

The Orphans' Friend.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1883.

CHARACTER.

Character is more important than aught else pertaining to humanity. It is better to be what we ought to be than to appear to be anything or everything; it is more desirable to be right than to have all earthly possessions, or to enjoy all earthly pleasures.

An old merchant was dying. He had spent a lifetime of toil and self-denial. Summoning his children to his bedside, he divided among them his estate, only a few hundreds in all.

That individual makes a bad bargain who gets riches at the expense of his character. No man can afford it. Neither can he afford to enjoy ease or pleasure, or get influence or power if his manhood be degraded by it.

TOOLS FOR BOYS.

Every man remembers now a certain longing which possessed him in his boyhood days to do what the men around him were doing? It was playing store or plowing or cutting wheat or building houses; anything that the grown folks happened to be doing, provided it was a manual labor.

Now isn't this disposition of the children of our land worth cultivating? Doesn't it show, too, that the aversion which Americans, as a class, have for the trades is not inborn, but the result of certain false ideas among us?

People say they lie about their work, when it is only a lack of mental training that would enable them to properly estimate their work. All is to be cured by educating, elevating, raising in public esteem the mechanical arts. All education is best begun in youth; that education is most easily and efficiently given which trains and shapes the tastes and dispositions already possessed.

Judah P. Benjamin the great London lawyer was, during his boyhood for some time a resident of Fayetteville, North Carolina. W. J. G., a correspondent of the Fayetteville Observer in giving some reminiscences of this remarkable man, observes:

The career of the little Jew boy of Fayetteville is one of the most remarkable in modern history, and one of which any man might feel proud. With none of the adventitious advantages of birth or wealth, he has figured most prominently under three great governments of the English speaking race, and made his mark in each.

INTERESTING MASONIC DECISION.

One of the decisions recently made by the M. W. Brother Keifer, Grand Master of Masons of Ohio, respecting the belief of a candidate, will be read with interest as it affords a question often brought up. W. L. Hoops, attorney-at-law, a man of good moral character, possessing large intelligence and good principles, petitioned for the degree and was accepted. Everybody knows that belief in God is one of the tenets of Freemasonry.

you put your trust in God? To which he answered, "I don't know." And thereupon the Master ordered the candidate to be conducted out of the lodge. The Grand Master being asked his approval or disapproval of the decision of the W. M., held that the candidate must be able to say, and that of himself, that in times of difficulty and danger his trust is in God. Nor will he be able to avoid the test by suggesting any particular beliefs or difference of opinion in regard to the form or personality of Deity.

CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS.

It must be admitted that with the growth of this country and with its advancement in civilization crime should have decreased. It cannot truthfully be said that this is the case. Without seeking other causes, it can be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that one reason for this is the criminal habit of carrying concealed weapons. We use the word "criminal" advisedly, for whatever is contrary to law is criminal. We do not consider it the mark of a brave man to carry concealed weapons, but rather the contrary.

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In discharging a boy who was acquitted of shooting a companion, on the ground that, though he handled a loaded revolver carelessly, the shooting was accidental, Judge Gildersleeve, ex captain of the American Rifle team, said, "You should not have a loaded pistol upon your person, or about you. I may claim that I have had an extensive experience in handling firearms, yet I would as soon have a rattlesnake near me as a loaded gun, and one is likely to be as dangerous as the other."

When Horace Maynard entered Amherst College, the students saw him paste the letter "V" over his door. For a time considerable curiosity was aroused to know its meaning. But inquiry and comment availed nothing, and the subject was finally forgotten. At young Maynard's graduation, when he was delivering the valedictory, he said: "My friends, I will now explain to you what that mysterious 'V' signified. It stood for 'Valedictory,' and meant that from the moment I entered this college I should bend all my efforts to secure this honor, and with what success I have met, you know?"

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