

The Orphans' Friend.

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A MOTHER'S WONDER.

I wonder so that mothers ever fret
At little children clinging to their
gown;
Or that the footsteps, when the days are
set,
Are ever black enough to make them
frown.
If I could find a little mouldy boot,
Or cap, or jacket on my chamber floor,
If I could kiss a rosy, restless foot,
And hear its music on my home once
more.

If I could mend a broken cart to-day,
To-morrow make a kite to reach the
sky,
There is no woman in God's world could
say

She was more blissfully content than I.
But, ah! the dainty pillow next my own,
Is never rumpled by a shining head;
My singing birdling from its nest has
flown—

The little boy I used to kiss is dead.
—Mrs. M. R. Smith.

THE RIGHT KIND OF A BOY.

BY KIRK MUNROE.

A boy who plays with all his might;
A boy who'll fight, if he thinks 'tis right;
A boy who works with a hearty will;
Who from morn to night is never still;
A boy who's gentle, tender and true;
A boy who's honest, through and through;
A boy who's happy, careless and free—
This kind of a boy is the boy for me.

WHAT BETA GAVE TO JESUS.

"Beta, Mr. Freeman is coming to take tea with us this evening," said Mrs. Hollis to her little daughter one morning.

"Oh! mamma, I'm so glad. I've got lots of things to tell him," replied Beta.

"You must be careful not to tease him with too much talking," said Mrs. Hollis.

"Tease him! Why, mamma, I talked to him once for a whole hour, and I'm sure he wasn't a bit tired."

Mr. Freeman was the minister who had recently come to the church which Beta and her parents attended. He was a very happy looking gentleman, and so fond of children that he was always a favorite with them. Beta was no sooner finished than Beta drew her little footstool to his side, and settled herself for what she called "a good talk."

She had a great deal to tell him of new toys which had been given her, lessons which she had heard at school and story-books she had read. When all this news had been discussed, she suddenly remembered a question which she had been storing in her mind ever since the previous Sunday.

"Why did you say everybody could give something to Jesus, Mr. Freeman?" she asked.

"Why did I say it, Beta? Just because I meant it," replied Mr. Freeman, with a smile.

"What could I give?" inquired the child with a keen glance into his kind face.

"You must think for yourself, Beta. Do you remember what I told you of those motherless children in the orphanage? They have no rich friends to buy them books and toys, and I think that you might perhaps be able to spare them some of those treasures you have been telling me about."

"But that wouldn't be giving them to Jesus," answered Beta.

This was the reply Mr. Freeman had expected, and drawing a little testament from his pocket, he found the twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew, and pointing to the fortieth verse, asked Beta to read it.

"And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me,"

read Beta.

"Now, my dear," said Mr. Freeman, putting his arms around her waist, and drawing her to his side, "if you saw Jesus lonely and sad wouldn't you want to do something for him?"

"Oh! yes," replied Beta, her clear blue eyes dimming with tears as she spoke. "I would go to him at once."

"I thought so. Now as Jesus knows all this, and as there was need that his visible presence on the earth should cease, He has told us whatever act of kindness we do to those poor people and children, and other needy ones that are in the world, He will look upon and prize just the same as if He were the needy one, and we had done it to Him. If a little girl gives up a toy to a poor child who is longing for one, Jesus is just as pleased as if some rich present had been put into His own hand."

Beta was about to reply, when her papa called Mr. Freeman's attention to something else. There was no chance of renewing the conversation with him that evening.

"I want to give something to Jesus," she said to herself next morning, as she sat on a high music stool, her hands folded on her lap. "There's my little elephant that rods his head so funny. How it would make an orphan child laugh! I believe they'd like it better than anything."

The little elephant stood on the table beside her. Presently she took it in her hands and looked at it for a long time. It was her favorite toy.

At last she jumped off the music stool, and going away to a quiet corner, she knelt down with her elephant in her arms, and in her own simple words gave it to Jesus.

The next day the elephant found its way into the orphanage.

If Beta could have peeped through the keyhole of the children's play-room that evening, I am sure she would have been glad.

Her toy elephant had been placed in a toy cart, and some ten or twelve little children were dragging it up and down the floor, and laughing and shouting with delight as they saw its head move up and down. Beta did not see this; but there was a strangely happy feeling in her heart. She had given something to Jesus.—*Labour of Love.*

THE LITTLE GIVER.

The other day a very little girl went to church with her father and mother. 1. Before she left home she had remembered that a collection was to be taken up. So many people forget that and leave their purses at home! 2. She not only thought of the collection, but she put a piece of money for it in her pocket. What fine collections we should take up if everybody did that! 3. She was watching to see the boxes passed around, anxious not to miss them. I have seen people so busy looking at their books that they did not see those boxes. Other people wait in breathless hope that they will be passed by, and so be able to carry home the money that ought to go in the box. Not so our little girl. She looked eagerly for the box, and as soon as it began to go around she thrust her little fat hand in her tiny left pocket for that money. Her father, not knowing this, offered her a cent. She cried out clearly, "Don't want your penny!" I have seen big folks willing enough to give other people's money. Her father put his cent into her wee kid-gloved hand. She dropped it decidedly into his hat, and her clear voice rang out, "Dot my own penny!" Thus (4) she was an example of giving her own to God. Her fa-

ther failing, as fathers sometimes do, to comprehend the ways of little girls, still passed the little cent up the seat, but the little girl after much tugging, brought forth her own treasure, a great, round, old-styled copper, which she admired for its huge size. Her mother whispered, "Put this cent in." But clearly ringing out came the little voice, "No, no; I'm doin' to give my big penny!" She thought money valuable in proportion to its size, and she meant to give a big penny, the largest she had.

A BOY'S PRAYER.

Little Willie L., aged three years, had the misfortune to lose his father a few weeks ago. The other evening, about twilight, he saw his widowed mother weeping over her great bereavement. Little Willie ran out into the front yard and climbed up on the gate post, and turned his cherub face to the stars, just beginning to peep out:

"God! God!" he cried, all his little earnest soul in his words and in his eyes, "send my papa back from heaven! Send him right away! We want him now! Send him right quick for mamma is crying!"

But, alas! for that widow and that cherub boy, although the prayer came from as sinless a heart as ever beat on earth, it can never be answered.—*Memphis Weekly.*

At a school examination a clergyman was descending on the necessity of growing up loyal and useful citizens. In order to give emphasis to his remarks, he pointed to a large flag hanging on one side of the school-room, and said: "Boys what is that flag for?" An urchin, who understood the condition of the room better than the speaker's rhetoric, exclaimed: "To hide the dirt, sir."

The *Macon Telegraph* well says that the woman who has the patience and the fortitude to worthily bring up a family of children, is better entitled to a monument than the greatest of all the military heroes who ever planned a campaign, sacked a city, or overturned an empire. The woman's work requires more sacrifice and more true wisdom.

Sometimes a fog will settle over a vessel's deck and yet leave the topmast clear. Then the sailor goes up aloft and gets a look-out which the helmsman on deck cannot get. So prayer sends the soul aloft; lifts it above the clouds in which our selfishness and egotism befog us, and gives us a chance to see which way to steer.—*Spurgeon.*

The seal of Harvard College with its inscription in Latin, "For Christ and the Church," is printed on a prospectus of the veterinary school, which is soon to open. "If Harvard can introduce Christianity into the horse business," says a student's letter, "disbelief in miracles will be at an end."

Sale OF A VALUABLE VANCE COUNTY PLANTATION.

As Commissioner of the Superior Court of Vance County, I will sell to the highest bidder on Monday, February 5th, 1883, at 12 o'clock, m., in front of the Superior Court Clerk's office, in Henderson, that valuable tract of land, of the estate of Mrs. Lucy E. Love, deceased, on the waters of Nut Bush Creek, in Vance county, adjoining the lands of W. H. Boyd, R. B. Henderson and others, and is the tract upon which the late Richard Owen lived, containing four hundred and forty-two (442) acres. Said tract contains, among other improvements, a large dwelling house, and all necessary out-houses—all in splendid repair. The land is in good condition, and produces well corn, wheat, fine tobacco and all the grasses. Terms made known on day of sale. A. R. WORTHAM, Commissioner.

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM

IS LOCATED AT OXFORD,

the County-seat of Granville, forty-five miles North of Raleigh; twelve miles from Henderson on the R. & G. R. R.

The Orphan Asylum belongs to (and, of course, is conducted according to the regulations adopted by) the Grand Lodge of Masons.

Its benefits are extended to the most needy orphans, without ever asking whether their fathers were masons or not. Children are received between the ages of eight and twelve, and discharged between the ages of fourteen and sixteen.

The average cash expenses for each orphan is five dollars a month, but the sum required varies according to the seasons, and does not include what is spent for repairs, furniture and improvement of the premises. The Grand Lodge gives the building and grounds, and \$2000 a year. The State gives \$5000 a year. For the remainder of its support, and for enlargement, the Orphan Asylum is dependent on voluntary contributions from subordinate Lodges, churches of all denominations, benevolent societies, and charitable individuals; and their co-operation is earnestly solicited.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASONRY:

The design of the Orphan Asylum shall be to protect, train and educate indigent and promising orphan children, to be received between the ages of 8 and 12 years, who have no parents, nor property, nor near relations able to assist them. They shall not be received for a shorter time than two years. In extraordinary cases the Superintendent may receive children outside the ages specified.

The larger girls shall assist in the ordinary house work, and in making and mending the bed clothes, their own clothes and the clothes of the boys. The larger boys shall assist in the preparation of fuel, the care of the stock, and the cultivation of the soil.

At least four religious denominations shall be represented among the officers of the Asylum, and the representatives of all religious creeds and of all political parties shall be treated alike.

The Institution shall be conducted on the cash system, and its operations enlarged or curtailed according to the funds received.

Orphan children in the said Asylum shall be fed and clothed, and shall receive such preparatory training and education as will prepare them for useful occupations and for the usual business transactions of life.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to many benevolent ladies and gentlemen, to the ministers of the Gospel, to churches of various denominations, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Good Templars, Friends of Temperance and other benevolent societies whose hearty co-operation and liberal contributions have rendered timely and valuable assistance in the great work of ameliorating the condition of the orphan children of the State.

Resolved, That all benevolent societies and individuals are hereby cordially invited and requested to co-operate with us in providing funds and supplies for feeding, clothing and educating indigent and promising orphan children at the Asylum in Oxford.

Resolved, That the Master of each subordinate Lodge appoint a Standing Committee upon raising funds for the Orphan Asylum, and require said committee to report in writing each month, and that said reports and the funds received be forwarded monthly to the Superintendent of the Asylum, and that the support of the Orphan Asylum be a regular order of business in each subordinate Lodge at each Communication.

"Should deserted children be admitted?" was decided in the negative.

"Should children having step-fathers be committed?" was also decided in the negative. "Should delinquent children be admitted?" This was left to the discretion of the Superintendent. When the deformity is of such a character as to require extra attention, it was thought inadvisable to admit the parties in the present condition of the Asylum.

"Should boys learn trades at the Asylum?" Decided in the negative, it being impracticable at this time to employ skilled mechanics in the various trades, except suitable work-shops and purchase necessary tools.

"Should collecting agents be appointed in different parts of the State; and if so, what wages should they receive?" This was left to the discretion of the Superintendent; but the meeting advised against employing and paying agents.

THE ADOPTION OF ORPHANS.

We are always glad to accommodate childless couples who wish to adopt children as their own; but greatly prefer that they should come and make their own selections.

APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN.

Correspondents are requested to read (and regulate applications for children by) the following resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Masons:

Resolved, 1. The Superintendent of the Orphan Asylum shall not consider any application for an orphan until the same has been approved and endorsed by the Orphan Asylum Committee of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction the applicant resides.

2. It shall be the duty of the said committee to make due inquiry into the desirability of the situation offered before endorsing an application; and also to inquire into the circumstances and treatment of children already discharged, and living in their jurisdiction, and use their best efforts to secure

good treatment, or the return of the children.

3. It shall be the duty of every secretary of a Lodge to send the names of the Committee of the Orphan Asylum to the ORPHANS' FRIEND for publication, in order that persons wishing to employ orphans may know the steps to be taken.

HOW CHILDREN ARE ADMITTED.

Very often the Superintendent hunts up poor and promising orphans, and informs them of the advantages offered at the Orphan House, and induces them to return with him. Generally it is best that he should see them before they start. When this is impracticable, a formal application should be made by a friend. Here is one in proper form:

..... N. C. 183...
This is to certify that..... is an orphan, without estate, sound in body and mind, and years of age. His..... father died in 18..... his..... mother in 18..... I being..... hereby make application for..... admission into the Asylum at Oxford. I also relinquish and convey to the officers of the Asylum the management and control of the said orphan till 16 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.....

The application should be sent to the Superintendent, and he will either go for the children or provide for their transportation. In no case should a community take up a collection to send a man with the children, nor send the children before the Superintendent has been consulted.

ACTION OF EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

Resolution adopted by the last annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at Winston, May 13, 1880:

"Resolved, That this Convention does heartily approve the efforts of the Oxford Asylum to alleviate the sufferings and to provide for the welfare of the helpless orphans of North Carolina; and that we commend to the imitation of all, the example of this spirit of active charity and beneficence on the part of the Masonic fraternity thus fulfilling the Apostolic injunction to remember the poor."

ACTION OF THE N. C. CONFERENCE.

On motion of Rev. J. R. Brooks, the following resolutions were adopted at the Annual Conference held at Durham, in 1881:

"The Committee to whom was referred the communication of His Excellency, Gov. Jarvis, bringing to our notice and commending to our favor, the Oxford Orphan Asylum, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That we reiterate our oft-repeated expression of sympathy with this noble charity, and heartily commend it to the liberal support of all our people.

2. That our pastors are hereby requested to take a collection in all their congregations at such time during the ensuing Conference year as they may think most appropriate and best, and to forward the same to the Superintendent of the Asylum.

3. That the Recording Stewards of our several pastoral charges are requested to report to our Annual Conference the amounts collected under the head of "For the Orphan Asylum."

JNO. R. BROOKS, }
E. A. YATES, } Committee.

ACTION OF PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

Resolutions adopted by the Synod of North Carolina in session at Raleigh, N. C., November 19th, 1880: "Whereas the Oxford Orphan Asylum of North Carolina is a purely benevolent institution, and is doing great good for the needy Orphans of our State, therefore,

Resolved, That we approve of its purposes and suggest that the congregations within our bounds take up at their own convenience an annual collection in behalf of that institution, and forward the same collected, in connection with any articles of food and raiment which may be contributed, to the Superintendent.

ACTION OF BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

At the Baptist State Convention, held in Goldsboro, November 17th, 1880, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, We feel a deep interest in the work of the Oxford Orphan Asylum, and believe it is doing an inestimable amount of good; and

WHEREAS, We believe that the Baptist people of the State will feel it to be not only a duty, but a privilege, to contribute regularly to its support; therefore

Resolved, That all our pastors are hereby earnestly requested to take up a collection at each of their churches at least once a year in behalf of this great and important work.

Elder F. H. Ivey submitted the following resolution, which was adopted at the Convention held in Winston in 1881:

"Resolved, That this Convention feels an undiminished interest in the work of the Orphan Asylum; and that we repeat, with earnestness and emphasis, the recommendation to all our pastors to take up at least one collection during the year in aid of the Oxford Orphan Asylum.