

The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1883.

FIVE CENTS A DRINK.

Five cents a drink! Does anyone think that that is really the price of a drink? "Five cents a glass!" I hear you say, "Why that isn't very much to pay." Ah! no indeed; 'tis a very small sum You are passing o'er 'twixt finger and thumb;

And if that were all you gave away It wouldn't be very much to pay.

The price of a drink? Let him decide Who has lost his courage and lost his pride, And lies a groveling heap of clay, Nor far removed from a beast to-day. The price of a drink? Let that one tell, Who sleeps to-night in a murderer's cell Honor and virtue, love and truth, All the glory and pride of youth, Hopes of manhood, the wealth of fame, High endeavor and noble aim; These are the treasures thrown away, As the price of a drink from day to day.

The price of a drink? If you want to know What some are willing to pay for, go 'Throug that wretched tenement over there,

With dingy windows and broken stair: There poverty dwells with her hungry brood,

Wild-eyed creatures for lack of food; There shame in a corner crouches low; There violence deals its cruel blow, And innocent ones are thus accur-ed To pay the price of another one's thirst.

"Five cents a glass!" Oh! if that were all, The sacrifice would indeed be small! But the money's worth is the least amount

We pay; and whoever will keep an account Will learn the terrible waste and blight That follows that ruinous appetite.

"Five cents a glass!" Does anyone think That that is really the price of a drink?

THE HAND.

When Mr. Garbutt came home to tea one evening the children had a wonderful tale to tell him. A little Savoyard, with a barrel-organ and a monkey, had come before the window in the course of the afternoon, and truly the monkey had behaved in a remarkable fashion. It was dressed in a little red frock with a collar and bow. Bribed by a biscuit, it had run up the front door-steps, jumped on the window-sill, and eaten its biscuit in view of the children; nurse said, 'just like a Christian.'

Charlie said that 'nurse must have meant like a human being.'

'Well, and it was like a very funny, ugly little girl,' said Ethel; 'don't you think it is very strange God should have made any animal so much like us, papa?'

'Us!' exclaimed Charlie, with a laugh that quite disconcerted his little sister. 'Very funny, ugly little girls.' 'I'll never think you conceited again, Ethel.'

'Now, Charlie, Charlie,' said his mamma; 'you shouldn't take Ethel up so often.'

'Though the monkey is like a caricature of man,' said Mr. Garbutt, 'there are points of difference which separate it widely from what Ethel would call the ugliest and funniest of us. Perhaps Charlie would point them out.'

'Charlie thought that it was very easy to show the difference between a man and a monkey. But when he had described it, his father said, "You have overlooked two most important respects in which it differs from us, Charlie."

It so happened this evening that they had the doubtful pleasure of baby's company at the tea table, as the nurse had to take some of the house-

maid's duties for her, and baby had got mamma's spoon-end was clasping it in his little fat hands.

'See what baby is doing,' said Mr. Garbutt, to Ethel, 'and tell me if the monkey's hand was anything like that.'

'O, no, papa,' said Ethel; 'why, baby has such dear, pretty little hands that it's nice to kiss them.'

'Then the monkey's were not dear and nice to kiss; but if you had given it a spoon, would it have held it just as baby is doing?'

'No, I don't think it could.'

'Because the power to grasp is in itself very wonderful, and belongs in its perfection only to man. In noticing the firmness and decision of a baby's grasp, I have often been ready to say with the Psalmist,

'Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands;' because it is by the power that there is in the hand that man enjoys much of his sovereignty over the lower world. Mere strength would not give it to him. The horse, the ox, the tiger, and the lion are all stronger than he. But there is no competition with the steady, skillful hands, and the brain that imparts to it its cunning. Imagine a monkey playing a fiddle, a gorilla making a watch, and an orang-outang painting a picture!

The hand of the gorilla is very like ours, but it is also very unlike, for it has not the same proportions; the nails are different both in their construction and position, and the thumb in its relative position and size. The hand is so adjusted to the arm, and the arms so placed in regard to each other, that they always work in harmony. If we had only one arm we might accomplish a good deal, but the mode of working would be painful compared with the ease we have in employing two. We should have been very little better off if we had been without a thumb, or if the thumb had been placed in a straight line with the fingers. This arrangement would have been fatal even to the power of grasp. Without nails, the sensitive finger-tips could not have borne local contact with rough substances, neither should we have been able to pick up fine ones, such as needles, hairs, etc. If the finger tips had not had their sensitiveness we should have lacked the delicacy of touch so necessary to exact and beautiful workmanship.'

'I wonder,' said Mrs. Garbutt, 'if the expression, "have any one under the thumb," refers to its grasping properties?'

'It may have been derived from the custom of putting the thumb up or down at the gladiatorial shows, as a sign that the life of the vanquished was to be spared or taken.'

'Besides,' continued Mr. Garbutt, 'the Romans considered large thumbs a sign of courage, and we may add of tyranny, while small ones betokened cowardice. Our word poltroon refers to young men who cut off the thumb to avoid conscription, because they knew without it they could handle neither musket nor sword. The fingers, too, have their separate uses, which are determined by their size and position. Of what particular use is your little finger to you, Charlie?'

Charlie considered a moment, and then wrote an imaginary line in on the table.

'Why, it's like a little lever, he said; "it supports the hand when the fingers are busy."

'Yes, it gives it a purchase.

Ethel, which is your index-finger?'

'My fore-finger,' said Ethel. 'Why do you call it your index-finger?'

'Because I use it to point with.'

'Who told you to use that particular finger?'

'Why, no one, papa. I do it of myself.'

'Because it is the pointer nature has given. The soft roundness of the fingers is also very important. It would have been a great inconvenience to us if the bone had been prolonged to the very tip. Where it terminates the nail begins as a defense, and as a kind of tactile; but independent of that it is a beautiful finish to the hand.'

'I wish some little folks would have a due regard to its beauty,' said Mrs. Garbutt. 'You see during the day the nail takes up more than we want it to do, and mere washing the hands doesn't remove the misplaced matter, to speak politely and scientifically of dirt.'

'Now, mamma, don't be too satirical in giving us instruction,' said Mr. Garbutt; while Charlie's digits and Ethel's seemed suddenly to have proved retractile.

'I was simply going to observe,' continued Mrs. Garbutt, 'that every wash-stand in this house is furnished with a little brush, which is intended for use, and nature has also given to the nail a little pearly ornament, which in a well-kept nail is always visible, but in a neglected one is hidden by the skin which is allowed to grow over it.'

'I know,' said Ethel, 'you mean the little half moon at the bottom. Well, I can see all my little half-moons.'

'After washing, the skin should always be rubbed back with the towel. It is not the first time I have reminded you of the fact, but the rest of the lesson I will leave to papa.'

'I have not much more to say. It would not do to talk of the clusters of nerves in the hand, and the strength and flexibility derived from the wrist. I think I have said enough to prove to these dear children what an immeasurable advantage the hand gives them over the most sagacious animals, or those whose structure most resembles man's. Only remember that to many it is a mischief-maker. With some a slothful and unprofitable servant, or a napkin in which the Lord's talent lies hid. The hand is the servant of the heart and the brain. Because it is the servant, never imbibe a contempt for manual labor, nor think mechanical talents too mean to cultivate. The princes of Germany were wise in putting their sons to a handicraft. It was not that they needed to practice one, but they knew that the training of the hand was necessary to the perfection of the man. A woman, too, is singularly incomplete, and exposed to many mortifications, if she cannot make some good use of her fingers. Think of all that the world or society owes to the hands as well as the brain: from great cities, and palaces, and railroads, and printed books and watches, down to the comforters we wrap round our throats, and the daintily wrought clothes that baby wears, and then—'

'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.'—Labor of Love

Nobody was ever executed in Polk county, and the clerk of the court has held his office for twenty-eight years.—People's Press.

The Orphan Asylum.

IS LOCATED AT OXFORD,

the County-seat of Granville, forty-five miles North of Raleigh; twelve miles from Henderson on the B. & 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 the 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 admitted? 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 desirability of the situation offered before endorsing an application; and also

to inquire into the circumstances and treatment of children already being adopted, 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 every secretary of a Lodge to send the names of the Committee of the Orphan Asylum to the ORPHANS' FRIENDS 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. 188... 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 hereby make application for his 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 10 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 do hereby approve the efforts of the Orphan 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 in 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 coming Conference year as they may think most appropriate, 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, J. E. A. YATES, Committee.

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 need, 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

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THE ORPHANS' FRIEND.

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

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