superintendent in regard to the use and management thereof.

Mr. Moore, the Steward of the Asylum at Oxford, went to Asheville and Mars Hill to confer with Mr. Pease and arrange the preliminaries. Mr. Pease promptly put his proposition in definite shape, and the citizens of Asheville promised liberal subscriptions for the erection of buildings and for the support of the work in the future.

With these facts before them, the Grand Master and other officers of the Grand Lodge, met in Raleigh, and after free consultation, agreed that Grand Master Blomst, Deputy Grand Master Grissom, Past Grand Master Nichols, Grand Chaplain Reid, and perhaps others should start to Asheville on Friday, January 1st, and formally accept the property, confer with the citizens of Asheville, and give directions for the future management of the work.

Meanwhile Mr. Moore succeeds Mr. Sams and looks after the orphans in the West.

OUR FORMER ASSOCIATES.

Near the close of the year we retroactively look back and think of those who have labored with us in the orphan work. First is Rev. A. D. Cohen, who toiled faithfully for one year at a time when toil was not so cheered with hope as now. He is a good man and a hard worker; but he felt oppressed by his call to the ministry, and he is now a popular pastor at Edenton and Windsor. He understands the orphan work, and is ever ready to help it with tongue, pen, and purse. We cherish many pleasant memories of the days and nights when he was with us.

Mrs. Gaskins, Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Pease, Miss Long, Miss Howell, Miss Harrison, Miss Moore, Miss Leete, and others who remained for a brief season only, rendered very efficient service and many pleasant reminiscences cluster around their names.

At Mars Hill Mr. J. R. Sams and Miss S. S. Greene, have pioneered the work, and have, to some extent, opened the way for future success. Their labors have been constant and severe. Miss Greene goes to enjoy a season of rest, and Mr. Sams retires because the work is so arduous and exacting. Very pleasant has been our connection with him, and though he may have in some other

calling, his heart will still be with the orphans, and we shall have his very zealous cooperation.

Our former house-keepers at Oxford, Mrs. Montgomery, Miss McLean, and Mrs. Stanly, merit honorable mention. In one respect at least they obeyed the Bible—they fed the hungry, and generally fed us well. May they all enjoy an everlasting Christmas!

THE OXFORD SCHOOLS.

Mr. James H. Horner A. M. and Rev. T. J. Horner have decided to reopen the famous Horner School in Oxford. Very fortunate is any young man whose privilege it is to enjoy their instruction and be trained by such gifted and experienced teachers. A father may be grateful that his son is sound in body and mind; but he should also be grateful that his son was born in the days of the Horners and other competent and judicious educators.

Mr. Fetter, known as a very efficient instructor, will continue his school for boys.

Mrs. Stradley, remarkably sensible and reliable, has had a successful career as teacher and will continue her school.

Mrs. Hays, a scholarly and managing woman will open school in the Female Academy. She will be aided by Miss Hattie Cousins, well known as a first-class teacher.

These schools will open punctually at the hour named in the advertisements. We close this article with a few suggestions to parents:

1. See that your children are entered on the first day of the session. A good start often secures the victory in a race. Horses intended for leaders should not be trained to trot slowly behind.

2. Encourage the teacher with a payment of tuition in advance. If you owe anything on former sessions, square up at once. The teachers may not be partial; but they are human, and prompt payments are very inspiring.

3. Be sure to attend, and not obstruct, the enforcement of discipline. Let the teachers name the hours of study and then defend your children against all interruptions. Sometimes the teachers will make mistakes, and sometimes they will be unjustly accused and suspected. Wait till Saturday; then send for the offending teacher and talk the trouble over, with a fat and smoking turkey between you.

4. Have a good desk and a bright light in a quiet room for students, and let them have regular sleep and early meals. Let them also feel that you anxiously desire their rapid improvement. Then keep at a distance all that tends to distract or even divert attention.

These suggestions are certainly worth a trial.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE ORPHANS IN OXFORD.

On Friday evening each Form first spelled for 25 cents; then the First and Second Forms spelled for 10 cents each, the Third Form spelled for 25 cents and the Fourth Form for 50 cents. The Teachers also distributed prizes and made presents to the children of their forms.

On Saturday a dozen fat turkeys burdened our tables; but they did not burden them long. On Saturday night a large box of presents from the children of Fayetteville High School came just in time for distribution, and the orphans were delighted. One

limber-jack was used as a pattern and others were soon manufactured and put in lively operation. A barrel of excellent apples, several boxes of raisins, and some other articles from Norfolk increased the joys of the occasion.

On Sunday morning the children attended their Sunday schools and heard a sermon from Mr. Jordan at the Presbyterian church. In the afternoon Rev. F. R. Underwood preached in the chapel of the Asylum. At night we had another sermon by Rev. R. P. Michaux. Monday morning found us all at work as usual. The Christmas of 1875 was gone forever.

GOOD INVESTMENTS.

Persons with superabundant incomes complain of the difficulty in securing safe and profitable investments. This may account for the high prices obtained in hard times for certain articles of luxury. Buyers can be found only among the rich, and the rich are on the watch for opportunities to bestow their goods. Famous painters and diamond brokers may therefore flourish even in a time of great financial depression. Sixty thousand dollars was recently paid by a New York merchant for a French picture. Zeuxis declined to sell his pictures when he became rich. He painted only to give away. This ancient master had no commiseration for his wealthy patrons who did not know what to do with their money. His only fear was lest he might live to find himself in their predicament. This fear will never agitate a modern painter who is said to have helped himself by a hint from the success of Zeuxis in deceiving the birds by his fruit painting.

Poor as he was ambitious, he devoted himself to a work which he called "The Death of the Poodle." Every day he brought in his dog and gave him a beating before the picture of the dying pet. Invited visitors arrive to view the finished work, the painter's dog soon after enters, and seeing the well-remembered picture, begins to howl piteously; the company is profoundly impressed with the wondrous realism that deceives the brute creation; the picture is disposed of at an excellent figure, and the gratitude of the artist is divided between his dog and Zeuxis. So far are we from regretting, that large sums are paid for works of art, that we greatly regret that any artist should ever be so reduced as to resort to such an artifice as this.

But there are other investments now waiting for surplus thousands, better than works of art or jewels. Because much is misappropriated in benevolence and charity, we must not conclude that there are not good investments. Intelligent care can put capital on corners where the moral and spiritual results can never be estimated by any worldly arithmetic. His father left a citizen a fortune of many millions. He did not wrap his talents in a napkin, but had great faith in the increasing value of the houses and land in the city where he dwelt. This citizen left his sons four times as many millions as were left him by his father. During these years in which these well-invested millions have been multiplying, invested thousands in houses and lands devoted to the training of immortal souls for this world and the next, have been yielding an incalculable return of imperishable riches. Now is the time for those who are

greatly increased with goods to come to the help of those noble Christian enterprises that are the glory of the age and nation. There are no investments better than these, for in them we do not lay up treasure for ourselves but become rich toward God.—N. Y. Observer.

WORDS INACCURATELY USED.

The following paragraphs are taken from "Words and their Uses," by Richard Grant White.

AGGRAVATE—This word should never be employed in reference to persons, as it means merely to add weight to—to make and evil more oppressive; injury is aggravated by insult. It is sometimes improperly used in the sense of irritate, as 'I was much aggravated by his conduct.'

BALANCE, in the sense of rest, remainder, residue, remnant, is an abomination. Balance is metaphorically the difference between two sides of an account—the amount which is necessary to make one equal to the other. Yet we continually hear of the balance of a congregation or of an army.

BOUNTIFUL is applicable only to persons. A giver may be bountiful, but his gift can not—it should be called a plentiful or large; 'a bountiful slice' is absurd.

BRING expresses a double motion—first from and then toward the speaker; it is exactly equivalent to 'go and bring, and ought not to be used in the sense of bring alone.

CALCULATE, besides its sectional misuse for think or purpose, is sometimes put for likely or apt: 'That nomination is calculated to injure the party.' It is calculated (designed) to do no such thing, though it may be likely to.

CITIZEN should not be used except when the possession of political rights is meant to be implied. Newspaper reporters have a bad habit of bringing it out on all occasions, when 'person,' 'man' or 'by-stander' would express their meaning much better.

CUPLE applies to two things which are bound together or united in some way. 'A couple of apples is not correct—two apples is what is meant.

DIRT means filth, and is not synonymous with earth or soil. Yet people sometimes speak of a dirt road or of packing dirt around the roots of trees they are setting. They mean earth.

EXECUTE—When a murderer is hanged his sentence is executed, the man is not. A man can not be executed—that is followed out or performed.

EXPECT looks always to the future. You cannot expect that anything has happened or is happening, but only that it will happen.

GET means to obtain, not possess. Have you got good molasses? 'They have got bad manners.' Why will people persist in introducing the word in such sentences as these, where it is so evidently superfluous?

HELP MEET—An absurd use of these two words, as if they together were the name of one thing—a wife—is too common. The sentence in Genesis: I will make him an help meet for him—i. e., a help fit for him. There is no such word as help-meet.

LIE—LAY—Persons not grossly ignorant sometimes say they will lay (meaning lie) down, and they have lay (lain) an hour, or that the hammer is laying (lying) by the tacks. Lie means to recline; its past tense lay—'I lay there all night,' its participles, lying and

lain. Lay (used of present time) means to put something down—one lays a carpet; its past is laid—'I laid it myself,' its participles, laying and laid—'I was interrupted while laying it, and it was not laid till night.'

Love rules the heart, not the stomach. You love your wife, or ought to; but favorite articles of food you like.

OBSERVE should not be used for say, as in the oft-heard sentence, 'What did you observe?'

THE LOST SHIP.

Why was the ship lost? It was a staunch vessel, well built, and well manned, when no enemy was near to beguile the crew. It was in early spring. There was ice floating in huge islands of crystal. At midnight, when the steady, clear-headed captain was upon the bowsprit, looking out for these ice-islands so as to avoid them, the first mate fell on deck, thrown by his wary enemy, and utterly helpless to steer the ship aright. She struck the ice with such force that she immediately began to sink. What a fearful position! In a wild sea, with a drunken pilot and leaking ship. The vessel began to fill immediately. Life-boats were brought up, but in less than one hour, of the seventy-two who the day before were joyfully looking forward to home greetings, all but twenty-seven were sleeping at the bottom of the sea. One entire family, a father and nine children, went down together among this fatal number. This is a true story. Children were left fatherless by this wreck; they came in after years to gaze upon the waters which had swallowed up so many lives, and think and say, "Not the treacherous sea, but an enemy hath done this!"

And that enemy was strong drink.

BENEVOLENCE.

A benevolent man is a happy man; he cannot be otherwise, for it is a universal law of nature to be made happy by making others so. Those evil passions, such as envy, hatred, malice, pride and like, do not exist in the heart of a benevolent man. These malignant passions are found within the heart of the selfish man, which lead him to deception, fraud, murder, or other crimes of the most heinous nature. Yea, the very worst elements of such a one's nature are in activity against him.

The benevolent man has a heart cleansed from all those evil passions that would have a tendency to cause him to commit an act of injustice. He lives to make others happy, for their happiness is his, and he thus realizes the verity of the Divine assertion, 'It is more blessed to give than receive.' Bunyan once put the following riddle into his own peculiar verse:

"There was a man, though some did count him mad,
The more he gave away the more he had."

The benevolent man has no difficulty in finding its solution, for he has already learned that for every act of liberality he has received a rich reward; and if not in like, which is often the case, it has been in the true enjoyment of doing good, and making others happy by ten-fold. Conclusively every benevolent man, by experience, has found that acts of benevolence bring home to his heart happiness and joy which the cares of this world can neither give nor take away.
—Christian Advocate.