

PLEASE BE PATIENT.

We have a package of applications for the admission of orphans, and are anxious to bring in the most needy as soon as possible. But, alas! we have not the funds. Many people feel an interest in the orphan work and are going to send in contributions when—well, very soon, we hope. Some years ago we were passing a very old school-house and went in to explore. We found one book, an old book, a very old spelling book. On the first page we read as follows:

"William Wilson, his hand and pen:  
He will be good, but God knows when."

Now, reader, when are you going to be good enough to send in your contribution? It is needed now. Now is the day, and the only day, in which some orphans can be saved from ruin.

THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

The Republican Convention has nominated Hon. Thomas Settle for Governor, Major Smith for Lieut. Governor, W. H. Wheeler for Treasurer, Judge Albertson for Secretary of State, John Reilly for Auditor, Col. Hargrove for Attorney General and Dr. John C. Carson for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Major Smith, Judge Albertson and Col. Hargrove are friends of the Orphan Work. How the others stand on this question, we do not know. Mr. Scarborough thinks we ought to know something which we do not know. That is true of us, and of others as well. But we shall be glad to hear from the other candidates and to have some explicit statement of their views. Especially are we anxious to hear from Dr. Carson who is almost unknown in this part of the state. Some say he is a Presbyterian D. D. Others say he is a Northern Methodist. Some say he is seventy years old, others say he is forty five. We wish to hear from Dr. Carson.

IS IT SO?

The Democrat publishes Treasurer Belk's lucid statement of the expenditures for public schools in Mecklenburg county. The white children had 56 schools, and the colored children had 46. The schools for white children cost \$5,480.80. The schools for colored children cost \$3,868.93. Now comes the fact for the thoughtful: 1798 white children attended schools, and 1928 colored children. The whites had more schools and more money spent thereon, and yet the colored children seemed more zealous for learning. In statesmanship, in scholarship, in general intelligence, and in judicious care of their own interests, the people of Mecklenburg are not behind those of any other county, and any other county would probably suffer by comparison with Mecklenburg. Are the white people neglecting the education of their children? Some years ago we rode with a gentleman of large wealth. He had given money to endow a college, but was neglecting the education of his own children. Now three of his grandchildren are in the Orphan House. His son grew up ignorant and the property his father gave him disappeared, and now when father and grandfather, mother and grandmother are all dead, the children are homeless and penniless. That grandfather ought to

have invested one of his farms in the education of his children. Then his other farms and his money might have remained in the family. When will our people believe that learning is of more value than lucre?

CENTENNIAL LETTER.

HORTICULTURAL HALL.

This building is in the Moorish style of architecture of the 12th century, and is mostly of iron and glass externally. Internally the gallery that runs around the central conservatory is supported by ornate brick columns with white marble foundations. The gallery itself is white, ornamented with blue and gold to correspond with the arch of the ceiling.

The cool atmosphere is very refreshing, and its very size—for it covers less than an acre and a half of ground—is very pleasant after traversing the long aisles of the Main Building. We walk leisurely along the broad stone walk, stopping to examine some tree or plant at almost every step. We hasten to the splash of the waters of many fountains. There are eight in its angles, not to speak of the handsome marble one in the centre, executed by Miss Foley, our own American sculptor, now in Rome. Here are palms—veritable palms of which we have used so much, but being small on account of transportation, &c., we acknowledge to a feeling of disappointment. Here is the Banana tree from China, with a long bunch of bananas hanging from its branches—the Date palm from Asia, the Chocolate tree from South America with its bright green leaves very much like those of the orange tree, but larger. This tree bears a bean called the Cocoa bean, which is ground and mixed with vanilla and compounded into the chocolate which we use in making the delightful breakfast drink of that name. Speaking of breakfast drinks reminds me that here, too, in this hall, is a Coffee shrub from Abyssinia. It is not over two feet tall, and has bright red oblong fruit upon it, which we are told contains a grain of coffee.

See the great feathery leaf from which our palm leaf fans are made! but the graceful, feathery border is cut off and the centre bound as we see them in daily use. Here is the Screw Pine from East India, and we stop before a dark brown trunk of a palm about four feet tall and one foot in diameter, surmounted by a quantity of feathery leaves that grow right from the top of the trunk and seem almost as if a human instead of the Divine hand had placed them there. This palm is labelled "Cycas Revolution," and was owned by Robt. Morriss before and during the Revolutionary War. Robt. Morriss not only signed the Declaration of Independence, but assisted the war with the loan of a large private fortune. In his later years he lost everything through a partner in a vast land speculation, and lay for four years in a debtor's prison, and finally died in poverty and obscurity. But we will try to forget the troubles of life here amidst the luxurious growths of different climes. The ferns are beautiful, and the Japonicas from Japan, and Acacias from North Holland, come in for their share of attention. The display of Rhododendrons, in a position near by, is magnificent. The leaf and bush resembles our southern river ivy, and now is

the blossoming season. Every bush is filled with beautiful clusters of scarlet, pink, purple and pure white flowers.

Around this hall are flower plots, century plants, and a long row of orange and lemon trees loaded with fruit. In front is a brilliant parterre of gorgeous exotics. But we will not yet leave this pleasant hall, but look upward at the four handsome chandeliers with the light falling prismatically through its glittering pendants; peep through the windows into the forcing rooms for the propagation of young plants, and admire for a moment the beautiful terra cotta statuary. Hark! music fills the air—strange music to me—the full tones of the organ, but I hear the clash of cymbals—what is it? An officer pleasantly informs us that it is an organ worked by electricity, and upward we ascend the ornamental stairway to see for ourselves. The gallery commands a fine view of the interior of the building, and at one end is the electric—magnetic orchestra. This organ represents a band of twelve pieces. The music is simply perforated paper drawn over a metallic plate, and the electricity will distinguish the conducting characters from the non-conducting surface of the paper, and instantly is telegraphed to the corresponding performing magnet in the main case. The "reeder" is in front of the main case of the instrument which is a tall plain case, and reminds one of a large walnut wardrobe. From this case the telegraph wires extend to the "reeder" in front. This "reeder," as it is called, looks like a small table with a kind of wind pocket each side, and by the means of the compressed air, the music, which is in the form of rolls, passes over the plate which is charged with electricity, and as a great many notes may be sad at once, the music may be very much varied, and is certainly very beautiful—much more so than any automatic music that we ever heard before.

We are loath to leave the rare plants, odorous flowers and pleasant music, and are glad that this building is to be a permanent ornament of Fairmount Park.

MEXICO AS IT IS.

The student of history who loves to trace the ever-balancing relations of cause and effect upon the scroll of the past, and to search into the secret of those subtle influences which mold the mind of nations, will ever find an interesting field in the annals of Mexico. Very indistinct are the recorded outlines and almost entirely unknown are the particular events which form the history of the wonderful people who upon this soil established an empire, which even competed with the nations of antiquity in its grandeur and wealth; but enough is known and the scene lies near enough our own doors to fairly claim a part of that time which the antiquities of Persia or Egypt, of Greece, or of Rome so often claim.

Here a nation arose from a source yet unexplained; reached a wonderful prosperity; by the hand of a ruthless conqueror fell, and by the same hand formed again into a nation, developed a character with some commendable characteristics, yet with such an amount of ignorance and religious fanaticism as made the attempt to overturn the existing state of affairs at the end of three centuries, the beginning of such a

turmoil as another half century has not ended. The mysterious rise of the Aztecs is yet unexplained. The supposition which brings them from Asia is not without plausible pretensions, but learned men of Mexico do not include any such suppositions in their papers that are now being issued at Mexico upon the subject. They begin the history with an account of the migration of the Aztecs from Azatlan in western central Mexico the site where they founded their capital, and gave two hundred and ten years for this passage over a very short distance. They do not follow the history any farther back, from the fact that they know nothing more.

The ordinary reading world is indebted to Prescott for most of its knowledge of the Aztec people, but with Bernal Diaz for leader, it is evident that some of the pictures are overdrawn; nevertheless it remains a truth that the formation and success of the empire of the Aztecs, so far away from the other great empires of the past, like a great tropical plant springing up away from its fellows, is one of those events of the past, the greater for being solitary, which will ever challenge the admiration of the world.

The three centuries which Mexico was under the rule of Spain formed a curious mold of character. The wide extended sway of the priests and the peacefulness of the government gradually lulled into sleep the proud heart of the Aztec, and in the place of sacrificing hecatombs of victims to the war god of his nation, he learned to adore the saints of Catholicism.

But liberty is sweet, and the hearts of the people awoke from the long slumber, and freed themselves from the yoke of submission to the tottering power of Spain. But the liberty that would have been sweet was made anarchy by ignorance, and revolution after revolution, petty broils of state with state, and of states within themselves, the cunning of leaders and the Jesuitical sway have long devastated a people that with their native tact and warm impulsive character are capable of ranking with the first nations of the globe.

The men of talent and education realize the situation, and the cry is, "Give us peace, and we will take our proper position among nations." The need of universal education, the full toleration of religious opinions, and the protection of the rights of all its citizens, as well as those of other nationalities here residing, are subjects which claim the serious consideration of the government; and taking into consideration her exhausted financial condition and yet unsettled people, Mexico is making giant strides toward the elevated position she should occupy as a republican government. The United States may no longer look upon her with disdain. That contemptuous treatment which she receives at the hands of the border State, is most unjust, and the continual attempt to imbroider her in war merits strong condemnation from all who love liberty and the progress of civilization.

It is a fact to be conceded that fanaticism yet rules in the interior towns and the assassination of our worthy co-laborer, J. L. Stephens, is a melancholly proof of the force which the clergy yet exercise over the ignorant people. Yet the event has brought forth some cheering expressions from the editors of papers who repre-

sent the present ruling powers. All are strong in their condemnation of the act, and the government has used all possible means to punish the offenders, having arrested over one hundred of the mob including the priests. No blame can be attached to the government, for it has done all that could be asked.

The present government evinces much regard for Protestantism, inasmuch as Protestants so much favor universal education of the people.

It is also true that Matamoras, the city in which we labor, is at present under bad administration, but endeavors are being used to arrange and amicably settle the difficulty, and we may well pray that such may be the case in all such circumstances here, for now is evidently a critical time in the nation's history; it is struggling with the birth of a noble era, and every friend of the progress of civilization and Christianization could not but be interested in the result did they but know the facts.

Mexico does not receive the consideration that is due her from her sister republic; the slighting tone with which she is often mentioned is an insult to the principles of liberty, towards which she is advancing. It may be among the probabilities of the future, that this position, after which she is striving, may be snatched from her grasp by the impudence of some of her turbulent spirits, but it behooves all who would glory in her exaltation to beseech the Ruler of the destinies of nations, that the curse of war and turmoil may be lifted from her, and that the ennobling effects of peace, education and the Bible may have opportunity to develop themselves.

It will require time to accomplish these things, which not only we, but all her noble sons desire of Mexico. The people must gain confidence in the government, and the government give evidence by its acts of its concern for the welfare of the people. Such a course the acting president has begun, and when her finances can be so replenished as to carry forward internal improvements, then if peace can be maintained, the saying of an editor here will be fulfilled, namely: "Give us fifteen years of peace, and we will astonish the world."  
M. M. B.

MINGLING WITH STRANGERS.

The effect of mingling with new people, who have new methods of thought, is very salutary. Always to see the same people, do the same things, feel the same way, produces a stagnant condition of the mind and heart that is very distressing to behold. There are thousands of invalids who might be greatly benefited by getting away from home, to mingle with strangers and be touched with the magnetism of the world as it courses in its accustomed rounds. And there are mental invalids who need the same change, to get their minds and hearts enlarged and let in a little more of the great light of life. Outside influences are very valuable to those who at home have been well trained by healthful influence in early youth, so that they can avoid the snares and pitfalls into which they so often blindly fall.

A Christian has nothing to call his own, save Christ and his salvation; all the rest is surrendered to God.