

# The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1883.

## A PINCH OF DUST.

I read of a king who sat on a throne,  
And ruled a nation in regal state,  
As great a king as the world has  
known,  
Yet he had at last but a beggar's  
fate;  
For he died, as each and all of us  
must,  
And his royal fame is a pinch of  
dust.

read of a warrior of great renown,  
From ocean to ocean resounded  
his name,  
With a sweep of his sabre he mowed  
men down,  
And the world cried "Bravo!"  
and this was fame;  
But he died, as each and all of us  
must,  
His sword is idle and red with rust.

There was a lover who loved his  
love  
With all of passion and youthful  
fire—  
Loved with the love of gods above,  
With glowing rapture and fond  
desire;  
But he died, as each and all of us  
must,  
And the grave was the goal of his  
hope and trust.

Out of my reading I gathered this  
As every reader and thinker must,  
Power and glory and earthly bliss  
Are nothing more than a pinch of  
dust.

—Christian at Work.

## A CROOKED D. Y.

It was a lovely day in mid-winter. Not a cloud was to be seen overhead, nor could a speck of dust be detected on the streets, as a heavy rain had washed them clean the night before. Even the little sparrows appeared to be happier than usual as they twittered on the edge of the roof. Now, when all nature seemed so lovely, is it not strange that Abby should feel that it was a crooked day? See if you can find a reason that does not seem to be known to her.

The night before this day, at half-past eight, which was her usual hour to go to bed, her mother had said to her, "Come, darling, time to go upstairs now. Hark! the clock is striking the half hour."

"Yes, mother," Abby said, "in one moment."

"Abby!" The mother's voice was full of grief because her little daughter did not obey at once.

"Abby!"

"Yes, mother dear; do excuse me, the story was so nice, and I was just at a part where I could not bear to leave it."

"That is no excuse for not obeying. Go now, without any discussion, take your book and put it into your case. See, you have lost fifteen minutes of sleep."

Abby bade her mother good-night, and went to her room. Before putting away the book, she opened it just for a peep, which was all wrong. Probably she did not intend to read any, but when one yields to temptation, it seems very easy to quiet conscience. Thus, she reasoned with herself, that, if she was unfastening the buttons on her shoes as she read, there could not be any harm in it. Then, as she unbraided her hair, she glanced over a few lines more; but presently hair and shoes were forgotten, and she was completely absorbed in the story-book. And so much so, that she was only aroused by the striking of the town-clock. Ten o'clock! what would her dear mother say? As she laid her head upon her pillow she felt very unhappy; but she decided that she would not tell her mother what she had done.

Morning came, and Abby was so sleepy and cross that she would not get up until she had been called several times. Even when

she was up, she would not make any haste, so that she was late at breakfast, to which she went without a word of thanks to Him who had kept her through the night. Her tardiness displeased her father, who told her she must retire a half hour earlier than usual.

School-time arrived; her hat had to be looked up, her mittens were missing, and she felt her books continually slipping because she had mislaid her strap. In school she was not much better off; the hour that she had lost in the morning would have helped her to look over her lessons instead of having her mind filled with the story-book.

Even when she returned home, things went no better. Jamie wanted her pet doll, and when she impatiently struck his baby hands, she saw the sweet eyes full of tears.

So the day wore on, until night came, and then, before she went to sleep, she had to talk it all out with her mother. When she had made her confession, she asked,

"Mother, what has been the matter with the day? It has been the longest day of my life, and such a very crooked one."

"It is very easy for me to see where the fault lies. Can you not see it also?"

"I know, dear mother, that I was very naughty to read the book," Abby answered gently.

"But what did you omit to do to-day?"

Abby said, "What do you mean, mother? I know everything has gone wrong."

"My darling, did you ask your heavenly Father to forgive your disobedience to me: did you ask His loving care over you to-day: did you ask to be helped through the day?"

Abby hung her head, and confessed that she was in such a hurry to get to breakfast that she forgot the prayer.

"Ah! little girl, there is reason enough for a crooked day. I, and all grown-up folks who love God; have to ask for help all the time; that we may be shown how to take each step as well as to live each moment. And I know you do not forget how the dear Saviour listens to the prayers of the little children when they call upon him."

Abby has lived a good many years since she had that talk with her mother; and as she does not forget her morning prayer, she no longer wonders that she has so few crooked days. J. B. M.

## LOSE NO TIME.

Dr. John Hall spoke words of wisdom to the business men of who were gathered at the funeral of Thurlow Weed, thus: "Life is very weary and irksome to many of you. Even when you are envied for apparent success, you know how often you have heart aches and are sick of yourselves. So it must ever be with men, and the stronger they are the keener their misery. The life above must be held in view to correct the errors and balance the defects of this. Get inward health from the Great Physician. Lose no time about it. Life is yours, men of business; it is a loan, and a loan upon call. You will soon have to give an account. Be in the right relation to God, as a believer in His word—the relation of a forgiven sinner, a reclaimed child. Then will follow the right feeling and it will bring the right action. The inoculation of a heavenly, spiritual life may seem a small thing and its effects may not be apparent at once. God help us! How little spiritual life we have. But it tells on the whole being and brings us into communion with God, which elevates all earthly fellowship."

## THE SAFEST WAY.

"You never signed the pledge did you, Uncle John?"

Uncle John was Harry's ideal of a great and noble man. And it was not a mistaken ideal. Uncle John's hair was white with the passing of over eighty winters, but his eye was bright, his step firm and his voice earnest and kindly as ever. His life had been one of uprightness as well as one of what the world calls success.

"I never signed a pledge on my own account; I presume I have signed several as an example or aid to others," replied Uncle John.

"Casper Firmstone is always teasing me to sign," said Harry; "but I know I can drink a gill of cider and not want any more, or let it alone if I do want it. And I can take one sip of the best wine Mr. Fraser has and not take the second. So I don't see any use in hampering a fellow with a piece of paper."

"Don't be too sure about what you can do, Harry. I've seen a good many 'sure' people in my life, as well as a good many 'cautious' people, and I've always noticed in the long run the cautious people were the safest. I'll tell you where I first learned that lesson, if you'd like to know."

"I should," said Harry, always ready at the first hint of a story.

"When I was a boy, a good deal smaller than you are, I lived in a small town in Vermont. There was a large creek by the village, and a place called 'The Mills'; there was a beautiful fall of water of ten or twelve feet, pitching off from an even-edged, flat rock. Reaching quite across the creek a distance of twenty feet, over this fall of water, was a bridge spanning the stream.

"The sides of this bridge were boarded up some four feet high. These side-pieces were capped by a flat railing of boards of from four to six inches wide. Some of the more daring school-children used to walk on this narrow capping-board when crossing the bridge, and more than one fall and serious injury happened there.

"There was one thing that saved me from getting hurt or killed by the dangerous crossing. You would like to know what it was? The easiest thing in the world. It happened from the small circumstance that I never had either the courage or disposition to walk there at all. In other words, I wasn't 'sure' of my head, and I was sure on the broad, open bridge."

"I can think of a great many places that boys and men try to pass safely which are quite as dangerous, and where multitudes fall and ruin themselves, and perhaps perish, both soul and body, forever. The safe way is never to take the first step on a dangerous path."—Youths' Temperance Banner.

Miss Margaret Emmet daughter of Thos. Addie Emmet and niece of Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot, died at the age of ninety years in New York on Thursday. She was the last of the Emmets born in Ireland. Her father, Thomas Addie Emmet was kept in prison in Scotland for three years after the execution of his brother Robert, and at this time his daughter Margaret was in prison with him. When her father landed in this country Margaret was about twelve years old.

# 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 each expends 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? This was decided in the negative.

Should children having step-fathers be admitted? This was also decided in the negative.

Should deformed 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, erect 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 desirableness of the situation offered before endorsing an application; and also

to inquire into the circumstances and treatment of children already discharged, and bring the same to the attention of their best efforts to secure good treatment, or the return of the children.

3. It shall be the duty 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. .... 198...  
This is to certify that I, ....., an orphan, without estate, ....., in body and mind, and ....., years of age. My father died in 18.....; my mother in 18...... I being ....., hereby make application for my 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 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 12, 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 examples of this spirit of active charity in her service on the part of the members of this Convention 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 the Excellent 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 the members of this Conference be 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 churches are requested to report to our Annual conference the amounts collected under the head of "For the Orphan Asylum."

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

## ACTION OF PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

Resolutions adopted by the Synod of North Carolina in session at Raleigh, N. C., November 13th, 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."

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Organ of the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and of the Grand Lodge of Masons in North Carolina.)

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It is designed to promote the enlightenment, instruction and interests of

THE YOUNG;

especially those deprived of the benefits of parental and scholastic training. It also seeks to increase the soul-growth of the prosperous by suggesting proper objects of charity and true channels of benevolence, in order that they may, by doing good to others, enlarge their own hearts and extend the horizon of their human sympathies, as they ascend to a higher plane of christian observation.

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