

## ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Wednesday, November 28, 1877.

### QUESTIONS CONCERNING SCHOOLS.

The following questions are propounded by the *Educational Weekly*. The answers are our own.

1. "Should the teacher talk very loud?"

Never. A big fool makes a big fuss. Wise men are generally quiet.

2. "Should a pupil be deprived of a whole recess for a minor offense?"

Never. Teachers should avoid cruelty and injury to health.

3. "Should we keep pupils after school to learn lessons, etc.?"

Never. They need recreation and exercise. Students should be required to do their work during the hours assigned to work.

4. "How may we best secure good order in going down stairs?"

Teach them to march out with a light step. Some inexperienced teachers allow children to rush out like a drove of cattle going to a pasture. They themselves must first learn the meaning of "good order."

5. "How many pupils should be in charge of one teacher, in particular, the primary department?"

Sixteen are enough. Twenty can be managed when you are not able to employ more teachers. Thirty is the highest number that any teacher can watch and more than he can properly teach. If the school is not graded, then one teacher for every nine students will be needed.

6. "How can we get pupils to take better care of their books and slates?"

Hold them to a rigid responsibility.

7. "How can we best secure visits from the parents?"

Competent parents will examine their children at home. The incompetent are not needed in the school-room.

8. "Why not keep the same teacher in the same school, promoting him as you do the pupils that he may be with the class until they leave school?"

Because every teacher should remain where he can do the best work and not be following classes into studies on which he is not thoroughly posted.

9. "Is it well to have a Roll of dishonor?"

No. The absence of honor is dishonor enough.

10. "Is a very slow movement in order to secure quiet to be recommended?"

Not at all. A tardy sneak is very annoying.

11. "Should the principal of a school teach regularly in lower department?"

As often as his other duties will allow.

12. "Should pupils act as teachers?"

Very seldom. Better let them start life in their own schools and among strangers.

13. "Is not a two-hour session without a recess too long?"

Entirely too long for small children.

14. "Is it well to give a half-day holiday for excellence in school?"

A teacher has no right to give holiday and receive pay for work when he is idle.

15. "Should examination papers be preserved?"

Not to be used again.

16. "Why do we find so much school apparatus out of order, and yet not very old?"

Because many teachers buy apparatus for display and not for use, and know not how to keep instruments in order.

17. "Why are school libraries so much neglected—even those books on hand not used?"

Generally they are thoroughly read, if they are worth reading. But most of the books sent to schools are almost as worthless as a yellow-back novel.

The following letters are a fair sample of those received in answer to our circular. We publish them, because some Lodges will like to see what others have said:

HIRAM LODGE, No. 40, RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 21, 1877.

Bro. J. H. Mills:—I now proceed to communicate to you the answers to your questions contained in a circular addressed to Hiram Lodge, No. 40.

Question 1. Do you prefer any other to the present plan of supporting the Orphan Work? No.

2. Ought our operations to be curtailed or enlarged? Enlarged, if possible.

3. How much has your Lodge contributed since the last Annual Communication of the Grand? \$77.55.

Yours fraternally,  
E. B. THOMAS, Sec.

J. H. Mills, Esq.—Dear Sir and Bro:

—At the regular communication of this Lodge, held in October, a committee was appointed to answer the questions propounded by you in your circular. The report of the committee was read to the Lodge at the regular communication held on the 20th inst., and was unanimously adopted. The following is the report:

WILMINGTON, N. C., Nov. 20, 1877.  
To the W. M., Wardens and Members of Wilmington Lodge, No. 319:

Your committee to whom was referred the questions asked by Bro. J. H. Mills, Supt., in regard to the Orphan Asylum, make the following report:

Q.—1. "Do you prefer any other to the present plan of supporting the Orphan Work?"

A.—It seems to the committee that the present plan of voluntary subscriptions is very uncertain and unsatisfactory, and calculated often to very much embarrass the Superintendent in the work upon which he is engaged, from the fact that he is utterly unable to make any estimate or calculation of the amounts that will be contributed from time to time for the support of the Orphan Work. We are decidedly of the opinion that the Grand Lodge should levy a per capita tax of, say \$1 on each affiliating Mason in the State for the support of the Asylum, and also receive voluntary contributions from Masons whenever they feel able or disposed to do more for the orphans than is required by the Grand Lodge. The tax to be collected by the different Subordinate Lodges, and forwarded to the Asylum in quarterly installments. This plan would not prevent persons who are not Masons contributing all they may be willing to give, but would secure to the Asylum a permanent and regular revenue, upon which the Superintendent could base his operations.

Your committee are confident that this plan would bring in a larger revenue, and that the tax would be so light on each Mason in the State that it would be paid both willingly and cheerfully, and together with the amounts received from voluntary contributions, would enable the Superintendent to greatly enlarge the Orphan Work.

Q.—2. "Ought our operations to be curtailed or enlarged?"

A.—They should be enlarged by all means if the Grand Lodge can devise the ways and means to accomplish that object; but under no circumstances let us allow the work to be curtailed. Rather let us endeavor to exert ourselves more in behalf of the good work, and resolve that we will not see the work lag for the want of any assistance we can render.

Q.—3. "How much has your Lodge contributed since the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge?"

A.—\$20.70.  
Fraternally submitted,  
W. S. WARRACK, } Com.  
W. P. OLDHAM, }

A lady writes to us for a good, reliable, "moral, genteel, and tidy boy, 14 years old, to attend to a garden, horse, cow, and cutting wood for a family of eight."

We have never seen a boy of fourteen competent to fill that bill.

### NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

—Zions Landmark is ten years old. The last number was very interesting.

—The Russians have captured Kars and will probably have Turkey for Christmas.

—President Hayes threatens to quit pardoning military officers for drunkenness. Amen.

—That personal controversy between Messrs. Guder and Nichols is unfortunate for both. Better drop it.

—The Methodist Protestant Conference has returned Rev. T. J. Ogburn to Granville Circuit, and we are glad of it.

—For several years we looked in vain for John Smith at the Orphan Asylum; but he came at last, and is here now.

—The business houses in Henderson closed one day that all might hear Rev. P. M. Jordan. His meeting is still going on.

—One thousand persons have subscribed for Elder Hassell's History of Kehukee Association, and yet half of the book is not written. This is certainly a compliment to the author.

—The Mexicans are preparing for war with the United States by sending 25,000 men to the Rio Grande, and Gen. Ord is telegraphing for more troops. Rivers, as boundaries, always have been productive of wars. The French and the Germans have, through many ages, fought over the Rhine. The United States may just as well buy Chihuahua, Durango, and Coahuila at once, and extend our dominion to the Rocky Mountains. Then perhaps we may let the poor Mexicans eat their garlick in peace on the other side.

—Rev. N. R. Pittman says "the people in Durham are the most hospitable in the State." Wonder if he has ever been to Currituck, where a visitor, to be polite, must eat a duck for breakfast, a goose for dinner, and six herrings for supper? Has he been on upper French Broad where he was expected to eat a chicken for breakfast, a turkey for dinner, and a possum for supper, with pickles, pies and cakes thrown in? But the Durham people certainly feed high, and then they do surpass all the State in their colossal preparations for chewing and spitting, and puffing and snuffing.

—The Virginia Conference has made Dr. Rosser Presiding Elder of Randolph Macon District, and sent Rev. S. S. Lambeth to Norfolk. The appointments on the Murfreesboro District are as follows:

Murfreesboro District—Presiding Elder, B. F. Woodward; Murfreesboro, F. C. Woodward; Northampton, John Q. Rhodes; Meherrin, B. F. Tennill; Bertie, Ro. N. Crooks, S. H. Johnson; Hertford and Edenton, J. R. Garrett, W. H. Riddick; Pasquotank, B. W. Daughtery; Elizabeth City, Wm. Mc Gee; Suffolk, J. C. Martin; Gates, Thos. H. Campbell, J. O. Moss; Southampton, J. B. Woodward; Northampton, Thos. L. Williams; Chocomauck, Charles E. Hobday; Camden, W. P. Jordan; Dare, W. T. White. President Wesleyan Female College, W. G. Starr.

We think this district ought to be a part of the N. C. Conference; but if Virginia will hold it, we are glad she sends us good men.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

WORCESTER'S COMPREHENSIVE DICTIONARY. Revised edition.

We are indebted to Mr. Martin V. Calvin, of Atlanta, Ga., Agent for J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, for a copy of this work. In six hundred compact pages we have a very accurate, convenient and comprehensive dictionary. Type and binding excellent. Prefatory statements correct. Classical, Scripture and Geographical names and other useful information included. Truly a "multum-in-parvo."

DERRY'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. History in the form of a catechism, beginning with the discoveries of Columbus and ending with the death of Horace Greely. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. This book tells the truth with dignity and courtesy without any abuse of "Rebels and the Great Rebellion." An excellent text book for Southern boys and girls.

### DR. GRISSOM'S LECTURE TO THE NORMALITES.

Last August Dr. Grissom delivered a very sensible address before the Normal School at Chapel Hill. His subject was Mental Hygiene, and he handled it with conspicuous ability. We copy two paragraphs full of solid sense:

"Wherever corporal punishment is still adhered to, by no means should a blow be inflicted on the head. The scalp may not even be scratched, and yet a concussion of the soft mass of the brain may lay up future ruin for the child. This is not idle theory, but very solemn fact.

Retire early; avoid a very soft bed—see that the room is well ventilated—do not lie in draughts of air—wear nothing tight about the neck—avoid tea or coffee late in the evening.

THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC FOR DECEMBER. In mechanical execution, the second number is a great improvement on the first. The bill of fare speaks for itself. Here it is:

The Wonders of an Inland Sea, by Wm. Brockden Browne; Mendelssohn's Reward, by Mrs. Margaret J. Preston; The Spiritual Ministry of Nature, by Prof. S. Hassell; Evelyn's Choice, by John Esten Cooke; Raphaël Semmes, Capt. J. N. Maffit; A Terrible Retribution, by Mrs. V. L. West; A Plea for Poetic Reading, by T. B. Kingsbury; December Sonnet, by Paul H. Hayne; National Mortgage Banks, by Samuel A. Ashe; A Word of Thanks, Art and Music in Our Intermediate Schools, by the Editor.

Such a magazine merits success. \$3 a year. Address Mrs. C. W. Harris, Wilmington, N. C.

### THE FLOOD OF 1877.

Rain fell heavily all day Thursday the 22d and on Friday the 23d, and the storm increased in fury till near midnight, when the clouds parted and the moon danced over the waters and filled the earth with a blaze of silver light. Tar river became a swelling flood and went roaring through the fields. The high bridge at Miner & Beasley's mill proved too low and the angry waters rushed up into the mill. The new bridge at Cannady's mill also went dashing down by Louisburg, Rocky Mount and Tarboro. Even little Tabb's Creek spread angry billows across the Henderson road, and two orphans with a wagan accepted Mr Cheatham's hospitality for the night. Neuse and Crab-tree Creek in Wake, and even little Walnut Creek, sent their bridges on down to Kinston.

Now reports come in from a distance. Engineer Smith, 16 miles from Charlotte, going to Atlanta, is killed by "a washout." Also the train from Columbia falls into South Fork Creek and passengers crawl through windows and climb trees to save their lives. Many suffer, and some are drowned.

### COMING DOWN THE LADDER.

A newly-married editor advising his bachelor brother says:

Remember, if you please, the wholesome injunction of Benedict while drunk in the subtle spell of Beatrician witchery, and resolve that before another Autumn shall tinge the green woods, turning all their leaves to gold, you will leave the dry parched up ranch of a Sahara-like waste, and enter the fragrant oasis of a sweeter destiny, where bubbling brooks of joy, blooming flowers of contentment, and sunny beamings of happiness shall make life flow out in the rhythm of magnificent dreaming, or "words to that effect." The change is not so terrible after all, and if a man will but exercise a proper caution—hide the tongs and broom, and then keep his hair cut short, there will be but little danger to apprehend. So, come brother and "fine the percesshan."

Hon. James G. Blaine is said to be in a very critical condition at his home in Maine.

### THE LADDER ON THE CLIFF.

We can never be placed in such straits of difficulties that the Lord cannot help us. Years before the emergency happens, he may have set on foot a train of circumstances that will lead to our relief at just the moment we need it. We should learn to acknowledge thankfully the source whence the blessing comes, just as we thought it would if he had sent an angel down from heaven to give us help.

One dark and stormy night a vessel was wrecked on a rocky island off the coast of Scotland. The crew had watched with terror the white waves as they dashed on the stately cliffs, and felt that to be driven on these rocks was to seal their doom. The cabin was filled with water, and the captain's wife was drowned. The sailors climbed into the rigging, and prayed, as they never had before, that God would have compassion on them. That he would save them from temporal death seemed almost incredible. But the cruel waves drove the vessel on and on, till the very foot of the awful cliff was reached. Oh, if they could only reach its top! There would be safety and no doubt, friendly hands to help them. Just as they struck the rock they espied on the face of the cliff a ladder. Here was their despair changed to joy. They sprang from the rigging, and climbed the ropes as rapidly as their benumbed fingers would permit; and in a few minutes more the vessel went to pieces.

The ladder seemed to them almost a miracle. Yet its presence there was easily explained. It was used by the quarrymen as they climbed up and down to their work every day. Though usually drawn up when they left, the suddenness of the storm that night had caused the workmen to hurry to the shelter of their humble homes, without taking time to remove the ladder. It was God who had ordered this seemingly trifling matter for the preservation of all their lives.

Some writer has well said, "However long the chain of second causes may be, the first link is always in God's hand."

Learn to observe this loving Father's hand in all the events of your life, and it will save you from many dark hours.—Presbyterian.

WHAT with our strikes, financial troubles, civil service reforms, and political revelations, many of our political economists are sadly troubled in seeking out the cause and applying the remedy. Some call for a stronger government, others for greenbacks and free trade. What is the disease and what is the remedy? We are sick: this is certain. We begin to feel it; this is encouraging. Now the true plan is to call in Dr. Common Sense, submit the whole case to the result of his diagnosis and take the pills he leaves. The trouble he will doubtless say is complicated and in the blood, affecting most of the vital parts. He will order purer air, a more simple diet, a clear conscience, and vigorous exercise of the vital organs,—honesty and intellect,—so long paralyzed for want of use. It would astonish the world to see how speedily the body politic would recover if the old Doctor's prescriptions should be faithfully followed.—Church Union.

The French Cabinet has resigned, and MacMahon has accepted the resignation. Officers will hold until their successors are appointed.