

"GOOD OLD TIMES."

"Say not thou: What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this." In conversation lately with a venerable gentleman now eighty-two years of age, we received some new light concerning those "good old days" of our fathers that some would have us believe were little less than paradisaical. We propose to give our readers the benefit of the interview.

Said he, "People live much better now than they used to. I was a stout plow boy before I ever saw any coffee, and was utterly ignorant concerning the manner of its preparation for the table. My father has often told me that he was fourteen years old when he got his first pair of shoes. The children of the wealthy wore shoes, but others did not; and even grown persons went barefooted in the summer months, except when they attended church; then shoes would frequently be carried in their hands till they came near the church, when stepping aside they would be placed on the feet. Money was not so plentiful then as now. When I was first married my wife used to spin a pound and a quarter of cotton per week, and I, in order to increase my income, made shoes when I could spare time from the farm, at 25 cts. per pair, and it took me all day and well into the night to make a pair. Buggies were unknown. Vehicles of all kinds were scarce. Tobacco was rolled in tresses through the mud from Granville to Petersburg. There were no railroads. Postage was 25 cents a letter. Lucifer matches were unknown, we had to save fire, or if we failed to do so must borrow from our more provident neighbors. There were very few saw mills. All the lumber used in building some large residences, was cut by hand with a whip saw.

Farming tools were very inferior then. The only kind of plough was a jack hoe, as it was called, and wheat was cut with an old fashioned reaper hook. Scythes and cradles were scarce."

"How about the morals of the people in those days," we inquired.

"There used to be a great deal more fighting than there is now. Whisky was used more generally. There was more horse-racing and cock-fighting. The neighbors occasionally met to shoot at a mark for a wager, consisting of beef, a turkey, or something of the sort. There were not so many churches then, nor so much preaching. Sunday Schools were unknown. The boys used to go out in the old fields on Sundays and run foot races or pitch horse shoes or play "cat" or engage in boxing and wrestling. Sometimes they would go fishing or rabbit hunting. We didn't have any free schools then, and the facilities for ob-

taining education were not so good as at present."

We were much interested in our old friend's garrulous description of the "good old days," but as we contrasted them with these days of progress and comfort, we inwardly congratulated ourselves that we live in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

WAY SIDE GLEANINGS.

Miss E. F. Smith, the energetic canvasser for the ORPHANS' FRIEND, is now in the Eastern portion of the State. We desire to express our thanks to those friends who have rendered her such timely assistance at the places she has visited. We make the following extracts from a letter just received from her, beginning at Murfreesboro:

Prof. Delke is quite unwell, but says he would not take ten thousand dollars for his chance of marrying yet. He sent Col. Wynn and Mr. Rolfe to see me. Col. W. very kindly escorted me around for an hour, then introduced me to that most kindly and estimable gentleman, Mr. Henry H. Cook, who took charge of me for the rest of my stay in this place. Rev. Mr. Vann, of the C. B. F. Institute, invited me up to tea. I very gladly accepted, and spent a most delightful evening. I found Mr. Brewer and lady, and his assistants, Misses Gray and McVeigh, and Mr. Vann, most highly entertaining company. After tea, Miss Julia Brewer, a miss of eight summers, gave us some delightful music on the piano forte. At 7 1/2 o'clock the young ladies of the College assembled in the chapel, where they held us in ecstasy till 9 1/2 o'clock. We had music from the following young ladies: Misses Mittie Stephenson, Grace Brown, Susie Phillips, Mollie Moore, Lucy Bynum, Clara Watford, Mary Pearce, Lalla Pope and Lucy Bynum. Elocution from: Misses Lula Mitchell, Lottie Harris and Bettie Her-ring. The young ladies did not know, when they entered the chapel, who would be called to perform, but I assure you they are a great credit to the Institute. After the entertainment, I returned to the parlor, where I received several subscribers and renewals to the FRIEND.

I had the pleasure of meeting here one of Mr. Mill's former wards, Miss Julia Parker. Mr. Brewer informed me she was quite a credit to the Asylum, also to all of her teachers in his college. She is all that we could ask a young lady to be. She sends her love to Mr. Mills and expresses a desire to see him. She sends him a very kind invitation to be present at the commencement, which takes place the 25th, 26th and 27th June. I also spent a few pleasant moments at the Methodist College with Mr. Parham.

I stopped at the Spencer House. Mr. S. and family were quite kind. I left Murfreesboro in one of heaviest falling snows I have ever seen. Mr. Wise kindly volunteered to take me to the boat, which I gratefully accepted. I will be glad if you will return my thanks to the people of Murfreesboro for their kindnesses.

Since leaving Murfreesboro I have had one minister to tell me that "the Asylum did not need anything; they were not suffering." "No," I replied, "they are not suffering, but like every family, it has

to be constantly replenished, or it will suffer." But he was an o—! Oh! beg pardon! He simply belongs to that class of gentlemen who has never had to provide for a family, and is of course excusable.



THE OXFORD ORPHAN ASYLUM.

BINGHAM SCHOOL, April 5, 1883.

As there have been efforts made to prejudice the public against the Orphan Asylum, I deem it proper to give the impression made on my mind by a careful inspection of the institution during an official visit on March 31st, April 1st, 2nd and 3d; and having some knowledge of educational and charitable institutions in this and other States, I feel as competent to judge as some who have never seen the asylum or as others who saw its defects. I made a thorough inspection of the buildings and grounds; was in every dormitory; was in every class-room; heard every "form" recite; ate of the children's bread at three meals; was in the hospital on three different days; examined kitchens, store-rooms and cellars; talked freely with the Superintendent, the teachers and the children; and I am sure that the purposes for which the public contributes money are faithfully, economically and successfully carried out, and that the asylum is conducted as much in the interests of the inmates and as little in the interests of the officers as any other institution with which I am acquainted. The Superintendent's whole heart is in his work, and I doubt whether there is another man in the State who could have accomplished as much under such difficulties. The ladies who do the teaching, and superintend the hospital are competent, zealous, efficient and kind. The cooking is reasonably well done, and for the girls by the orphans themselves. The food is wholesome and abundant, but, of course, not luxurious at \$5 per month for all expenses. The children are well taught, kindly treated, well cared for in health and sickness; as well dressed, fed and housed as the money contributed will admit of, and they seem contented and happy. In short, the Asylum is in every way worthy of the confidence of our people, and it only merits a more generous support to make it equal in every respect to any similar institution in the United States.

R. BINGHAM, Grand Master of Masons in N. C.

ALLUREMENTS.—Masonry is one of the most sublime and perfect institutions that ever was formed for the happiness and general good of mankind; creating in all its varieties universal benevolence and brotherly love. It holds out allurements so captivating as to inspire the brotherhood with emulation to deeds of glory, such as must command throughout the world veneration and applause, and such as must entitle those who perform them to dignity and respect. It teaches us those useful, wise and instructive doctrines upon which alone true happiness is founded; and at the same time affords those easy paths by which we attain the reward of virtue; it teaches us the duties which we owe to our neighbor, nev-

er to injure him in any one situation, but to conduct ourselves with justice and impartiality; it bids us not to divulge the mysteries to the public, and it orders us to be true to our trust, and above all meanness and dissimulation, and in all our vocations to perform religiously that which we ought to do.

GREAT LIGHTS.—The Freemasons are enlightened by great and small lights. The Bible, the square, and the compasses, belong to the first; and the sun, the moon, and the Master Mason, or the stars, to the second. The great lights are immortal, and neither limited by time nor space; the small ones are limited by both. The Bible rules and governs our faith; the square our actions; and the compasses keep us in a bond of union with all mankind, especially with a brother Mason. Or with other words, the Bible directs us to elevate our spirits to a reasonable and rational faith; the square teaches so to discipline our minds as to make them correspond with a pure and prompt obedience to the laws of our native land; and the compasses teach us so to cultivate our understandings as to live in the bonds of social and fraternal union with all mankind, whatever may be their peculiar views on religious or political subjects.

Dr. Oliver, the most learned and distinguished Mason of modern times, in his Symbol of Glory, vol. 2, page 170, says: "It (the Bible) is the pillar and ground of truth; the pedestal and support of Faith; and hence the Masonic ladder is planted there as on a foundation that cannot be shaken, because its divine author is Je-ho-vah himself.

The first great light of Masonry is not only perfect, but free from every admixture of imperfection; for if the slightest doubt could be raised respecting the truth of any single fact, or doctrine which it contains, it would cease to be the Book of God, and our Faith and Hope would no longer have a solid basis to rest upon."

A Free Mason must be one who duly fears, loves and serves his Heavenly Master. He raised a spiritual building according to the laws and injunctions laid down by the Supreme Architect of the universe in the book of life, which may justly be considered his spiritual trestle board.

Among the great lights of Masonry the Holy Bible is the greatest. By it we are taught to rule and govern our faith. Without its sacred light we find no Masonic altar; without it no Lodge is perfect; neither can any one be legally initiated into the order unless he believes in the great truths therein contained.

Every candidate before his eyes have beheld the beauties of Masonry or he has discovered even the form of a Lodge, must express his belief in God—being told that the reason for requiring this expression is "that otherwise there would be no binding force in an oath."

Masonry throughout the Christian world requires a belief in the God of the Bible, and in the divine authenticity of that "Great Light" in Masonry.

In Helvetian Masonry the rule for the devotion of the lodges is that "The proper images or emblems are to be ta-

ken from the Bible, only; as it contains the authentic records of Ancient Masonry."

In 1826 the Masons assembled at York to organize a Grand Lodge, and formulated the ancient constitution and charges from manuscripts in Greek, Latin, French and other languages. One of the first charges is as follows: "A Mason is to study the moral law as contained in the sacred code; to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and justice, and to regulate his life and actions by its Divine precepts."

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CERTIFICATES:

NOTTOWAY Co., Va., Sept. 20, 1882. This is to certify that I used two tons of the Norfolk Fertilizer and Insecticide, purchased from Styron, Whitehurst & Co., Norfolk, Va., on my crops of cotton and tobacco this year, and that acted to my entire satisfaction. My tobacco is considered equal to the very best in Nottoway county, and my cotton much better than where I used the Insecticide, say from two to three hundred pounds per acre. Such is my satisfaction with the Fertilizer that I expect to use it much more largely in the future. J. M. HURT.

HERTFORD, N. C., Nov., 10, 1882.

Styron, Whitehurst & Co., Gentlemen: I take pleasure in saying that the five tons of Norfolk Fertilizer purchased of you last spring I used under cotton, corn, potatoes and vegetables with decidedly better results than where I used the high-priced fertilizers which cost from \$35 to \$45 per ton. Am satisfied I will get one-quarter to one-third more cotton where I used yours. In composting with cotton seed, stable manure and rich earth, it is the best Fertilizer I ever used. Will use it under all my crops next year. Hoping you much success, I am, Very respectfully, JOSEPH A. HUGHES.

KEMPSTONVILLE, Princess Anne Co., Va., 1882.

Messrs. Styron, Whitehurst & Co., Gentle men: I used your Norfolk Fertilizer under Irish potatoes at the rate of 300 lbs. to the acre, and the yield was abundant, in fact surprised me. Also used it under corn and made an excellent crop. My kale is looking well where I used it. Am so well pleased with it shall use it again next Spring. Very respectfully, N. B. SANDERLIN.

PERQUIMANS CO., N. C., Nov. 30, 1882.

Messrs. Styron, Whitehurst & Co., Gentlemen: The half ton Norfolk Fertilizer purchased of you last Spring gave entire satisfaction. I used it along side of higher priced fertilizers, and the yield from yours was fully as good as where I used the other brands. Yours truly, B. F. CITIZEN.

SEBRELL'S P. O., Southampton Co., Nov. 30, 1882.

Gentlemen: The five tons Norfolk Fertilizer purchased of you last Spring I used under cotton and peanuts with very satisfactory results. Please ship me ten (10) tons by 1st February, '83. Very respectfully, W. N. SEBRELL.

WINFALL, Perquimans Co., N. C., Nov. 10, 1882.

Gentlemen: I used 1 1/2 tons Norfolk Fertilizer under Cotton this year, side by side with Peruvian Bone Dust, at the rate of about 175 pounds per acre. The result was in favor of your Fertilizer. Will use it again next Spring. Respectfully, W. L. JESSUP & CO.

WINFALL, N. C., Nov. 10, 1882.

Gentlemen: The two tons Norfolk Fertilizer purchased of you last Spring I used under cotton at the rate of about 175 pounds per acre, which gave a better yield than any other Fertilizer. Will use it more extensively next year. Yours truly, R. B. KIRBY.

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