

The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, - - - APRIL 20, 1883.

CHARLEY'S TEMPTATION.

BY E. DENTON.

'How I do wish I had some of those cherries!' Charley put both hands in his pockets and looked up longingly at Mr. Smith's cherry tree. It was laden with red ripe fruit; how nice it did look, so tempting, so luscious, among the dark, glossy, green leaves; and Charley had scarcely had a cherry that year.

'Look, there are the birds pecking away at them, eating as many as they please, and here I can't have one. It's too mean; I don't see why father's trees did not bear this year.'

This last remark was made to Tom, who had joined him. His hands were in his pockets, too, and both boys stood wistfully looking at the tree.

'Let's stone the tree,' suggested Tom.

'Father told me I mustn't throw stones,' grumbled Charley.

'I don't see why not; there the cherries are all wasting, mean old miser! Why don't he come out like a man and say: 'Boys, help yourselves; I have enough and to spare.'

'Holloa, boys! what are you doing there?' called out old miser Smith. The boys did not wait to answer, or hear if he intended inviting them to help themselves liberally, but scampered off. Mr. Smith looked at his tree. 'I must have those cherries picked to-morrow, or those young rascals won't leave one; I'll have it done to-morrow.'

That night, towards sundown, Tom stopped to see Charley, with several other boys. They had something to tell him; but he must promise not to say one word about it. Tom, Dick, and Harry were going together that night to get some of old Smith's cherries. They were wasting on the tree, and the boys wanted a taste of them. It would be moonlight; they would wait until nine o'clock, and old Smith would never miss the few that were taken; besides, one branch of the tree hung over the road and belonged to the public, and they had a right to them. The argument sounded very plausible. Charley hesitated.

'But I don't want to steal!' 'Pshaw! steal it won't be stealing, just a few cherries; why, the man will never miss them.' But still Charley demurred, and finally bravely decided not to go. The decision cost him a good deal. The plan did not seem bad as the boys presented it, and the cherries he knew would be very good picked by moonlight. But he felt, after all, it was not the best way of getting them; and the boys started off without him. They called him a 'coward,' and hinted that he did not have much pluck. He did mind that, but when he saw the group of boys, for they increased their number, on their way to the cherry feast, he felt glad that he had remained at home.

The next morning, before breakfast, Charley heard Mr. Smith's voice talking with his father. He seemed very much excited and distressed. Charley listened; he knew well the subject of his complaint. Old Smith was saying: 'They have broken off my pickets, the fence was very old, and trodden down my melon-patch, besides taking off the best of my cherries. I depended upon them for my last

quarter's rent; it has not all been paid. I thought I would wait until to-day to pick them, but the youngsters have stripped my tree for me. It seems too hard, too hard; there's my son sick at home. When there is only one pair of hands to work, and those old ones, every cent counts.' Smith's voice grew very pitiful, and Charley's father was very stern as he asked:

'Can you tell me who the boys were?'

'I can guess; I saw them standing under the tree in the morning, looking at the cherries.'

'Who were they?'

'Tom Harris and, and—' he hesitated.

'Speak out Mr. Smith; I want to know.' His father's voice was sterner than before.

'I don't like to say it, sir, but the other was your son Charles.'

'I hope not; but I will send and ask him.' His father looked sadly towards his son, as Charley manfully and proudly came to meet them.

'Charles,' said his father gravely and earnestly, 'have you stolen Mr. Smith's cherries?'

Charley had been so near doing so, that his face flushed. But he looked straight in his father's eyes and said: 'No, sir.'

'I believe you,' said his father, looking straight, too, in Charley's bright eyes. But Mr. Smith looked doubtful.

'I saw him there,' he began. 'My son never told me a lie, Mr. Smith; I believe him.'

'Does he know who took them?' asked Mr. Smith. Charley hesitated.

'Father, I do,' he said at last, 'but I don't want to say.'

'Then you need not, my son. Mr. Smith, my boy has not taken your cherries, and I will ask him no more questions.' Mr. Smith left them. It was a hard thing. Who ever has stolen that poor man's cherries would feel ashamed, if he knew how much he needed them. He is old and poor; has an invalid son to support.

Charley told his father the story of his temptation, and how he had resisted it.

'How proud I am of my boy.' His father laid his hand upon Charley's head; 'prouder than I was this morning when I was confident he would not tell a lie. Go through life in this way, my boy; be honest, be honorable, be true to your good principles, and your God will always be true to you.'

CONVERSATION.

A talent for conversation has extraordinary value for common, every day uses of life. Let any one who has this gift enter a social circle anywhere and how every one's face brightens at his entrance. How soon he sets all the wheels in motion, encouraging the timid, calling out the resources of the reserved and shy, subsidizing the facile, and making everybody glad and happy.

To converse well is not to engross the conversation. It is not necessary to talk with very great brilliancy. A man may talk with such surpassing power as to awe the rest of the company into silence or excite their envy, and so produce a chill where his aim is or should be to produce warmth and sunshine. He should seek the art of making others quite at home with him so that no matter how great may be his attainments or reputation, or how small may be theirs they find it insensibly just as natural and pleas-

ing talking to him as hearing him talk.

The talent for conversation indeed more than anything else in life, requires tact and discretion. It requires one to have more varied knowledge, and to have it at instant and absolute disposal so that he can use just as much or as little as the occasion demands. It requires the ability to pass instantly with ease from the playful to the serious, from books to men, and from the phrase of courtesy to the expression of sentiment and passion.

HENRY CLAY QUOTING SHAKESPEARE.

Ben Perly Poore, in the April Century.

Henry Clay, who left a seat in the Senate for one in the House, but after many years service at the other end of the Capitol returned to the Senate chamber, exercised a powerful control over the politics of the republic. Idolized by the Whig party, his wonderful powers of personal magnetism, and his rich manly voice would enable him to hold an audience for hours. He made but little preparation, and used but few notes in speaking; but when he wrote out his remarks for the press, his manuscript was remarkably neat, without interlineations or blot. He seldom indulged in classical allusions, and his occasional attempt to make quotations of English poetry were generally failures. On one occasion, he used the well-known phrase from Hamlet, "Let the galled jade wince, our withers are unwrung," but misquoted the last syllable, called it "un-strung." The gentlemen who sat on either side of him noticed the error, and simultaneously whispered "unwring." This double prompting confused "Young Harry of the West," who straightened himself, and with stronger emphasis repeated "unhung." This raised a general laugh, at the close of which Clay, who had meanwhile ascertained his mistake, shook his head, and said with one of his inimitable smiles: "Ahl murder will out! Unwring's the word." The fascination which he exercised over all with whom he had personal intercourse,—even his political adversaries—was remarkable; but he was imperious and domineering, exacting unconditional and unqualified support as the price of his friendship.

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, Old 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 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

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 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 MASONS:

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.

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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:

This is to certify that _____ N. C. _____ 188... is an orphan, without estate, and in body and mind, and _____ years of age. His father died in 18.....; his mother in 18..... I being _____ hereby make application for his admission into the Asylum at Oxford. I also request that you provide for 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 request that you encourage the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said Asylum 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 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 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 this Excellent Gov. Jarvis, in regard 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 to forward the same to the Superintendent of the Asylum.

3. That the Residing 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." 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 We believe, 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. Ivy 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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THE YOUNG

especially those deprived of the benefits of parental and scholastic training. It also seeks to increase the soul-growth of the progress 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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