

# The Orphans' Friend.

VOLUME II.

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**THE ORPHAN WORK.**

In 1868, the premises, known as St. John's College, were sold at auction, and bought by R. W. Best, Grand Master of Masons. During the same year the purchase money was collected by Rev. J. L. Carroll, and the deed was made to the Grand Lodge. Nine Directors were appointed to control the property and to use the same for a male school, a female school, or Orphan Asylum.

**EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE IN DEC. 1872.**

Bro. J. T. Littlejohn, President of the Board of Directors of St. John's College, submitted a report as follows, which was read and accepted:

*To the Most Worshipful Grand*

*Lodge of North Carolina:*

The Board of Directors of St. John's College regret to report that they have failed to make any arrangements in establishing a school in this institution. After advertising for proposals to lease the property for a male or female school or college, they received but no application. The terms upon which the College was offered to this person, to-wit: \$500 per annum, was declined on the ground that the rent was too high. The Board has put the building in charge of a competent gentleman, who resides on the premises, and supervises the property and pays a small rent. The buildings are now in a good state of preservation.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,  
JAS. T. LITTLEJOHN, President.

Bro. C. A. Cilley, J. G. W., introduced the following resolution:

**Resolved,** That the Grand Lodge appoint three Commissioners who shall proceed to advertise and sell St. John's College, either at public or private sale, to the State or to any person, or persons, on such terms as they may think best, reporting their action to the next Grand Lodge, in order that they may there receive further instructions as to the disposition of the proceeds of sale.

Bro. J. H. Mills presented the following as a substitute for said resolution:

**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.

Pending discussion, the Grand Lodge proceeded to the consideration of the special order.

The consideration of the resolutions in regard to St. John's College was resumed.

The question recurring on the substitute of Bro. J. H. Mills, the same was put and decided in the affirmative.

The proposition as thus amended was adopted.

Several propositions to fill the blank in the 2nd resolution were submitted and rejected, when on motion of Bro. Sam'l A. Williams, five hundred dollars were inserted.

On motion of Bro. R. H. Kingsbury, Bro. J. H. Mills, of Raleigh, was elected Superintendent of the Orphan Asylum, at Oxford.

Bro. S. E. Overby moved that the present Board of Directors of St. John's College be discharged, which motion prevailed.

On motion of Bro. S. E. Overby, standing resolution No. 111, providing for the appointment of a permanent Board of nine Directors of St. John's College, was declared repealed, and the Grand Secretary was instructed to notify each member of the said Board of Directors of this action.

Bro. Clinton A. Cilley, S. G. W., introduced the following resolution, which was read and unanimously adopted:

**Resolved,** That this Grand Lodge desires to express its appreciation of the zeal and earnestness with which the Board of Directors of St. John's College have labored, both here and elsewhere, to advance the interests of that Institution.

Bro. R. W. York introduced the following resolution, which was read and adopted:

**Resolved,** That the Superintendent of the said Orphan Asylum shall report to 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.

In January, 1873, the institution was opened for the reception of orphans, and it was found that many of them were in circumstances exceedingly humiliating and distressing. Some were even enslaved by those who had been recently released from slavery. Others were oppressed as if all the rights of humanity had ceased to exist. To release these sufferers, to collect needed supplies, to decide the various problems always incident to a new work, and to give due attention to the proper management and instruction of the children, taxed the undivided efforts of the Superintendent. He therefore asked the advice of the Grand Master in regard to certain perplexing questions which had arisen, and also requested permission to resign in order that a successor might be appointed, who could give his entire time to the orphan work. He received the following reply:

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER OF MASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA, Raleigh, June 20, 1874.

J. H. MILLS, *Sup't Orphan Asylum, Oxford, N. C.*—MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—At a recent meeting of prominent and discreet Masons in this city, a number of perplexing questions with reference to the management of St. John's Orphan Asylum were discussed and determined, as follows:

3. "Should deserted children be admitted?" was decided in the negative.  
4. "Should children having step-fathers be admitted?" was also decided in the negative.  
5. "Should deformed children be admitted?" This was left to the discretion of the Superintendent. When the deformity is of such a character as to require extra attention, it was thought unadvisable to admit the parties in the present condition of the Asylum.

7. "Should boys learn trades at the Asylum?" Decided in the negative, it being impracticable at this time to employ skilled mechanics in the various trades, erect suitable work-shops and purchase necessary tools.

8. "Should collecting agents be appointed in different parts of the State; and if so, what wages should they receive?" This was left to the discretion of the Superintendent, but the meeting advised against employing and paying agents.

9. "Should the Chairman of County Commissioners and Masters of Lodges be authorized to accept and forward orphans?" Decided in the affirmative, but under such instructions from the Superintendent as he may be pleased to give. The preparation and printing of suitable forms of admission, to prevent imposition, was recommended.

10. It was decided, *unanimously*, that you should continue in the position of Superintendent—that the public having the fullest confidence in your integrity, zeal and good judgment, might lose confidence in the success of this noble enterprise should you withdraw from the position assigned you by the Grand Lodge.

I have the honor, most respectfully, to apprise you of the action of the meeting on these important questions, and trust that it may assist you somewhat in the arduous and responsible labors which have been imposed on you by the Fraternity.

With high hopes for the success of the Asylum, and a sincere regard for yourself,  
I am truly and fraternally,  
JOHN NICHOLS, *Grand Master.*

This letter, except so far as it has been modified by subsequent legislation of the Grand Lodge, or decisions of the Grand Master, is still considered binding.

**EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE IN DEC. 1873.**

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as relates to the Orphan Asylum, also the report of the Superintendent of the Asylum, submitted the following report.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand*

*Lodge of North Carolina:*

Your Committee to whom was referred the report of Bro. J. H. Mills on the Orphan Asylum, and such portion of the Grand Master's address as relates thereto, beg leave to report that they recommend the following as a basis of organization for said Asylum:

1st. The officers of the Orphan Asylum shall be a Superintendent, a Steward, a Matron, a Housekeeper and one Teacher for every Form of twenty-five children.

2nd. The Superintendent shall control every department of the Institution according to the instructions of the Grand Lodge, receive and aid in the collection of funds and supplies for its support, and make at each Grand Communication a full report of receipts and disbursements.

3rd. The Steward shall exercise a general oversight of the children, premises and property, and the operations of every department, keep the books and enforce the orders of the Superintendent.

4th. The Matron shall see that the rooms, bed-clothing and persons of the children are kept in a neat, clean and comfortable condition, and that the sick are properly attended.

5th. The House-keeper shall, under the direction of the Matron, see that the meals are properly prepared, and that nothing is lost or wasted.

6th. The Teachers shall be prompt, faithful and efficient in the discharge of all their school-room duties, and shall constantly exercise a general supervision of the manners and morals of the children.

7th. The Superintendent shall appoint the subordinate officers, and remove the incompetent and unworthy. He shall be elected by ballot, annually, by the Grand Lodge, and shall, if found unfaithful, after a careful and personal examination, be removed by the Grand Master and Wardens, or a majority of them, who, in such case, shall submit a report of their action, with a full record of the evidence taken on both sides, to the next Grand Lodge.

9th. The design of the Orphan Asylum shall be to protect, train and educate indigent and promising orphan children, to be received between the ages of 6 and 12 years, who have no parents, nor property, nor near relations able to assist them. They shall not be received for a shorter time than two years. In extraordinary cases the Superintendent may receive children outside the ages specified.

10th. The larger girls shall assist in the ordinary house work, and in making and mending the bed clothes, their own clothes and the clothes of the boys. The larger boys shall assist in the preparation of fuel, the care of the stock, and the cultivation of the soil.

11th. At least four religious denominations shall be represented among the officers of the Asylum, and the representatives of all religious creeds and of all political parties shall be treated alike.

The Institution shall be conducted on the cash system, and its operations enlarged or curtailed according to the funds received.

WM. G. HILL,  
R. W. HARRIE,  
C. A. CHILLEY,  
CHAS. C. CLARK. } *Com.*

Bro. Tourgee introduced the following which was adopted:

**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.

Bro. J. H. Mills introduced the following resolutions which were read and unanimously adopted:

**Resolved,** That the sincere thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to may benevolent ladies and gentlemen, to the ministers of the Gospel, to churches of various denominations, Odd 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.

From the foregoing legislation it appears that the Orphan Asylum was designed to be a place of refuge, where poor and promising orphans may find a temporary school, and be trained and prepared for the duties of good and useful citizens. It is not an "Orphans' Home," or place of permanent residence; it is not a hospital for the sick and disabled, nor a nursery for infants. It is not open to deserted children, lest unfeeling parents should be thereby encouraged to abandon their offspring. Neither is it (as many seem to suppose) a reservoir in which the ragged and dirty are collected and washed and distributed among those in greatest need of servants.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE IN DEC. 1874.**

*To the Most Worshipful Grand*

*Lodge of North Carolina.*

Your Committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's Address which relates to the Orphan Asylum, and the report of the Superintendent thereof, beg leave to submit the following report:

2. A majority of the Committee are of opinion with the Superintendent as to the importance of a weekly paper in the interests of the institution. They are satisfied, upon consideration, that such a paper could be made almost, if not quite, self-supporting, in a very short time; and for the reasons assigned by the Superintendent, they can not doubt that it would prove a most valuable aid in the great work we have in charge.

3. The Committee fully concur in the suggestions of Bro. Mills in his report in regard to lotteries, gift concerts, &c., and recommend his views to the favorable consideration of the brethren of the Grand Lodge.

MELVIN E. CARTER,  
J. H. COOK,  
THOMAS WEBB,  
JAMES S. BATTLE,  
WM. R. COX, } *Com.*

Considered by sections and adopted.

Bro. L. H. DeRosset introduced the following resolution, which was read and adopted:

**Resolved,** That this Grand Lodge recommend to each Subordinate Lodge to subscribe to the paper authorized to be published at the Oxford Orphan Asylum under the supervision of the Superintendent thereof, as being the official record of that great Masonic charity.

In January, 1875, the Mars Hill Orphan Asylum was opened and during the year of its continuance there was not a case of serious sickness.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE IN DEC. 1875.**

The Special Committee on the Orphan Asylums made their report, which was read and adopted.  
*To the Most Worshipful Grand*  
*Lodge of North Carolina:*

Your Committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's Address, which relates to the Oxford and Mars Hill Orphan Asylums, cordially approve his suggestions, and commend the zeal he has manifested in their behalf.

From the report of the Superintendent, Bro. J. H. Mills, which was likewise referred to this Committee, they are gratified to see that the orphan work has been so successfully prosecuted, and that these institutions have been the instruments of alleviating much suffering, rescuing from misfortune and crime many of the unprotected and destitute children of our beloved State, and placing the means within their reach of becoming useful and valuable members of society.

They are gratified to discover

from this report that some of our leading institutions of learning propose to receive and educate, gratuitously, a limited number of the most promising and intelligent of these children, provided they are supplied with suitable clothing and books.

2d. They are gratified to hear of the success of the "Orphans' Friend," published at the Asylum at Oxford, and recognizing it as a valuable auxiliary to the work, earnestly recommend its patronage to every Mason within this jurisdiction.

3d. It having been called to their attention that there are large areas of territory, in which there are no Lodges, and where it has proved impossible to interest the people in the orphan work, by the means hitherto employed, they recommend the establishment in all such localities, or Orphan Aid Societies, under such rules, regulations and restrictions as may be prescribed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

4th. The present plan for raising funds from the Subordinate Lodges, for the support of the Asylums, is believed to be as efficacious as any they can suggest, and needs only to be carried out faithfully to guarantee success. They, therefore, advise no additional legislation, but recommend that the Most Worshipful Grand Master use all legitimate means to induce the Lodges aforesaid to appoint active and diligent committees, as provided by this Grand Lodge, and to see that they discharge their responsible duties.

5th. They respectfully recommend the appropriation of two thousand dollars towards the support of the Orphan Asylums for the current (Masonic) year, and that the Grand Treasurer be instructed to pay the same, in monthly installments, upon the warrant of the Superintendent.

6th. They would respectfully urge the erection of a permanent endowment fund, for the support of the Asylums, and to this end suggest that all committees, agents or others, soliciting and receiving contributions for a temporary support, be authorized and requested to receive any land, notes or other securities, given for this purpose, and that as such land, notes or other securities are from time to time received, the same shall be accounted for and turned over to the Grand Treasurer, who shall hold the same subject to the further orders of this Grand Lodge, and that the Most Worshipful Grand Master be requested to bring this subject prominently before the public in order to accomplish this design.

We heartily recommend these institutions to the kindest consideration of our brethren, and the people of the State, hoping they may receive the support they so richly merit, and under the blessings of the Supreme Grand Master, prove the fostering mother of many more of the destitute and unfortunate of our land.

W. R. COX,  
JOHN NICHOLS,  
R. V. BLACKSPOCK, } *Com.*  
N. L. SHAW,  
Z. M. PASCHALL,