

give a receipt therefor, substantially as follows:

Received of Bro. the sum of five dollars, for his tax for the support of the Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School of the Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of Mississippi, for the year ending with the Festival of Saint John, the Evangelist, A. L. 5.

And I hereby certify that said Bro. is entitled to all the rights, privileges and benefits enjoyed by members of Subordinate Lodges holding under the Grand Lodge aforesaid, during the current Masonic year, excepting those incident to Lodge membership.

Given under my hand and the seal of Lodge, No., this day of, A. L. 5., Sec.

And any non-affiliated Master Masons whose residence shall be in the State of Mississippi, who shall fail to pay said sum when the same shall become due in each year, shall be denied all Masonic rights, privileges and benefits, so long as such default shall continue; and it shall be the duty of each Master of a Lodge to require evidence that such payment has been made before permitting any non-affiliate to visit his Lodge, the proper evidence of which shall be the receipt aforesaid; but any Lodge under whose jurisdiction any non-affiliated brother may reside, who is unable to pay such tax, may relieve him from the same, by a resolution duly passed at a regular communication, a copy of which shall be given to the brother and shall entitle him to all the rights and privileges enjoyed by non-affiliates who have paid such assessment.

Each Secretary of a Lodge receiving a payment, as aforesaid, shall enter a minute of the same upon the record of the next communication of his Lodge, and forward the money to the Grand Secretary within thirty days thereafter.

Sec. 4. Each applicant for initiation, before receiving the degree of Entered Apprentice, shall pay to the Secretary, in addition to the other fees, the sum of five dollars for the Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School.

Sec. 5. The surplus funds remaining in the treasury of the Grand Lodge, after paying the expenses of the current year, and the sum of one thousand dollars which may be reserved for contingent expenses, shall be paid over to the Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School fund.

Sec. 6. The Grand Lodge shall elect, in each year, at the same time as the Grand Officers are elected, five of its members, to constitute a Board of Managers of the Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School, who shall hold their offices for the term of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided, That at the first election fifteen managers shall be elected, the first five of whom shall hold their offices for the term of one year; the second five for the term of two years, and the remaining five for the term of three years. Said Board of Managers shall meet as soon as convenient, after their election, and organize by election a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, each of whom shall be one of the elected managers, and appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, and as soon

as the services of such an officer are required, a Superintendent of the Home.

Sec. 7. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens shall be members *ex-officio* of the Board of Managers of the Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School, but shall not be eligible to office in said Board.

Sec. 8. The Grand Lodge may, by appropriate legislation, prescribe and fix the duties of said Board of Managers and make all needful rules and regulations for their government, and to secure the safe custody of the Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School funds.

We cannot conceal from ourselves, or from you, brethren, the magnitude of this undertaking. Before the endowment fund is fully raised, many of us will have taken the last sublime degree and solved the great mystery of death; but the legacy will remain for those who shall come after us, and, mayhap, our children will find shelter beneath the roof of the house whose foundations we are now laying. It is seldom that we reap the fruit of our labors in this world, but there are things which can survive our funerals. Our works, our influences, and the effects of our good deeds, which are more to the world that survives than we ourselves are, do not pass away; these continue and live. Even the Temple of Solomon, the great type and symbol of Masonry, would not have existed at all but for the provision made by David, who was not destined to even behold the foundations thereof, much less to see the glory of the Lord fill the house. It was left for his son, Solomon, to carry forward to completion the great conception of his father; but is not David's name as inseparably connected with the first temple as that of our Ancient Grand Master? Will not our satisfaction and pleasure be a sufficient reward, as from year to year, we see the fund accumulate, and know that we are laying up a store against the day of adversity for our children and our children's children? Be assured that the angels will not fail to write down to our credit in the great Book of Life, the vote by which this work shall be inaugurated. It is possible that the work will be retarded, and, at times, the hearts of those who shall have charge of it will be heavy with disappointment and sorrow. It may even be that we will be reproached for placing so heavy a burden upon their shoulders, for it must not be imagined that this great undertaking can be carried forward to fruition without its seasons of adversity. And it may even happen that before others shall take our places, we will weary with the work and faint by the wayside, for it must be remembered that the path has already been trodden by brethren who have turned their faces backward in the day of battle. More enterprises of this character have failed, miserably failed, than have succeeded. So far as we know, there are but two Masonic Homes in successful operation in all this broad land of ours, with its more than half million of Masons. We may, from some unseen defect, fail, as others have done before us. We know of no reason why we may not succeed, for other societies with less pretensions and less ability than our own, have done so. Every where throughout christendom, stand noble monuments of disinterested

zeal and true philanthropy which owe their origin to comparatively small bands of charitably disposed persons, associated with the sole object of doing good to their fellowmen. The Church of Rome, with its hundreds of Orphanages, built with the offerings of a people who themselves, in many instances, are objects of charity, demonstrates what a little self-sacrifice upon the part of great numbers can accomplish. Every religious denomination has successfully preceded us in the same field of labor, until the number of charitable institutions, maintained by voluntary offerings, are numbered by thousands. For years, a few kind-hearted and charitably disposed ladies have, almost single-handed and alone, carried on a noble work at the Protestant Orphan Asylum in Natchez. If the twelve thousand Masons in Mississippi do not succeed in this undertaking, it will demonstrate what we would be very loath to admit—that there is some radical defect in the Masonic Institution itself, suggestive of thinking symbols and sounding brass. Surely it cannot be true, that with all its high-sounding pretensions, the charitable features of Masonry are confined to an occasional doling out of a few paltry dollars, to relieve the immediate necessities of casual applicants. If such is the fact, the sooner it is demonstrated the better. It will have lived its day, outlived its usefulness and must give place, at no distant period, to something capable of greater things than the conferring of degrees, whose teachings are mere theories to be preached—not practiced.

Brethren, the responsibility is with you, and it is for you to decide. We have endeavored to present the subject, not alone from the standpoint which our inclinations prompt us to view it, but, also, from a foreboding and disheartening aspect.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED, Ch.
H. W. WALTER,
A. P. BARRY,
WM. S. PATTON,
THOS. REED,
Committee.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

We have on hand about a dozen boys and girls, small and sprightly, just such as childless couples might properly adopt. Persons wishing to adopt children are invited to come and see them, or correspond with us.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A BOY.

My residence is in
. County, and my occupation is
My family consists of
. I wish to employ a boy years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.)
He will be required to and allowed to I will furnish and pay him a month.

A. B.

Recommended by

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF HALF ORPHANS.

. N. C., }
., 1877. }

This is to certify that
. is a half orphan,
sound in body and mind, and without any estate. H. father died in 18. I being h. mother, hereby make application for h. admission to the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof the entire management and control of said orphan till the day of (that being the day on which will be fourteen years of age,) in order that may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I also promise not to annoy the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said orphan to leave without the approval of the Superintendent.

Approved by
W. M. of

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ORPHANS.

. N. C., }
., 1877. }

This is to certify that
. is an orphan, sound in body and mind, and without estate. H. father died 18., h. mother died in 18. I, being h., hereby make application for h. admission into the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof, the entire management and control of said orphan till the day of, 18. (that being the day on which will be fourteen years of age,) in order that may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Approved by
W. M. of Lodge.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A GIRL.

Our residence is in
County, and our occupation
Our family consists of We wish to employ a girl years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired). She will be required to and allowed to She will spend her evenings in and will sleep in We will furnish and will pay a month.

A. B.,

Mrs. A. B.

Recommended by

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Orders solicited and promptly filled.
March 3rd, 1875.