

ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Wednesday, December 5, 1877.

REPORT ON THE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

To the Most Worshipful

Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Number of Orphans reported last year, 103
Admitted since last report 53

Total 156
Discharged 26
Runaway 6
Total 32

Leaving now at Oxford 124

Some of those discharged have returned to their nearest relatives; some have gone to honorable employment in families highly recommended, one was transferred to another school, and several were adopted by childless couples. Many children, whom we took from circumstances extremely distressing; have found new fathers and mothers able and willing to give them advantages which they would never have known, if their real fathers and mothers had lived. Of the six who ran away, two left to avoid punishment. Children untaught, untrained and unrestrained submit with great reluctance to rules of propriety and decorum, and it is sad, as well as true, that some voluntarily abandon their only hope of ever learning to read, rather than remain where decent deportment is required. Two were gluttons by nature and could not be contented with ordinary meals. Hence on the road-side they made heavy complaints against our bill of fare. Two were natural runaways. Most children love their homes because their parents and friends, their playthings and property are there; but many orphans have no homes to love, and some have nothing lovely at the places called their homes. Having no personal affection and no local attachment, they are constantly miserable and restless. The remedy is to hold them until they learn to love somebody or some thing. But these two left before any such impression could be made upon them.

The cash receipts to Dec. 4th. have been \$8944.11

The disbursements have been \$8865.74

Leaving in hand to-day \$78.37

The amount received is less than usual, and the falling off is mainly on the part of the Lodges. The contributions of the Masonic Lodges, since the last Annual Communication, have been as follows:

St. John's, No. 1	\$201.90
St. John's, " 3	27.50
Charity, " 5	30.00
American George, " 17	9.35
Phalanx, " 31	4.48
Hiram, " 40	80.07
King Solomon, " 56	3.53
Concord, " 58	15.16
Kilwinning, " 64	30.00
Eagle, " 71	5.93
Widow's Son, " 75	50.00
Zion, " 81	3.00
Fellowship, " 84	1.00
Western Star, " 91	10.00
Joseph Warren, " 92	4.80
Jerusalem, " 95	40.00
St. John's, " 96	18.35
Hiram, " 98	10.71
Fulton, " 99	2.50
Warren, " 101	3.50
Orr, " 104	28.50
Perquimans, " 106	19.86
Clinton, " 107	25.00
Wayne, " 112	7.70
St. Alban's, " 114	14.52
Mt. Lebanon, " 117	60.00
Gatesville, " 126	12.00
Mocksville, " 134	20.64
Mt. Energy, " 140	8.92
Palmyra, " 147	6.00
Chalmers, " 151	5.00
White Stone, " 155	6.09
Rolesville, " 156	1.00
Winston, " 167	54.20
Delk, " 171	3.35
Siloam, " 178	21.50
Central Cross, " 187	4.55
Burnsville, " 192	5.00
Falkland, " 196	12.50
Eagle Rock, " 201	1.00
Roanoke, " 203	6.00
Berea, " 204	1.00
Lebanon, " 207	5.25
Mt. Olive, " 208	4.60
Richland, " 214	2.64
New Light, " 215	5.00
W. G. Hill, " 218	5.12
Corinthian, " 230	2.85
Lenoir, " 233	25.00
Atlantic, " 238	2.00

Wiccaon, " 240	2.25
Loch Lomond, " 242	51.05
Rountree, " 243	2.00
Rockford, " 251	0.50
Holly Grove, " 252	10.00
Gaston, " 263	25.00
Farmington, " 265	23.20
Durbin, " 266	16.25
Mebaneville, " 272	20.00
Beaver Dam, " 276	10.00
Salem, " 279	16.40
Forestville, " 282	5.62
Atlantic, " 294	3.25
Edgecombe, " 298	9.50
Pamlico, " 300	1.08
Pleasant Hill, " 304	10.00
Hatcher, " 310	9.87
New Lebanon, " 314	13.68
Kinston, " 316	7.50
Eureka, " 317	65.60
Wilmington, " 319	20.70
Winton, " 327	4.50
Mattamuskeet, " 328	26.25
Fayetteville, " 329	10.00
Black Creek, " 330	1.05
Bayboro, " 331	50.00
Goldsboro, " 332	5.00
Lock's Creek, " 333	7.50
Ashpole, " 335	9.00
Palmyra, " 338	6.00
Fairview, " 339	9.10
Cedar Fork, " 342	2.50
Hickory, " 343	24.54
Snow Creek, " 345	10.00
Mt. Moriah, " 350	28.00
Durham, " 352	14.33
Eureka, " 283	12.00

Number of lodges contributing 87. Amount contributed by them \$1480.71

Some Lodges not mentioned in this list, as for example Adoniram No. 149, have made liberal contributions in kind. Some of those contributing cash as for example Berea No. 204 and St. John's No. 1, have also contributed freely in kind. The members of some lodges have also contributed nobly as individuals, especially at our Orphan Entertainments. But these are the exceptions and the general fact remains that more than half the lodges and and more than half the Masons have entirely disregarded the claims of the orphans. Many lodges have never appointed a committee on the Orphan Asylum. Some have never given a cent, and some officers of lodges when, present at our Orphan Entertainments, have declined to receive and hand over the money which the people had brought and expected to give. Many individuals and several lodges have done their whole duty and some have been liberal beyond their means; but the burden of supporting the orphan work has not been fairly distributed. Neither has the amount of cash received been sufficient to justify the purchase of some things really needed; but by using fruits and vegetables very largely, by raising pork, by fattening beaves, by selling blooded pigs, by requiring the girls to do all the cooking, by discharging the hands usually hired for heavy work, by doing without a steward, and by rigid economy in every department, we have been able to keep the premises in good repair, to enclose a large pasture for the stock, to erect a two-story building for the use of the boys, and to feed, clothe and teach an average of one hundred and twenty orphans.

After an experience of five years we find that the food, clothing and instruction of each orphan will cost about five dollars a month, and the repairs and incidental expenses will add another dollar, making a total expense of six dollars a month for each orphan in the institution. The work need not cost any more; but, to be well done, it ought not to cost any less.

HEALTH.

We have reason to be profoundly grateful to the Giver of "Every good and perfect gift" for the unusual health enjoyed during the past year. There has been no death, nor lingering sickness among the orphans. During six consecutive months no one was sick enough to go to bed, and there have been but few days in the year when any one was too unwell to eat the usual meals.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. "That it shall be the duty of every Lodge to pay to the Orphan Asylum five dollars for every person initiated, and not less than five cents a month for every member on its roll, and to state in its annual returns to what extent this duty has been performed."

Less than this ought not to be expected of those who became Masons in order that they might contribute to the relief of orphans in distress.

2. "That any dimitted or non-affiliated Mason may send five dollars a year to the Orphan Asylum, by the Committee in whose jurisdiction he resides, and be thereby entitled to all the rites and benefits of Masonry, except membership in a subordinate Lodge."

Other Grand Lodges are receiving a revenue from their non-affiliated Ma-

sons for this purpose, and their example may be imitated with advantage by us. Besides it often happens that a good man and a bright mason is by some trivial circumstance denied membership in the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides. He still wishes to enjoy the rites and benefits of Masonry, and under this resolution he can do so with injury to no one, and with advantage to the orphans.

3. "That hereafter orphans shall be received between the ages of eight and twelve and discharged at sixteen."

We have found by experience that a thorough English education can not be imparted to children under fourteen years of age, and that in both mind and body the boys are too immature for most of the trades which they ought to learn. Neither can the girls at an age so tender, be prepared for the duties expected of them. According to the rule now in force, boys and girls are discharged at the very age at which temptations assail them most fiercely, and before they are prepared to fortify themselves against them.

4. "That an Agent shall be appointed to canvass the State and secure subscriptions to the ORPHANS' FRIEND, contributions for immediate use, and funds for a permanent endowment."

The ORPHANS' FRIEND is a very important auxiliary to our work. Its subscription more than meets expenses, and its influence augments the income both in cash and kind. But its subscription and its influence ought to be largely increased.

In some counties there are no lodges and consequently no committees on the Orphan Asylum. An agent could give these his special attention, and also visit those localities in which the committees are indifferent or inefficient. Our people are now unusually prosperous, and some of them desire to contribute to the endowment of the Orphan Asylum. A desire so laudable ought to be gratified.

In conclusion, I wish to be grateful to all the Lodges, churches, benevolent societies and liberal individuals who have been kind to me and to the orphans. It is pleasant to know and to serve so many good people and to feel that while

"In faith and hope the world will disagree,
Yet all mankind's concern is charity."
J. H. Mills, Supt.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

—Judge Settle has moved to Florida. A gifted citizen is gone.

—Miss Sallie Greene, of Greensboro, is married, and Mr. J. S. Adams, of Bakersville, has an excellent wife.

—The Torch-Light supper was largely attended and very much enjoyed. We could not spare the time to go; but the orphans were very kindly remembered.

—The New State says a shower of dirt has fallen in Asheville. Dirt falls here also; but then soap is cheap and water is free.

—Major Moore's sketches of Hertford and its illustrious men, published in the *Murfreesboro Enquirer*, are both interesting and instructive. He knows how to do justice to the wise and good without daubing them with indiscriminate praise.

—A man whose name is CHRIST, advertises, in the *Economist*, whiskey for sale, and calls it "first class goods." Pollok says:

"He was a man
Who stole the livery of the court of
Heaven
To serve the Devil in."

—Prof. Simonds, of the University, is a very interesting and sensible lecturer. Mrs. Spencer sends the *Farmer and Mechanic* notes of his remarks on the worms we eat. Here is an extract: "Never eat pork not thoroughly cooked—never eat any meat raw. Wash your vegetables, and see that your drinking water is pure. These instructions cannot be too frequently repeated."

But the danger from eating diseased pork is not the only danger. Cattle may swallow these eggs—diseased beef or veal will produce the same worm and same effects in the human being.

The dog too—"friend of man," as I have heard him called—he has his tape worm too, with its specialities, and thousands, millions, of its eggs are scattered wherever he goes, which when taken into stomach of man or beast, hatch, and are carried into the system. The routine is the same in all. In man, these worms give rise to obscure and horrible, and incurable diseases. REMEDY—Diminish the number of your dogs. Don't let your children play with them. Clean out their kennels often. Wash your vegetables carefully, and all uncooked food.

THE FLOOD OF 1877.

We mentioned this flood last week. But we had then no idea of its extent. The storm was severe from the Ocean to the Blue Ridge. The wind was heavy on the ocean, and the Huron, a third-class war steamer, just examined and approved by Admiral Trenchard at Norfolk, went to sea for a winter cruise in the West Indies, and was wrecked near Nag's Head with loss of one hundred and one lives, only four officers and thirty men being saved. Telegrams were sent from Kitty Hawk; but the storm prevented prompt assistance. Capt. Guthrie and four men were lost in trying to save life. But the heavy rain fell on the eastern spurs of the Blue Ridge in Virginia and North Carolina. James River swept off the rail-road bridges at Lynchburg, and went with great fury down to Richmond, destroying Mayo's bridge, the cotton mills, paper mills, and property valued at \$200,000. Boats navigated parts of Cary and Main Streets. Staunton River took off the Midland rail-road bridge, Pannill's ponderous bridge, the Richmond & Danville rail-road bridge, and rose fifteen feet above the high water mark, and carried off stores, barns and crops. At Clarksville it met Dan River with the Danville bridge, and several bridges from Sandy and Hycro Rivers, and so the two embraced each other and rolled down to Weldon two and a half miles wide and loaded with wrecks. Such a rush of water and timber was too much for the Weldon bridges, and so the splendid bridges of the Sea board and Petersburg Roads went on down towards Albemarle Sound. Of course the splendid crops in Halifax, Martin, Northampton and Bertie are gone to feed the fish. Cape Fear was very high and destroyed crops; but this is nothing unusual. The bridges on the Tar and Neuse will be restored as soon as practicable. But the losses are very heavy on many individuals.

On Thanksgiving day six of our orphans took dinner with Mr. Robinson, the Local of the *Torch Light*. It was such a dinner as orphans seldom see, and they look back upon it as "a joy for ever." Other orphans would have dined out also; but they were not invited—well, right here we are reminded of a story: About fifty years ago Miss Stamps, living near Milton, was married. Her parents celebrated the occasion with a big wedding. But William Thomas failed to receive his ticket, determined that no such trivial circumstance should balk his calculations, and so he went to the wedding. Old Mr. Stamps witnessed the marriage, ate a good supper, and mellowed his heart with a few drinks. He then sent for William Thomas, met him out on the floor and, with a loud voice, said: "William Thomas, I sent for you to say before this company that you are just as welcome as if you had been axed a hundred times."

WASHINGTON, N. C., Nov. 28, 1877.

Mr. J. H. Mills, Supt. Orphan Asylum, Oxford, N. C.—Dear Sir and Bro.:—Application has been made to me to-day by Mrs. M. E. Bonner, of Aurora, Beaufort Co., in behalf of herself and five others, for information relative to the procuring of orphans from the Asylum. Mrs. Bonner states that she applied to you, and you referred her to the ORPHANS' FRIEND for the desired information. From that sheet, however, she can not learn what she wishes to know, and I have undertaken to write for her. There are six girls required, aged say 12 to 13 years. The parties wishing to make the application are good people, and the girls in each case will be well cared for and treated as members of the respective families.

[Yes, but this is very indefinite. We once sent out a girl to be "a member of the family," and they made her stay in the kitchen with the negroes. Now we pay no attention to any such indefinite language.]

The form of application recites: "She will be required to—(what is to be filled in here?) [That is exactly what we wish to know.]

And allowed to—(what is to be filled in here?) [A concise statement of the privileges to be allowed.]

The parties expect to feed and clothe the children well and comfortably, and to care for them as though they were their own.

[Their own what? Their own children, or their own servants?]

But they do not consider that girls at that age can more than compensate by their services for their food and clothing. When they reach an age at which their services are of value, they will expect to compensate them by the payment of regular wages, at such price per month as their services may be worth.

[Well, if their services are of no value, why are they wanted? We do not recommend any who are of no value; but we sometimes send out some not recommended.]

The first question now is, how long can they expect to retain these girls?

[Now this goes for a free country.]

A little girl in Wake, when her mother told her to rock the cradle, said: "Every body is free now, but children." If people can not attach orphans to them, we do not know how to make orphans stay with them. Even a dog will generally follow those who feed him best.]

For if they go to the trouble of procuring them, and furnish them with an outfit, and it is optional with the child to remain or leave at any time, then they consider it not worth while to pursue the matter. It would appear from the form of application for the admission of orphans that parties placing them in the Asylum may claim them upon their reaching their 14th year. Can they also claim them at that age from parties who may have taken them from the Asylum in the meantime? [But we never send out those subject to such claims.]

Who defrays the expense of transportation from the Asylum to the home of the parties making application for them, and how are they fed and otherwise cared for en route?

[We have no funds contributed for that purpose. Those who want them ought to pay their traveling expenses.]

Please answer these questions fully and explicitly, and in addition, furnish any other information that may be necessary or desirable to persons who know nothing about the matter, but who wish to be informed fully, as to conditions, before making application.

[Now just advise all these ladies to subscribe for and read the ORPHANS' FRIEND. We write to them every week, and try to explain fully and explicitly all that is necessary or desirable.]

The parties are anxious to procure these girls, and I feel assured that the right kind of children will find good homes and people who will feel it their duty as well as interest, to look carefully after their welfare. The families are all in the same neighborhood, so that girls going to them will not be much separated, indeed, I think that with possibly one exception, the six families are all connected, either by relationship or marriage.

[It is of no benefit to orphans that their employers are connected.]

Fraternally yours,

J. G. BRAGAW.

[And now our good brother will please advise all who want orphans, to fill out the prescribed blank so that we may know what kind of orphans they wish, what they will require of them, and what they will do for them. Yet it will be better for them to send one of their number to talk with the children and to make contracts for the others. We have now a larger number of desirable girls ready to leave than we have had at any previous time.]

GREENSBORO, N. C., NOV. 23d 1877.

I have just had the pleasure of reading a letter of four pages of matter written by one of the orphan girls, whose name I'll say is—, about 12 years old and I wish to bear testimony to the correct spelling and writing of every word, without exception, thus showing the accuracy of their training in your noble institution. I do say that such a letter would be creditable to many scholars, many years older than she. With wishes for your continued prosperity,

W. S. Moore.