

The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, - - - APRIL 6, 1883.

MY RIDE ON A STAR ROUTE.

A TRUE SKETCH.

BY MRS. LUCY E. SANFORD.

From the New York Observer.

I wished to go fourteen miles northward. By cars I must go three sides of a square. The trip, and waiting at depots, would take from 11 o'clock a. m. to 4:20 o'clock, p. m.

"For the accommodation of two small post-offices, a stage, a poor affair, runs direct," said mine host.

The freshness of a summer morning, the hilly road, the changing views, the trees, wild flowers and singing birds were a delight, even in thought, and I said at once:

"The stage." While breakfasting the next morning, the clerk came in and said in a low voice:

"The stage is here, and your trunk is on, but finish your breakfast, the driver will wait." I went out soon, but no stage was to be seen, and I asked if it had gone for other passengers.

"This is it," said my more laughing than smiling host.

"Such another nondescript vehicle may I never see. One poor, old, white horse, an express wagon, the back seat of which had been taken out to make room for my trunk, and the packages of all forms and sizes, for the driver proved to be an express messenger, and universal errand boy of the farmers along the route. I hesitated. My trunk was on, and the morning air fragrant. So, with help, I climbed on the wheel, and pitched into the wagon, and took possession of the one seat, and planted my feet upon what seemed an empty bag, but which proved to have the honor of being the U. S. Mail, and to contain two packages, (one of which, as I got out to rest while the mail was changed, I saw contained exactly two postal cards and four newspapers).

"Where is the driver," I asked.

"When he found out he was to have a lady passenger he went in to empty and rinse his mouth out," was the answer.

He came, out at the elbows, patched at the knees, with vest and linen spotted with tobacco juice. I turned my head away, as sitting down beside me, he took up the reins and said:

"G'lang, g'lang, g'lang!" This oft-repeated word alone broke my silence, until out of the village he stopped at a stone trough, beneath some trees, to water his horse. On a bough a robin was swaying, and warbling his sweetest notes, ending in a low twitter. The driver, who was standing at his horse's head, took some crumbs from his pocket and held them out. The robin flew down and ate them from his hand. With a clear, smooth voice the driver quoted Wordsworth's

"Thou art the bird that man loves best, The pious bird with scarlet breast, The bird, who by some means or other, All men who know thee call thee brother."

He scattered more crumbs on the stone, buckled the check rein, mounted the seat with:

"Good by, my little friend, be here to-morrow, g'lang, g'lang."

The delicate act, the cultured voice, made me look at him. His face was clean and clean shaven; his features regular and refined; his eyes large, clear and very deep blue; his hair a brown gray; his hands small and, had the

nails been clean, would have been handsome.

"Who can he be?" I said to myself; to him I said:

"The bird seems to know you."

"He is always waiting for the male," he said.

"And always gets something, I fancy."

"Always. I rarely have a passenger and so talk to the birds and squirrels, g'lang, g'lang. I regret I haven't a better horse—g'lang—as my constant urging must annoy you, g'lang, g'lang."

"You do not whip him."

"Never. But I often think Sancho Panza's Rosinante, like the wandering Jew, is still on earth."

"And this is he?"

"This is he without a doubt! Just then we drove through a bit of woodland full of music. He said:

"How truly Mary Howitt voices one's feelings in her poem:

"Come ye into the summer woods! But no mortal pen can Tell half the sights of beauty you may see."

I loved to hear him talk. His language was pure, his anecdotes refined, his quotations from standard authors were frequent, but brief and to the point.

"Who can he be?" I asked myself again and again. At farm houses he stopped to give packages, from a mended scythe snath to a gold bracelet. And whenever a good woman ran out and called, he took her wishes in a note book, with all the courtesy and bearing of a thoroughbred gentleman.

I took the liberty to glance at the book. The writing and spelling showed him to be a man of education.

"Will not so many stops prevent your making time?" I asked.

"Oh, no! I am not obliged to be at—until 12 M., and I start two hours earlier than the old driver did."

"In order to oblige the farmers along the route?" I asked.

"In part; but Pope says, 'Self-love and social are the same.' I love the morning air, I love to speak a word to the good people, to break the dead monotony of their work-day lives by a bit of stirring news. Truly, these hours on the road are the pleasantest of my life."

"You are never lonely?"

"Never! With God and nature can one be lonely?"

A gentleman, with a fine pair of blood horses, passes us, and they exchange cordial greetings. The driver said:

"A woman who had worked in the family of that gentleman's father for many years, he took care of the last ten. She had become helpless and nearly blind, so when she died, last month, she was passed mourning for. After she was made ready for burial and laid in the parlor a well-dressed stranger called to see her. He was told she was dead. He said he had not been East for thirty years, and would like to see her. He stood a few minutes looking upon her and then bent down and kissed that cold, brown, wrinkled forehead, and left two great tear drops on it, and with a choking voice said:

"My mother's dearest friend!"

After a moment the driver turned to me and said:

"Do you suppose those friends knew each other when they met?"

"I am sure they did," I said.

"It is a question I often ponder. My wife died when she had just passed into full and beautiful womanhood.

She had touched her thirtieth year, and I was but a little older, in the vigor of my manhood. She is now in the freshness of her womanhood with the eternal freshness of heaven. If, as Milton has it, 'From the lowest deep a lower deep still opens,' so, from the highest height a higher height must rise; and she, who was purity itself here, must be purer now. And we grow like those with whom we mingle, and she, so lovely here, has been for twenty-seven years the companion of angels! How glorious she must be! Will she—can she know me there!"

Almost my first question on reaching my friend was:

"Who is that driver?"

"I have not the honor of his acquaintance!" she laughingly answered.

"I have!" I said.

So soon as the post-wagon drove on, I started for the post-office.

"Will you please tell me who that driver is?"

The postmaster gave his name, and said he was once an editor of—, naming one of the best papers in one of our largest cities.

"He is a man of elegant culture," I said.

"He is that. I don't know of anybody that can touch a match to him. He has been through college and been to Europe, and has been acquainted with a good many distinguished men."

"What has brought him to this?"

"DRINK."

The idea that it is better for a good man to tear up his ballot than to cast it for a corrupt politician is gaining popularity. It is now only an idea; but we trust it may eventuate in untold good to our country. It seems to be an instance in which a revulsion will cause a revolution. The revulsion will manifest itself in hatred of the corrupt practices of public office-holders, and the revolution will be the election of good men to office.

This feeling has been much strengthened by the death of Georgia's great statesman, Gov. A. H. Stephens. The death of such a man has brought before the public eye a life of wonderful beauty and strength. It has impressed a truth that is valuable to the American people—that a public man can be a success, uncontaminated by political rings and chicanery, even at this day, when apparently, it is death to a man's Christianity to enter the political arena.—Bib. Recorder.

A letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1825 to Dr. James Pease of Philadelphia tells where the Declaration of Independence was written. He thus located the building in Philadelphia:

At the time of writing that instrument I lodged in a house of a Mr. Graff, a new brick house three stories high, of which I rented the second floor, consisting of a parlor and a bed room ready furnished. In that parlor I wrote this paper particularly. So far I state from written proofs in my possession. The proprietor Graff was a young man, son of a German and then newly married. I think he was a brick layer and that his house was on the south side of Market street, probably between Seventh and Eighth streets, and if not the only house on that part of the street I am sure there were very few others near it.

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 members 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 undesirable 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 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' 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. 188..... This is to certify that..... is an orphan, without estate, sound in body and mind, and..... years of age. H..... father died in 18..... H..... mother in 18..... I being h..... hereby make application for h..... 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..... 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 suffering 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 ensuing Conference year as they may think most appropriate, and best, and with us in providing funds and supplies 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. Committee. E. A. YATES, J. 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 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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