

CATCHING SUNBEAMS.

Reaching after sunbeams, With a dimpled hand— That is right, my darling, Grasp the golden band. Fold it to your bosom, Let it cheer your heart, Gather radiant sunbeams, Bid the clouds depart.

When your feet shall wander From my side away, You will find that evil With the good may stray. Never heed it, darling, Let it pass the while; Gather only sunbeams, Keep your heart from guile.

Grief may be your portion, Shadows dim your way; Clouds may darkly threaten To obscure the day— Don't despair, my darling, There's a father's love. How could there be shadows, With no light above? —The Little Corporal.

ONE YOUNG MAN'S NO.

Many a weak youth has escaped temptation because a stronger companion said 'no'—and many another has fallen because no such help was nearby. The following is a 'life-sketch':

An eye-witness details a scene in a hotel billiard-room, at a fashionable resort, where half a dozen young men were playing for money and the 'drinks'. An acquaintance having to be errand to one of the players came in, and was boisterously urged to make one of the party in the game and the bibulous indulgence.

'Bring another hot Scotch?' 'Not for me,' said Harry, peremptorily, and with a bit of extra color in his face.

'O pshaw! You won't play?' 'No; I don't wish to.'

'Nor you won't drink a bumper with us?'

'Jack, you are going too far. I would drink if I wanted it. You would not force a man to drink who was not thirsty?'

'O fudge! Harry, you are afraid to risk a dollar! You'd drink a hot Scotch or a glass of wine with us if you dared to play. O Hal, I didn't think you'd grown so timid!'

'And now the young man's face flushed to some purpose. It was a handsome face; and he looked really grand—no ble—as he drew himself up to his full manly height.'

'Boys, you have spoken freely to me; let me say a word to you in reply. I am timid I confess; I am fearful; but you know—you know very well—that I fear not the loss of a dollar. I will tell you presently what I do fear. Do you remember D—H—?'

'Naming a young man who not a year previously, had been apprehended, tried and convicted of forgery and embezzlement to a large amount; and who was at that very time serving his penalty in the State Prison. And further, that young man—a trusted book-keeper and cashier—had been intimate with these very youths.'

'You remember him, I know,' Harry continued, 'and you can remember the time when he was as jovial and happy over his billiards and whisky and his gambling as you are now. O do not wince! I call it by its right name. If it is not gambling, what is it? Ah, boys! if Dan had been a little fearful in those days he might have been differently situated now.'

He paused for a moment, looked around upon the players, and presently added in a lower tone and with deep solemnity:

'And now, boys, I'll tell you frankly of what I am afraid; I have a mother—you know whether she loves me or not—and I have a dear sister, looking to me for joy and comfort in life. I have also a business character; and I trust a broad, bright future before me. Must I tell you—I am afraid—I shrink in mortal dread from anything that can endanger these sacred interests. Not for all the wealth of the world would I knowingly and willingly bow my mother's head in sorrow. And since even the appearance of evil may weaken the prop of a sterling character I will try to avoid that. Now you understand me. Go on, if you will, and enjoy yourselves if you can. It would be misery for me to join you here.'

'One word more. If anything of this interview should become known abroad be sure that I did not tell it, for my lips will be closed when I go out from you.'

He then called aside the young man whom he had come to see, who after a brief private conversation with Harry put up his cue, and announcing that he should not go on with the game quietly went out with his friend.

Two balls remaining on the table were not pocketed. The game was suffered to end where it stood. There was a question asked by one of the five remaining as to what should be done with the money in the 'pot'. The chief answered instantly, and without argument by giving each man back his dollar. Then they put their heads together, and after a brief confab, which I could not overhear, they left the place, leaving full one-half the drink in their glasses untouched.

Six months later I had occasion to spend another night at the same house, and during my sojourn I spoke to the host of the six young men whom I had seen engaged in that game of pool. He knew what I meant, because I had told him the story at the time.

He answered that three of those youths had not been in the billiard-room since that evening; two of them had occasionally dropped in together, and played a social game; but had neither put up money nor drank. Of the sixth he would not speak.

And then I thought of the personal influence of that young man. And the end is not yet. The end no man can see.—Selected.

THE TWO APPRENTICES.

In a carpenter's shop were two boys. One determined to make himself a thorough workman; the other 'didn't care.' One read and studied, and got books that would help him to understand his trade. He spent his evenings at home reading. The other liked fun best. He went off with other boys to have fun.

'Come,' he often said to his shop-mate, 'leave your books; go with us. What's the use of all this reading?'

'If I waste these golden moments,' was the reply, 'I shall lose what I can never make up.'

While the boys were still apprentices, an offer of two thousand dollars appeared through the newspapers for the best plan of a State House, to be built in one of the Eastern States. The studious boy saw the advertisement, and determined to try for it. After careful study he drew his plans and sent them to the committee. I suppose he did not expect to win the prize,

but there is nothing like trying.

It was not long before the committee of gentlemen arrived at the carpenter-shop, and asked if an architect by the name—mentioning the boy's name—lived there.

'No,' said the carpenter, 'no architect, but I've got an apprentice by that name.'

'Let us see him,' they said. The young man was called, and sure enough his plan had been accepted, and the \$2,000 were his.

The committee then said he must put up the building; and the employer was so proud of his success that he willingly gave him his time, and let him go.

This studious carpenter's boy became one of the best architects of our country. He made a fortune, and stands high in the esteem of everybody; while his fellow apprentice can hardly earn, by his daily labor, bread enough for himself and family.

Who loses a youth of improvement, loses the best beginning which a boy can make in life.

THE STRONGEST DRINK.

Water is the strongest drink. It drives mills; it's the drink of lions and horses, and Samson never drank anything else. Let young men be teetotalers if only for economy's sake. The beer money will soon build a house. If what goes into the mash tub went into the kneading-trough, families would be better fed and better taught. If what was spent in waste were only saved against a rainy day work-houses would never be built. The man who spends his money with the publican, and thinks the landlord's bow and "How do you do, my good fellow?" mean true respect is a perfect simpleton. We don't light fires for the herring's comfort, but to roast him. Men do not keep pot-houses for laborers' good; if they do they certainly miss their aim. Why then, should people drink "for the good of the house?" If I spend money for the good of any house, let it be my own, and not the landlord's. It is a bad well into which you must put water; and the beer-house is a bad friend, because it takes your all and leaves you nothing but headaches.

He who calls those his friends who let him sit and drink by the hour together is ignorant—very ignorant. Why, red lions, and tigers, and eagles, and vultures are all creatures of prey, and why do so many put themselves within the power of their jaws and talons? Such as drink and live riotously, and wonder why their faces are so blotchy and their pockets so bare, would leave off wondering if they had two grains of wisdom. They might as well ask an elm tree for pears as look to loose habits for health and wealth. Those who go to the public house for happiness climb a tree to find fish.—Rev. Mr. Spurgeon.

MAUSOLEUM

Mausolus was king of Caria Asia Minor, 317 years before Christ. When he died, his wife Artemesia had him cremated, and she drank his ashes in liquor. She caused a monument to be erected at Halicarnassus, called Mausoleum after his name. It has since been the name for a memorial tomb

C. D. H. FORT, M. D.

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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 of 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 of our noble 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 to raise 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, I. 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.

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.

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 being..... hereby make application for..... 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 until 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 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 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 hereby 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 benevolence 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 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 each Conference the amounts collected under the head of "For the Orphan Asylum."

JNO 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 17th 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 request, 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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