

ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Wednesday, December 19, 1877.

PROPERTY RETURNED.

The Grand Lodge has instructed the Grand Master to reconvey to Rev. L. M. Pease the land received from him early in the year 1876, on condition that he pay the Grand Treasurer \$500 for the improvements made thereon. And now we are at liberty to say some things not said before.

1. In 1875 we opened an Orphan Asylum at Mars Hill, and filled it with orphans, who were fed and clothed according to our means, and taught by an accomplished teacher. That work might have been, and ought to have been, continued there to the present day.

2. Mr. Pease had accumulated a large fortune in New York by speculations on real estate, and had retired to the South with the reputation of a philanthropist on account of his mission work at Five Points. He first intended to do a good work for the colored people of Buncombe. His description of his ludicrous failure is singularly amusing. He then turned his thoughts towards our orphan work, offering a tract of land, but carefully reserving the buildings and the only building site. The land, as he offered it, was equal in value to the same measurement of sky, and no attention whatever should have been paid to such an absurd donation. But Asheville was excited and delighted. A public meeting was held, a house for the orphans was rented of Mr. Banks for \$250; wagons were offered free, and the Steward was urged to move from Mars Hill to Asheville. This untimely and unauthorized removal was the mother of our many misfortunes in the West. The children were moved to inadequate and unsuitable buildings, which we were not at liberty to alter or repair, and before the year was out the property (rented for \$250) was sold at auction for \$20.

3. The Grand Master then ordered the Superintendent to return to Mars Hill, if the deed promised the Grand Lodge had been prepared and recorded; but this had not been done. Moreover, Rev. J. W. Anderson and Rev. John Ammons, two prominent trustees, had made public speeches denying the validity of our title to the property. We could not afford to saddle such a controversy on the back of our orphan work.

4. We also parleyed with Mr. Pease in regard to his reservation. He was willing to lease for \$300 a year, or to relinquish for \$3000, just the value of the entire property. We were anxious to utilize his gifts, his experience, his reputation and his means. We made many propositions to him, and several propositions were made by him. But we could not make any arrangement for the benefit of the orphans.

5. We could not return to Mars Hill, and could not remain in Asheville. When the beaver finds his foot in a steel-trap, he bites it off to save his life! We were in a trap at Asheville. We pulled out by main strength. Our losses were heavy; but we have survived them.

6. We have now at Oxford more children from Buncombe than from any other county, and we hope some day to return them as good and useful citizens. We are still ready to do the best we can for all the orphans of our State.

GRINDING AXES.

Several times we have alluded to those who make money for themselves by sundry speculations on the sympathy which the people feel for the orphans, and we have, in a figure, accused them of grinding their axes on the grindstone of the Orphan Asylum. But now we look out at the office window and there stands a man waiting for an orphan to turn the grindstone for him. He never gave the orphans a cent. He is ever ready to make a fat trade out of the Asylum. Here he is now to grind his axes literally on the Asylum grindstone, and even requires an orphan to turn for him. We have advised him to buy a grindstone; but he is too stingy. He will never see this article, for he does not even take the ORPHANS' FRIEND. May the Lord expand and quicken his narrow and sordid soul.

THE INSECT ENEMY.

About five years ago a Granville farmer requested Judge Watts to find out how tobacco worms might be destroyed. He agreed to do so, and is now ready with a fluid whose touch he says produces instant death even when its finest spray is sprinkled on the insect. It will clear cattle of ticks, beds of bugs, dormitories of mosquitoes, and dining rooms and plant-beds of flies. It is so delicate and direct in its operations that it can be made to kill even one leg of a grass-hopper at a time. A drop on a hen egg will kill the chicken within. This is certainly a great invention, and some New York firms are offering large sums of money to secure control of it. We hope Judge Watts will manufacture the fluid at home, and not allow any sharp Yankee to make a gold mine out of it.

THE HUMMING-BIRD RAILROAD.

Bellerica and Bedford, Mass. are united by a tiny rail-road, whose track is only ten inches wide. The cars have thirty seats, one on each side of the aisle, and the engines are in proportion. Its cost including equipments was about \$6000 a mile. Such a road could connect Oxford and Henderson at a cost of \$50,000 and the county could build it in the ground. We have had enough of rail-roads in the air.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia, at its recent communication, elected the following officers:

Beverly R. Wellford, Grand Master; Payton S. Coles, Deputy Grand Master; Reuben M. Page, Grand Senior Warden; Mayo B. Carrington, Grand Junior Warden; Oscar M. Marshall, Grand Treasurer; J. T. Keese, Deputy Grand Treasurer; William B. Isaacs, Grand Secretary; William B. Isaacs, Jr., Deputy Grand Secretary; Henry W. Murray, Grand Senior Deacon; F. H. Hill, Grand Junior Deacon; Rev. George W. Dame, Grand Chaplain; James E. Riddick, Grand Pursuivant; Thomas Angel, Grand Steward; James M. Taylor, Grand Tiler; James Evans, Grand Lecturer.

—Rev. (late Col.) E. A. Osborne, has taken charge of the Episcopal church at Shufordville. He will now preach in one of the most attractive houses and to some of the cleverest people of the State. The elegant edifice was erected before the war, by citizens of good taste and immense wealth.

Kind words fall on the weary, bruised soul, as the rain drops on the thirsty earth—to purify, to refresh, to strengthen.—*Our Monthly*.

OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

Near the close of the Grand Lodge it was rumored that Judge Reade was a non-affiliated Mason, and the installation of officers performed by him was supposed by some to be invalid. We do not know whether Judge Reade is a member of any Lodge or not; but the Grand Lodge appointed him to install the officers. He did so, and they are installed by authority of the Grand Lodge. There is nothing in the "Code" nor the Ancient Constitutions to invalidate the installation. A minister authorized by the law of the land to perform the marriage ceremony may prove himself the vilest impostor; still the parties married by him and assuming their nuptial vows in good faith, are married as lawfully and as effectually as if the Pope himself had performed the ceremony.

We would not attempt to justify the exclusion of one prominent Mason for non-affiliation, and the appointment of another to high official functions; the only point we insist on is that the non-affiliation of the installing officer cannot invalidate the installation.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

—Several orphans will be discharged to-day, others will follow soon.

—The fall of Plevna and the surrender of 30,000 men will enable Russia to open the breast of Turkey and cut off a Christmas slice.

—The cotton on the steamer Neuse took fire and the steamer had to be sunk in the river to save it. It was owned by clever people in Kinston.

—The death of Dr. Bledsoe deprives the world of one of its foremost logicians and mathematicians. He never agreed with any religious denomination; but found in the Methodist church the liberty and fraternity which his expanded soul enjoyed.

—We are glad to know that Mr. James H. Moore, once steward of our Orphan House, at Oxford and also at Asheville, has been elected to the Stewardship of the Lunatic Asylum at Raleigh. Mr. Moore can feed well, when he has the State to back him with the means.

—Mr. James H. Horner, the famous Teacher, has written an English Grammar and has it nearly ready for the press. As a book it is comprehensive, brief and accurate. Such a grammar is very much needed in our schools and we hope Mr. Horner will soon put in the hands of a printer.

—Mr. John Nichols of Raleigh, has recently printed several valuable books and will soon issue several others from his press. Bookwriting and book-making can be as well done in North Carolina as in any other state, and we are glad to know that this department of home enterprise is receiving new impetus.

—We are sorry that a liberal contribution made by Greenville Lodge, No. 284, was omitted in the Annual Report to the Grand Lodge. It was received in the absence of the Superintendent and inadvertently credited to the chairman of the committee. Hence in making up the list of contributing Lodges, it was passed over as an individual contribution. The fault is not brother Stern's, but our own.

Sorghum is rapidly working its way to the tables of our people. It is made in Granville and in all our Western counties. It sells for thirty and forty cents a gallon according to quality, and has driven the "black strap" out of our Western markets. In color and quality it is superior to any ordinary molasses.

An Illinois minister announced on his Sunday night bulletin. "The funeral of Judas Iscariot." To which an obliging fellow added, "Friends of the deceased are cordially invited."

BRANSON'S N. C. DIRECTORY FOR 1877 AND 1878.

Three hundred and fifty pages, of names, facts and figures! Post offices, mills, mines, stores, churches, schools, magistrates, farmers, lawyers and physicians. A Treasury of knowledge pertaining to ourselves and to our neighbors.

Price \$3.00. Address Rev. L. Branson, Raleigh.

ANSWER TO ARITHMETIC QUESTION—ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Each Grace had 12, 24, 36, (or any multiple of 12).
Each Grace gave 9, 18, 27, (or $\frac{1}{2}$ each multiple of 12).

EXPLANATION.

9 is the least number that could be given to 9 muses. 9 from each of three Graces to each of three Muses, gives three to each Muse, leaving, of course, 3 to each Grace, as the number of Graces is $\frac{1}{3}$ the number of Muses.

GENERAL SOLUTION.

What number is that, which being divided into two parts in the ratio of 3:9, the greater part of which is a multiple of 9? 12 is the minimum number. Double the ratio, gives 6:18 giving 6 apples each. Triple the ratio, gives 9:27 giving 9 apples each, etc.

UNCLE AL.

MEMORY.

Memory is sometimes treacherous, and deserts us in great extremities; but she holds tenaciously all that is trusted to her, and brings it up at last. A gentleman vouches for the truth of the following story:

A gentleman, by name Arnold, held Brown's bond for several hundred dollars. When it became due, it could not be found. Arnold concluded to inform Brown of the loss, trusting to his honesty to make it good. Brown denied having given him a bond. Arnold, unable to press the claim, had to lose the debt, and, besides that, was accused of being dishonest for urging the demand.

Years passed away. One day, bathing in the river, Arnold was seized with cramps, and came near drowning. He was carried home, apparently lifeless. When he was restored and strong enough he went to the book-case, took down a book, turned over the leaves to a certain page, and there found the bond that he had lost. When he was dying, as he supposed, and sinking to rise no more, every event of his life from his childhood to the time he sunk beneath the waters, passed before him. He remembered the name of the book and the place where he had placed the bond. He recovered his debt, and the dishonest lawyer, or whatever he was, was defeated.—*Youth's Companion*.

THE HYGIENE OF LAUGHTER.

Somebody has written a capital paragraph on the good effects of laughter, which we meet at times on its rounds through the press. In fact, few people really appreciate what a kindly, honest, jolly, glorious good thing is a laugh. It is the best kind of a tonic. It is an excellent digester. It is a capital febrifuge. It is an exorciser of evil spirits. It is better than a walk before, or a nap after dinner. Whether it discovers the gums of infancy or age, the grinders of folly or the pearls of beauty; whether it racks the sides or deforms the countenance of vulgarity, or moistens the eye of refinement; in all its phases, and on all faces, contorting, relaxing, overwhelming convulsions, under every circumstance and everywhere, a laugh is a glorious thing. Like a thing of beauty it is a joy forever. There is no remorse in it. It

leaves no sting except in the sides, and that soon goes off. Even a single unparticipated laugh is a great affair to witness. But it is seldom single. It is more infectious than scarlet fever. You cannot gravely contemplate a laugh. If there is one laughter and one witness, why, straightway there are two laughers. And so on; it propagates itself like sound. And then what a thing it is when it becomes epidemic!

Laughter! 'tis a poor man's plaster,
Covering up each sad disaster.
Laughing, he forgets his troubles,
Which though real seem but bubbles.
Laughter! whether loud or mute,
Tells the human kind from brute.
Laughter! 'tis Hope's living voice,
Bidding us to make a choice,
And to cull from thorny bowers,
Leaving thorns and taking flowers.

A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE.

Life is like a fountain fed by a thousand streams that perishes if one be dried. It is a silver cord twisted with a thousand strings, that parts asunder if one be broken. Thoughtless mortals are surrounded by innumerable dangers which make it much more strange that they escape so long, than that they almost all perish suddenly at last. We are encompassed with accidents every day sufficient to crush the decaying tenements we inhabit. The seeds of disease are planted in our constitution by Nature. The earth and the atmosphere whence we draw the breath of life are impregnated with death; health is made to operate its own destruction. The food that nourishes contains the elements of decay; the soul that animates it by vivifying first tends to wear it out by its own action; death lurks in ambush along the paths. Notwithstanding this truth is so probably confirmed by the daily examples before our eyes, how little do we lay it to heart! We see our friends and neighbors die; but how seldom does it occur to our thoughts, that our knell may next give the warning to the world.—*Selected*.

IT'S DARK.

The following beautiful sentiments are from Meister Karl's Sketch Book, entitled the "Night of Heaven." It is full of touching tenderness:

"It is dark when the honest and honorable man sees the result of years swept away by the knavish, heartless adversary. It is dark when he feels the clouds of sorrow gather around and knows the hopes and happiness of others are fading with his own. But in that hour the memory of past integrity will be a true consolation, and assure him even here on earth of gleams of light in heaven. It is dark when the dear voice of that sweet child once fondly loved is no more heard around in murmurs. Dark when the pattering feet no more resound without the threshold, or ascend step by step up stairs. Dark when some well known air recalls the strains once oft attuned to childish voice now hushed in death! Darkness; but only the gloom which now heralds the day spring of immortality, and the infinite light of heaven."

The influence of the good man ceases not at death; he as the visible agent is removed, but the light and influence of his example still remains; and the moral elements of this world will long show traces of their vigor and purity, just as the western sky, after the sun has set, still betrays the glowing traces of the departed orb.