

A CANDIDATE HEARD FROM.

The eyes of the ORPHANS' FRIEND are wide open on the subject of education. Hence our earnest desire for a distinct understanding with every man who asks the people to make him Superintendent of Public Instruction. Our article on this subject has called forth a letter from Mr. Scarborough, and though he seems a little impatient at our ignorance, he states his past and present position. Our object is accomplished and we are satisfied. Here is the letter:

SELMA, N. C., July 1, 1876.

Superintendent Orphan Asylum, Oxford, N. C.—Dear Sir:—In an article in ORPHANS' FRIEND of June 28th, after complimenting Gov. Vance, Col. Kenan and Major Englehard on their zeal for the Orphans, you say: "Mr. Scarborough, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, is an efficient teacher, in sympathy with country schools, and more competent to discharge the duties of the office than many who have heretofore sought the position. But let him tell the people what he thinks of the orphan work. We shall watch the candidates on both sides, and if any propose to keep poor orphans in ignorance and vice, we shall ask the people to keep them at home. So mote it be."

For the kind compliment here given, I return thanks, but I am somewhat surprised at the latter part of this article. I have never been much given to sounding my own praises. I do not intend to be led into sounding them now, for, if I have done anything worthy of praise, the people will find it out without my telling it. But I claim that the ORPHANS' FRIEND ought to have known where I stand on the orphan work. I have a hard field to work in, but I have done something to aid the Asylum. The contributions from Selma, whether from the church or from the community, have been made through my influence and efforts; and I claim my share of the credit for what little the Lodge here has given.

I have met with opposition in the Lodge and out of it, though I have never failed to speak a word for the orphans and make an appeal to the people in their behalf, whenever an opportunity has offered itself or whenever I could make an opportunity.

The contributions sent from Selma have been forwarded by me. The ORPHANS' FRIEND ought to have known this, and not have "booked" me as doubtful on the orphan work. I say "booked" as doubtful, because calling on me to let the people know where I stand is an evidence that the ORPHANS' FRIEND regards me as doubtful. "He that is not for us is against us" in this work. I can produce evidence that I was in favor of converting St. John's College into a school for the free education of poor children, (board and tuition), the money to be raised by contributions from the Lodges, churches and other benevolent societies of the State, before the present Superintendent offered his resolution in the Grand Lodge, making it an Asylum for orphan children. But I have written enough and forbear further comments.

Yours truly,

JOHN C. SCARBOROUGH.

The throng was immense. The Orphan Chapel was packed and divers vehicles, and loaded baskets and tables filled the grove. An eloquent oration was delivered. Our ancestors were glorified and Heaven's blessing was invoked upon us and our children. Then a bountiful dinner was spread and enjoyed, and the people dispersed. After they were gone, a poor orphan, in deep disappointment, said: "They pumped out all our water, and spread their chickens, pies, and cakes right under our noses, and didn't give us a taste."

Alas for the rarity
Of picnic charity,
Under the sun!

OUR ORPHAN WORK.

Many of our readers cannot form a proper conception of this great charity. Remote, as it is, from the great business centres of the State, but few, comparatively, know practically of what is being done at this Institution and the obligations we are under to foster and promote with parental care in every claim and interest.

To act intelligently the reader should know something of the Institution, both as to its origin, designed, and present work and purposes.

The original law required each Lodge to pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge the sum of £5 annually, which should be applied to purposes of charity, and education. These contributions had gone in annually until many thousands of dollars had accumulated. The Grand Lodge then determined to carry out the purposes of the fund, and erect at Oxford, then considered the most eligible and desirable location in the State, a large and handsome brick building, to be known as St. John's College, with the view of establishing a school that would at once take rank with any in the land. Through a series of inefficient management the building was not entirely paid for, was ultimately sold for the debt and purchased by the Grand Lodge for the amount against it, thus making it, unencumbered, the property of the Grand Lodge in fee simple. It then stood practically idle for a long time.

In 1872 Brother J. H. Mills conceived the idea of converting it into an Asylum for the protection and training of the indigent orphans of the State without reference to their parents being Masons, and the Grand Lodge regarding his suggestions with favor matured its plans accordingly, and on the memorial 22d of February, (happy coincidence,) 1873, the OXFORD ORPHAN ASYLUM received its baptism of faith by the admission of three children, since which time it has had an honorable and useful record. 317 children have been received, fed, clothed, instructed and kindly cared for and as comfortably as the means would permit. Of this large number only 5 have died; 15 have run away and been decoyed off by bad hearted, unscrupulous persons, 176 have been adopted into pleasant families where they have superior social and educational advantages, or have been put to useful trades, and by the kindness of friends 5 girls have been placed at different Colleges where they are receiving a first class education almost entirely free of cost to the Institution, leaving 116 still at

the Asylum at Oxford.

In addition to this, about a year and a half ago valuable property at Mars Hill was donated to the Grand Lodge for a branch Asylum, and was regularly opened. Since then, also, other valuable property at Asheville, has been donated and the children at Mars Hill removed to it, while the Mars Hill property is retained as an infirmary where the sickly from both Oxford and Asheville are sent to recruit, it being regarded one of the most salubrious and healthy locations in the whole State. At these two places there are fifty children, which added to the number at Oxford makes 156 now under the care of our Asylum Work, and to be provided for by the voluntary contributions of the people.

To carry on this great work is no small task, and is attended with heavy expenses. This expense must be met by the voluntary contributions of the people of the State. So far this has been done without reference to system, but has depended upon the spasmodic efforts of individuals, Societies of different orders, Churches and Sunday Schools, and the result is, that while some have done nobly others have failed to do anything and there has been a falling off during the half-year of '76, just past, of \$1,500, as compared with the first half-year of '75. This ought not and must not be.

We fear that familiarity with the theme has produced indifference, and many have awaited the awakening power of orphan concerts, charades, tea parties and such, rather than upon the great moral and religious obligation to give with regularity and system. First resolve to do this and then these extra efforts combined with pleasure will not be misplaced.

Bro. Mills, the able and efficient Superintendent, is perfecting a plan for securing this system and regularity by the formation of Orphan Aid Societies at every accessible point in the State, and having reviewed the whole plan, we give it our unqualified endorsement and cooperation, and call upon all friends of needy humanity to join in the effort and permanently establish a systematic contribution in this organized form.

Having recently visited the Institution and freely mingled with the children, teachers and officers, we are prepared to speak intelligently of the work that is being done and the importance of an undiminished effort for its faithful prosecution. To spend a day at the Institution and witness the unselfish devotion of the teachers to their duty, and the parental affection bestowed upon each of those little charges, and then the little children, God bless them, are perfectly devoted to their teachers and greet them with smiles and caresses and the most cheerful obedience on all occasions. No wonder that crowds greet the little bands that go out to give concerts in our towns and villages, and no wonder that their warmest sympathy and interest are enlisted on such occasions, but friends, could you all see them as we have seen them and hear them as we have heard them at their morning and evening devotions in their spacious chapel with upward of a hundred voices joined in sweetest song, in richest melody, you'd all feel that if you had a thousand bags of gold you would gladly cast it at their little bare feet.—*Masonic Journal.*

PROVIDENCE CHILDREN'S FRIENDSOCIETY, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Its object is to rescue from evil and mystery such children as are deprived of the care of their natural protectors. During the thirty-eight years of its existence the institution has admitted 987, many of whom were indentured to the society and continue under its guardianship until they arrive at the age of 21 years. Unless in special cases, or where a child is to be brought up as an adopted child, they are not placed out under 12 years of age, and in no case without good references. No child under 2 years of age is received into the institution.

CHARLESTON ORPHAN HOME, CHARLESTON, S. C.

Established in the year 1792, this is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in this country.

The administration is wise and successful. Much of the labor of the institution is done by the children without interfering with their school or studies. They are taught useful occupations here, in order that they may be fitted to take care of themselves when they go out from the care and protection of the home hereafter.

THE NASHVILLE PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM, NASHVILLE, TENN.,

Has been in successful operation for the last fifteen years; and the ardent desire of the board of managers to establish a home for the helpless child of want has been happily realized. The erection of a separate establishment for boys is now under consideration, and a lot of ground in Watkin's Grove has been donated for that purpose by the liberality of Mr. Watkins.

MILWAUKEE ORPHAN ASSOCIATION, MILWAUKEE, WIS.,

A charity that has cared for nearly seven hundred homeless and forsaken children, reports: "The Lord has been our Shepherd" and the "Keeper of our flock," and humbly conscious are we that unless He had kept the home our labor would have been in vain. Is it not a reproof to our fears and an encouragement to our faith to remember that for twenty-five years a family of young children, varying in number from twenty to over sixty, with no endowment fund, no industry of sufficient magnitude to be profitable, but trusting only to the "charity that never faileth," has been maintained without ever suffering a single want or feeling one necessity? Surely may we exclaim, "I will trust in Thee and fear no evil, for Thou, God, art with me."

A WORD TO GRUMBLERS.

Don't be a grumbler. Some people contrive to get hold of the prickly side of everything, to run against all the sharp corners, and find out all the disagreeable things. Half the strength spent in growling would often set things right. You may as well make up your mind, to begin with, that no one ever found the world just as they would like it; but you are to take your share of the trouble and bear it bravely. You will be very sure to have burdens laid upon you that belong to other people, unless you are a shirk yourself; but don't grumble. If the work needs doing and you can do it, never mind about the other boys who ought to have done it and didn't.

Those workers who fill up the gaps and smooth away the rough spots, and finish up the job that others left undone—they are the true peace makers, and worth a whole regiment of growlers.

We extract the following from a masonic address delivered by Chas. R. Jones W. M. of Excelsior Lodge No. 261 Charlotte N. C. before Mt. Mourne Lodge on the 24th day of June 1876.

I cannot conclude without referring to the Orphan Asylum, and the work who I school in order useful ren, th the g gover Durin hono away durit frate child educ did it have Br some are m North will more. aid an hear's and your purse strings, and contribute something to enable North Carolina Masons to carry out the work so auspiciously begun. "He who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and how much more commendable is it in us to contribute to the relief of those little ones who cannot help themselves? God has placed them here as our wards, and we must cherish, protect and nourish them. In this great Masonic charity we can prove to the world, that we can practice as well as preach. It is already in successful operation, and needs only your favors and your charities, to enable its historian to fill up the brightest page, in the history of the Fraternity in our State.

GETTING A START.

There is nothing like getting a good start, and keeping up a good, sober, steady pace in business. More men fall from a want of steadiness of purpose, than from any other cause. Fast business men—those who progress spasmodically—are not generally the most successful ones in the long run. An examination into the list of successful business men will prove that, in nine cases out of ten, the success has been achieved by patient, steady, persevering study, coupled, of course, with judicious economy. The fast merchant may get the lead for the season, but to maintain it requires both bottom and speed, two qualifications rarely combined. It is the pace that kills. Everybody remembers the fable of the 'tortoise and the hare.'

The forests of Europe are estimated as being 500,000,000 acres in extent. In North America 1,460,000,000 acres are covered with trees, of which area 900,000,000 are in British North America. In South America, forests occupy 700,000,000 acres. The proportion of forest land to the whole area of Europe is computed at 20 per cent; in America, 21. Supposing, therefore, 20 per cent to be the proportion in Asia, Africa and Australia, the grand total of the forests of the world cover a space of 7,734,000 geographical miles.